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The Berea Baptist Banner

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

The Ordinances

By Roy Mitchell

Corbin, Kentucky

There are only two ordinances. A lot of people say there's three, or maybe seven, but the Bible only teaches two---baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptist baptism is a prerequisite to the Lord's Sup-



Roy Mitchell

per. If you haven't been Scripturally baptized, you can't Scripturally observe the Lord's Supper. All down through the ages, we have been criticized as Baptists for believing in the so-called "close communion," but after all, if you haven't had Baptist baptism, you can't come to the Lord's table.

It is the Lord's table, not my table. I have the privilege of inviting anybody I please to come to my table at my home, but I can only invite those to the Lord's table that He said to come. In Ephesians 4:5, we read: **"One Lord, one faith, one baptism."**

How many baptisms? One. Not three, but one.

We read in Matthew 28:19: **"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the**

Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

BAPTISM

Notice five things about Scriptural baptism.

First of all, there must be a *proper subject*. A proper subject for baptism is a saved person---one that has been

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The Task of Every Church

By Elvis Gregory

(1933 - 1981)

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Eph. 3:21).

The message of this verse is of such magnitude that I almost hesitate to use it as a backdrop for my message this afternoon. It suffices to say that I believe the answer to the task of every



Elvis Gregory

church of the Lord Jesus Christ is found in this verse. We are told that **"Unto him (that is, God the Father) be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end."**

We know according to the humanistic philosophy of the average religionist that the task of the Lord's churches is, as they see, to redeem the whole man. Regardless of what they might mean, you and I know it is not the task of the Lord's churches to redeem anyone. That work was accomplished in the Person of God's Son and our Saviour, the Lord Jesus. The ministry of the Lord's churches is that of the ministry and word of reconciliation---that is, to handle the Word of Truth, the gospel of Jesus Christ which is the power of God unto salvation. The gospel and the Christ that we preach does indeed redeem the whole man.

We realize that not every organization that calls itself the church of the Lord

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Why Did Jesus Sit on Jacob's Well?

By Edgar Grady Cook

(1898 - 1986)

In John 4:6 we read, "Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with (or from) his journey, sat thus on the well." How important it is that we consider every little detail when we study the precious Word. When we see something like we see here in this verse, it should arouse our curiosity. I have heard it said that curiosity killed the cat. Well, maybe it did, and maybe it didn't; it will cause us to study the precious Scriptures more if we get our curiosity aroused enough about something we see in the Book.

There is no unimportant nor insignificant thing to be found in God's



E. G. Cook

Holy Word. The Holy Spirit never used one single word just for the purpose of making His Book larger, and therefore making it look more impressive. So, oftentimes the location, or the place where an incident takes place speaks a great message, both loud and clear, but too many times we do not get the message because our ears

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The Message of the Angel at the Tomb

By Paul Stepp

Indore, West Virginia

Let's read for our text today, **"In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto**



Paul Stepp

the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before

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What A Friend We Have in Jesus

By Milburn Cockrell

(1941 - 2002)

"So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever" (Ps. 73:22-26).

Judging by the title Asaph was the penman of this Psalm. Some believe the title should read "a



Milburn Cockrell

psalm for Asaph." If this be true, then David may have been its author, and he may have sent it to Asaph to be used in public worship (I Chron. 16:7). Nevertheless, Asaph may be its author for he too was a composer of spiritual songs (II Chron.

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Jesus is a church, just as every person that calls himself a Christian is not a child of God. Most of them are, in fact imitators of that which is real and genuine. So these modernistic churches of our day, who are not akin to the true churches of the Lord Jesus Christ, go about, as they say, to redeem the whole man. The methods and the means that they employ are not the preaching of the gospel of the grace of the Son of God, but, on the contrary, they are calling for social gatherings and the picketing of political conventions, and they are staging marches, sit-ins and walk-ins, and the like. However, the words of my text are pointed and categorical, and are undeniable that the task of every true New Testament church is to glorify God. The Bible points out and gives us emphatically the means and the messages whereby the Lord’s churches might fulfill this task of glorifying God. The churches then, through their teaching and their preaching and their missionary ministries, are to glorify God.

I

I am convinced that we are to glorify God through the expounding of the Word of God. The admonition of the aged Paul to the young minister, Timothy, who was the pastor at Ephesus, was:

“PREACH THE WORD; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (II Tim. 4:2).

Beloved, the task of the Lord’s church, whether it be in the Sunday School, or behind the pulpit, or through its missionaries, is to expound the Word of God as to its *inspiration*. *Inspiration*, we understand, is the way the Bible came to us. The Bible says:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Tim. 3:16-17).

Beloved, you and I have nothing to preach, and the Lord’s churches have nothing to preach, except the Word of God, which is the inspired infallible, inerrant Word of the living God. So our task is to glorify God by expounding the Word of God, which is God-breathed, and inspired, and without error.

We may quibble as to what Greek text one might use, or should use. We might argue which one of the English versions is more authentic. But it suffices to say that the churches of the Lord Jesus today do have the Word of God as the only rule of faith and practice. So we glorify God by expounding the Word of God, and we must teach those

who come under the ministry of our churches that this Book, the Bible, that we preach is the Word of God, and that it is the last authority on any doctrine or on any issue.

When the Apostle Peter wrote to those who had obtained like precious faith, after he encouraged them and called to their remembrance the things that they already knew, his desire was to stir them up---that is, stir up their pure minds to serve Him who called them out of darkness unto light. He said: **“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation”** (II Pet. 1:20). That is, the Scripture is of no private or human origin. The Scripture came not in our time by the word of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Beloved, the task of the Lord’s church is to glorify God not by preaching or teaching the social events of our day, not by preaching economics, not by preaching astronomy or by giving book reviews, but by expounding the infallible, inerrant Word of God.

We should expound the Word of God as to its revelation. Inspiration is how the Bible came to us, but revelation is what the Bible is. It is God’s divine self-disclosure. It is the revelation of Himself to man. All that we shall ever know about Him is revealed by the Spirit, in and through the Word of God.

We are then to expound the Word of God as to its *revelation*, for in that revelation we find that it reveals to us a sovereign Creator. He is the creator of all things and in whose sight all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing. He is the one that has had His way among the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay His hand or say unto Him, **“What doest thou?”** This revelation reveals to us the sovereign, omnipotent God Who is the judge of all men.

We find that this revelation reveals the fact of sin. After God had created all things, even man with whom He might have fellowship, fell from his lofty state and plunged not only himself, but the entire human race into sin and degradation and separation from God. So the holy law and justice of God were violated, and the law demands the death penalty of all who violate the holy and just law of God. The Bible declares: **“The soul that sinneth, it shall die”** (Ezek. 18:20). **“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).

Yes, beloved, in expounding the Word of God as to its revelation, we find the revelation of sin, and sin is passed upon all men, for all have sinned. The conclusion is whether you be Jew or

Greek, whether you be Gentile, bond or free, there is no difference.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

In this revelation we have not only the revelation of the Sovereign, Who is the creator of all things, and the revelation of sin, but we have the revelation of salvation---the only means of deliverance from sin. So Paul concludes: **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost”** (Titus 3:5).

So I am convinced beyond question that the task of every true New Testament Missionary Baptist Church is to glorify God, and we do that by expounding His Word.

I believe that in this Bible we not only have the truth as to its origin and revelation but as we preach the revelation and the fact of sin, we can also preach and give unto those fallen ones the invitation in the Word of God. As Isaiah boldly declares: **“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy, wine and milk without money and without price”** (Isa. 55:1).

We can point to the Lamb of God to all those who are tired and sick of sin and desire deliverance, and He declares that He is the one Who is able to save to the uttermost.

“Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Heb. 7:25).

He is the one that says: **“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls”** (Matt. 11:28-29).

Beloved, the task of every church is to glorify God by expounding the truths of the Word of God---not just to the exclusion of all others, but the whole circle of truth.

II

Then I believe there is something that inevitably follows if we expound the Word of God, and that is we shall exalt the Son of God and will also glorify God, for He is to receive glory through the church by Christ Jesus. So the task of the churches of God, by preaching or expounding or exalting the Word of God, is to exalt the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are those today who do not accept the fact of the Bible relative to Jesus Christ being the Son of God. They say, “Oh, yes, we believe in God. We believe that Jesus Christ was a good man, but not the Son of God.”

My friend, they do not know God.

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He cannot be known apart from His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who was the express image of His person. We exalt the Son of God and thereby glorify God when we preach His *pre-existence*.

John opens his Gospel by declaring: **“In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the Word was God”** (John 1:1).

Jesus in His high priestly prayer, said: **“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was”** (John 17:5). Beloved, in exalting the Son of God, we must preach His pre-existence. We must not only preach His pre-existence, but His pre-eminence, for the Word of God declares:

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist (or hold together). And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell” (Col. 1:16-19).

We not only must exalt the Son of God by preaching His pre-existence and His pre-eminence, but we must preach His Person as revealed in the Gospels and the Epistles. By His Person, I mean that we must preach His incarnation.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Paul stated: **“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**

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were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Gal. 4:4-5).

Someone says, “You don’t have to believe in the virgin birth to be saved.”

I would not argue that point, but if you are saved, you believe in the virgin birth and there is a difference.

Mr. Frank Stagg and theologians of his caliber declare that Jesus Christ was the first man that God ever fully entered into, and in consequence of that, God’s desire for each one of us is that we permit Him to fully enter into us. Beloved, in their attempt to glorify man, they must humanize the pre-existence of the Son of God. He was not a man that God entered into, but He was God that became man. So, beloved, we must indeed exalt the Son of God if we are to glorify our Father; and we preach the Son of God by preaching His person---the incarnation of His life.

Even the religious Pharisee, when he came to Jesus, had to declare: “We know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him” (John 3:2).

Beloved, Jesus Christ in His life went about doing good, preaching the gospel, and healing all manner of sicknesses and diseases. Even His enemies had to declare that no man spake like this man.

He was the one that declared: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life” (John 3:36).

Yes, we must preach His sinless life, the one who knew no sin, yet became sin for us, that we in turn might be made the righteousness of God in Him. There are those who extol the life of the Lord Jesus Christ who will have nothing to do with His death, but in preaching the person of Christ, we must preach the death of the Son of God on the cross of Calvary.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

Beloved, the man who will have nothing to do with Jesus Christ in His death, does not believe anything about the life of the Lord Jesus other than from a historical standpoint. I am rather amazed at some of the folk who declare, “Yes, Jesus Christ was the greatest man who ever lived,” yet they want to believe in evolution. Jesus said that God created man and woman in the beginning, and made them male and female, yet they declare that they believe Jesus Christ was the greatest man who ever lived while they declare Him to be a liar in His teachings. They do not believe the Lord Jesus Christ to be the greatest man who ever lived if

they do not accept Him to be the very Son of the living God.

Then if we preach Jesus Christ as to His person, we must not leave Him hanging on a cross, but as our scapegoat He took our sins into the tomb, and after 72 hours He came forth victorious over death, Hell and the grave. He declared: “I am he that liveth, and was dead, and, behold, I am alive for evermore” (Rev. 1:18).

Beloved, this Jesus Christ who died, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, is alive forever more. Now is Christ risen from the dead and becomes the first fruits of them that sleep.

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming” (I Cor. 15:22-23).

Yes, He was wounded for our transgressions. He was delivered for our offenses, but He was raised again for our justification. Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God.

In preaching His person, we need to preach this *exaltation*. On the day of Pentecost, in finishing that sermon, Paul said: “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36).

The consequence of humiliation, the Bible declares: “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:9-11).

So our task as the Lord’s church is to glorify God by expounding the Word and by exalting the Son in His pre-existence, His pre-eminence, and His person.

III

Thirdly, let me declare that the task of the Lord’s churches in consequences of expounding the Word and exalting the Son that by our definite dogmatic stand we’ll expose the enemies of God.

Paul, in writing to the church of Ephesus, declared: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11). Some of us don’t mind so much that admonition to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness,” but it doesn’t stop there. It says, “but rather reprove them.”

Beloved, it is the task of the Lord’s churches to reprove heresy taught in the Name of God, and if we expound the Word of God in all of its purity, we shall expose the enemies of God.

The Lord in His providence, has been pleased to use human instrumentality in conveying His message of salvation by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Devil likewise, mimicking and imitating the Lord, makes enemies today. We know the great enemy of God is Satan, the adversary of the children of God. We know that Satan uses men today, and if we expose these men and their methods, and their message, and their motives, their end will be according to their worth.

IV

In closing, let me say that the task of every church is to glorify God by the expounding of the Word of God, by exalting the Son of God, and by exposing the enemies of God. I believe in consequences of all that, that every true church is expecting the coming of the Son of God first of all to receive His saints.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thess. 4:16-17).

He is not only coming for His saints, but He shall repulse the wicked, for He shall destroy that wicked one by the manifestation of His presence, and all the wicked will fall before the hand of Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords.

