

The Berea Baptist Banner

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matt. 21:22

Home Missions: Children

By Andy Proctor
of Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**The Great Commission or the Great Omission Part 4
Home Missions or Family Missions 3: Children**

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 3:15).

One of the problems in our seeking to evangelize our children is that more and more in our



culture, children are put on the level of adults, making decisions and doing things that only adults should, and that has bled over to child evangelism.

Concepts like children's church not only separate the families at church, parents are sometimes even forbidden from going there with the children, but it is child-oriented instead of Christ-

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How to Survive in the Lion's Den

By Matt Rowland
of Detroit, Michigan

So you have wandered yourself into a hard trial. Like Daniel found in chapter 6 of his book, you can do everything right and still find yourself covered in lion fur. Do not despair, however, God preserved Daniel's story so that people like you and I can learn from it. No matter how deep this den is or how many lions there



are here, is your guide to getting through it.

First thing you must remember is that the lions cannot consume you. The smell will be unbearable, you may likely have a hard time sleeping and the overall experience may be harrowing, but the lions will not take your salvation. God sent an

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Conviction

By Joseph M. Sidders
of Guntown, Mississippi

"Jesus went unto the mount of Olives [His common place of prayer and meditation]. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such



should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped

down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the

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How Important is Faith?

By Glenn Gilbreath
of Decatur, Alabama

When we ask about the "importance of faith," we must first seek the meaning of faith. Webster's gives the definition as: belief in a revealed religion; trust or reliance; loyalty. Vine's definition is: a firm persuasion; a conviction based upon hearing. Hebrews 11:1 says, "**Now faith is the substance (essence or assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence (proof) of things not seen.**" These definitions are backed up by examples of faith throughout the entire Word of God. Each person listed in Hebrews chapter 11 acted with true faith, and



as a result God approved them. He accepted them as His own and has a place in heaven for them. The faithful actions of these saints range

from simple words they spoke to the giving of their very life. This shows us that faith enters every area of our life, and every act of faith holds weight with God.

We must also ask the question, where do we get faith? The faith we receive is only "one" faith. Ephesians 4:5 says there is "**one Lord, (and) one faith**" (moral conviction). Now if there is only

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

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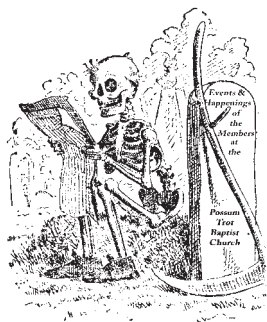
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Children...

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oriented. It divides the church and puts immature believers in charge of church services.

This can be a subtle design of the enemy to seek to relieve parents of their biblical responsibility and put it in religious garb, such as concentrating more on the message, the worship, or the fellowship afterwards. All these things are commendable, but, this does not relieve the responsibilities of parents to watch over their children before, during, and after church, especially as the children get older and their hormones begin to kick in.

Once more, let not our zeal be dampened because of our biblical caution, for it says in Mark 10:14: **"But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."**

In our zeal to evangelize our children, we can think we are carrying out the Great Commission and because it is done unbiblically, we carry out the Great Omission.

Preparations to Consider

As we saw last time, children have not fully matured emotionally, intellectually, perceptively, or physically. Therefore, childhood is a time of preparation and development of the aforementioned. God has called parents to raise their children, bring them up in God's nurture and admonition, **"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"** (Eph. 6:4).

Consider again our plant illustration: a child is like a seedling

fruit tree: is not ready for fruit picking, but cultivation and care, bending the tree or child to grow a certain way, providing the right nourishment, pruning, protecting from detrimental environments, etc. **"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"** (Prov. 22:6). **"As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth"** (Psa. 127:4). **"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, (oftentimes, you will not really see where a child is headed until they are in their teen years) refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward"** (Heb. 11:24-26).

There is more emphasis on training children than of them being saved because they are often not able to discern such deep matters at early ages, but time will tell, when they come to years, the reality of their confession of faith. **"Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world"** (Gal. 4:1-3). In developing years children are held under rules and commandments, primarily.

The Old and New Testaments emphasize for children more of honoring and respecting and obeying parents, not for them to believe on Christ, due to them being in that developing stage and the silence of Scripture tends to

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Brief Truths

By Randy Johnson of
Texarkana, Texas

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



Walking Worthy of the Lord

"So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:4-6.

What a blessing in a believer's life, to "find favour and good understanding in the sight of God." God gives us grace by His measure of grace, our walk-in life is ordained by God as He ordained for us before the world began. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 But even though God controls our walk-in life and accomplishments, we need to remember to walk strong for the Lord.

Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica, "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." II Thessalonians 1:11-12 Every believer no matter what God has called you to do, ought to do it good enough to find favor in God's sight by walking worthy of God's

calling. Any Believer that is not walking to please God in every area of their life are not walking worthy of their calling or walking to find favor in God's sight.

The Lord went on to say, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart" We are to trust the Lord with everything we have within us, all faith should be on the Lord. If you look back in the scriptures, you will find those that God blessed the most walked worthy of their calling no matter what that calling was. Moses, look how God used him and blessed him. How about Noah, God blessed him and his family because of his faithfulness. God blesses Enoch by allowing him to escape death, and God said of him "...for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Hebrews 11:5 Look at Abraham God said of him, "...Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Not only because Abraham walked worthy of his calling, but he also trusted God with all his heart. We see many people, both men and women, that walked worthy of their calling but also showed great faith in God. There is only one way to walk worthy of our calling and that is to trust the Lord with all our hearts.

This can only be accomplished when we "...lean not unto thine own understanding" Our understanding is not God's understanding, God is always right, and people are always

wrong. Our own hearts will always mislead us, our understanding, knowledge, and wisdom must come from God. God said, "So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels." Psalms 81:12 but why did God give them up, "But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me." Verse 11.

If Christians are not going to walk and be guided by God's voice (which is His word) then they are going to follow their own understanding. We must realize that the only good in us is what God has graciously put in us. Total depravity means that there is no good in us, we cannot walk own our own understanding. Therefore, so many believers have walked away from the Lord because they follow their own foolish hearts.

It is never wise for a believer to think for themselves too much, we will find ourselves falling away from the Lord. The Lord also said "...In all thy ways acknowledge him..." Notice the Lord did not say in some ways but in all our ways "acknowledge him..." because He is directing our path in everything. If we are doing something, if we are accomplishing something, then God is not acknowledged. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" Colossians 3:23 That is, in your heart do as the Lord directs you and you will always, please the Lord. It is because of this that the Lord is pleased and because of this that the Lord will bless you.

You will find all the people in the scriptures that the Lord talked positive about followed the Lord and not their own understanding. And if we do then God promised, "...he shall direct thy paths." What

a blessing.

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



Conviction

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ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:1-11).

What is conviction? We hear the word preached quite often, and we are told that the Holy Spirit will use the conviction that is brought upon us through the hearing of the Gospel, revealing in us our inability to follow the commandments of God. Conviction is a type of shame. Godly conviction is brought on by exposure to the truth. Strong's literally defines the word as "fault brought to light," which is fitting for we must be brought before the true Light in order to be saved! I want to bring attention to what Godly conviction is, and what it is not.

First of all, let us address the crowd that many will presume "should" know better. Dear reader, stay with me now, each individual should strive to bring their best and be decent in life. Your best is good enough in that regard. None can be what they are not, but it still takes work to do good or nice things. These are not inherently holy things though.

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Conviction

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It is not truly in our nature to be inherently good, in fact, we have no righteousness within us at all. We are by nature inherently reprobate.

We must note, however, that a person can only be or know what has been revealed to and in them. None will be saved without God; none will even desire it unless the Lord has caused for them to. Why then would we ever say to the lost that “they ‘should’ know better”? Can they? What part of their person has that knowledge, experience, or will? Perhaps they cannot truly forgive because they have never been forgiven; cannot love because they have never truly been loved.

Looking to our text, did this woman have a conviction against this action of adultery before that day? If she did somehow would that not be a direct result of what the law had revealed of her person? It is the law that revealed it unto these Scribes and Pharisees: **“And the man that committeth adultery with another man’s wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death”** (Lev. 20:10).

In this text, the Scribes (writers and interpreters of the law) and the Pharisees (self-righteous vipers) somehow caught her in the act and laid claim that she should know better. Christ attended to the great work about which He came into the world, that was, to bring sinners to repentance; not to destroy, but to save. The law, even in this case, revealed her wickedness and Jesus, being exalted or **“lifted up”**, brought about healing.

Secondly, let us consider those

who actually “do” know better. We who claim to know Christ as our Savior are not called nor permitted to convict others. Godly conviction, remember, is brought on by the hearing of truth which is the Gospel. By its very nature it shows us a perfect One who came **“when we were yet without strength”** for **“in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”** Conviction is our evidence of **“things not seen”** (Heb 11:1). As a matter of fact, as we consider the full verse there in Hebrews we find the word **“evidence”** which is the same word translated **“convicted”** in our text.

So if we are not commissioned to demean and convict, what is it that the born-again believer does know to do? **“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”** (Matt. 28:19). Preach truth. Live truth. That is enough...that is your best!

Let us consider our text again. Where was it that these Scribes and Pharisees found this woman? **“And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery,**

in the very act” (John 8:3-4). Exactly whose snare was this?

My final point addresses each of us as we must now consider those who can do “no better”. In reality, each of us, can do “no better” than our nature will permit. We are born with a fallen nature; born from our mother’s womb into depravity. **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”** (Rom. 3:23-24). Those who are born again are called to remember our fallen heritage as we were **“justified freely by His grace”**. **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...”** (Titus 3:5). **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”** (Eph. 2:8-9).

It is significant that in our text Jesus first **“stooped down”** for we are not equal to His stature. He had to condescend to us from His Sovereign and supreme estate. Then we read that **“Jesus lifted up Himself”** which is symbolic to what He had said in John 3:14-

15, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

We cannot do better than our nature will permit. Are we who are born-again living up to our potential? Are we living and preaching the truth? Are we exalting the Lord Jesus so that others might be healed? Perhaps we do not like questions like this for it asks, “are we faithful?” But again, what is conviction? Did Jesus not ask the disciples to consider their faith regularly? If we are saved then our new nature cannot prohibit our fulfilling the commands of our Heavenly Father. In fact, our new nature makes serving Him to the fullest... possible! **“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace”** (Rom. 6:12-14).

Returning again to our text you will note that in John 8:7, **“So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”** Godly conviction is brought on by absolute truth, not mere accusations. When the accusers heard His words, upon being lifted up, they scattered. **“When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are**

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Genesis 19:24-26 “Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”

Lion's Den...

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angel to shut the mouths of the lions. Daniel's life was not theirs to take. Your new life belongs to God and God alone, there is nothing down here that has the right nor the ability to remove it from you.

"As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:36-39).

It is a comfort to know that whether you lose your job or receive difficult news from your doctor, you cannot be removed from the love of God. Your salvation is the most valuable thing you have. With a simple act of obedience to God, Daniel's life was on the line. Yet he had no reason to worry, either God was going to deliver him from the lions, or he was going to leave captivity and instead be in the presence of the Lord. Even if what you are going through takes your life, the worst it can do is put you into the presence of the Lord.

Second thing you have to remember is that you are not alone in that den. In Daniel's case, God sent His angel down to shut the mouths of the lions. The Psalmist in Psalm 139 gives us a vivid picture of how intimately God knows what is going on in our lives:

"O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting

and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee" (Psa. 139:1-12).

No matter what danger is in this trial, God is not only aware of it, but He will be the Master of it. There is nothing your boss, neighbor, government, or illness can do to you that would be outside of God's ability to see it and aide you through it! The relationship we have with God is that of Father and child. Living in a sin-sick world may mean that we will eventually have to tread on dangerous ground, rest assured that you will not have to go that way without God!

Jesus taught us that not a single sparrow would fall without taking the Father's notice. He admonished the church that the very hairs of their head were numbered. He brought them to the conclusion that God cares for them, and they should not fear

those that can only hurt the body, but fear God instead. I believe this is a promise that holds true for His people today. We know God takes His promises seriously, so what do you have to worry about in this den of lions? There is nothing that can happen that God cannot work all together for good!

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

Reading this verse, we, of course, understand that all things working together for good may not mean getting what we want or even getting away without a few claw marks. Instead, we know that God will accomplish great things through all circumstances. Whether the lions mean to or not, whatever they do will only sharpen and make you better according to God's design. As Joseph said to his brothers: **"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive"** (Gen. 50:20).

With God on your side there is nothing to fear from the lions. God's presence, His power, and His promises are with us in every persecution and trial. It is best, of course, to maintain a close walk with Him before these trials come. Daniel had faith long before his trip to the den. The very crime that he committed was proof of his devotion to his Heavenly Father. Walk daily with the Lord, and you will better be able to maintain your courage in these moments.

God is not the only one in these trials with you. He gives you a Pastor, or if you are a Pastor He gives you Pastoral friends in whom you can confide and receive counsel from. To have

God alone would be enough, but to have a man of God in your corner is a bonus. Your Pastor is there to give you Scriptural advice, companionship, and he is there to pray with and for you. What a pity that so many neglect the comfort that the man of God can bring. Pastors, let us keep our advice and encouragement based solely in Scripture! Let us be quick with a word of prayer or comfort, not just to our members, but to our fellow brothers in the ministry. In these dark times of Biblical confusion and personal struggle there is no better weapon than the sword of the Word! Do not hold off on going to your Pastor for advice, he is there by God's design to be a guide in the lion's dens of life.

While we are on the topic of people God puts in your life, consider your fellow church members, as well. For whatever reason, we have a habit of pulling back from our church family when we are struggling. This is a mistake! The lone sheep is in danger of the wolves and the great lion that seeks to devour us! We should, instead, take comfort in the comradery of the flock. In almost every congregation I have ever met, I have found a wonderful assortment of people from various walks of life. Each with their own experiences, struggles, victories, and wisdom. Why would we refrain from reaching out to them in our time of need? When was the last time you prayed with a fellow brother or sister? How about the last time you shared a concern or struggle with one? God called us to be one body. If the finger gets cut the whole body reacts. We are also encouraged to weep with them that weep and rejoice with those that rejoice. When we fail

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Conviction

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those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:10-11). Again upon being lifted up Jesus revealed to the woman that her sin-debt had been removed. **"There is therefore now NO condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"** (Rom. 8:1) (emph. JS). Sure, the mockers could come again and attempt to condemn her but she has been commissioned to **"go, and sin no more."**

In "abstaining from all appearances of evil" (I Thess 5:22) she was now called to freedom. "But she was guilty!" the people cried. Yes she was, and here she is set free...praise God! Oh, the love of Christ! These final words to her echo what we read in Matthew 10:16 **"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."** It is as though He said unto her "Cause no more harm, your convictions... even your accusers, were as the hounds of God Himself in that it brought you to Me." I think of my own experience as a young man. Experiencing the Lord's pursuit of me. Every sermon I heard, from every preacher in every pulpit, seemed aimed at me. Being jealous, God's actions clearly revealed that He must have me. Nothing would satisfy His desire. There was no substitute for my sins to the Father but the Son and there was no substitute for His Son's sacrifice but the elect. There are no "Great Value" branded saints that will arrive in glory in our place beloved! **"Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is**

strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned" (S of S. 8:6-7).

I quoted Romans 3:23 earlier **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** and this applies to us all, but listen to how the Lord sees His elect after conviction has done its work: **"Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee"** (S of S. 4:7). Conviction is hard. When you have sat under sound preaching it can honestly be very hard to be lost. This is intentional. This is the Lord's mad love for you which has led to His pursuit of you. Those sermons that feel like daggers, that leave you in tears, that make you mad at the preacher, maybe even mad at the world. The Lord is causing for you to desire the impossible, to desire salvation. Rejoice... **"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls"** (I Peter 1:7-9).



How Important...

(Continued from page 1) ♦

one faith, where do we get that faith? The answer is from God Almighty Himself. **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it (faith) is the gift of God"** (Eph. 2:8). This gift of faith comes by the hearing of the Word of God, as described in Romans 10:17. The Lord Jesus Christ told Paul in Acts 26:18: **"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified BY FAITH THAT IS IN ME"** (emph. G.G.). Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus Christ is the "Author and Finisher" of our faith.

Who has faith? **"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus"** (Gal. 3:26). The children of God are the ones who have faith in Jesus Christ. **"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the FAITH of God's ELECT, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness"** (Titus 1:1)(emph. G.G.). God's elect have faith. Those who are **"justified"** have faith (Rom. 5:1). Those who are called and chosen have faith (Rev. 17:14).

Where is our faith? In man or in Christ? Can we have faith in man? Yes, to some degree. We can believe someone who is trustworthy. We can depend on someone that has proven themselves. But this faith or trust is limited to that specific person or their ability. Not so with Jesus Christ! Romans 3:22 declares: **"Even the righteousness of God which is by FAITH OF Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is**

no difference" (emph. G.G.). Notice this faith is "of" Jesus Christ. Therefore true, believing, everlasting faith that we have can only be in Jesus Christ. **"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man"** (Psa. 118:8). There is no comparison between our trust in Christ and our trust in man. In Proverbs 3:5, God commands us to put all our faith in the LORD and not to use our own understanding. Only faith in God can **"quench all the fiery darts of the wicked"** (Eph. 6:16).

What does it look like to live by faith? Living by faith is a simple idea that requires great commitment for our lives. A life of faith is not lived just now and then, but all the time. But all the time does not necessarily mean perfectly. Those spoken of in Hebrews chapter 11 had plenty of error in their lives, but their faith remained steadfast. Faith involves living life as if every promise of God is true, whether or not we see the evidence of it. No matter how faithful or unfaithful you may be feeling right now, be assured that faith does not come by trying real hard; but it comes by leaning on God with all our ability. The disciples asked Jesus Christ to **"Increase our faith"** (Luke 17:5).

Let us look at a few examples of faith in the Bible. We find in Luke chapter 7 the faithful centurion who sent word to Jesus by the Jewish elders, beseeching Christ to heal his servant. This man also sent friends to Jesus proclaiming that he was not worthy to have Christ enter into his home; but he wanted Jesus to just say a word, and he had faith that the servant would be healed. And when they returned to the house the servant was healed. Matthew 9:2 reveals that when Jesus saw the faith of the friends of the man sick of

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Lion's Den...

(Continued from page 5) ♦

to participate in these commands the body stagnates. Before you know it, you have a group of people who are alone although surrounded by their brothers and sisters in Christ. Instead, it would be best for us to open our hearts to each other. To share concerns, be accountable, give encouragement, and to do as Paul commands and strive together. Our churches can be an amazing resource to us, if we would just open up and love each other the way that we are told to.

Thirdly, remember at all times that you are going to get through this. Not because you are tough, but because God is tough. He has led so many of His children through your exact situation and through dens much deeper and more lion-filled than yours. In whatever is going on in your life God is allowing it to accomplish something. God was very much invested in how this would end for Daniel; the same way that He is invested in how it ends for you. Whether you walk out without so much as the smell of lion on you, or if you end up in Heaven, you will be right where God intended you to be. Do not lose heart at any point of your ordeal. Your courage can be as strong as God is!

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (II Cor. 4:7-10).

It is possible to struggle and even suffer in the service of the Lord, yet we can still bear and

enjoy the Fruits of the Spirit. We can have trouble, and still have peace. We can be in a situation with no apparent solution, or worse, an unobtainable solution and not lose our minds over it. When the persecution of our enemies gets us yanked into a lions' den we still have a friend in Jesus. Even when we lose the battle, there is still hope for the war. Why? It is because Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, making us joint-heirs with Him. We are the children of God! Our God will fight for us.

Finally, do not make any sudden movements. Trials can be tricky things. Our emotions make them trickier still. Daniel was surrounded by enemies, a powerful king, and some very hungry carnivores. Notice how he is not recorded as having said anything? We, all too often, use our emotions to make matters much worse than they need to be. Daniel could have been angry, he could have been grieved, he could have even developed a bitterness towards God. Wisely, he did none of those things. He chose to do the same thing he had done since the start of his captivity, trust the Lord: **"My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt"** (Dan. 6:22).

When you are in the heart of the lions' den, do not get foolish and start complicating things with sinful responses. Truly trust in God to handle the injustices of it. God reminds us in Scripture that vengeance is His. Do not take what belongs to God, that will not help your situation. Keep your sin nature in check. Daniel walked closely with God before he was persecuted-because of this he

was better able to walk with God during the trial. He was innocent before, and innocent during. This philosophy needs to be a part of our decision making. Doing the right thing in God's eyes needs to be how we prioritize everything we do whether in the lion's den or not. We make a serious error when we go around kicking at the lions out of pride, or cursing God in our anger. Instead, we need to maintain what God expects of us. We need to be on God's side in every aspect of life, especially when we are struggling.

Daniel had every right to be angry, hurt, and reckless in his behavior. The same trust in the Lord that kept him praying three times a day, however, was the same trust that kept his mind clear during that awful night. Trust in the Lord will keep us from doing foolish things when we are suffering, despite doing everything right.