If we exalt the Son of God and glorify God, then the task of every church is to expect the coming of the Son of God, not only to reclaim and receive the saints, and to repulse the wicked, but also to reclaim the earth. Jesus said to Peter: “That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt. 19:28).

The Bible declares: “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6).

May God, give us the spirit of grace and the ability to glorify God as the task of His churches, by expounding the Word of God, and so doing, looking and waiting for the coming of the Son of God. (The Baptist Examiner, July 1970).

Angel at the Tomb

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you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they

departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word” (Mt. 28:1-8).

Today I want to divide this message of the angel into two main points. I want to look at the outward message of the angel, and then I want to look at the inward or personal message of the angel.

The Outward Message of the Angel

The outward message of the angel is recorded for us in the first four verses of our text. This outward message is not presented in a verbal way, but rather in a visual way. In this outward message, we have the fear of the Lord presented to the world, but there is no faith given unto these at this time that they might believe.

The Stone is Rolled Away “In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.” (Mt. 28:1-2.) The stone being rolled away from in front of the sepulchre is a great demonstration of the power of God. This stone, we are told, was a “great stone” (Mt. 27:60), and a “very great” stone (Mk. 16:4). And we are told that there was a “great earthquake”. These things demonstrate to these men that something supernatural is taking place. There is something going on here, over which they have no control.

The Countenance of the Angel “His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow” (Mt. 28:3). The holiness of this angel was a terrible thing for these wicked men to behold. In fact, it is an awesome and terrible sight for even the children of God to behold (See Jud. 13:6, 21-22). But, unregenerate mankind cannot tolerate this sight of the messenger of God, clothed in righteousness. It only serves to cause him to fear and to tremble, but there is no saving belief without the faith that comes from God.

The Fear of the Men “And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men” (Mt. 28:4). We do not see these men repenting or crying out, we only see their fear manifest here. In fact, these men “became as dead men.” Here we see demonstrated for us, the futility of man’s trust in his own strength. Really, when it comes to his standing before God, man is only as a dead man. He is helpless to do anything for himself. He cannot cry out and answer to God for his own misdeeds, nor can he cry out to God to come and save him. He only wants to cower and to tremble and to fear and to attempt to hide himself from the Face of God.

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Angel at the Tomb

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“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” Certainly these men were not “able to stand.” Certainly these men only became as dead men. If they could have wished the earth to open up and hide them from this great demonstration of the power of God, I am sure that these “keepers” would have done exactly that.

Remember how that Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together to hide their nakedness, and how that they hid themselves bodily from the presence of the Lord amongst the trees of the garden? This is only a picture of what each of us does in our natural state. The outward call, as it is presented to us, only serves to show us the holiness of God, and His might and power. We resent that, in the natural man. And we will not confess our own wickedness without the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit. These are only physical, visual, and outward things that we behold. They do not take root and work on us inwardly.

So, we see that the outward message of the angel is the same as the outward message of the gospel. It declares God’s power over creation – over the inanimate things of the earth, and over man himself. This message declares the authority, righteousness, and holiness of God, and shows man to be a miserable, helpless being.

The Inward Message of the Angel

The inward message of the angel is recorded for us in the last four verses of our text passage.

Fear Not Ye “And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye...” (Mt. 28:5). Remember that the “keepers” of the sepulchre did greatly fear this angel and they “did shake, and became as dead men.” That is the response of those that are not quickened and made alive. They are as “dead men.” In fact, you will notice that in the KJV translation, the word “men” in Mt. 28:4 is in *italics*. This means that the word “men” was added for clarification. In reality, these “keepers” (and indeed all of us in our natural state) are as “dead” before God Almighty. These men at the sepulcher are spiritually dead, and cannot be comforted by the angel that is sent from the Lord. But the angel begins his conversation with these women by clearly delineating between

these “women” and the “keepers.” Remember that in the book of Luke, we are told that these women were “certain” (Lk. 24:1). These women were different from the keepers that were at the tomb. These women were recipients of the comfort of this angel, whereas the keepers were recipients of only the fear that the angel of the Lord caused in them.

Many would have us tell the world to “Fear not...” They would want us to tell the world, “Fear not. Jesus loves you.” However, this is not what the angel does in this case. He tells the women to “Fear not,” never denying that these men that were present should certainly fear. In other words, he knows that his presence and the power which he has demonstrated has caused these men and women to fear, but he speaks only to the women when he says, “Fear not ye:”

I Know that Ye Seek Jesus “...for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified” (Mt. 28:5). Why is it that the angel spoke only unto these women when he said, “Fear not ye?” Well, the answer is given in the rest of the verse. Those that truly “seek Jesus,” need not to fear when they have found Him. Even though we may have formerly had a great dread of Him, when we diligently seek Him and come to Him (because He first sought us and found us), then we find a great relief, and a great joy.

Now, notice that these women did “seek Jesus, which was crucified.” Others may from time to time “seek Jesus,” and they may seek Him incorrectly. Others may seek Jesus of Nazareth. (See Jn. 18:4-7.) Or they may seek the Miracle Worker. (See Jn. 6:26-27.) But these women sought “Jesus, which was crucified.” The Lord tells us in John 10:1, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.” Again, there are others that will seek Jesus, and will believe that they are even doing His will, unto whom, when the Lord confronts them, He will say, “...I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Mt. 7:23.)

Those that the angels tell to “Fear not ye,” are those that have believed in the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now he tells them to “Fear not” because the sacrifice that was offered on your behalf is accepted in the sight of God Almighty.

He Is Risen “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said...” (Mt. 28:6.) Now the angel goes on to give the women verbal confirmation. He tells them that the Lord “...is not here: for he is risen...” All cause for fear is gone – death is conquered and Jesus is victorious! We are told in Luke’s gospel, some other words that the angel spoke, just before

Funnybone

“... A time to laugh...” (Eccl. 3:4).

Bill Tightwad was standing at the back door of the church after Sunday morning services and was complaining, “I’ve been going to church here for nigh on thirty years now. And I guess I have heard something like three thousand sermons. But for the life of me I can’t seem to remember a single one of them after Sunday. So I guess I must just be wasting my time.”

Pastor Brown couldn’t help but overhear the conversation and added these simple words of advice. “I’ve been married now for over thirty years. In that length of time my wife has cooked me I guess about thirty thousand good meals. But, for the life of me I can’t seem to remember what I had for each one. This one thing I do know however, each one nourished me and give me the needed strength I needed to work from day to day. Likewise, your spirit has been receiving spiritual nourishment and has been giving you spiritual strength from day to day.”

In Sunday school the teacher was asking the young students what their view of love was.

When she asked why young couples hold hands little Sue Sassy said “It’s cause they want to make sure their rings don’t fall off because they paid so much for ‘em.”

She again asked what their opinion of love was when little Jimmy Johnson blurted out “I’m in favor of it as long as it doesn’t happen while I’m playing baseball.”



Little Carrie Little exclaimed, “Love is foolish...although I still might try it sometime.”

And poor Tenny Sence said, “Love will find you no matter what. I’ve been trying to hide from it since I was five and the girls still keep on finding me.”

When Deacon Jones was talking with Bro. Knoe Counts about the recent death of the pope he remarked. “Well, I hate to hear the pope has passed and even worse I feel bad for them folks. They’ve tried two hundred and sixty-four times to find a head for their church that can raise himself back to life.”

Sister Sadie was talking with the young ladies group the other day and gave this bit of wisdom to them. “Troubles in marriage often start when a man gets so busy earning his salt that he forgets his sugar. And further more, too many couples today say they marry for better or worse but don’t think it means for good. Also remember when a man marries a woman they are to become one, though there is usually some heated discussions over which one.”

the words that are recorded here in Mtatthew 28:6. We read in Luke 24:4-5, “And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?” This is a wonderful question that the angel asked these women: “...Why seek ye the living among the dead?” This is a wonderful declaration. The Lord is alive! He is not to be found here amongst the dead! What hope must surge up within their breasts as they consider these magnificent words: “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said...”

Now, perhaps, these women would pause to consider that indeed the Lord had spoken to them of His death and of His resurrection. The Lord tells us in Isaiah 42:8-9, “I am the LORD: that is my name; and my glory will

I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.” And then we read the words of the angel, as he recited the words of the Lord in the hearing of these women, “He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words” (Lk. 24:6-8) (See also Mt. 16:21; 17:22-23).

Come “...Come, see the place where the Lord lay.” (Mt. 28:6) The angel, after that he tells the women to “Fear not,” then goes on to show them the proofs of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is both verbal and visual confirmation given unto these

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Angel at the Tomb

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women in v. 6.

In the next verse, we find that the angel will command the women to **“go... and tell;”** but before that any servant of the Lord can **“go,”** he must first **“come.”** The christian that believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, must **“come”** to this empty tomb, and behold that it is empty. He must see that the stone is rolled away, and that death is not victorious over the Lord of our salvation, but rather our Lord and Saviour is victorious over death and hell. Even though we cannot see the empty tomb with our own physical eyes as these women, and Peter and John have seen, yet still we must see that empty tomb through the eye of faith – the faith which is delivered unto us through the grace of our God. No faith is sufficient that does not allow a man to see this empty tomb. How can any man take comfort in the fact that there is a Saviour that has died for him, if he does not also believe that that Saviour has risen again? To just die is not enough – or else we would only have hope in this life. But to live again, gives us hope that we, too, shall live again. This life is not all that there is, but now we are sure that Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection. **“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept”** (1Cor. 15:20). If He is the firstfruits of them that slept, then we must believe that there are more fruits to rise from the grave. He has opened the door, the stone is rolled away, and now we are sure that the grave cannot keep us. No wonder that we will see, as we go on, that these women were filled with **“great joy!”**

Go **“And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you”** (Mt. 28:7). After that the angel shows the women the empty tomb, he then goes on to give them a command from the Lord Jesus. He tells them to **“go quickly.”** This is something that we all need to take to heart as well. It is not enough just to receive the comfort that is given to us, and to receive the nourishing words of our God as they are delivered to us through the messenger that He sends; but we must **“go quickly.”**

Now, we do not just **“go,”** but we also **“tell.”** Remember that as a child in school you participated in Show and Tell. This is similar to what is happening here. The angel shows the women the empty sepulchre, and then he tells them the Word of the Lord Jesus. And it is not just the angel that participates in Show and Tell, but the women are now commanded to do the same. They must go and show the others what has

happened, and they must tell the world about the empty sepulchre. Their lives must be witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the power that He has demonstrated over the grave and over Satan himself.

The Fear and Great Joy of the Women
“And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word” (Matt. 28:8). The women did exactly what the angel commanded them to do. Notice that they did depart **“quickly.”** Though they might have desired to listen to more of what the angel had to say, they were obedient to the command of the Lord. And we notice that when they went, they **“did run.”** The servants of the Lord are spoken of in Isaiah 40:31: **“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”** Whatever these women were commanded to do, they were given strength and courage and ability from their God. And they were willing servants. If they would have had to **“run”** to the end of the earth to tell the disciples about the Lord Jesus and about the resurrection, then I believe that they would have done so. Their joy and obedience was such that no task was at this moment too large for them.

We can also notice that the women exhibited those things that we would expect a child of God to exhibit at such a time. They were full of **“fear and great joy.”** Remember that the **“keepers”** feared the angel, and they **“did shake and became as dead men.”** However, these women, even though they feared, the angel, and they feared the God that sent him, his message also filled them with great joy. Perhaps the **“keepers”** and the others that were involved in the death and the burial of the Lord Jesus could only think and say, “Oh, what have we done! Behold, this man that we killed and buried is now risen again! What terrible fate must await us!” However, the women were filled with **“great joy”** at the thought that their beloved Saviour is now alive, and they are promised that they will see Him again.

As a side, remember that Paul told us concerning Jesus, **“Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again**

for our justification” (Rom. 4:25). I suppose that any man or woman could partake, physically, in the death and the burial of our Lord. But only a child of God could partake in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. By this I mean, that men, after the flesh, can rejoice in the death and the burial of the Lord, but the resurrection of the Lord Jesus fills them with fear. However, the child of God while still filled with **“fear,”** is also full of **“great joy.”** There is something here that men, that are yet in their sins, cannot participate in. There is something here that gives great joy to the saved, and causes the unsaved to only despair. The Christian rejoices, and cries out, “I am justified in the sight of God! My Saviour was successful, and His resurrection is proof of the fact that His sacrifice is accepted by God!” The unsaved man only fears, and those that do not believe become **“as dead men.”** They have no hope, and they cannot save themselves. They are indeed **“as dead.”** The death of the Lord, that seemed to satisfy their wicked desires was a great pleasure to them. The burial of the Lord, which seemed such a joy to them, they thought signified their victory of Him that tormented them in their own sins. Now, the resurrection of the Lord leaves them speechless. There is nothing that they can say or do. They are helpless as they witness the supreme power and authority and might of God our Saviour, and they are only terrified, and they are truly **“as dead men.”**

Conclusion

Let’s get back to these women at the sepulchre. Because they were obedient, we can see in the next verses that they were rewarded by a personal appearance of the Lord Jesus unto them. We read in Matthew 28:9-10, “And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshiped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.” The Lord Jesus repeats the message of the angel when He says, “Be not afraid...” This is the Message that the Lord has for you, if you are saved, and for me. He comes unto us, and He calms our fears. He comes unto us, and He shows us that He is the remedy for our sin-sickness. He comes unto us and reveals Himself

as the life that replaces death. What better place to demonstrate this then at the sepulchre that could not hold Him? What better time to show this then at the time when all seems to be hopeless?

Sinner, do not despair. If you believe today, that you are a sinner, then turn to the Lord. He alone is able to save. He is in the way, and He will meet you. He will come to you and you will see Him and behold Him. And then you will come to Him with **“fear and great joy.”**

What A Friend

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29:30).

The Seventy-Third Psalm is in the main a record of the mental struggle a pious Jew underwent respecting the prosperity of the wicked. But in the portion of the text Asaph relates the whole experience of the believer from conversion to glory. It is to this selected portion I direct your attention.

A SINFUL CONDITION

In looking back over his past life, Asaph wrote: **“So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee”** (v. 22). Here is a threefold description of the unsaved man. In substance the unrenewed man is a fool, an idiot, and a brute beast.

A SPIRITUAL FOOL

First, the psalmist says man is **“foolish.”** The Apostle Paul said the natural man has his **“foolish heart darkened”** by sin (Rom. 1:21). The sons of Adam are such from childhood: **“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child”** (Prov. 22:15). Foolishness is our birthright. It is the root and essence of sin in our fallen nature. This is what causes a person to act from wrong principles, from bad habits, and enter into an ungodly life. This self-will and proud independence is held firmly in the heart by chains invincible to human power.

This foolishness has its root in an incurably wicked heart and its fruit in a dirty mouth: **“The heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness”** (Prov. 12:23). Proverbs 15:2 says: **“The mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.”** From the lips of the unrenewed man comes foolish talking and jesting. Such corrupt communication comes from an evil treasure within to debauch, degrade, and disturb the hearers.

The totality of his power of moral reasoning and spiritual perception is perverted: **“The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD”** (Prov. 19:3). This causes a man to make himself miserable by gathering grapes of thorns and figs of thistles (Matt. 7:16).

The Adamic man may be **“likened unto a foolish man, which built his**

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What A Friend

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house upon the sand” (Matt. 7:26). His whole life is spent in **“foolishness and madness”** (Eccl. 7:25). Separated from the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, the preaching of the cross is unto him foolishness (I Cor. 1:18). Such a man is like unto one of the fools whom God despises. Such a manner of life would have brought our ruin unless we were visited by Divine grace.

In our unconverted state **“we ourselves also were sometime foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another”** (Titus 3:3). Even after we are saved there remains much foolishness in the old nature. Those who know God in their Christian experience must at times confess unto the Lord: **“I have sinned greatly in that I have done; and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly”** (II Sam. 24:10).

A BLIND IDIOT

Second, the unsaved man is **“ignorant.”** This means he is a babbling idiot from the spiritual standpoint. The Apostle Paul gives the same description of fallen man: **“Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart”** (Eph. 4:18). Every unregenerate man is an ignorant man. He has no knowledge of the true God and of many things concerning God, for he is alienated from the life of God. This ignorance comes from their hardness of heart, their resisting the light, and rejecting all means of illumination and knowledge.

The unrenewed man is ignorant of the ruin of continuing in sin. He follows the lust of his flesh without any consideration of the judgment of God (I Pet. 1:14). The whole manner of his life is to accommodate and gratify his unlawful desires and vicious appetites. He knows nothing of God and His gospel. He is totally **“ignorant of God’s righteousness”** (Rom. 10:3).

A BRUTE BEAST

Third, the impenitent man is **“a beast”** before the holy eyes of God. The sinner is brutish and worse than a beast. He looks upon outward appearances and fleshly enjoyments in this mortal life. Like a hog who eats acorns under an oak tree, he never looks up to see from whom his blessings flow. Man by nature is a wicked sinner, a monstrous and astonishing beast like behemoth. What a description of fallen human nature! Beasts mind present things only, and they never look at what is to come---even so of man!

If a man would be honest before

God, he would say: **“Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man”** (Prov. 30:2). The Bible tells us in Job 11:12 that vain man is born **“like a wild ass’s colt.”** This reveals that the unsaved man is as wild and wicked as an untamed animal.

THE COMPANIONSHIP OF GOD

From this awful state Asaph was brought into a state of friendship and fellowship with God. He wrote: **“I am continually with thee”** (v. 23). Like a child under the care of his parents, Asaph was under the care of the Almighty. He had exchanged his folly for faith and fellowship with God. His sins were gone, and he was no longer separated from God.

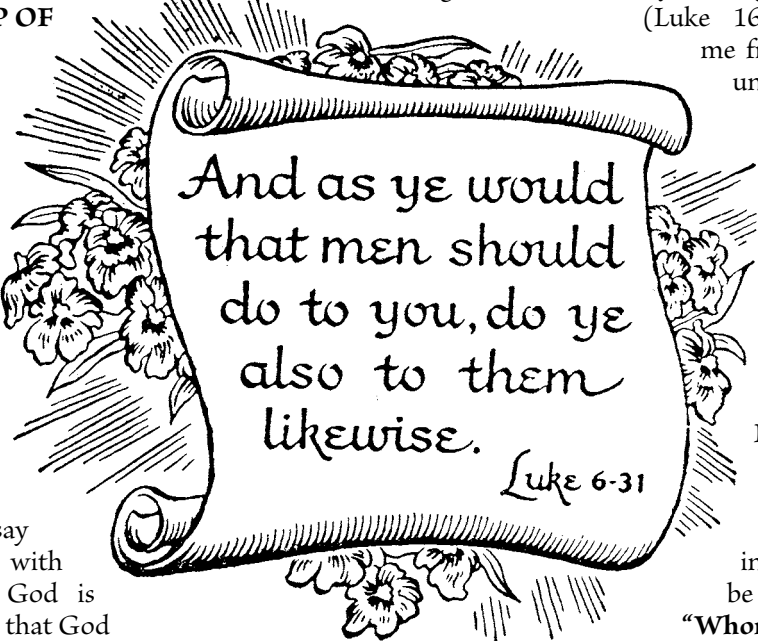
The psalmist does not say that the Lord is continually with His people. He says that God is continually with him. He says that God is continually with me; He guides me, He holds me; and He will receive me after my life is spent on earth. Verily the elect are upon the heart of Christ, in His hands, and under His wings of protection and care. God will never suffer us to finally and totally depart from Him. He will never eternally banish the believer from His presence.

But verse 23 may be understood to say that the psalmist was continually with God. He may have meant that he ever abided in God’s sweet fellowship. Foolish as he was and prone to backslide, Asaph could say, “I am still with the Lord. I am still in union with Him.” Though chastened sorely and perplexed by strange providence, he could declare that God still was holding his right hand. With Paul he could say: **“Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day”** (Acts 26:22). I am still permitted in His gracious presence. I am allowed to hope in His mercy, though I be at times unkind and ungrateful. Heaven be praised! The unworthiness of man is no bar to the free grace of God!

A RECEPTION TO GLORY

The Lord is our great and glorious guide on earth: **“Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel”** (Ps. 73:24). Being ignorant in so many ways man sorely needs such a guide: **“It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps”** (Jer. 10:23). Even the renewed man is still in great ignorance of the steps he should take in this maze of mental reasoning. For this reason God guides His own with the counsel of His Word and Spirit. More than all is the truth that God guides us with His determinate counsel and purpose, which are from old faithfulness and truth.

Those who live in this world sail a raging sea of doubt and uncertainty. Without a chart or compass we will sink into the blackness of darkness forever. We live in a foreign land which has many pits and snares. Without a good guide we are sure to fall into sin and be caught in Satan’s



traps.

Jesus Christ is our omniscient Guide: **“For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death”** (Ps. 48:14). Can we find a better one? No, never! There is no guide to be compared with an infallible God.

In this vale of tears we only become wise when we reach the end of our earthly wisdom. It is spiritually wise to place ourselves unreservedly in God’s hands. **“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”** (Prov. 3:5-6).

When our trials and labors are ended, after our crosses and afflictions, after our doubts and fears, after the hiding of His face, Christ will receive us up to glory. The psalmist said: **“Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.”** Oh, blessed **“afterward”** when clouds and darkness are passed. After our battles and fightings terminate, how seasonable will be our reception in the glory world. In this evil world we are guided by Divine counsel, and in death we are received into the Divine presence in the glory world. Let us never fret with our present state in this temporal region, for it is small in comparison with the world of His glorious presence. Like Enoch, at death the saint is received to glory.

Some day a person may walk up to you and say, “Milburn Cockrell is dead.” If you ever hear such, don’t believe a word of it. It will at best be only a half truth. It may be true of my body, but it shall never be true of my spirit. I will not have died, but I will have moved higher up. My spirit will be received by Jesus Christ in the highest Heaven

above.

I will not cross Jordan alone, for Jesus died for my sins to atone. He will be at my side when I cross the valley of the shadow of death. Good angels will come to bear me away to my immortal home. When Lazarus died he **“was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom”** (Luke 16:22). Death will separate me from friends here, but it will unite me with better friends over there. Paul told the Corinthians: **“Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. . . . We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”** (II Cor. 5:6, 8).

AN INCOMPARABLE GOD

Whether in life or in death, there is none to be compared with our God: **“Whom have I in heaven but thee?”** The saint looks more to God than at the things which are God’s. He does not so much regard the land as the God Who is there. What is the multitude of departed saints in the celestial city if Christ is not among them? Of what worth are myriads of the angels in Heaven without the Lord of angels? What are all the diadems of Heaven without the God of Heaven? What is the value of a fifteen-hundred-mile-square city of gold, garnished with precious gems, if the Lamb is not the light of it? Where is glory and joy without the God of glory? Heaven is not Heaven without God’s presence. To remove God from the glory world is to make it Hell.

Years ago Elder Samuel Stennett penned these well-chosen words: “Majestic sweetness sits enthroned. . Upon the Saviour’s brow. . His head with radiant glories crowned. . His lips with grace o’erflow. . No mortal can with Him compare. . Among the sons of men. . Fairer is He than all the fair. . Who fill the heavenly train.”

On earth there is none as desirable as the Lord of glory: **“There is none upon earth that I desire beside thee”** (Ps. 73:25). He is saying there is no person, nor power, nor pleasure, nor possession in comparison and competition with my Redeemer on earth. The world may carry away the desires of some men, but the world does not allure the true believer. His Saviour is worth more to him than all the houses, health, and honor so much envied by the worldling. He has no wish to ramble. No other object claims his attention or tempts him to stray. Christ is his all in all.

What do I care for the world and the

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social whirl? What are all of its pleasures and pomp, its power and promises, unless Christ is in it? What do I care for the daintiest food, the sweetest drinks, and the happiest company, unless Christ is there? I esteem His glorious presence more than the gold of Ophir, His grace greater than the grapes of Eschol, and His pleasant words more than my necessary food! He is not only superior to all on earth, but He is more excellent than all in Heaven! "Thou, O Christ, art all I want. . .More than all in Thee I find." No one can satisfy the longing of my soul as He can by His grace and power.

AN EVERLASTING POWER

Our outward man will fail by disease, duration, and death: **“My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever”** (Ps. 73:26). With old age in the body there usually comes a failing of conduct, courage, and comfort. One day life’s sun will set, and some day the Christian race will end. The power of our natural body will be spent and our mind will be exhausted. But the love of God will survive. Even on our death bed we will find strength and joy in Him. Verily in that hour I shall discover God is **“the strength of my heart.”**

Instead of **“the strength of my heart”** some read it that God is **“the rock of my heart”** from the Hebrew text. This may be the true rendering. This would mean that God is a sure, strong, and immovable foundation. Though the winds blow when the storm of death domes, the house of my heart will not fall. It is built upon a solid and sure foundation. God is the rock of my heart. In death I will leave creature comforts and face the sharpest conflict with Hell, but I will stand in the whole armor of God and in the strength of the Lord at that hour.

Many people have their portion in this life. It was an ancient custom of the Jews to divide the inheritance so as to give every one his allotted portion. The righteous have a portion in this world: **“The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance”** (Ps. 16:5). The Author of all portions is the matter of my portion. My portion is not in money and materials, but my portion is in Him Whom the Heaven of heavens cannot contain.

Whether in life or in death God is my portion: **“For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s”** (Rom. 14:8). Throughout all eternity God is to be my immense and inconceivable portion: **“God is. . .my portion for ever.”** He is not my portion for a year, or an age, or a millennium,

but for all eternity.

Death shall not rend my portion asunder. It will merely carry me nearer its full realization. My inheritance is without diminution and without alternation. So many bonds are dissolved by death and so many knots loosed, but mortal death will only give me a perfect and everlasting possession of my inheritance. Aunt Fanny Crosby put it thusly: "Thou, my everlasting portion. . .More than friend or life to me. . .All along my pilgrim journey. . .Saviour, let me walk with Thee."