It is hard to suffer when you have done nothing wrong. If you maintain a close walk to the Lord, and you heed the above warnings, you are going to be alright. Our greatest strength is not found in our own wisdom or ideas; but by walking with the Lord, trusting Him, and giving your battles over to Him! God is good in all things; trust Him both in the den and out of it.



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Points to Ponder: God Hates Sin

By Elder Perry Ames
"The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD

is full of majesty" (Psa. 29:4)

How powerful is the God of creation? With His Word He spoke all of creation into being. But even as powerful as He is and that fact that He created the heaven and earth with His Word, He could not save a sinful man without proper sacrifice. You see as powerful as God is He abides by His Word and His Word tells us that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (Heb 9:22). The law requires a "kinsman" redeemer to purchase or redeem a lost possession: **"And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it. Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance. And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it" (Ruth 4:4-6). "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal. 4:4-5). "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him" (I John 4:9). So then God the Father provided His only begotten Son as a kinsman redeemer to die on the cruel cross**

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How Important...

(Continued from page 6) ♦

the palsy, He healed him. In Luke 8:48, we are told of the woman with an issue of blood who by faith touched the hem of Christ's garment, believing that she would be healed. We also know of the blind man in Luke 18:41-43 who received his sight as a result of his faith in Jesus Christ. Stephen and Barnabas also were full of faith and power and the Holy Ghost (Acts 6:8; Acts 11:24). God grants faith to His people. **"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"** (I John 5:4). Not only does God grant the faith we have, but He also requires us to demonstrate our faith to others. **"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful"** (I Cor. 4:2).

How much faith do we have? Are we of little faith, or are we full of faith? A life of faith starts in the heart, but always shows itself through works. In the same way, a lack of faith shows in our actions. God's people from time to time lack proper faith. In Matthew 8:26, when Christ and His disciples were in the ship and a great tempest came upon them, His disciples were fearful that they were going to die. Jesus Christ said unto them, **"Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?"** Jesus Christ was there in the ship with them, but yet they were still fearful. Their faith was weak. But God remained faithful in that He calmed the storm. In Matthew 14:31, when Peter tried to walk on the water and go to Jesus Christ, his faith became weak. Peter thought he would die. But Jesus Christ reached down, took his hand, and brought him to safety. He then said to Peter, **"O**

thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" And do you remember "doubting Thomas" from John 20:25? If these of His own disciples, who were there to witness all the miracles and blessings that Jesus did, display such **"little faith,"** what kind of faith do we reflect in our lives every day?

Do we have "much" faith? Stephen was **"a man full of faith"** (Acts 6:5). Barnabas was a **"good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith"** (Acts 11:24). We must take notice that because of their faith, these two men were able to do much for the people of God. Stephen did **"great wonders and miracles"** (Acts 6:8), and because of the witness of Barnabas **"much people was added unto the Lord"** (Acts 11:24). If we love the Lord, our faith will be rewarded. **"O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer"** (Psa. 31:23). Oh that we would be a proud and faithful doer!

Do we show our faith by our works? God commanded Adam and Eve in the garden not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Was God testing Adam and Eve to see if they would do evil and disobey Him? No! God knew what they would do, and He was testing their "faith." God puts temptations in our path to see if we will faithfully obey His commandments. Adam and Eve failed the test. God will never tempt His people to do evil.

The Word of God tells us in James 2:17 that even if we have faith and have no works, then our faith is dead. Our works should reflect our faith (Jam. 2:18). What kind of works are "good works?" Galatians 5:19-21 tells us what kind of works the flesh can

produce, but verses 22-23 of that chapter tell us what kind of works the Spirit within us can produce: **"love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, FAITH, meekness, temperance"** (emph. G.G.). Good Biblical and moral works are what God commands us to show forth. **"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"** (Eph. 2:10).

Faith sees life looking ahead to eternity. It always looks toward the day when physical life ends and only Spiritual life remains. God's people have been given victory in battles, have seen loved ones raised from the dead, were tortured because their release was dependent upon disavowing their faith, were stoned to death, killed by the sword, etc. As a result, faith can tolerate pain, shame and disgrace if they are done for the glory of God. So the question presented in this message remains: "How Important Is Faith?" We can answer through the Word of God. **"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and 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"** (Gal. 2:20) (emph. G.G.).



Children...

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that. They will learn of their own evil heart in their struggles and failures to obey their parents in the Lord. They will see **"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law"** (I John 3:4). They will be in position of Galatians 3:24 **"Wherefore the**

law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." This is because they come to the end of themselves as the prodigal son and be moved to come to God.

We must be patient, lest we make a child twofold more a child of hell by making them a Pharisee instead of a true believer. Let us not forget that if they are truly saved, waiting for baptism does not take away their salvation.

Pressuring children to be baptized and make a public profession of faith is dangerous because children can become anxious and have such an intense desire to please adults whom they respect, whether parents, pastors, church members, or peer pressure they feel from their friends who have been baptized, that they go forward to please others instead of pleasing Christ alone.

Professions to Consider

Very basic elements cannot be eliminated because of their inability to understand or articulate issues of the heart. Elements such as:

Repentance: **"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"** (Luke 13:3).

Faith: **"For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not** (the call to repentance and to believe upon Christ, the Lamb of God): **but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him"** (Matt. 21:32). Believe the gospel (Romans 1:16; Mark 1:15; I Corinthians 15:3-4).

Love: **"If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maran-atha"** (I Cor. 16:22). Therefore, a love expressed by prayer, devotion, studying the Word, all by their

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Children...

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own desire and choice. **“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, (not just salvation, reconciliation, but devotion) being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit”** (I Pet. 3:18). **“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”** (I Pet. 2:2).

Obedience: If someone truly loves Christ, they will obey Christ, **“If ye love me keep my commandments”** (John 14:15).

Persistence and Perseverance: **“And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple”** (Luke 14:27).

Leading children or anyone in a sinner's prayer is found nowhere in the Bible, but such a prayer will flow freely from the lips of a person because the Spirit of God that has born them again empowers them to do so. (This is not to say that anyone who has been led this way cannot possibly be saved, but, that it so often produces false professions of faith). The best way to deal with children who have come to you as a parent is to refrain from prompting them to say things they do not understand or that is not in their hearts.

Avoid close-ended questions that have simple yes or no answers, such as “You want to go to heaven, do you not?” “You want to make mommy and daddy happy, do you not?” “You do not want to go to hell, do you?”

Open ended questions allow for them to fully express what is in their hearts. **“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of**

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Heavenly Hymns

“...Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:18-20). [This hymn was printed with permission from the Olmstead Baptist Church and written by Daniel W. Whittle. You may access their free-domain hymnal by going to www.olmsteadbaptistchurch.org/hymnal.pdf]

THE BANNER OF THE CROSS

13

1. There's a roy - al ban - ner giv - en for dis - play To the sol - diers
 2. Though the foe may rage and gath - er as the flood, Let the stand - ard
 3. O - ver land and sea, wher - ev - er man may dwell, Make the glo - rious
 4. When the glo - ry dawns-'tis draw - ing ver - y near— It is hast - ening

of the King; As an en - sign fair we lift it up to - day,
 be dis - played; And be - neath its folds, as sol - diers of the Lord,
 ti - dings known; Of the crim - son ban - ner now the sto - ry tell,
 day by day; Then be - fore our King the foe shall dis - ap - pear,

Refrain
 While as ran - somed ones we sing.
 For the truth be not dis - mayed! March - ing on, on, on, march - ing
 While the Lord shall claim His own!
 And the cross the world shall sway!

on, on, on, For Christ count ev - ery - thing but loss! And to
 ev - ery - thing, ev - ery - thing but loss!

crown Him King, toil and sing 'Neath the ban - ner of the cross!
 we'll Be - neath

Children...

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the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh" (Luke 6:45). Examples of such questions are: "Why do you think you are saved?" "What are you saved from?" "If you were to die right now and you met Jesus and He asked you why He ought to let you into His heaven, what would you say?"

Remember Matthew 7:16-20 **"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."** Also, Galatians 5:22-24 **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."**

We must wait for such evidence or fruit like we would anyone else, and obviously without requiring more or less than what the Scriptures require for candidates for baptism.

Provisions to Consider

What should a parent provide for a child that has made a profession of faith, when there is no sufficient, consistent evidence?

You should provide encouragement: **"And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.**

And no man after that durst ask him any question" (Mark 12:34). Encourage them that you have your hopes up that God may be beginning to do a good work in them, and they ought to press on to try to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

You should provide challenges: **"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them"** (Eccl. 12:1). Remind them that being a Christian is a lifetime commitment, not just a one-time decision.

Christ is our all in all, nothing or no one is to be more precious to us than Him. **"Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee"** (Psa. 73:25).

True believers know something of bridling their tongues: **"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain"** (Jam. 1:26).

True believers know something of God's chastisement: Hebrews 12:5-11 **"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in**

subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

Remind the child that the heart is what is most important: **"Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it. And the LORD heard the voice of your words, when ye spake unto me; and the LORD said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken. O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever"** (Deut. 5:27-29)!

There is no age of accountability given in Scripture, nor are there any age limits set on children being saved and/or baptized. However, we must be prayerful and wise, asking God for direction as we deal with the precious souls of our children as we pray earnestly and fervently for their salvation.

In studying Acts 2:47, **"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."** We may ask ourselves, were there any children added to the church? We have no evidence at all that children were baptized and added to the church in the New Testament. Now, that does not mean they were not, or

that there were none converted, but, it should serve as a cautionary consideration.

Also, in Acts 5:14; 8:3, 12; 9:2; 22:4 where large numbers of people were saved and baptized and added to the church, the only words used are, men (aner, adult males) and women (gune, adult females) are used. Even Acts 16:15; 16:31 where the Philippian jailor's household is mentioned do not specifically mention children. This is a surprising silence. Children are mentioned twenty-two times in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts, but none as disciples saved, baptized, or church members.

The pattern and model of the early church should be taken seriously and prayerfully. The fact that there has been an increase of children leaving the faith suggests that in the parents' zeal to evangelize their children they may have been almost, if not, Arminian-like, in their efforts to get a profession out of them and it ended up it was not real or genuine because the children left the faith.

As we close, when we wait for positive, persistent and consistent evidence of conversion, the child will have greater assurance because they realize it was not rushed or coerced, but their calling and election was made sure with the fruit of the Spirit, and thus, being born again of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit will bear witness that they are indeed a child of God.

Let us encourage children to come to Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit by the grace of God and follow the example of the one who first was authorized to baptize, John the Baptist who said, **"Bring forth therefore, fruits meet for repentance"**

◊ *(Continued on page 11)*



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).