A WORD TO SINNERS

Sinner friend, your portion is in this life, and Satan and Hell are your everlasting portion to come. If the Lord is to be your portion in the next world, you must be brought to the saving knowledge of Him in this world. Your desire must be toward Him and your delight must be Christ-centered. You must count and covet acquaintance with Him.

May the Spirit of God speak to your heart in conviction and conversion. May the God of all grace enable you to say with Paul: **“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ”** (Phil. 3:8).

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Why Did Jesus Sit

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and our hearts are not attuned to it.

The children of Israel were in Egypt when the Lord delivered them. Egypt, therefore, is a type or symbol of the place where we were when our Lord found us. That is, Egypt is a type of the world. John the Baptist preached in the wilderness - the wilderness, therefore, is a type of the barren, desolate condition in which Israel was at that time spiritually speaking. It also speaks of the barren, desolate condition you and I were in when our Lord delivered us from our sins. Jesus spoke the first four parables of Matthew 13 which had to do with public profession of Christianity by the seaside. The sea in Scripture speaks of peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. But, when He spoke the next two, which concerns only His own people, we read in verse 36, "Then Jesus

sent the multitude away, and went into the house.” The house speaks of Israel, His chosen people, or nation. So it behooves us to always consider the location at which an incident in the Scriptures takes place.

Going back to our text Scripture in John 4:6, let us notice that Jesus sat on the well. When we see this we should become curious to know why the Holy Spirit tells us that our Lord sat on the well. If the Holy Spirit merely wanted us to know that our Lord needed to rest, why did He not just say Jesus sat down to rest? When I became curious enough about this I began to study the wells found in the Old Testament. When I did this my soul was thrilled and blessed. And I trust that as we study some of these wells together your soul will be blessed as was mine.

When we begin to study any word in the Bible we should always start with the first place the word is found, for, after all, that is where God started with it. The first place we find a “well” in our Bible is in Genesis 16 where we read, “But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly (harshly) with her, she fled from her face. And the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness.” In verse 7 it is a fountain of water, but in verse 14 it is “the well.” Let us notice some things connected with this well. First the “well” is where the angel of the Lord found this poor outcast. So this well speaks of Jesus Christ. We hear Him as He says, “No man cometh unto the Father but by me.” And in Isaiah 12:3 we read, “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.” Second, this well was located in the wilderness which speaks of the condition a lost person is in when the Lord finds him. And third the well was the place where God was revealed to this poor outcast woman. We hear our Lord as He says, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9). So this well speaks of Christ as the One in whom the Father is revealed,

Then in Genesis 21:14-19 we read, “And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her. What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice

of the lad where he is." And then we read, "And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water." How this does speak of our inability to see any spiritual thing until God opens our eyes that we may see. This well was there all the time, but Hagar could not see it until God opened her eyes. This does not mean that she was blind physically. She could see her child dying of thirst over there in the best shade she could find. She could see those heat waves dancing between her and her beloved child. But what she needed was that seeing eye we find in Proverbs 20:12 where we read, "The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them." So for us to see spiritual things it is necessary for God to take charge. In Acts 16:14 we find that the Lord opened Lydia's heart that she might understand what Paul was preaching. And in I John 5:20 we read, "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that (or in order that) we may know Him that is true." In Isaiah 65:1 our Lord says, "I am found of them that sought me not." Most modern day preachers seem to just jump over, or ignore that last word in this sentence and thereby make it fit in with poor depraved man's thinking. But still God says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts," (Isa. 55:8). And still He says, "I am found of them that sought me not."

Then in Genesis 21:29-32 we read, “And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What meaneth these seven ewe lambs which thou hast set by themselves? And he said, For these seven ewe lambs shalt thou take of my hand, that they may be a witness unto me, that I have digged this well. Wherefore he called that place Beersheba; because there they swore both of them. Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba.” This reminds us of what we see in Hebrews 7:21 where we read, “The Lord swore and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.” So, as the well in the wilderness speaks of Christ as the one whom we could not even see until God opened our eyes that we might see, this well at Beersheba speaks of Him as our great high Priest.

In Genesis 24:10-12 we see Abraham's servant praying by the well in the city of Nahor. How this does speak of our avenue of approach to the Father. Let us notice, this servant was not praying to this well. He was praying by it. In John 16:23 our Lord said, "In that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." When you hear someone start praying to Jesus you can know that person does not study the precious Scriptures as he should. You have, no doubt, heard people say that

♦ (Continued on page 89)

Outlines for Country Preachers
by a Country Preacher
Sermon Outlines by Milburn Cockrell

LIFE AS A STORY
Psalm 90:9

This is one of the oldest psalms in the Bible. It was composed by Moses during the 40 years wandering in the wilderness. Life is like a tale that is told, not read.

Story tellers were common in Moses’ day. There were no books and few could read. People listened to stories and legends. There were many story tellers in my early years. Now they seem to be a vanishing breed.

This metaphor of life is very suggestive.

I. THERE ARE LONG AND SHORT TALES.

- In the early days of the race life was a long story. Men lived to be nearly 1,000 years old.
- After the flood life was cut down to 120 years (Gen. 6:3), and in Moses’ time it was 70 to 80 years (Ps. 90:10).
- Life at best is very brief because of sin.
 - It may be prolonged by righteous living (Prov. 11:19), prayer (II Chron. 32:24) and obedience to parents (Eph. 6:2-3).
 - It can be shortened by sin (Ps. 55:23; Prov. 10:27; Eccl. 7:17).
- Life is no more than a short story now---like a vapor (Jas. 4:13-15).
- We come into the world with a cry. We spend many years of our life murmuring and whining. We leave the world with a groan!
- The days are “cut off,” “the sun goes down while it is yet day,” “the flower fades,” “the water spilt on the ground dries up.”
- A tale is never long. How soon life is over.

II. THERE ARE DULL TALES, AND THERE ARE INTERESTING ONES.

- Some stories are dull and boring---hum-drum and unattractive.
 - They teach no truth---make no point---give no instructions---good for nothing.
 - Some people’s lives are like a road to nowhere.
 - There is no adventure---no excitement---no accomplishments.
- Some lives are full of change and very exciting.
 - They hold your attention---you can’t put them down.
 - What my wife said about my life.
 - Some go from poverty to riches---from being a nobody to being famous.
 - Jimmy Rodgers.
 - Elvis Presley.

III. THERE ARE SOME BAD TALES AND SOME GOOD TALES.

- The life of some is a gossip story.
 - Movie stars and ball players.
 - O. J. and Jesse Jackson.
 - Bill and Hillary Clinton.
- There are some tales that are really bad---Judas and Al Capon---Adolph Hitler, Benedict Arnold.
- Some lives are a boon and a blessing.
 - Jesus Christ.
 - The Apostle Paul.
 - C. H. Spurgeon and J. R. Graves---Roy Mason and Rosco Brong.
- Only one life to live. Let us make it as useful as possible.

IV. HOW TO MAKE YOUR LIFE A GOOD STORY.

- You must have the right Author.
 - It takes a genius to produce a great book---one that will live from one generation to another.
 - Only Christ can produce a life that is a good, useful, and helpful tale.
 - We must be His workmanship. We must resign ourselves to His creative skill.
- We must have the right hero.
 - The quality of a book hangs on its hero.
 - Christ must be the center of our lives.
- We must have the right object.
 - A book without an object is a weak and watery one, a flat and dull one.
 - What is the object of your life? Doing everything to the glory of God?

- Do you seek to glorify God and enjoy Him forever?

CONCLUSION.

- There is little written of Israel during the 40 years in the wilderness---do nothing years.
- Long life gives opportunity for good or sin. Look at the people before the flood.
- Most people hate a bad ending in a book. Don’t let your life end in tragedy.
- What kind of tale is your life telling? We write a chapter a day by the things we do and by the words we say.
- Why not be a classic?



Why Did Jesus Sit

(Continued from page 88) ♦

prayer is the most important thing in a Christian’s life. That is just like saying the most important thing in a three year old child’s life is his talking to his parents. But, beloved, I say unto you, the most important thing in our lives is to let our heavenly Father talk to us in Holy Word. He knows what to say. So when we pray let us pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ.

In Genesis 29:1-3 we read, “Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it.” What a lovely scene for anointed eyes to behold. And what a contrast is there between this lovely scene and the one in Genesis 21. There in the desolate wilderness the poor outcast woman had absolutely no future to look forward to until the Lord opened her eyes that she might see, but here we see this well out in the open field in plain view. Then too, we see here the sheep resting by this well. How this does speak of the sweet rest we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Exodus 33:14 our Lord said to Moses, “My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.” And in Matthew 11:28 He said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Next we go to Exodus 2:15-17 where we read, “Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.” What a comfort it is to know that when old Satan gets on our trail, we have One to whom we can flee for protection. Many a saint has gone down in shameful defeat by his trying to withstand Satan in his own strength. But not one of them has ever come to shame by fleeing to Jesus Christ of Whom this well speaks. When Moses had fled from Pharaoh who is a type of Satan, and had sat down by a well which is a type of Jesus Christ, we see the daughters of Jethro coming to the well for water. When these daughters of Jethro came for water the shepherds came and drove them away. How this speaks so clearly of Satan’s ministers of today as they

drive people away from Christ with their liberalistic infidelism and their social gospel that has no saving power. But just as Moses stood up and helped the daughters of Jethro in that far away time, we still have a few here and there who are willing to help those who desire the life giving water. But before they help those who need help they must be by the well, that is, they must depend upon the Lord of Whom this well typifies.

Then when we come to Numbers 21:17 we see the well personified. There we read, “Then Israel sang this song, Spring up, O well; sing ye unto it.” To be sure, they were not singing unto an inanimate hole in the ground as such, but rather unto Him Whom this well typifies. The well was such a clear type of their Lord they sang unto it with Him in their hearts and minds.

In II Samuel 17 we see Jonathan and Ahimaaz fleeing from Absalom and his host. In verses 18-19 we read, “But they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man’s house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court (yard); whither they went down. And the woman took and spread a covering over the well’s mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known.” How this does speak of our being hid with Christ in God. As Absalom and his host knew nothing about where Jonathan and Ahimaaz were, so the world knows nothing of our heavenly position. But O precious that position is to us who are in Christ Jesus.

Then in II Samuel 23:15 we read, “And David longed, and said, O that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem.” Nothing but the water from this well of Bethlehem would satisfy David’s thirst. And nothing but Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem can satisfy a thirsty soul. He said in John 6:35, “He that believeth on me shall never thirst.” And how we do rejoice in Proverbs 5:15 where we are told to “Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.” What a far cry from the well in the wilderness that we could not so much as see until God opened our eyes to this one that is our very own.

“My Jesus I love thee, I know thou art mine.”

How all this does show us why Jesus sat on Jacob’s well. It connected Him with all these beautiful types of Him in the Old Testament. I pity those who are unable to see our dear Lord in the Old Testament.



The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

Do angels sing in Heaven? - Maine

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As far as I know there is no direct teaching in the Scripture about angels singing in heaven, but there are some strong implications that they do. Singing is fully appropriate for angels, since God is worthy of all worship and praise in heaven and in earth. Here are a few Biblical evidences I would use to support this idea.

First, Job 38:6-7 says, **“Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”** Some believe ‘morning stars’ is a reference to angelic beings. This is could very well be the case, especially since the ‘sons of God’ in this passage are probably angels.

Secondly, consider Isaiah 6:2-3 **“Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”** The implication here is that the angels are speaking in such a way that could be considered singing.

Thirdly, Revelation 4:8 **“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”** Because of the repetition and unison here, these angelic beings, like the ones in Isaiah, could be singing.

And finally, Revelation 5:11-14 **“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. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.” The idea here is that all of creation is worshiping and glorifying God together. This too could probably be considered singing again by the fact that all of creation is worshiping and speaking in unison together.

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I don’t know of a specific verse that says verbatim, “The angels in Heaven sang” or “do sing.” However, I believe we can be confident that the angels in Heaven do sing for a couple of reasons. First of all, there are more than a few verses in which we (humans) are encouraged to sing praises to God as a part of our worship. There are numerous verses which speak of saints that sang praises to God. Considering how God loves praises rendered to Him in song, we can only assume that He created angels to sing praises to Him.

Secondly, there are three verses that I have found which *could* speak of angels singing. These three verses are Isa. 44:23, Isa. 49:13, and Jer. 51:48. The two references in Isaiah say, **“Sing, O ye heavens”** and **“Sing, O heavens”**. This could be speaking of angels specifically. The reference in Jeremiah says, **“Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing...”** This definitely speaks of angels singing for they, no doubt, are considered part of **“all that is therein.”**

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I have often heard it said that angels cannot sing because they have not been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and that it is a privilege enjoyed only by the blood washed elect of God. I know of no direct reference to angels singing that I can be fully dogmatic about. However

Job 38:7 states: **“When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy...”** The context deals with the time frame before man existed when God created the Heavens and the earth. There are other places where angels are saying things that sound like the lyrics of a song such as at the birth of Christ in Luke 2:10-15. Joy and praise are often associated with singing. In Luke 15:7-10 it talks about joy resounding throughout the angelic host when a sinner repents on earth. In Revelation 5:11-14 angels are found praising God with a loud voice with what sounds like the words of a beautiful song in Heaven.

I am going to go out on a limb and give my opinion. I would not be surprised at all when I get to Heaven to hear a chorus of angels singing praises to the Almighty with unbridled joy. I would be delighted to hear the sweet strains of elect angels resounding throughout Heaven. I would not be the least bit disappointed to hear them or any of the other heavenly hosts praising our God in song.

Sometimes I grow concerned over questions like this one. Angels singing or not singing is of relative unimportance to me. It may be a good fact to have stored in our theological brain, but I feel we should be much more passionate about worshipping the Lord in Spirit and truth, obedience to His commands, preaching the Gospel to every creature, the work of missions, and devoting all our energy to the glory of God. Selah.

TOM ROSS



PAST MENDING;
Or, Lessons from an Old Shoe

Things of every-day life often can be used to illustrate man's condition and his need of regeneration.

Walking along the streets of an eastern city more than 30 years ago, I was arrested by a card attached to an old shoe that stood in the window of a shoe-ship. On that old shoe a card was fastened, and on it the significant words were written, *“Past Mending.”*

As I stood and looked at that old shoe and the words on the card, the truth of man's condition before God came before me, and the words of the Saviour came into my mind, **“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must**

be born again.” And again: **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”** (John 3:7, 6).

It is an old truth, but one that needs to be emphasized more and more, **“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,”** and, **“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”** (John 3:3, 5). These facts should be pressed and pressed again by the gospel preacher. **“Ye must be born again”** should be borne aloft so that all might see it, and with trumpet voice should it be proclaimed so that all might hear it. It is the great necessity in man, a work wrought by the Holy Spirit and by the Word of God--the incorruptible seed---so that a new life which abides for ever is given to the soul. It is a spiritual nature, never possessed before, so that the soul has feelings, desires, aspirations after God and holiness it never had before. It is **“born of the Spirit,”** and **“is spirit.”**

Then, how inexorable it is: **“Ye MUST be born again”!** There is no *seeing* or *entering* the kingdom of God unless a man is born of God, or from above.

The kingdom of God in all its love and holiness and blessedness can never be entered unless we are born again. It becomes a matter of the first importance to enquire, Have I been born again? Have I got that new nature from which springs those desires after God? Love and righteousness are the two marks of that new life from God, for **“God is love”** and **“God is light.”** Life produces fruit corresponding to its source. To hate the people of God is a proof of spiritual death; to love them is a proof of spiritual life.

Notice: **“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of Him”** (I John 5:1).

In our day there is much to be shunned as of the evil one. There is a great talk of “ethical culture,” of “salvation by character,” of reformation of character, of elevating of man, of religionizing him, and so making him fit for the kingdom of God. But across the whole lot may be written the Saviour's words, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh.”** It is but the cultivation of human nature, man after the flesh. It is not a new life from God. It received its death-blow when the Saviour emphasized to Nicodemus, **“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”**


“Ye must.” Notice that inexorable **“must.”** There is no getting around it. It may make us feel like the old shoe---past mending. Mending went on for 4000 years before Christ came; then He proclaimed that man is past mending, and that he “must be born anew.”

Reader, are you trying to mend the old shoe still? Then you are 1900 years behind. The true Judge has said, *“Past Mending.”*

Do you ask, What then are we to do? Listen! There is another **“must”** just as inexorable as the other. **“As Moses lifted**

♦ (Continued on page 91)

Mini-Edition
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**Do You Have a
“Get-Out-Of-Hell-Free”
Card?**

Do you remember playing Monopoly and having to go to jail? If the wrong card was drawn, you had to go to jail. You could not pass Go, but had to “Go directly to jail.” There were two ways to get out of jail: pay cold, hard cash, or draw a “Get-Out-Of-Jail-Free” card.

Concerning paying for salvation, some people today think they can pay their way out of hell. They do good works, tithe, attend church, help the poor, etc. They stop sinning and start doing good. They turn over a new leaf, without trying a new life. They try a Bible education, ignoring Biblical regeneration. They might even try reformation, which falls short of regeneration. The most futile effort in the world is the attempt to earn salvation. The more they try, the more they fail, and the more they fail, the more they try, becoming trapped in the proverbial vicious cycle.

Concerning the “Get-Out-Of-Jail-Free” card, some equate salvation with a “Get-Out-Of-Hell-Free” card, which includes the wonderful “Sin-As-You-Go” card. In other words, a decision with no repentance. Churches are plagued with this superficial “plan” of salvation, based upon a “sinners prayer” which often amounts to nothing more than mental ascent to a few verses in Romans. These “decisions” usually result in nothing more than baptism and church membership. Afterwards, fruit is not produced, holiness is not sought, and God is not imitated. Yet, **“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** (II Cor. 5:17). How can this verse mean anything other than what it is obviously saying? The new has come, the old has **“passed away”** (a euphemism for death), replaced by the new.

A salvation that excludes repentance is akin to making ice cream without milk: it can’t be done. Turning to Jesus means turning from sin, otherwise there is an inconsistency. Nowhere does the Bible teach that sinners can come to God, but do not have to live for Him. Being a new creation in Christ means salvation from hell FOLLOWED by service for Him. **“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). Responsibilities and obligations come with salvation.

It may sound radical to some, but as a rule, saved people do not consistently live the lifestyle of those who are not saved. We have to be careful about packaging the “plan of salvation” as a neat formula consisting of progressive steps spoken in a 1-2-3, repeat-after-me magical formula. It is entirely possible to lead an individual through the steps whereby they say all the right things, but only accept the PLAN of salvation and miss the MAN of salvation, Jesus Christ. This is what I did at age 10, then again at age 14. I was also baptized and received into churches. I did not, however, actually meet the Man who took my place on Calvary until age 21. My profession then became a possession and my heart, attitude, and actions changed drastically. Empty professions can result from many things: insincerity in the sinner, lack of understanding, unclear presentation by the evangelist, and, lack of drawing by the Spirit, to name a few.

In bringing people to Christ, the sinner must be drawn by the Holy Spirit, and crushed by the Spirit over his or her deplorable sinful state, through conviction by the Holy Spirit with Scripture. It is the Spirit and not the evangelist, who convicts (to cause to see) the sinner. When the Spirit is not actively working on the sinner’s heart, convincing the sinner of his or her state, there can be no regeneration by the Spirit through the Word. An empty profession of faith can occur.

Conviction of the Spirit produces contrition and a burden of guilt of the sin debt. Sound, Biblical instruction (with verses that can be used from Romans) is necessary in leading the sinner to Christ, leading being the key word. Selling an individual on the Gospel or talking him or her into making a decision is not the responsibility of the evangelist. Though we have a definite responsibility in evangelism, we have to resist the temptation to do God’s work for Him. WE lead them, WE present the Gospel clearly, and WE urge them to repent, but we do not coerce, badger, drive or herd them. People who do not want God do not need to be talked into an empty profession with false security. When sinners are not open to God, they need prayer..... and a return visit.

I am not speaking of Lordship salvation. I am simply advocating thoroughness in dealing with sinners concerning their eternity. The subject of Heaven or Hell is serious business and there is no room for sloppiness, a hit-and-miss attitude or a watered down appeal when dealing with souls. Jesus said **“Repent ye, and believe the gospel”** and it hasn’t changed in 2000 years.

**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.

**NEWS ITEMS MAY 2005 #1
CALIFORNIA JUDGE OVERTURNS
SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BAN
(EP)** – He was a Catholic Republican appointed by a Republican governor.

But homosexual activists found San Francisco Judge Richard Kramer to be an ally when he overturned California’s ban on same-sex marriage in a 27-page ruling on March 14.

“We knew Judge Kramer was under tremendous political pressure to redefine marriage, but we were hopeful he would recognize the limited role of the judiciary,” Robert Tyler of the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) told the Associated Press. “We do not believe it is appropriate for judges in this setting to overturn the will of the people.” Tyler said the ADF would appeal the decision.

Tyler noted that the citizens of California passed the same-sex marriage ban in a statewide election in 2000 with 61 percent of the vote.

Larry Jacobs, vice president of the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, said Judge Tyler’s decision and the 2000 vote reflect “a serious disconnect” between courts and the public on the crucial matter of marriage. “Threats to family stability from divorce, promiscuity and working parents have never been more serious. This is not the time to be venturing into misguided social experiments with marriage,” Jacobs said.

“Almost every opinion poll on the subject shows the American people support traditional marriage by lopsided margins. In every state where it’s gone to a vote, natural marriage has passed by landslide majorities – including such bastions of liberalism as California and Hawaii,” Jacobs said.

Conservative reaction to the ruling has been emotional. Randy Thomasson, executive director of Campaign for California Families, said, “This is a crazy ruling by an arrogant San Francisco judge who apparently hates marriage and the voters. Kramer has trashed the people’s vote to keep marriage for a man and a woman and violated his oath to uphold the law instead of making new laws out of his own head. This is the worst type of judge.”

**HIGH COURT HEARS CASE
ON PROTECTING INMATES’
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
(EP)** – An Ohio lawyer told the U.S. Supreme Court on March 21 that a law that gives prison inmates freedom to practice

religion, from Christianity to Satanism, creates unnecessary security risks.

“The question is when have we gone too far? When has the accommodation slid over to an impermissible incentive to practice religion?” Cole said.

A federal law passed in 2000, called the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, requires states that receive federal money for prisons to allow prisoners to practice their religions, unless wardens can show that the government has a strong reason not to.

“Congress, frankly, oversteps its bounds on trying to impose that on Ohio,” Cole said after the hour-long midday argument.

Lawyers for Ohio inmates who sued the state because they were denied access to religious literature, ceremonial items and time to worship, told justices that in most cases, prisons can accommodate the inmates without violating the Constitution or putting others at risk.

The Cincinnati-based 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down part of the law, saying it violates the separation of church and state by amounting to an unconstitutional government promotion of religion.

“There’s a real incentive here to get religious ... and the federal government seems to be providing incentives to do that,” Justice Sandra Day O’Connor said. “Is that a problem?”

The case does not question inmates’ rights to practice their religions but examines whether a state must grant requests for a particular diet or religious symbols, such as quartz crystals.

David Goldberger, a lawyer for the inmates, said prisons tend to accommodate mainstream religions but not the ones practiced by those involved in the case: a Wiccan witch, a Satanist, a racial separatist who is an ordained minister of the Christian Identity Church, and others.

The decision in this case could have a widespread affect on any laws that accommodate religion, such as an exemption from military service for religious conscientious objectors.

**HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVISTS SEEK
TO CONVINCE CITY COUNCILS TO
CREATE ‘GAY-FRIENDLY’ TOWNS
(EP)** – A propagandistic theory may soon be changing life in a city near you, and maybe your own.

Gay activists are insisting that openly

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Bible & Newspaper

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pro-homosexual environments can help the economies of cities by attracting the type of “creative class” that can foster economic growth. Carnegie Mellon professor Richard Florida’s 2002 book, “The Rise of the Creative Class,” contends that workers in creative industries will run tomorrow’s economy and suggests that gay-friendly cities are most likely to attract “creative people.” His work has encouraged cities like Philadelphia, Orlando, Kansas City, Las Vegas, and Chicago to embrace gay districts—and now the push is extending to smaller cities like Spokane.

Florida visited that city two years ago, and since then eastern Washington gays have pushed for official designation of a portion of Spokane’s downtown as a haven for homosexual culture. The gay district would pattern itself after similar neighborhoods in Seattle and San Francisco, where housing, businesses, and entertainment cater to homosexuals.

One critic of the plan is former Spokane Mayor John Talbott, 71, who yearns for the quaint city of his childhood and believes an influx of gays would further erode family-oriented values and institutions in Spokane’s 418,000-resident greater metropolitan area. He fears nothing can be done to stop it: “There’s a very determined group of people interested in making this happen. The elected people aren’t fighting back. The welcome sign is out.”

But the idea that gay neighborhoods have a special economic value appears to be unfounded. Many critics have rejected Florida’s thesis, noting that it is based on old evidence about the now-deflated dot-com industry. In a recent “City Journal” article, Steve Malanga points out that the cities Florida lists as least “creative” have outperformed the national economy in job growth over the past decade. Conversely, Florida’s “most creative” cities have fallen behind the national job-growth rate over that same span.

And the new gay neighborhoods are developing in a different way than old religious or ethnic neighborhoods did. Those communities generally developed organically over time, but supporters of Spokane’s proposed gay district have created the website letsgetvisible.com and are challenging businesses to display gay-friendly window stickers or suffer the economic consequences.

Former mayor Talbott argues that the promise of citywide benefits is merely a public-relations tool. He identifies the true impetus as “part of a nationwide full-court press to say ‘Here we are’ . . . They’re trying to rally support to be more visible and outspoken. They see that as power and influence.” Lancaster of Community Impact Spokane, though, hopes to maintain “the reputation of our community as family based and upholding traditional values. Our concern is for businesses in the

neighborhood that might feel pressure to go along.”