Faith Does Not Come By Sight

Are you one of those people that say in their heart "if God would show me a sign, I would believe"? Do you understand that even if God showed you a sign, you still would not believe.

You see, this is dealt with in the Bible. There is an account of a rich man that went to hell. And the torments were so grievous that he wanted to make sure his living family was warned so they would not come to that place of agony. So this rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his family. Abraham said that even if one rose from the dead, they still would not believe.

"And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:30-31).

Notice what their believing would hinge upon. **"If they hear not Moses and the prophets."** What Abraham is saying is if they will not hear the scriptures and believe, then there is nothing else that will cause them to believe.

How many saw Jesus with their own eyes and yet rejected Him, hated Him, sought to kill Him? You see even if God opened the heavens and showed you a sign, (which He will not because He said a wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign

and no sign shall be given except the sign of Jonah, who was in the belly of a whale 3 days and 3 nights, as Jesus was in the grave 3 days and 3 nights.) You still would not believe. Faith is a gift of God and it always and every time comes from the preaching of God's Word.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

You see God grants faith to believe on His Son, but how does it come? By the declaration of His Word. Not by signs, wonders, or miracles but by the foolishness of preaching. The question is not how shall they believe on Him in Whom they have not seen? The question is how shall they believe on Him in whom they have not heard?

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher" (Rom. 10:14)?

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



Children...

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(Matt. 3:8).

May God be pleased to save all the children here and in the entire church and make them good and faithful servants in the church in time to come.



Points to Ponder

(Continued from page 7) ♦

for us. Jesus, who knew no sin, shed His blood for hell deserving sinners.

Points to ponder: As mighty and powerful as God is in His creative power it is only surpassed by His hatred of sin and His love, as it says, **"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins"** (I John 4:10).



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Seven Reasons Why the Christian Woman's Head Covering is not Her Hair.
By: Isaiah Green

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover

his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. -- Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God" (I Cor. 11:1-16).

One of my greatest hobbies is searching the Holy Bible for truths and exposing errors within other men's ideas. One of my great friends happens to be a non-denominational believer. And, while discussing the Scriptures with him (as I typically do), I found he believed that the head covering for the woman found in I Corinthians eleven, is simply the hair. Now, I have been raised to believe that the head covering is a literal man-made head covering. However, as every Christian should, I considered this theory. And, after considering it, I found it to be undeniably false. I have decided to put together all the biblical reasons I could find on why this theory is wrong and display them to you, below:

1) This head covering was only instructed to be worn at certain

♦ (Continued on page 15)

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1) Does the Bible truly say that angels sing?

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There is a verb phrase as a definition of singing- sing out, informal. To call in a loud voice; shout: They lost their way in the cavern and sang out for help.

To answer the question: Does the Bible truly say that angels sing? I would answer that the Bible tells us that angels do indeed sing.

The reference to angels singing can be found in Job 38:7; there we read, **"The morning stars [chief angels] sang together, and all the sons of God [angels] shouted for joy?"** This took place at the earth's creation.

Whenever I think of an angel singing out, I immediately think of Isaiah 6:3, **"And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."** This verse is speaking, of course, of the seraphims. Also, we see angelic beings around the throne of God doing the same (Rev. 4:6-11). I cannot imagine this cry being done other than in a loud voice or shout (singing) as is described in the definition of the verb phrase. The reader of course is entitled to his or her view of what singing is.

Also, an occasion is found at the birth of Christ. Angels appeared to shepherds in a nearby field to announce His birth **"And suddenly there was with the**

angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men"** (Luke 2:13-14). The word translated **"saying"** could be understood as speaking or singing, and the context seems to indicate a choir of angels singing praise to God. Dr. Gill seems to allude to this fact as well.

The gospel of Luke says, **"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth"** (Luke 15:10). The Psalmist said, **"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise"** (Psa. 98:4).

In Revelation 5:8-13, these angelic creatures join others to sing the new song of redemption that excels Moses' old song (Ex. 15; Deut. 32). In this case, angels ascribe worthiness and grace to God and to Christ for accomplishing redemption.

To me, it is more likely than not that singing is what angels do, the same way we worship God in both spoken words and song. Angels seem to always sing their praise. Songs are a most fitting and expressive means of giving God the praise due His name (Job 38:7; Rev. 5:8-9). Because of God's infinite worthiness, such a beautiful and excellent worship continues forever without ceasing.

Here are a few Scriptures to consider:

1. Psalms 150, if this is true on earth in our worship of God, how much more is it true for

those who are in the presence of God in heaven?

2. **"Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts"** (Psa. 148:2).

3. **"Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word"** (Psa. 103:20).

I believe angels sing, including singing at the creation of the world, the birth of Christ, and at the end of time. Even now, I believe angels sing praises to the Lord as the Psalms indicate.

It was asked of us a while back if Jesus sang when they all got up and left the Lord's Table. I believe my answer was yes! If Jesus would sing, why would the angels not do the same? God Bless!

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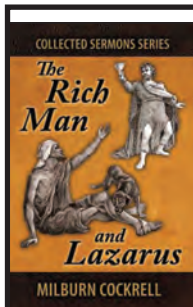
Personally, I cannot find any verses containing angels singing or that they have sung, or that they sang. I do have my Bible out and there are at least two new songs in Heaven that will be sung by the saints of God in Heaven. Singing is not uncommon in heaven it seems, and I long for the time in which I will join that chorus with such a great multitude of voices in perfect harmony.

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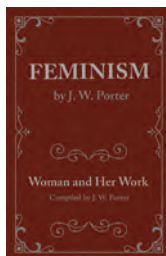
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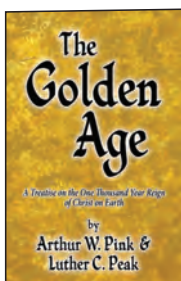
I do not believe there is a
♦ (Continued on page 14)



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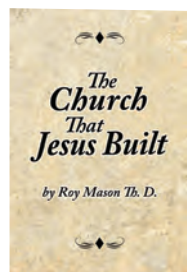


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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2) What is the relationship between Romans 5:12 and I Cor 15:22?

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Sin has been passed down from Adam to you. **"For the wages of sin is death..."** (Rom. 6:23), also: **"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one..."** (Rom. 5:17) all of mankind is subject to the wages of sin, our flesh can do no more than obey its depraved nature, and because of that, mankind will die as a consequence **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"** (Rom. 5:12).

Christ was sinless, therefore He alone could only be a sacrifice for sins committed by the world, **"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"** (John 1:29). That is something to be thankful for absolutely, but is that all it is worth? Forgiven of sins by the reconciliation of Christ on the cross while we yet live on this earth? No, God forbid! What does the Apostle say? **"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable"** (I Cor. 15:19). We might as well just eat and drink for tomorrow we die. It was for nothing. The Elect of God have much more than just this life to live, we have the promises of everlasting life.

Everlasting life came only because of Christ's victory over the grave, **"So when this corruptible**

shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (I Cor. 15:54).

His resurrection is the lynchpin of our ultimate salvation **"For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead"** (I Cor. 15:21). All mankind will be resurrected, you will be either in the first resurrection or the second. Personally, I will be in the first since my hope is in Christ and I know in Whom I have believed, my prayer is that all who read this you can say the same. The second is for the unbelievers who have no sacrifice for sins, or those in whom Christ did not die for their sins. To sum all this up there is definitely a connection let us read it **"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive"** (I Cor. 15:22). Without Christ, there is no hope of Heaven, no salvation. With Christ, who is our hope, we have eternal life in Heaven because, He, and He alone, has secured that for His Elect by His death, burial, and resurrection. **"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ"** (Rom. 5:17).

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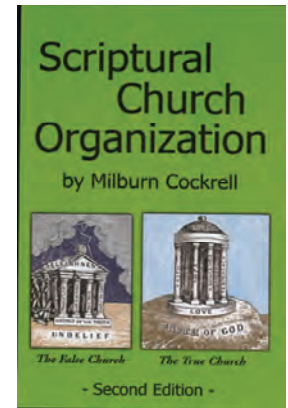
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Both these verses state a simple, yet profound truth. God positioned Adam to be the federal head of all men who seminally were in him as the first man created to represent the entire human race. God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden. God plainly told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God gave Adam and Eve one simple law to live by and obey cheerfully in the midst of the glorious paradise created by God. Every advantage was given to Adam and Eve. They wanted for nothing. However, when Eve was in close proximity to the forbidden tree Satan deceived her. She then offered the fruit to Adam where he used his free will to disobey the command of God, ate the fruit of the tree, and plunged the entire human race into sin, depravity, degradation, and condemnation. God had plainly warned Adam and Eve in Genesis 2:16-17: **"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."** Adam did not die physically that day, but he died in a spiritual sense. He had been created as a trichotomous being consisting of body, soul, and spirit. The day Adam sinned, his spiritual connection to God died. Ever since the fall of Adam, all men who descend from him inherit a sinful, fleshly, carnal nature of death that separates him from God. At the very moment of conception every human being inherits the sinful nature of death. Psalm 51:5 declares: **"Behold, I was**

◇ (Continued on page 14)

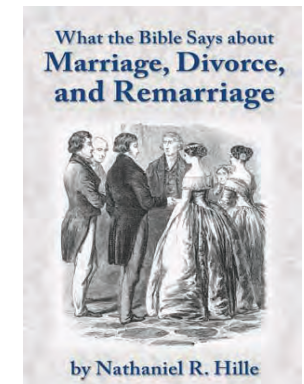
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Forum Question #1

(Continued from page 12) ♦

specific reference in Scripture that definitely states that angels sing. I have heard it said that since angels are not redeemed they cannot sing. However, there are certain passages of Scripture where it sounds as if angels are found praising God in song. To be honest, this is not a point of doctrine that I have ever given much thought.

I have never knowingly heard an angel sing, though it is said that it is possible for us to “entertain angels unawares,” so maybe I have and did not know it (Heb. 13:2). I do know that the angels are said to rejoice when a sinner is brought to repentance (Luke 15:6-7), so I would not blame them at all if they broke out in songs of joy. It is not hard for me to imagine that angels in Heaven do sing songs of praise when sinners are saved. Praise, joy, and singing are often connected throughout the Book of Psalms.

When the angels announced the birth of Jesus Christ to the shepherds it sounded an awful lot like a hymn of glorious praise: **“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men”** (Luke 2:13-14). Perhaps this same heavenly host will be with the redeemed when the elect are singing a new song with glorified voices (Rev. 5:9-10). I am not sure if this qualifies as singing, but I do know for sure what the heavenly host will be doing and saying: **“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times**

ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever” (Rev. 5:11-13).