COLORADO CONSIDERS ADDING SEXUAL ORIENTATION TO STATE’S NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS

(EP) – The Colorado Senate is preparing to vote on a bill that would add sexual orientation to the state’s non-discrimination laws. If it is passed, homosexuals, transsexuals and transvestites will have special protections under the state’s civil rights statutes, which have been created to protect minorities.

SB 28 is currently waiting for approval from the Senate Appropriations Committee. If passed, the full Senate will vote on the bill in the next few weeks.

“Senate Bill 28 would prevent employers, including schools, from ‘discriminating’ against employees or job applicants on the basis of sexual orientation and ‘gender variance,’” said Tom Minnery, vice president of government and public policy for Focus on the Family. “Under this proposed law, schools throughout the state could be forced to hire teachers or librarians who dress like a man one day and a woman the next.”

Minnery pointed to Denver as an example of what could happen across the state. Under the city’s current anti-discrimination laws, the King Soopers grocery chain has been forced to allow a male pharmacist to dress as a woman while he is waiting for male-to-female ‘sex reassignment surgery.’ “No doubt

homosexual activists will also push to make King Soopers pay for this surgery under the health benefits program,” Minnery said.

Corporations of all sizes would be subject to employee-discrimination complaints and lawsuits if the state legislation passes, according to Minnery.

KANSAS AFFIRMS TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

(EP)—Kansas became the 18th state to amend its state constitution to ban same-sex marriage on April 5. More than 70 percent of voters voted for the amendment.

Pro-family leaders said the vote was another indication that Americans believe that marriage should be between one man and one woman. “Kansas has provided yet another example of the fact that every time American voters are given the opportunity to defend marriage at the polls, they do so by wide margins,” said Tom Minnery, Vice President of Government and Public Policy for Focus on the Family Action. “Although gay activists often work through their allies in the judiciary to circumvent the will of the people, the true view of the American public could not be more apparent.”

Pro-family groups such as Concerned Women for America were in part responsible for the ballot initiative. “Last year, the Legislature denied the people of Kansas the opportunity to vote on the amendment, but we are grateful that the flood of calls pouring into the state Capitol, our lobbying efforts, and our public testimony, have paid

off in their decision to put the amendment on the ballot,” said CWA of Kansas State Director Judy Smith, who leads the 5,540-member state organization.

The Kansas Marriage Amendment passed in 104 of the state’s 105 counties. At least a dozen other states are considering a similar amendment.

COLORADO GOVERNOR VETOES EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION BILL

DENVER, Colo.--Republican Gov. Bill Owens vetoed a bill April 5 that would have forced hospitals to tell rape victims about emergency contraception, saying it would have crossed the line by forcing church-backed institutions to violate their own ethics guidelines.

“This bill would violate fundamental constitutional principles by forcing an institution to say things to patients that it explicitly does not believe to be morally or ethically valid,” Owens said at the time of the veto.

Owens, a Roman Catholic outspoken about his pro-life views, has campaigned on conservative values and has been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in 2008.

In a statement issued at the time of the veto, Owens said House Bill 1042 was well-intentioned but probably unconstitutional. He also said it did not protect the right of institutions to decline to provide treatment that violated the institution’s moral values.

He also said that the information the victims would get would lean toward the pro-abortion position. “Without informed consent, a woman could innocently violate her personal, moral and religious beliefs about when life begins,” Owens said.

ACLU CHALLENGES PHILADELPHIA PRISON MINISTRY

(EP) – The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is challenging whether a prison ministry in Pennsylvania can receive federal funding, claiming it violates the First Amendment by using federal money for religious purposes.

The ministry, Firm Foundation of America, says it is simply seeking to offer vocational training in a Christian context.

The lawsuit could have widespread implications for thousands of inmates across the country who find hope and meaning in prison ministries. Inmate Eric Crandall, who recently got out of prison, said ministries like Firm Foundation can be a great help. “The prison ministries were a breath of fresh air inside of a dark place,” he said. But the ACLU is ready to sentence many of these ministries to the streets, partly because they insist on hiring Christians to do their work.

“You cannot use a religious test to decide who you’re going to hire to provide the government services,” said Mary Catherine Roper, an ACLU staff attorney.

Tim Tracey, who represents Firm

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W-2 Forms Sent to Social Security Limbo		
Between 1937 and 2002, the Social Security Administration placed more than 245 million workers' earnings reports in its Earnings Suspense File, a sort of Social Security limbo. These reports are so inaccurate SSA cannot match them to a known taxpayer. They account for \$462.8 billion in wages that cannot be credited to any taxpayer's Social Security account, or used to calculate anyone's Social Security benefit. Dollar amounts are in billions.		
Decade	Earnings Reports Sent to Limbo	Uncredited Earnings
1937-39	8,908,235	\$0.6
1940-49	19,764,525	\$2.0
1950-59	22,155,420	\$3.6
1960-69	28,294,126	\$6.7
1970-79	44,402,863	\$22.7
1980-89	41,928,484	\$77.3
1990-99	51,950,009	\$188.9
2000-02	28,339,912	\$161.0
Total	245,743,574	\$462.8
Source: "Better Coordination among Federal Agencies Could Reduce Unidentified Earnings Reports," Government Accountability Office, February 2005.		

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Foundation, said that is not something the courts have ever determined. “There has not been a single case that has said that a religious organization’s hiring practices somehow violate the establishment clause,” Tracey said.

The ACLU, he added, specifically selected this case to try to poke a hole in the president’s faith-based initiative. “They were waiting around awhile for a case,” Tracey and they think this is their case,” Tracey said.

GAY BISHOP SAYS HIS COMMENTS MISINTERPRETED

(EP)—Bishop V.Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church, can’t understand why his comments about Jesus are being misinterpreted.

In a Feb. 13 audio file posting about sexual issues on his church’s web-site, Robinson said: “Interestingly enough, in this day of traditional family values and so on...this man that we follow ... was single as far as we know; who traveled with a bunch of men, although there were lots of women around; who had a disciple who was known as ‘the one whom Jesus loved’; who said my family is not my mother and father, my family are those who do the will of God - - none of us like those harsh words. That’s who Jesus is, that’s who he was, at least in his earthly life.”

Robinson now says that he is being falsely accused of suggesting Jesus might have been homosexual.

“(Jesus) lived a very untraditional lifestyle,” Robinson told The Associated Press. “Which is not to say that I in any way asserted that he was gay, or anything about his sexual orientation.”

David Virtue, who runs a news service and web-site for conservative Anglicans, publicized Robinson’s comments and said they were an attempt to “push the envelope as far as they can,” even to the point of suggesting that Jesus was homosexual.

Robinson, though, said that was not his intention. He told the New Hampshire Union-Leader that Virtue “is a person who wants the Anglican Communion to recognize the conservatives in the Episcopal church as the real Anglican Communion in the United States. That’s his goal, and he is willing to write and say almost anything to achieve that goal.”

Virtue responded by saying that Robinson is “clearly trying to promote a gay theological agenda.”

BUSH CAVES IN TO WORLD COURT ON DEATH PENALTY

Continuing a trend of caving in to international tribunals, President Bush issued an executive order on March 8 directing state courts to review dozens of death row cases involving Mexican nationals. The president’s order came in response to a ruling by the International Court of Justice,

a UN tribunal more commonly known as the World Court, which claimed that the U.S. violated the rights of 51 Mexicans on death rows in eight states. The president’s order applies to 28 Mexican convicts in California prisons, 15 in Texas and others in Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Nevada, Ohio, and Oregon.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a Republican who rose to prominence when then-Governor Bush appointed him to the state Supreme Court, is opposing President Bush on this issue. Abbott contends President Bush has no constitutional authority to order hearings in Texas courts and that the convicts aren’t entitled to any more hearings, regardless of appeals to international tribunals. (*The New American*, April 4, 2005)

FEDERAL COURT UPHOLDS TEN COMMANDMENTS DISPLAY

A federal appeals court has upheld a Ten Commandments display similar to one being considered by the U.S. Supreme Court. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago announced March 25 that a “Foundations of American Law and Government Display” in a county administration building in Elkhart, Ind., is constitutional. The split, three-judge panel said it sees no reason why the display of historical documents “must be purged of the Ten Commandments to survive constitutional scrutiny.” (*Western Recorder*, 4/5/05)

BUSH DECRIES MINUTEMEN ‘VIGILANTES’

WACO, Texas---President Bush on March 23 said he opposes a civilian project to monitor illegal aliens crossing the border, characterizing them as “vigilantes.”

He said he would pressure Congress to further loosen immigration law.

More than 1,000 people---including 30 pilots and their private planes---have volunteered for the Minuteman Project, beginning in April along the Arizona-Mexican border. Civilians will monitor the movement of illegal aliens for the month of April and report them to the Border Patrol.

Mr. Bush said after a continental summit, with Mexican President Vicente Fox and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin at Baylor University, that he finds such actions unacceptable.

“I’m against vigilantes in the United States of America,” Mr. Bush said at a joint press conference. “I’m for enforcing the law in a rational way.”

The Minuteman Project was born out of a long-held perception among many residents that more Border patrol agents are needed to handle the flow of illegal immigrants.

Mr. Bush was criticized by both Republican and Democrats earlier in March for failing to add 2,000 agents to the Border Patrol, as set out in the intelligence overhaul legislation he signed in December.

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(By James G. Lakely, *The Washington Times*)

STUDY FINDS LIBERALS DOMINATE FACULTIES, MOST DON’T GO TO CHURCH

Nearly three-quarters of faculty members of U.S. colleges and universities describe themselves as liberals, and at elite schools, the proportion is 87 percent, a survey has found.

What’s more, half say they are Democrats and 51 percent indicate they seldom or never attend church, according to the survey, published in the March issue of the online political journal Forum.

“You would expect the majority of English literature and sociology professors to be liberals, but our survey found that 66 percent of those in physics and 64 percent of those in chemistry are liberals,” said S. Robert Lichter, a communications professor at George Mason University and an author of the study.

In English literature, 88 percent are liberals and 3 percent are conservative, the survey found.

“And in sociology, 59 percent said they are Democrats and 0 percent said they are Republicans,” said Mr. Lichter, who also heads the Center for Media and Public Affairs.

In addition, more than two-thirds of faculty members surveyed say they either strongly (44 percent) or somewhat agree (23 percent) that a “homosexual lifestyle” is acceptable. About 84 percent say they support abortion rights.

The survey, based on data from the 1999 North American Academic Study Survey, questioned 1,643 teachers at 183 four-year

higher-education institutions nationwide.

It also found that 15 percent of college faculty members overall consider themselves conservative and 11 percent say they are Republicans. Fewer than a third (31 percent) describe themselves as regular churchgoers. . . .

The ideological shift to the left among college faculty has become much more pronounced in the past 20 years. In a 1984 survey by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 39 percent of faculty said they were liberals.

Peter Sprigg, senior director of policy studies for the Family Research Council, said the study proves that “American academia is overwhelmingly dominated by liberal secularists.” (By Joyce Howard Price, *The Washington Times*, April 4-10, 2005)

GALLUP POLL: MOST TEENS THINK GOD DIRECTED CREATION OR EVOLUTION

NASHVILLE, (BP)---Schools might be teaching evolution, but many teens aren’t buying it, according to a new Gallup pool.

The survey of 1,028 teenagers ages 13-17 found that 38 percent of respondents don’t believe in evolution, believing instead that “God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so.”

Another 43 percent believe that humans “developed” over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided” the process. All total, 81 percent believe that God was somehow involved.

Only 18 percent believe that evolution took place without God playing a role.

The Gallup poll also asked teens their opinion about the evidence behind Darwin’s theology of evolution. Only 37 percent said they thought Darwin’s theory was “well-supported by evidence.” Thirty percent said it was “just one of many theories” and one that “has not been well supported by evidence.” Thirty-three percent said they did not yet know enough about Darwin’s theory to answer the question.

Adults actually are somewhat more likely not to believe in evolution. In a Gallup poll of adults last November, 45 percent said they believed in creationism: 38 percent believed that God guided the process of evolution. Only 13 percent of adults said they believed that evolution occurred without God’s guidance. (*Western Recorder*, 3/29/05)

JUSTICES WON’T REINSTATE IDAHO ABORTION LAW THAT REQUIRED PARENTAL PERMISSION

The Supreme Court on March 28 without comment declined to reinstate an Idaho law that required girls under age 18 to have permission from their parents to get an abortion legally.

The rejection marked the second time in as many months that the high court has

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declined to weigh in on abortion matters. In February, the justices refused to reopen Roe v. Wade, the landmark case that legalized abortion nationwide in 1973.

The March 28 development effectively lets stand a ruling by San Francisco’s 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to permit teenage girls in Idaho to have abortions without their parent’s permission. The Idaho law allowed abortions for minors without permission only in cases of extreme medical emergency.