There are some things that are not written in the Scripture that will in all probability be revealed to us in glory. I am sure that there are some things that my finite mind could not possibly comprehend here and now, that God will open up to me in the heavenly land. Oh, how I long to find out! How I long to be forever rid of this old corrupt, fleshly nature and be completely conformed to the image of the blessed Savior who is Altogether Lovely! What a glorious surprise it would be if God would assemble a heavenly choir of angels to praise His name and allow us the privilege of hearing them! I know when I hear godly music down here it stirs my heart to worship and praise the Almighty. Would not it be wonderful to hear angelic voices singing songs, hymns, and spiritual songs composed by the Almighty Himself? May God give us grace to feast on the future and look forward with great anticipation to all the wonders He will open up to us in glory!



Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 13) ♦

shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive

me.” All men are born with a sinful nature that separates them from God and they proceed to live a life of sin and rebellion against God. This nature of death and depravity has polluted every moral faculty of man; the heart, mind, and will. Born with only a sinful nature, man is entirely incapable of producing any spiritual affection for God because his heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. Man’s mind is so darkened by sin he cannot understand spiritual things. His will is so perverted he is incapable of choosing that which pleases God. A concise description of this dead, unholy, corrupted, and unprofitable condition is found in Romans 8:7-8: **“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh CANNOT PLEASE GOD”** (emph. TWR). Unless God intervenes in sovereign grace, man will remain in the darkness of sin and depravity, manifested by his hatred for God and hostility towards His law and the Gospel. John 3:19-20 declares: **“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.”**

Thankfully, God in great grace decreed before the world began that a great number of Adam’s fallen race **“out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation”** (Rev. 5:9) would be saved from the ravages of sin and death through the finished work of the Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, was born of a

virgin and thus was not defiled or tainted by inherent depravity like all other men. Rather, Christ the Lord was not only without sin, but was positively holy in body, soul, and spirit as Luke 1:35 reveals: **“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: THEREFORE ALSO THAT HOLY THING WHICH SHALL BE BORN OF THEE SHALL BE CALLED THE SON OF GOD”** (emphasis mine, TWR). The body conceived in the virgin womb of Mary was designed by God for the express purpose of bearing the sins of God’s elect on the cross in order to propitiate the Father’s wrath against them (Hebrews 10:5-14). Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, inwardly and outwardly fulfilling all of the demands of the law. Christ willingly went to the cross knowing that the sacrifice of His precious blood would be the only way to reconcile the elect to God and justify them. The Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life finished the work the Father gave Him to do, thus securing eternal life for all that the Father gave Him in the covenant of grace. Thus, all who are born of the Spirit and given the spiritual grace to repent and believe that Christ died, was buried, and rose from the dead are freely given eternal life. Eternal death and damnation await all those who remain unchanged in Adam, but eternal life is given to all who are changed by the power of Christ and the Gospel of grace. II Corinthians 4:3-7 describes this miraculous transformation: **“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which**

♦ (Continued on page 15)

Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 13) ♦

believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." The very moment a dead sinner is born of the Spirit he is given the grace to believe the Gospel and obtain eternal life in Christ. John 3:16 clearly states: **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."** Colossians 3:4 declares: **"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."** Those chosen in Christ by the Father, redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, and given life in Christ by the Spirit are given eternal life. What a glorious experience to be made alive in Christ for all eternity and to dwell in His gracious presence as the eternal ages roll!

passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12). **"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive"** (I Cor. 15:22).

The relationship would be that **"...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin"** (Rom. 5:12), that one man was Adam (I Cor. 15:22). And because God told Adam that the day he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would die, **"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"** (Gen. 2:16-17). Which he did, he died spiritually.

So, now every human being born are born spiritually dead. They have Adam's sin nature, **"For as in Adam all die"** (I Cor. 15:22). **"...so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"** (Rom. 5:12).

But praise the Lord, **"...even so in Christ shall all be made alive"** (I Cor. 15:22). All that believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour will be made alive, all those God chose (elected) in Christ before the foundation of the world, **"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love"** (Eph. 1:4). God Bless!



Gleanings

(Continued from page 11) ♦

times (prayer and worship). This cannot be done with hair. A man (men are required to remove their covering during prayer in the chapel and worship within the chapel) cannot just remove all his hair and then place it back when

he is done praying. If you believe it to be the hair, then the man must have to go bald.

2) **"For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered"** (I Cor. 11:6). That word **"also,"** proves there is a difference between hair and covering the head. Why would an almighty Sovereign God allow such words in His Word?

3) In verse 15, we learn the woman's long hair is for her glory. Now, part of the reason to cover her hair is to veil this glory. Why would a woman want to show off this glory in God's House? Ephesians 3:21 tells us Christ is to get the glory in the House of God. Women, when you come in, cover your glory so Christ can receive it. As E. G. Cook put it, "Our Lord made woman and her lovely hair for man's glory. And He expects men to enjoy, and appreciate the glory He has given us, if we do that at the right place. But the place for His glory to be manifested is in His churches. He wants us to see His glory in the assembly. So He tells the woman to cover her glory while in the assembly in order that His glory may shine forth without competition. In Psalms 4:2 He says, **"O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame...?"** In Isaiah 48:11 He says, **"...I will not give my glory unto another."** In John 17:24 in His great intercessory prayer He says, **"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory..."** Now where is He today? He, in His body, is seated on the Father's throne. But in Revelation 1:13 we see Him in the midst of His churches. So, He, in His body is seated at the right hand of the Father, but in the person of the

Holy Spirit He is present with His people in His churches."

4) The Greek word for **"covering,"** in verse 15, is "Peribolaion." While the Greek word for covering in verse six is "Katakalyptō." See? Entirely different Greek words. Paul tells us that women are to cover their heads with their natural covering and an unnatural covering.

5) Another reason is because of the way verse six would sound if we changed **"covering"** for the word "hair." Look: **"For if the woman [will not have long hair] let her also be shorn..."** Huh?! See? She would already have had her hair **"shorn."** If a Sovereign God wrote this (which One did), He would not repeat Himself differently.

6) **"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering"** (v 15). This hair is, indeed, a covering for the woman and the Bible requires that she keep it long. However, she is to have long hair **"and"** her head covered. The woman is, indeed, to have long hair. However, her long hair is only one cover. The woman is to have a natural covering, and an unnatural covering. The odd thing is many people who have taken the "hair-covering belief," use verse 15 to prove their theory.

7) Verse six and verse 15 are in two different voices entirely. In verse six, we have the middle voice and in verse 15, we have the passive voice. What I mean by this is: Verse six is in the middle voice which means the subject is the doer and the receiver of the action given. The woman places the covering just as she does her normal clothing. No one else helps in this action. Now, verse 15 is in the passive voice. In the passive voice, the subject is

♦ (Continued on page 16)

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"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death

Baptist History



MISSIONARY HEROICS DURING WORLD WAR II

By David L. Cummins

The missionary movement that began with William Carey has continued among Baptists to this very day! Throughout the years, believers have cried out, "Here am I, Lord, send me," and through trials and tribulation men and women have continued to "go into all the world." Florence Almen had gone from America in 1936 and had served for a term in French Equatorial Africa. After returning to her homeland for a year of furlough, Florence said her farewells to family and friends and boarded the *Zam Zam* on March 21, 1941, for her return to her labors. The *Zam Zam* had at one time been in the British fleet, but now it was a rickety old Egyptian ship bound for Alexandria, via Recife, Brazil, and the Cape of Good Hope. Miss Almen hoped to disembark at Cape Town, to catch a steamer to Matadi, and from there, to take a river boat back to Bangui.

The ship carried 201 passengers, including 144 missionaries.¹ They made their way to Baltimore and picked up additional crew and then continued on to Brazil.

¹ William Blake, *An Almanac of the Christian Church* (Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1987), p. 113.

Taken from *This Day in Baptist History*
Written by E. Wayne
Thompson and
David L Cummins

Leaving Brazil for Cape Town on April 9, they traveled without lights and maintained radio silence, for the German U-boats were very active. All seemed to go well until April 17, just two days from the arrival in Cape Town. A terrible vibration rocked the ship, and the screaming crash of shells awakened passengers and crew. The old ship was under attack.

Miss Almen and her two roommates hurriedly dressed and put on their money belts, which contained their passports and documents, and donned the life preservers. The shells were flying everywhere as they scurried to the deck. They found that their lifeboat had been hit, but they finally discovered another. As the lifeboat pulled away from the listing *Zam* they found that it, too, had been riddled with gun fire and was filling with water. Florence Almen did not know how to swim, but heroically to lighten the load, she jumped overboard. As she did so, she cried out to the Lord, "I'll be seeing your face today, Lord Jesus." She further testified, "I wasn't alone. God was there. Underneath were the everlasting arms. I felt His Presence---really real."² After a time in the water, she was able to draw near the lifeboat again and place a hand on its side to keep her head above water.

² Polly Strong, *Burning Wicks* (Cleveland: Baptist Mid-Missions, 1984), p. 201.

In a short time, they heard a motor and discovered that the German captain of the raider (the *Tamesis*) had sent a launch to pick up those in the water. The Lord had moved upon his heart, and thinking of his own wife and children back in Germany, he had gone back and forth picking up survivors, even at his own risk. The next day, the passengers were transferred to the *Dresden*, where they lived for a month as prisoners of war. For thirty-three days they experienced many privations along with a flu epidemic, seasickness, and dysentery, but on May 19, after a zigzagging course in their attempt to avert British vessels, the *Dresden* entered the territorial waters of Spain. The next day, the ship was run aground on the sandy beaches in German-occupied France. In time, the United States citizens, through the intervention of the American ambassador to Spain, were returned to New York.

The Lord had graciously protected all aboard, and there were absolutely no casualties.



Gleanings

(Continued from page 15) ♦

the receiver of the action. The woman just receives this covering from God (aka the natural hair). So, in verse 15, the woman has nothing to do with placing this covering upon her. However, in verse six, she has to do everything to place that covering above her head. The woman must have a God-made covering and a man-made covering.

Now, another thing I would like to point out: The New International Version (NIV) footnote says the hair is the head covering. As Myron Horst put it, "This is an example of twisting

Scripture to make the Bible say what one wants it to say. The Greek cannot be translated as it is in the NIV footnote. Words were added to and subtracted from the Greek to get this interpretation. The NIV is not a word for word translation. There are many places where the biases of the translators comes through. This is one of them. I have not been able to find any basis in history or in the Greek for this interpretation. It is fairly clear from history and the Greek that I Corinthians 11 is saying that women should have two coverings – long hair and a veil". Please note that Myron Horst is wrong on many subjects (Including the head covering in some points). However, I enjoyed what he said so I wanted to quote him.