According to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, 44 states have laws on the books requiring parental consent or notification prior to a minor’s having an abortion. Thirty-three laws are in effect, and six states and the District of Columbia have no such law. . . .(By Guy Taylor, *The Washington Times*, April 4-10, 2005)

SPARED KILLERS, KILLED THE DISABLED

On the first day of March, Supreme Court Justice *Anthony Kennedy* ruled that the Constitution prohibits states from executing cold-blooded killers who commit their crimes before they turn 18. Before the month was out, he received an appeal asking whether a Florida judge could order death-by-dehydration for 41-year-old *Terri Schiavo*, who had committed no crime.

Under the special law passed by Congress and signed by *President Bush* last week, Kennedy had the authority, as the justice overseeing appeals out of Florida, to *personally order* Schiavo’s food-and-hydration tube reinserted pending the outcome of a federal lawsuit to determine whether her constitutional rights were being violated. On *Holy Thursday*, Kennedy pulled a *Pontius Pilate*---referring the case to the full court, whose nine members have previously voted 5-4 to *declare partial-birth abortion a constitutional right*. The court ruled against Schiavo, but declined to explain its reasoning or reveal how justices voted. March 2005 will define Kennedy’s historical legacy. Generations hence will remember him thus: *He spared killers, and killed the disabled.* (*Human Events*, March 28, 2005)

ACLU BACKS ILLEGALS OVER CITIZENS

On April Fool’s Day, the American Civil Liberties Union showed us what a joke its commitment to American civil liberties really is.

April 1, in case you haven’t heard, was the launch of the Minuteman Project, an all-volunteer effort by law-abiding American citizens to call attention to the nation’s wide-open Southern border. Hundreds of Americans from New York to Michigan to California traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border to monitor illegal aliens and alert immigration enforcement officials if they witness lawbreaking.

Call it the mother of all neighborhood watch programs.

In doing so, the Minutemen are exercising their constitutionally protected freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom to petition the government for a redress of grievances. Those would be fundamental civil liberties found in something called the, uh, 1st Amendment, of which the ACLU is supposed to be the foremost expert and champion. Or so the group and its celebrity supporters say. . . .

But instead of coming to the defense of the Minutemen who are challenging our government, the ACLU warned the 1,000 volunteers that it will monitor the Americans’ activities. Moreover, the ACLU has already threatened lawsuits against the American dissenters for exercising their rights. (Michelle Malkin, *Human Events*, April 4, 2005)

CONSTITUTIONAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT RE-INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

Rep. Dan Lungren (R.-Calif.) introduced an amendment banning same-sex marriage March 17---three days after a judge in his home state issued a ruling legalizing gay marriage. Although Lungren once did not support a marriage amendment, he said he changed his mind in light of recent court rulings. The amendment would prevent state and federal courts from legalizing gay marriage. It would invalidate Massachusetts’ same-sex marriages. A different version has been introduced in the Senate. (*Western Recorder*, 3/29/05).

CHURCH-POLITICKING BILL REINTRODUCED

Despite the death of similar bills the past two years, Rep. Walter Jones (R.-N.C.) again introduced a version of the “Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act.” It would allow churches and other houses of worship to endorse political candidates and parties without losing their tax-exempt status. Since the 1950s, the federal tax codes have prohibited churches---and other non-profit groups organized under section 501©(3) of the code---from getting involved in partisan politics. The bill is House Resolution 235. (*Western Recorder*, 3/29/05)

ALABAMA, TENNESSEE VOTERS TO DECIDE MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

Alabama and Tennessee legislators voted earlier this month to send constitutional marriage amendments to voters. Alabama’s vote will be at the next statewide election, June 2006. Tennessee’s next statewide election is November 2006. They could be decided sooner if a special election is held. This year, Kansas and South Dakota legislatures also have sent amendments to citizens. A marriage amendment never has failed at the ballot box. Last year voters in Kentucky and 12 other states passed amendments. (*Western Recorder*, 3/29/05)

SURVEY FINDS NOT ALL CHRISTIANS AGREE WITH KEEPING SCHIAVO ALIVE

WASHINGTON, (RNS)---Despite intense lobbying by Christian conservatives on behalf of Terri Schiavo, a brain-damaged Florida woman whose feeding tube was removed March 18, a majority of churchgoing Americans told a recent Gallup poll they believe Schiavo should be removed from life support.

About half-51 percent---of people who attend church weekly supported the decision, joined by 55 percent who attend monthly and 60 percent who attend seldom or never, the CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll found.

Just 37 percent of weekly attendees opposed the decision, followed by 31 percent of monthly worshippers and 27 percent of occasional attendees. The poll did not detail which faith groups were asked the question. . . .

Overall, 56 percent of Americans supported the decision to remove the tube (31 percent opposed), suggesting that the fervor of religious conservatives to keep her alive is not shared by the general public. (*Western Recorder*, 3/29/05).

DO YOU LIVE IN AN OFFICIAL ENGLISH STATE?

(Census Bureau Data Indicates There Are now 322 Languages Spoken in U.S.)

“The one absolute certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, or preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities. We have but one flag. We must also learn one language and that language is English.” ---Theodore Roosevelt

It was like a Stanley Kubrick satire. Only it really happened in a Maryland public school.

On March 9, at Old Mill High School in Millersville, Md., when the Pledge of Allegiance came over the school’s intercom system, most students could not understand a word of it.

That’s because it was being recited in Russian. In honor of National Foreign Language Week, school administrators also insisted on broadcasting the Pledge in Spanish, German, Latin and French.

When 15-year-old Patrick Linton, an Old Mill freshman, sat down rather than stand while the Pledge was being recited in Russian, the Baltimore *Sun* reported, he was told by his teacher he should leave the room if he had a problem with the Pledge being recited in that language. So, Linton left.

“This is America and we got soldiers at war,” he told the *Sun*. “When you’re saying the Pledge in a different language, which nobody understands, that’s not OK.”

Old Mill was not the only Maryland public school that recently broadcast the Pledge to its students in a foreign tongue. At Windsor Knolls Middle School in Frederick

County, Md., they started periodically piping over the school intercom a Spanish class reciting the Pledge in Spanish. After an uproar from parents, the school stopped the practice.

Both incidents focused attention on a bill proposed in the Maryland Legislature that would make English the state’s official language. On March 19, the bill stalled in a state House committee, when it received a 10-10 vote. But its sponsor, Del. Pat McDonough (R.) of Baltimore, has vowed not to give up and may seek to force a floor vote on the measure by offering it as an amendment to another bill.

According to U.S. English Inc., 27 states have already made English their official language. This means that official government business in these states must be conducted in English solely, with just a few activities being reasonable exceptions (such as public health and safety services).

In Maryland today, according to Census Bureau data analyzed by U.S. English, there are 117 languages other than English spoken. Nationwide, 322 different languages are spoken. In Massachusetts, driver’s license exams are now given in 25 languages. In Queens, N.Y., voting materials are printed in Korean, Chinese and Spanish. Will Americans remain one people, a nation where immigrants are assimilated into a common culture by, among other things, learning a common language? Or will America become a Tower of Babel? This is the question at the core of the official English debate. (*Human Events*, 3/28/05)

NATIONAL BRIEFS

(EP) – Mormon teenagers are “more religiously serious and articulate than most other religious teenagers in the U.S.” according to a four-year study conducted at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Christian Smith, a UNC sociologist and the study’s author, said Mormon teens are more likely to avoid risky behavior and to do well in school than conservative Protestants. “Across almost every category we looked at, there was a clear pattern: Mormons were first,” said Steve Vaisey, one of the researchers involved in the study and the person who interviewed most of the Mormon youth. But while Mormon teens bested Christians in morality, only 84 percent of the Mormons surveyed said they believed in God. Ninety-four percent of teens identifying themselves as Protestants professed belief in God.

(EP) – The close relationship between homosexual and pro-abortion advocacy groups has grown even closer. The chief executive officer of the leading abortion political action committee, EMILY’s List, has been named president of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation’s largest homosexual lobbying group. The president of the Family Research Council Tony Perkins, said the abortion and homosexual lobbies actually have much in

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common. He said both groups have failed to win their arguments in the public square, and have turned to the courts to further their agendas. That means both groups have a strong desire to see liberal judges appointed. In fact, Perkins calls the pairing of homosexual and abortion groups the “perfect couple.”

(EP) – A video called “We are Family” has been delivered to over 60,000 elementary schools in the nation under the banner of promoting diversity. The introductory letter to educators states, “children will learn about different kinds of families and will explore the importance of appreciating cultural diversity.” But according to Finn Laursen of the Christian Educators Association International, the purpose of the video is to promote homosexuality. “It is evident that our children have become the targets of special interest groups that insist on promoting the homosexual lifestyle within the school setting.” The American Family Association and the Family Research Council are among the groups speaking out against using the videos in public school classrooms.

(EP) – A popular pastor is calling on Christians to abandon modern Christianity this Easter. Erwin McManus says that Christians have been “domesticated” by the culture, and that we value safety, convenience, and comfort above the sacrificial way of the Cross. “I believe Jesus looks on the American church today and says ‘What are you doing? Do you think I died for this?’” He pointed to Ashley Smith, the woman taken captive by the accused Fulton County courthouse murderer as an example of how God not only allows us to suffer, but he may thrust us in the midst of suffering so that we can courageously live out our purpose for our lives.

(EP) – The Colorado Supreme Court on March 28 tossed out the death sentence jurors had given to a convicted murderer because jurors consulted the Bible for moral guidance during their deliberations. What makes this ruling particularly unusual is the fact that in Colorado, jurors in death penalty cases are specifically told to make a moral judgment. The Colorado Supreme Court said the Bible is not necessary in order to make a moral judgment, was an improper outside influence, and an “extraneous text.” Christian activist Gary Bauer sharply criticized the decision: “Count this as yet one more example of a judicial elite that wants Christianity in the closet, while every other philosophy and lifestyle is invited out.”

(EP) – The Supreme Court on March 28 rejected an opportunity to review a lower court decision that struck down a state law requiring girls under age 18 to get parental

consent for abortions except under the most dire of medical emergencies. The lower court struck down the Idaho law because it said provisions on emergency abortions were too strict. The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said there was no reasonable explanation for the restriction. By refusing to review the case, the Supreme Court essentially struck down the law, eliminating parental consent for minors in Idaho.

ASHLAND, Ky - In its mandatory “diversity training” classes, a school district has instructed students who believe homosexual behavior is wrong to keep their opinions to themselves, prompting a federal lawsuit.

The Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund filed a motion for preliminary injunction yesterday to immediately prohibit the Boyd County, Kentucky, Board of Education from restricting the free-speech rights of its students.

“We are filing this motion because students are being forbidden from expressing their own viewpoint on this matter,” said ADF Senior Legal Counsel Kevin Theriot. “That’s unconstitutional, and it must stop.”

The motion was filed in a Feb. 15 lawsuit brought by Timothy Allen Morrison and other students and their parents against the education board.

The training itself began as a result of the settlement of another lawsuit filed against the board by the Boyd County High School Gay-Straight Alliance, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union.

“The school district is attempting to change the beliefs of students without their parents’ consent,” Theriot said. “The provisions of any settlement arrangement must respect the constitutional rights of students.”

AUGUSTA, Maine - Gov. John Baldacci on Thursday signed legislation that protects gays and lesbians from discrimination. Within hours, a religious group launched a campaign to overturn the new law.

“This act not only offers essential civil rights, but serves as a welcome,” the Democratic governor told supporters who packed the State House Cabinet Room. “Our doors are open to all people. This is a proud day for Maine.”

The law, which received final House and Senate passage Wednesday night, takes effect in late June.

The measure amends the Maine Human Rights Act by making discrimination illegal in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations and education based on sexual orientation or gender. Maine law now prohibits discrimination based on race, color, sex, disability, religion, ancestry and national origin.

The new law will exempt religious organizations that do not receive public funds. It also makes clear the law does not condone or authorize gay marriages.

WORLD BRIEFS

(AP) JERUSALEM – Warning of divine retribution and possible violent protest, evangelical Christians and rabbis from the United States have joined forces with ultra-orthodox Jews in Israel to fight plans to hold an international gay festival in Jerusalem this summer.

At a news conference Wednesday, California pastor Leo Giovanetti said hosting the 10-day World Pride event could bring divine retribution upon Jerusalem, citing the biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah as a precedent.



The Need for Reverence in Bible Study

By H. E. Fox

(This is the substance of a message given in 1914. This message was applicable 90 years ago, and is still relevant today).

Those who have outlived their half-century can best realize what grave changes have taken place in the attitude of the public mind with regard to the Bible, especially among men and women who consider themselves among the educated classes. In some directions, undoubtedly, there has been an increased interest in the Bible, though in other directions the same indifference remains as there has always been. But the new feature, and that which seems to many one of the saddest, is a loss (even among religious people) of the reverence which was commonly paid to Holy Scripture, say in early or mid-Victorian days, before the invasion of Continental criticism or quasi-religious theatricals.