The Short Pews



Brief Articles
by Curtis Pugh
(1944 - 2018)

Volunteers for Jesus

Most so-called evangelical Christians preach and practice what they erroneously call "soul winning." They can be likened to recruiters for the military service. They have a sales pitch prepared by which they try to get sinners to volunteer for salvation: whatever it takes, by hook or by crook! If these religious recruiting officers can just get sinners to make a move they can turn it in on their report. They can carve another notch on their gospel gun. A one-time prayer for salvation is all it takes with most of them. Others try to include making some kind of

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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.

“Gen Z is Made of Zombies — Less Educated, More Depressed, Without Values”

By Todd Farley

Each new school year, Jeremy Adams, a teacher in Bakersfield, Calif., gives the same lesson. When he shows pictures of celebrities like Kendall Jenner or Miley Cyrus to his students on a screen, they immediately recognize them. But faced with photos of policymakers like Mike Pence or Nancy Pelosi, the children stare blankly.

That ignorance is no joke to Adams, he writes in his new book, “Hollowed Out: A Warning About America’s Next Generation” (Regnery Publishing), out now.

“We need to brace ourselves for what lies ahead. I write this book as an alarm bell ... a project born out of worry, concern and frustration.”

A National Teacher of the Year nominee, Adams frets that today’s youngsters are “barren of the behavior, values and hopes from which human beings have traditionally found higher meaning ... or even simple contentment.” Adams calls them “hollowed out,” a generation living solitary lives, hyperconnected to technology but unattached from their families, churches or communities. He cites statistics showing teen depression rose 63 percent from 2007 to 2017 while teen suicide grew 56 percent.

Tragically, he writes, suicide has become the second leading cause of death for the young.

While teachers once helped students become their “best selves” by putting the focus on curriculums, lesson plans and test scores, he writes, that is given way to trying to “understand” young people through programs emphasizing suicide and depression awareness, human trafficking concerns, or bullying, gangs and shootings.

Adams blames the dissolution of the American family for this shift, with marriage rates down and the number of traditional two-parent homes plummeting. Although studies have shown that regular family dinners leads to less youth “smoking, binge drinking, marijuana use, violence, school problems, eating disorders and sexual activity,” most of Adams’ students say they eat dinner alone each night, focused not on family but the device in their hand.

“The neglect of family life is one of the greatest causes of the hollowing out not only of students, but of American life,” Adams writes.

He also bemoans the evaporation of religious life. While only 2 percent of Americans identified themselves as “atheists” in 1984, that number was 22 percent by 2020. A college religion professor notes that when he discusses Matthew from the Bible, many students think he is talking about Matthew Perry of

“Friends.” And Luke? His students assume it is the guy from “Beverly Hills, 90210.”

Religion has been replaced by “a mass culture of ‘banality, conformity, and self-indulgence,’” Adams writes, not to mention an obsession with technology. He notes that in the 1970s, more than 50 percent of high schoolers hung out with friends “every day,” but by 2020, that number had dropped below 33 percent. Modern high schoolers regularly forgo traditional activities like Friday night football games to hunker down alone, “watching Netflix, Hulu, or Disney+.” That helps explain why in 2012, 49 percent of teens ranked “in person” as their favorite way to talk, but in 2018, only 32 percent did.

Modern students constantly text during classes, Adams says, or watch streaming services during Zoom meetings, living in a state that psychiatrists call “continuous partial attention.” Studies show the average Gen Z student uses five electronic devices and has an 8-second attention span, which results in “lower grades, diminished ability to concentrate, and stunted academic achievement.”

Adams predicts that today’s young people will be unprepared for the future. In 2014, a US general was quoted saying “the quality of people willing to serve has been declining rapidly,” with 71 percent of current 17- to 24-year-olds ineligible due to obesity, criminal records, mental health, or drug issues. Meanwhile, a recent survey highlighted that while 70 percent of senior citizens could pass a US citizenship test, less than 20 percent of those under 45 could, Adams writes. Not that today’s youngsters seem to care. “I never hear young people professing love for their country,”

Adams writes. “I used to. But not lately. That is when I really think teachers have a front row seat for America’s decline.”

(Originally printed in the NY Post 8/21/2021, available on their website at <https://nypost.com/2021/08/21/gen-z-students-are-less-educated-more-depressed-and-lack-values/>)



Short Pews

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commitment which they often call “making Christ Lord.” Still others have in their recruitment scheme a necessary step they call baptism. Whatever their requirements, their aim is to secure volunteers for Jesus: hence our title. They think by their methods to make disciples for Christ. They think their scheme produces genuine Christians headed for heaven.

As a boy growing up in Oklahoma I attended various “singings,” community “homecomings,” cemetery “decoration days” and “revival” services as well as regular church meetings. I remember singing the song “As A Volunteer.” The chorus of that song goes “A volunteer for Jesus, A soldier true, Others have enlisted, Why not you? Jesus is the Captain, We will never fear, Will you be enlisted as a volunteer?” That song is probably out of fashion today as so called “gospel music” has gone through various phases in its downgrade. But the philosophy behind that song is as popular as ever. After all the Bible says **“...evil men and seducers shall [continue to] wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived”** (II Tim. 3:13 – brackets added). And volunteerism for Jesus is a deception! All this volunteerism, of course, is based

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Short Pews

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upon the notion that sinners are capable of volunteering. We say again: volunteering for Jesus is based upon the misconception that sinners have the ability to come to Christ in a saving way without any interference from God.

Today, most of what is called “evangelical Christianity” has done away with the draft. They no longer believe that God has a conscription policy by which He selects and inducts into His service whom He pleases. Various objections as to the fairness of God’s conscription program continue to be raised by those who believe individuals have the ability to volunteer for Jesus. God’s answer to such as object to the way He drafts His soldiers was written by Paul in Romans 9:20-21: **“Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”** In other words, if we may paraphrase, Paul says to all those volunteers for Jesus, “Just who do you think you are, daring to question God? God has the right to do whatever He wants with His creation.” Paul had just previously stated these words: **“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy”** (Rom. 9:14-16). But modern Christianity has

espoused the idea of individuals volunteering for Jesus. They will not be divorced from that notion even by God’s Word! They think the new birth comes about by an act of man’s will. It matters not to them that the Bible says, **“...it is not of him that willeth...”**

Is there Scripture to substantiate our claim that God does not accept volunteers? We believe that there is. Christ’s rejection of volunteers was complete. As far as the New Testament record is concerned, there is not a single instance of Christ accepting a volunteer. Let us look at four instances of volunteerism in the Gospels. In each of these the Lord Jesus spoke words – demanding words – which caused the volunteer to go away from Him. Jesus did not mistakenly say things that caused these men to give up their volunteerism. We can say that with full assurance because the Lord Jesus **“...needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man”** (John 2:25). His words were direct, pointed and achieved what He intended them to accomplish.

First consider these excerpts from the meeting of the rich young ruler with Jesus. **“And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?... Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions”** (Matt. 19:16 & 21-22). This young man claimed to be blameless as far as the Old Testament law was concerned. (Paul made that same claim in Philippians 3:6). He was

no doubt a fine young man. He was volunteering to do whatever Jesus told him to do – he thought. But the Lord Jesus, knowing his heart, told him to do that which the young man could not bear to do. Christ told him to sell all that he owned, give the proceeds to the poor and then come and follow Him. The young man’s volunteerism was short lived. The Scripture says **“...he went away sorrowful.”** Christ never required any other person in the Scripture to sell all their possessions. But He pointed His words at the true love of the young man: his riches. Many professing Christians today – volunteers – are willing to follow the Lord as long as they can keep their comfortable affluent lifestyle. As long as their kind of following after Christ does not affect what they have, they are willing to volunteer for Jesus. But Christ did not accept that kind of volunteerism then and we have no reason to believe that He accepts it today.

Another instance of volunteerism which Jesus rejected is seen in these verses: **“And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head”** (Luke 9:57-58). Here was a man who seemed quite enthusiastic. He openly declared that he would follow the Lord wherever it took him. But he seemed to think that following the Lord would eventually result in ease. Perhaps he was expecting the Lord to immediately receive His kingdom. Perhaps he thought he would be elevated to a higher position: one of power and wealth. The Lord’s pointed words about His own

poverty seem intended to cause this man to reconsider and leave. The context gives us every reason to believe that this man gave up his volunteerism.

In proximity to the last two quoted verses we have another two which tell of a similar volunteer. We read: **“And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”** (Luke 9:61-62). This man had such ties with family and friends that he was willing to put off following the Lord for a time of farewells with them. Perhaps he expected a going-away feast or party. Again we point out that the Lord Jesus knew all about this man. And based upon what He knew He spoke pointed words of rebuke to him. It seems clear that this was the end of his volunteerism.

A fourth instance of volunteerism in which the words of Jesus caused would-be followers to leave Him is seen in this passage: **“But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him,”** (John 6:64-66). These words of Jesus were spoken to some who were actually viewed as His disciples. They are called that. Again the supernatural knowledge of the Son of God is stated. Jesus knew not only that Judas would betray Him, but He also knew from the beginning who believed not. Some

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of these unbelievers were viewed as disciples of His, but they were not true believers. No doubt they considered themselves to be followers of the Lamb. Notice the word “therefore.” The adage is “whenever you read a wherefore or a therefore, ask yourself what is it there for.” The word “therefore” connects what Jesus said with what He knew in this case. In other words, it was because Jesus knew those who were unbelievers that He aimed His words at them. He knew what the results of His words would be. And He said them in light of that knowledge. And what were the results of Jesus speaking of man’s inability to volunteer to be His disciple? They left Him and never came back! Volunteers for Jesus do not stick! They are not genuine!

Revelation 17:14 speaks of those who will be victorious over the ten kings. It says **“...they that are with him [Christ] are called, and chosen, and faithful.”** (Brackets added). No volunteers in that army! God called them. God chose them. And as a result of His working in them they are steadfast! Neither do Paul’s words speak of volunteering for Jesus. He wrote in II Timothy 2:4: **“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”** No volunteering for Jesus in this army either! Paul wrote that God’s soldiers are chosen: chosen by God. To the congregation at Rome Paul wrote: **“Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ”** (Rom. 1:6). The saints at Rome had not volunteered for Jesus. They had been called! Their call had been effective – it resulted in their true discipleship.

The words of assurance in the first part of Romans 8:28 are **“to them who are the called according to his purpose.”** Volunteers for Jesus have no assurance that all things work together for good to them! The words of the Lord Himself in Matthew 20:16 are these: **“So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.”** No volunteers for Jesus among those who shall be first. They are chosen! Paul himself certainty was not a volunteer for Jesus. God spoke about Paul to Ananias saying, **“Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me...”** (Acts 9:15). Anyone who reads the account of Paul’s arrest on the Damascus road cannot seriously attempt to say that Paul was a volunteer for Jesus! God told Ananias that He (God) had chosen Paul! Furthermore there was not a single volunteer for Jesus who saw Him after His resurrection. Proof: **“Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead”** (Acts 10:40-41). All the witnesses of Christ’s resurrection were before that time chosen by God! The disciple Rufus was not a volunteer for Jesus for we read Paul’s words: **“Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine”** (Rom. 16:13). In fact, as far as both Paul and Peter are concerned, those who are saved are not volunteers for Jesus. They are all chosen ones! Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:4: **“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.”** Peter’s words are similar in I Peter 2:9 where he wrote: **“But ye are a chosen generation,**

a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” Jude summed it up thus in the first verse of his letter: **“Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.”** Jude wrote to Christians, saying that they were set apart, preserved, and then called. No volunteers for Jesus there! God called them!

Can there be anything plainer than the words of Christ Himself in John 6:44-45? He said: **“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”** A sinner can volunteer to go forward. He can voluntarily pray the sinner’s prayer. He can volunteer to be baptized. He can volunteer to preach. He can volunteer to teach and to witness and to pass out tracts. He can volunteer to be a missionary. He can voluntarily do a lot of things. But he cannot be a volunteer for Jesus. He might think that he can. But he cannot! Unless God draws him, he will not and cannot come to Christ in a saving way. Only those who have heard the effectual (effective) call of God which gives life to the spiritually dead – unless he has learned of the Father – unless God has chosen to teach him – to deal with him – he will be just a volunteer for religion. He may think he has volunteered for Jesus. He may sing about it. He may go to hear preaching that tells him that he can be a

volunteer. But the truth is he cannot! Merriam Webster defines the word volunteer as “a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service.” No sinner ever did that relative to Christ! Not apart from the working of God in him. No sinner ever came in a saving way to Christ of his own accord – that is, apart from the work of God in his heart – the work of regeneration. In this thing the theologians call regeneration – the new birth – a holy disposition is given to the mind. That mind of man which by natural birth is enmity against God must be changed so as to cause the sinner to see himself as hopeless and helpless and to sorrow for his sins. The sinner comes to see himself as an offense to God! That godly sorrow results in repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. (See Rom. 8:7-8; II Cor. 7:10; Acts 20:21). So it is God who takes the initiative in those who come to Jesus. If there is any volunteerism in the new birth, it is that the triune God volunteers to save unworthy sinners.

If you, reader, are only a volunteer for Jesus you are yet in your sins. Cease trusting in what you have done. Your prayers, decision, religious rituals, self-confidence, and all that goes along with volunteerism – cast it upon the dung-heap! The only hope of any sinner is Christ! Cast yourself upon the grace of God! Trust only in the finished work of Christ! If you are able – if you are enabled to do so – come to Christ as you are, trusting only in His finished work – it will be God working in you. Consider: **“...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose**

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The Kentucky Baptist and the Burning Coals of Truth



C. D. Cole
(1885 - 1968)

Eternal Punishment



Introduction

We have chosen to speak and write upon a very solemn theme. The flesh will not be entertained, but the spirit may be profited. Much grace is needed if we are to hear profitably---grace for both saint and sinner. The flesh, which profiteth nothing, will hinder both classes. The saint still has a fleshly nature, and the sinner has nothing but a fleshly nature.

Just as no criminal would enjoy a lecture on the time, place, and nature of the punishment to be meted out to him by the law he has violated, so no lost man will enjoy a sermon on the punishment he will receive for his violation of the law of God. If my preaching on this subject should meet with universal approval, I would be suspicious as to my position on it. It would be good evidence of my being in error.

When Pastor Russell was speaking to a large crowd, in denial of the truth on this theme, a thoroughly worldly man promised him a liberal donation because, as he said, it makes a man comfortable to feel that there is no hell. And when Robert Ingersoll was once inveighing against the doctrine of eternal punishment, a drunkard arose and said, "Make it mighty strong, Bob, for a lot of us fellows are depending on you." And there are people before me today, and some will doubtless read this message who would

be glad to know that there is no eternal punishment for the lost. Any teaching on the subject that has the approval of the ungodly might well be regarded with suspicion.

There is widespread denial of the truth about eternal punishment. I expect there is more literature being circulated today against this truth than against any other truth of the Bible. You can hardly name a modern sect that does not either deny or eviscerate this doctrine. Besides such groups as Christian Science, Russellism, Seventh Day Adventism, and Christadelphians, there are many individuals in the evangelical denominations who boldly flout their declared faith in this doctrine. We allow that no truth should be rejected merely because heretics may hold it, but when such an imposing array of errorists is on one side of a question, there is certainly a need for serious reflection, and a challenge to **"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."**

We preach upon this subject, first of all, because it is a part of the once delivered faith. Whatever God has revealed is to be our study and proclamation. then, a discussion of this truth will increase the gratitude of the saints for their glorious salvation. They will see that they have been saved "from" something as well as to something. Moreover, a sermon on this solemn subject

may, under God, put fear into the hearts of sinners and cause them to flee the wrath to come. **"Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee"** (Job 36:18). **"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"** (Heb. 9:27). **"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"** (Luke 13:3).

THE NATURE OF MAN

Man is a compound being of three elements: body, soul, and spirit (I Thess. 5:23). We can also think of man as a dual being when we wish to differentiate between that which is material and that which is immaterial. Our Lord divided man into two parts when He admonished us not to fear him that can only kill the body, but to fear Him that is able to cast both soul and body into gehenna.

The soul, being the principle part of man, is often employed for the man himself. In Genesis 2:7, we read that God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life (Hebrew-lives) and he became a living soul, that is, a living person, or a living man. In Exodus 1:5, we read that seventy souls came out of the loins of Jacob---meaning

seventy persons. In I Peter 3:20, we are told that eight souls, that is, eight persons were saved by water. The word soul is even applied to a dead body. Numbers 6:6 says: **". . . he shall come at no dead body."** The word here for "body" in the Hebrew is "nephesh" or "soul", and the clause, if literally translated, will be "And he shall not approach a dead soul," that is, a dead person. The word "nephesh" (soul) is translated dead "body" eight times in our English Bible.

Man also has a spirit as a separate and distinct entity. We will argue this point later, as we only wish to affirm here and now that man has a spirit by virtue of his creation. Man lost no part of his being in the fall, but all the parts became depraved.

In the New Testament, the immaterial part of man is spoken of as the real person in distinction from the body as the house in which he lives. II Corinthians 5:1-2 says, **"...we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, ...for in this we groan."** The pronoun "we" so often occurring in the passage stands for the immaterial and invisible part of man that dwells for a while in the mortal body and

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Short Pews

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again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3-4). And may "...the Lord give thee understanding in all things" (II Tim. 2:7).



Burning Coals

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then moves out to go to be with Christ. This certainly teaches conscious existence with the Lord after death.

That the soul or immaterial part of man continues in conscious existence suffering after the death of the body, and Lazarus was in conscious comfort. The rich man's body was buried and the soul of Lazarus was taken into Abraham's bosom by angels. Their experience after death could not have been bodily experiences, therefore, they were possessed of another element that had conscious existence after death.

I do not call this a parable. Our Lord did not say, "**Hear another parable,**" neither does the Holy Spirit say that He was speaking in parables. The following extract from a well-known writer is worthy of consideration:

"The rich man and Lazarus I am not free to regard as a parable, while having no controversy with those who so regard it. Not only is it not called a parable, but names are introduced, a thing without precedent in our Lord's parables. I prefer to look at the rich man and Lazarus as actual characters, whose history in this world and beyond is solemnly traced by the Lord for the moral profit of men everywhere."

What is said of the two men in this life is quite in keeping with actual occurrence, therefore, what is said of them in death and



afterwards must also be true to facts. We grant that the physical torment is symbolical, but it is a symbolism of spiritual torment. Is the symbolism terrible? Then the truth intended to be taught is also terrible.

When Stephen was martyred, his body fell in death under a hail of stones, but he said to Christ, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.**"

Paul had some wonderful experiences on account of which he was given a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble. Once he was caught up to the third heaven, and it would seem that on another occasion into paradise, where he heard "**unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter**" (II Cor. 12:4). He says that he did not know whether he was in the body or out of the body; only God knew. This certainly

teaches that a disembodied spirit can consciously exist and be intelligently active. Paul did not think a "disembodied spirit is a self-contradiction."

VARIOUS SENSES OF THE WORD "DEATH"

Life and death are antonyms, and it is axiomatic that a man cannot be both dead and alive in the same sense at the same time. But one may be alive in one sense and dead in a different sense at the same time. This is obvious from the saying of Jesus, "**Let the dead bury their dead.**" He meant for the spiritual dead to bury the physical dead. A man may be alive physically and dead spiritually at the same time, as is true of all the unregenerate living. We believe there are four distinct senses in which the word death is used in the Bible.

1. *Physical death.* This is caused by the departure of the spirit from the body. James 2:26 says: "**For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**" See also Acts 7:59.

2. *Spiritual death.* This is the condition of human nature as the result of the fall of man. It is a death to holiness, the depravity of nature. There is a human spirit in every man by which he understands the things of man (I Cor. 2:11) but the born again man has the Holy Spirit by which he understands the things of God (I Cor. 2:12). The human spirit is essential to life in the physical realm; the Holy Spirit is essential to life in the spiritual realm. The human spirit enables a man to be active in human affairs; the Holy Spirit enables a man to see and enter the kingdom of God.

3. *Judicial death.* This is God's sentence of death upon all men. It is the death of condemnation as opposed to justification of life (Rom. 5:18). It is death in the sense of guilt. This is the death of Romans 5:12, John 5:24, Romans 6:23, and other passages. The antithesis of judicial death is justification of life. Romans 5:18 says, "**Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**" Life and death in the judicial sense are generally overlooked by commentators. The believer is to reckon himself dead to sin and alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 6:11). The believer is dead to the guilt of sin and alive or justified before God. The unbeliever is dead in sin, that is, condemned before God. We have this aspect of life and death in I John 5:12: "**He that hath the**

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BEREA BAPTIST BANNER	
Financial Report	
1-1-2023 to 1-31-2023	
Beginning Balance	\$7,505.50
RECEIPTS:	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	500.00
The Willetts, Cottonwood Shores, TX	125.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL	25.00
Grace B. C., Gladwin, MI	50.00
Grace B. C., Germanton, NC	25.00
The Lord's B. C., Goose Creek, SC	100.00
Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY	45.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR	50.00
S. G. B. C., Wellington, KS	200.00
Beauty Mtn. B. C., Edmond WV	50.00
Indore B.C., Indore, WV	300.00
Berea B.C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Big Creek B.C., Wayne, WV	200.00
Victory B. C., Courtland VA	25.00
Grace B. C., Corbin KY	100.00
Southside B.C., Fulton MS	25.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen IN	100.00
Faith B. C., Lynn AR	12.50
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX	50.00
Bible Believers BC, Naples ID	150.00
Grace B. C., Tulsa OK	150.00
Parkway L. B. C., Springfield OR	200.00
West Jefferson B. C., West Jefferson OH	75.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg KY	300.00

Subscriptions	140.00
Divided Checks	2,300.00
Anonymous	2,275.00
Sub Total	\$8,246.63
TOTAL	\$15,752.13

EXPENDITURES:	
Postage:	1,073.64
Supplies	32.09
Wages	2,000.00
FICA	153.00
Div Cks	2,300.00
Total Expenditures	\$5,558.73

ENDING BALANCE	\$10,193.40
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BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST	
Financial Report	
1-1-2023 to 1-31-2023	
Beginning Balance	\$5,431.11
RECEIPTS:	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	150.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY (2mo)	200.00
TOTAL	5,881.11
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio time	160.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	160.00
Interest	+0.22
ENDING BALANCE	\$5,721.33

Burning Coals

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son hath life; and he that hath not the son of God hath not life.” The present life in Christ is life in the sense of justification--freedom from the penalty of sin--deliverance from the wrath to come, and since this is unalterable, it is called everlasting life.

4. *The second death.* This is the execution of the judicial sentence against sin. It is described as being cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14-15). This is the gehenna into which our Lord said both soul and body of the wicked would be cast. This is the final state of the lost. This is hell proper and follows the judgment of the great white throne. This is the place of unquenchable fire.

The Greek word “hades” should never be translated hell as the place of final punishment. Hades is the intermediate state and is to be emptied into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:13-14). Hades is the place of punishment between death and the judgment, after which both soul and body will enter the lake of fire. **“...the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from temptation, and... how to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.”** (II Pet. 2:9, Weymouth)

DEATH

We wish to say a few more things about the nature of man, for this is vital in the discussion of eternal punishment. In our first message, we observed that man is a compound being, composed of matter and spirit. The human body is of material substance of the same earth from which the beasts have their bodies (Gen. 2:7, 19). This gives man kinship to the beast. Another thing that man and beast have in common

is a soul. Before making personal investigation, we thought this was only a vagary of Pastor Russell. The average Christian will be shocked at the statement that the beast has a soul, but this is both scriptural and scientific. The Hebrew word for creature in Genesis 1:21, 24 and many other places is “nephesh” or “soul”, the same word used to describe man as a living soul in Genesis 2:7.

It is soul that distinguishes animal life from plant life. Life is a general term to demote anything capable of growth and propagation. There is animate life and inanimate life. Inanimate life is every form of life without soul. Animal life, or soul life, includes everything that is capable of conscious sensation. This includes the brute as well as man. It is the soul that gives to the body the physical senses, such as touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste; and, these belong to beast as well as man.

F. W. Grant: “In the fact of being a living soul, he (man) does not differ from the beast, but he does in the way he becomes one.”

This is also true of man’s body. Dr. C. I. Scofield: “In itself, nephesh, or soul, implies self-conscious life, as distinguished from plants, which have unconscious life. In the sense of self-conscious life, animals also have “soul.”

God has a soul. Isaiah 42:1: **“Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth.”** See also Matt. 12:18; Heb. 10:38.

What shall we reason from the foregoing facts? Some reason that there is no difference between man and beast because both have a soul. By the same law of reasoning, we could argue there is no difference between man and God, or between beast and God,

because all have souls.

MAN AND BEAST DISTINGUISHED

1. The “origin” of the human soul is different from that of beast. Of the brute creation, God said, **“...Let the earth bring forth the living creature (soul) after his kind,...”** But of man it is said, that God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Compare Genesis 2:7 with Genesis 1:11, 20, 24, and 27.

2. Man is made in the image of God. There is a link between man and God that does not exist between the beast and God. God is a spirit and to be in His image involves man as a spirit as well as a soul. Man has a spirit which the beast does not have. This makes man the offspring of God (Acts 17:28), and explains why God is called the Father of spirits in Hebrews 12:9.

3. The spirit in man distinguishes him from the beast in three particulars:

a. It makes him a moral being, capable of sinning, which is not true of the beast. The beast is only under the law of his nature, and natural retribution over-takes the cow when she eats too much, and the dog when he eats poison. But man as a moral being is under a moral law, which makes him accountable to God, and liable to positive and penal punishment. The laws of nature and human society inflict punishment in this life for their transgression, but penal punishment from God does not begin until after this life.

b. The spirit in man makes him a rational being, capable of reasoning. To man, God says, **“Come now, and let us reason together....”**

c. The spirit of man makes him an endless being. He will have conscious and personal

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existence in all ages to come. He may lose his well-being, but never his being. There is this age and an age to come for human existence (Matt. 12:32). The spirit in man is what causes his soul to survive the death of the body.

PROOF THAT NATURAL MAN HAS A SPIRIT

I Corinthians 2:11 says that the spirit enables a man to understand the things of man, so to be without the spirit would preclude intercourse in human affairs.

II Corinthians 7:1 speaks about the filthiness of the spirit. This can only refer to the human spirit, which the natural and fallen man still has. It cannot mean that which is born of the Holy Spirit. The spirit of the natural man is depraved like the rest of his being.

Proverbs 20:27 says: **"The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD."** Now, a candle is to give light, and the spirit of man is the seat of his understanding--the light by which he reasons and understands--the light that constitutes every man a responsible being.

Zechariah 12:1 says: God **"formeth the spirit of man within him."** It is obvious from the context that this speaks of man in creation and not in regeneration.

The Sadducees were a party of Jews in our Lord's time who denied the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body. Josephus tells us that the Saducees believed that the soul died with the body. Paul once split the council by taking the side of the Pharisees (Acts 23:8-9).

Why is it said in Genesis 2:7 that man became a living soul rather than a living spirit? F. W. Grant thinks it was to "hide pride

from man." The angels are spirits, and they had already fallen; also the condemnation of the devil was for pride. "Thus he is called 'Adam' from adamah, the ground, as if to remind him of his origin--**"Dust thou art."** Yet he was assuredly something more than **"dust."** Here in the same way, his being a living soul reminds him of his kinship with the beasts; yet it does not show that he is not more. Among spiritual beings, this is, indeed, his real distinction--that he is a **"living soul."**" (F. W. Grant)

It is not until after death that man's real distinction begins to manifest itself. It is then that he is called a "spirit." When Christ appeared in His resurrected body to His disciples, they thought they had seen a spirit, but He tells them to touch Him, and reminded them that a spirit does not have flesh and bones. Our Lord did not believe that "a disembodied spirit is a self-contradiction."

In I Peter 3:19 we read of spirits in prison. These were doubtless the disembodied spirits of lost men to whom Noah preached while they were in the body and were disobedient to the Word of God. When Peter wrote they were absent from the body and in prison.

In Hebrews 12:23 we read of the spirits of just men made perfect.

WHAT BECOMES OF A MAN WHEN HE DIES?

Death does not end human existence as it does with the beast. Man is a moral and responsible being, accountable to God the Creator and Lawgiver. At death, the constituent parts of man are separated until the resurrection, when they are again united, and come before God in judgment.

If physical death is punishment for sin, then redeemed saints are punished for their sins. And dogs,

which cannot sin, are punished as severely as men who do sin.

If the soul dies when the body dies, then Matthew 10:28 is unintelligible. The man who kills the body would also kill the soul.

Some years ago, H. A. Ironside was holding meetings in the same city where a Seventh-Day Adventist was lecturing in a large tent. One day in passing the tent, he noticed a very imposing sign in large letters: TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR REWARD, "I will give \$10,000.00 United States Gold Coin to anyone who will produce a text from the Bible that speaks of an immortal soul." Ironside went inside and contacted the preacher, saying, I have come to see you, Sir, about the sign outside. The man inquired if he had come to collect the reward, and Ironside told him that he was afraid he could not claim it on his terms. The man thought that Ironside was admitting that the Bible did not teach the immortality of the soul. Then Ironside asked, "Because the Bible nowhere speaks of an immortal soul, do you therefore believe that the soul of man is immortal?" "Certainly," the man answered; "undoubtedly if the Bible never speaks of an immortal soul, the soul must be mortal." His attention was then called to the fact that just as the Bible does not mention an immortal soul, neither does it ever speak of a mortal soul. It was pointed out to him that, arguing from his standpoint, it was just as reasonable to say that the soul of man is not mortal, since the Bible never mentions a mortal soul. Ironside went on: "If I can produce a scripture that declares the soul is not killed when the body is killed, will you give me the \$10,000.00? For, I suppose, by an immortal soul, you mean a soul that lives when the body dies." The man began to

hedge and said it was a question of interpretation, but Ironside produced the passage: **"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul"** (Matt. 10:28).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

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

The 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.

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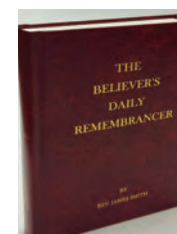
The Victory Baptist Church of Chehalis, Washington is in need of a pastor. Any interested brother may call Gerry Greisen at (360) 985-7975, or Mark Fenison at (360) 751-2929.

The 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.

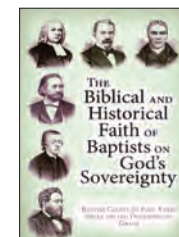
Bethel Baptist Church, which is located at 2603 Penfield, Pasadena, TX 77506, is in need of a pastor. Any interested Elders should call Brother Risinger at 832-564-6350 which is his cell phone or you can call him at home at 281-476-5099.

Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma is in need of a pastor. This calling has a parsonage located right next to the church building. Interested persons are to contact Brothers Charlie Hodges at 918-633-2713 or David Thorne at 918-373-6057.

Bethel Baptist Church of Lawton, OK is looking for a pastor. They have been an independent, sovereign grace Baptist Church since the late 1950's and they are seeking to call a man of God to guide, lead, teach, and rebuild their modest congregation. If you are interested please contact Bennie Burnsed at 580-695-4473.



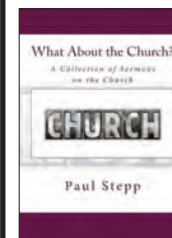
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