Some can remember the impression in their childhood of that once familiar story of the Royal Prince whose tutor stepped upon a great folio Bible in order to reach a higher shelf in the library, and was checked by his young master, who, taking up the Book and placing it on his head and then on his breast said, “There, in my mind and in my heart, is where I would always have that Book to be.”

It is to be feared the story would be counted probably by many of our modern schoolboys, and certainly by a good many who teach them, as representing quite an old-world and out-of-date view of things.

This loss of reverence is seen constantly in the freedom with which critics treat the Bible, just as biological

scientists dissect a human body; and yet both of them---the one as much as the other---cease to be scientific when they attempt to draw conclusions from a single series of facts and ignore another series of facts of even greater importance in relation to the subject into which they enquire.

We do not complain, of course, that any who seek to investigate the Bible should bring all the powers of their intellect and their experience and their learning to bear upon it. On the other hand, we heartily welcome all reverent Biblical research. The more the Bible can be studied, the better certainly for the Church and the world. The more searching enquiry into the human element, which is the vehicle by which the Spirit of God has made known His mind to man, the better. But to discuss simply the natural facts and to ignore the supernatural by which those facts exist; to judge of the whole by a part, and that part the medium through which the Divine forces operate, is to be false to the truth; it is to be false to our fellow men; and, worst of all, it is to be false to God.

It is this lack of reverence---that “angel of the world,” as Shakespeare has called it---which is making our religious life less real, less serious; aye, and less possible.

Moreover, when not only are the Scriptures criticized as a mere human product, but when even the Lord Jesus Christ is criticized; and when one of the most distinguished of our English divines---one who has hitherto been regarded with high esteem for his devotion and learning---tells us that He Who claimed to be the Truth, Who spoke the words given to Him by the Father, and to Whom all judgment has been committed, cannot now be regarded as infallible, because infallibility can only exist, it is asserted, where there is absolute knowledge, and the critics have placed it among their “assured results,” that the knowledge of the Lord Jesus was a qualified and not absolute knowledge---all this creates a situation the seriousness of which cannot be exaggerated.

This condition of things has largely come about by the common fault--it is an almost universal fault in modern times---the want of a sense of proportion, and the neglect to put first things first. We are constantly putting second, third, fourth, and even things lower down before the first. One of these is “culture,” which so many people seem to regard as though it were a supreme authority. Now culture is an invaluable qualification for everyone. An uncultivated mind is not a mind able to exercise much influence in these times. But before we can come to a conclusion as to what culture can

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do, and before we can accept the oracle which declares, “Culture has said so-and-so, and this is final,”---we must ask, “Culture of what?” for everything depends upon the essential character of that which is cultivated, whether it be animal or vegetable, whether physical or mental. You may cultivate a cabbage, and by long and patient cultivation you may produce the largest and finest cabbage the world has ever seen. You may cultivate roses, but all the cultivation in the world will not turn a cabbage into a rose or a rose into a cabbage, and you certainly cannot get many intellectual results out of either of them.

What then are we cultivating? We are cultivating the intellect, we shall be told. Whose intellect? Man’s intellect. But have we ever realized---it is hard, perhaps, to do so in these days of advancing knowledge, in which we have come to think we know everything, and where people talk and write as though they were condensed Encyclopedias---the limitations of our human knowledge, and that what we know is infinitely less than what we do not know and cannot know? Ask any man of science, and he will have to admit that this is so. And it is this limited intellect that we are cultivating, an intellect too often alienated innately from God. Cultivate intellect as long as you like, and it will never be anything else than intellect. God is not known by intellect; spiritual things are not discerned by the natural man. Cultivate the natural man and he will remain the natural man to the end of his existence. **“The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God,”** and there is the secret of the present trouble. A great deal at least of the education in our Universities is only cultivating the natural man, with the inevitable consequences. I know cases where men have gone through a theological course at a University, and though probably able to take a First Class in Theology, their faith has been wrecked, they have abandoned their purpose to enter the ministry, and they often go out doubting if there be a Christ or even a personal deity.

We may close with words written in a letter from a sick bed by an Oxford scholar, who said: “Christ stands for all the ages. What He says is true of all time. Christ’s words must be judged by Christ’s Person and life. Christ did not criticize the Scriptures, but He did criticize the then modern mis-interpretation of the Scriptures.”

(Watching and Waiting, Chelmsford, Essex, UK, April/June 2005).

How Do You Know that You Are Saved?

by Roy Mason (1894 - 1978)
(taken from his book “After Conversion What?”)



“That ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (I John 5:13).

“God. . .now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30).

“Repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26:20).

“Repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

“What must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:30-31).

“But as many as received him, He gave to them the right to become the children of God, to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12 B.U.Ver.).

“ . . .That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Have you obeyed these instructions to repent and believe? If you have, read the following:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life” (John 6:47).

“He that hath the Son, hath life” (I John 5:12).

“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren” (I John 3:14).

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Rom. 8:16).

“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself” (I John 5:10).

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN?

“You can’t grow foliage on a gate post,” I once heard a preacher remark. That statement set me to thinking about the many fruitless professing Christians that I have known. Why were they barren of fruit? Perhaps it was because they were dead. No spiritual life had been imparted. To try to grow a Christian character, and to produce the fruits of a Christian life, when one has never really become a Christian, is a futile task. So before considering “After Conversion,” it is well to ask first of all, “Am I really a converted person? What is the basis of my hope? Have I a reason for the hope that is within me, and is that reason a valid one?”

The most colossal mistake that any one can make is to think that they are saved when they are not. The devil asks nothing better than for one who is lost to rely upon some substitute for salvation; to take it for granted that they are all right, and be lulled by a false

hope into a sense of false security.

I am convinced that many are in that condition today. For this reason, I wish for the reader of this article to spend some time in self examination in order to make doubly sure at the very outset, that he or she is genuinely saved. . . .

I have baptized a number of persons, who years before claimed conversion, were immersed and united with the church, but later came to realize that they were unsaved. Why, let us ask, is this mistake about conversion so often made? Why is it that so many professing Christians have never really been born again? I believe that it is largely due to *faulty evangelism*, so widely practiced by many. True evangelism consists primarily in the faithful, fearless, presentation of the Gospel, which according to Paul, is **“The power of God unto salvation unto every one that believeth”** (Rom. 1:16). Too often, alas! the preacher or evangelist substitutes sob-stories, death-bed tales, and jokes, for the Gospel. I have attended revivals where there was not enough gospel preached to enable a lost person to know how to be saved. The sermons consisted in a compendium of stories, beginning with those that were mirth provoking, and gradually working up to those which were calculated to move the audience to tears. People were made to cry, not in penitence over their sins, but over the tale of somebody’s bad fix! I remember to have heard one evangelist tell the story of the death of a dog, with such effect that the audience just “boo-hooed!” Then while the hearers are in this maudlin state of weeping, the invitation is often given, and folks go forward feeling that they have been converted, when there has been no thought of repentance of sin and saving faith in Christ.

Then again, people are often so *manipulated* by the evangelist that they are led into making a false profession. The preacher makes a lot of catchy propositions; he keeps his audience standing, sitting down, raising their hands, shaking hands with him, or with one another, or doing something, until finally scarcely knowing what they are about, they are manipulated into the Kingdom of God (?) and pronounced saved!

And especially is it true that children are often manipulated into the church during revival meetings, with no instruction as to what their action means. The pernicious practice of having “Decision Day” in the Sunday school, often leads to the taking into

the church of groups of unsaved children, who grow up in the church unregenerate, and later constitute a serious problem to the church because of their unworthy lives.

I do not desire to make a sweeping indictment against preachers and evangelists in general, by charging to all of them unworthy motives. Many of them would not lead a soul astray for anything in the world. But I do maintain that all too often unworthy motives prompt the using of questionable methods in revival meetings. It is very evident that this is true, since most people claim conversion during revival campaigns and since among Southern Baptists alone, thirty-five per cent who come into our churches each year, disappear from the membership rolls, by what is familiarly termed the “back door” route. Would there be this enormous loss, if all who unite with the church were really saved?

And it is not always the preachers’ fault that people make false profession of religion. Some have a wrong conception of the relation of morality to salvation. They seem to think that because they are honest, moral, and upright, as regards their relations with men, they are assured of Heaven, and are right with God. Others think that all that is required in order for them to become a Christian is to “turn over a new leaf” and morally reform, and line up with the Christian forces of the community by joining the church.

Face the truth, reader: If you are depending upon the things above mentioned to save you, you are lost--just as much lost as though you were a savage cannibal of the South Sea Isles. If the sum total of your Christian experience is that you have signed a card, held up your hand in testimony that you want to go to Heaven, walked down the aisle and gave the preacher your hand, were baptized and joined the church, “turned over a new leaf” with intent to reform, ---if this is all that you have to base your hope for eternity upon, then your case is indeed deplorable!

I once heard a great Southern Baptist pastor relate this incident: One Sunday evening a young lady came forward at the close of the sermon and presented a letter from another Baptist church, asking to be received as a member of the church at that place. The pastor had an unusual custom of asking all who came seeking membership, some questions relative to their Christian experience. Upon questioning her in this way, he found that the young lady seemed to be in total ignorance of the things that he asked her about. He indicated to her that he felt sure that the church would not receive her, and that her words led him to doubt that she was really eligible for

♦ (Continued on page 98)

How Do You Know

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church membership. “Why,” she said in surprise, “you don’t mean to tell me that one who is a member of the church in good standing; who is trying to live right, and is a faithful worker in the church is not safe do you?” The pastor replied: “It is not a question of whether or not you are a member of a church; are working in that church, nor even as to whether or not you are living a good, pure, moral life. The question is, do you know Jesus Christ?” “Let me ask you this,” he said, “was there a time in your life, when you realized yourself to be a lost sinner, hell-bound and hell-deserving? Did you when in that lost condition see Jesus as your only hope of salvation from sin? And did you definitely and consciously accept Him as your Savior, fully trusting Him to save you?” “No,” said the young woman, “I never had any such experience as that.” “Tell me then,” said the pastor, “what are you depending upon to save you?” “Well,” said the young woman, “I thought that everyone who wanted to line up with the best people, live right, and go to Heaven, ought to join the church, so I joined. Isn’t that enough?” “Is that all the experience that you have to relate?” “Yes, except to say that I have tried to live a good clean life, and have faithfully sought to do my part in the church to which I belonged.” “My dear young lady,” said the pastor, “I must be honest with you and tell you that if you are relying upon those things to save you, you are lost, and the thing that you need is salvation rather than church membership.”

The pastor said that he could see that his words hurt the sensitive soul of the young woman, and that she was more or less inclined to take offense at his words. He tried earnestly and plainly to show her the necessity of a definite, personal, acceptance of Christ as her Savior, after which, he let her go her way to think the matter over.

The next Sunday evening when the invitation was given, down the aisle came the same young woman, radiance beaming from her eyes. “Dr. E----,” she said, “I wish to thank you for the great service that you have rendered me. If you had not told me the truth, perhaps I would have gone on to hell thinking that I was all right. You made me see my lost condition. “But,” she said: “it is all right now. I have come to know the Lord during this past week. I have received Him, and I want to follow Him in baptism right now.” The church accepted her as a candidate for baptism, and the pastor led her across the platform, down into the baptistery, and there buried her beneath the water.

It takes a good deal of courage, if after having been a church member for several years, one finds that they have

made a mistake, to confess that mistake publicly. But that is the only right thing to do. If you find upon examination that you have been trusting something else than Christ to save you, the only wise thing to do, is to remedy your condition by accepting Christ so definitely that nothing in the universe will ever be able to make you doubt that He is your Savior. Then you should publicly state the facts and be re-baptized.

I am personally acquainted with two ministers’ wives who were taken into the church in childhood without salvation. Both were later saved, and although they had worked in the churches of which their husbands were pastor, they had the bravery to confess their early mistake and to ask the church to receive them as candidates for baptism.

But sometimes it is the case that those genuinely saved, are led to doubt their conversion. The devil uses doubt with which to trouble Christians and cripple them from further usefulness. Much of such doubt comes because the Christian has not had the same

emotional experience that some one else says that they have had. They seem to think that God should strike down every person converted, just as He did Paul on the road to Damascus. Some one tells their experience and they think, “Why, I never felt like that; I must not be saved!” How, let us ask, can one know how to be saved, and how can one know when they are saved? How may one know how to journey to some distant city or country? The answer is, one may learn the way from a map or guide book. Now the Bible is the Guide Book that shows the way to God. It is the only Guide that does show the way. Let us consult the Guide Book about the matter. The question as to whether or not we are saved doesn’t turn on our changeable feelings, but on whether or not we have complied with God’s requirements as laid down in His Book. The Bible nowhere says, “Feel and be saved.” But it does say, “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved**” (Acts 16:31). Many seem to think that they are saved because they “feel” a certain way. Let me ask this

common sense question: “Is one saved *because* they feel happy, or ought one to feel happy because *they have been* saved? A moment’s thought will make clear to any one that feeling should *follow* as a *result* of salvation.

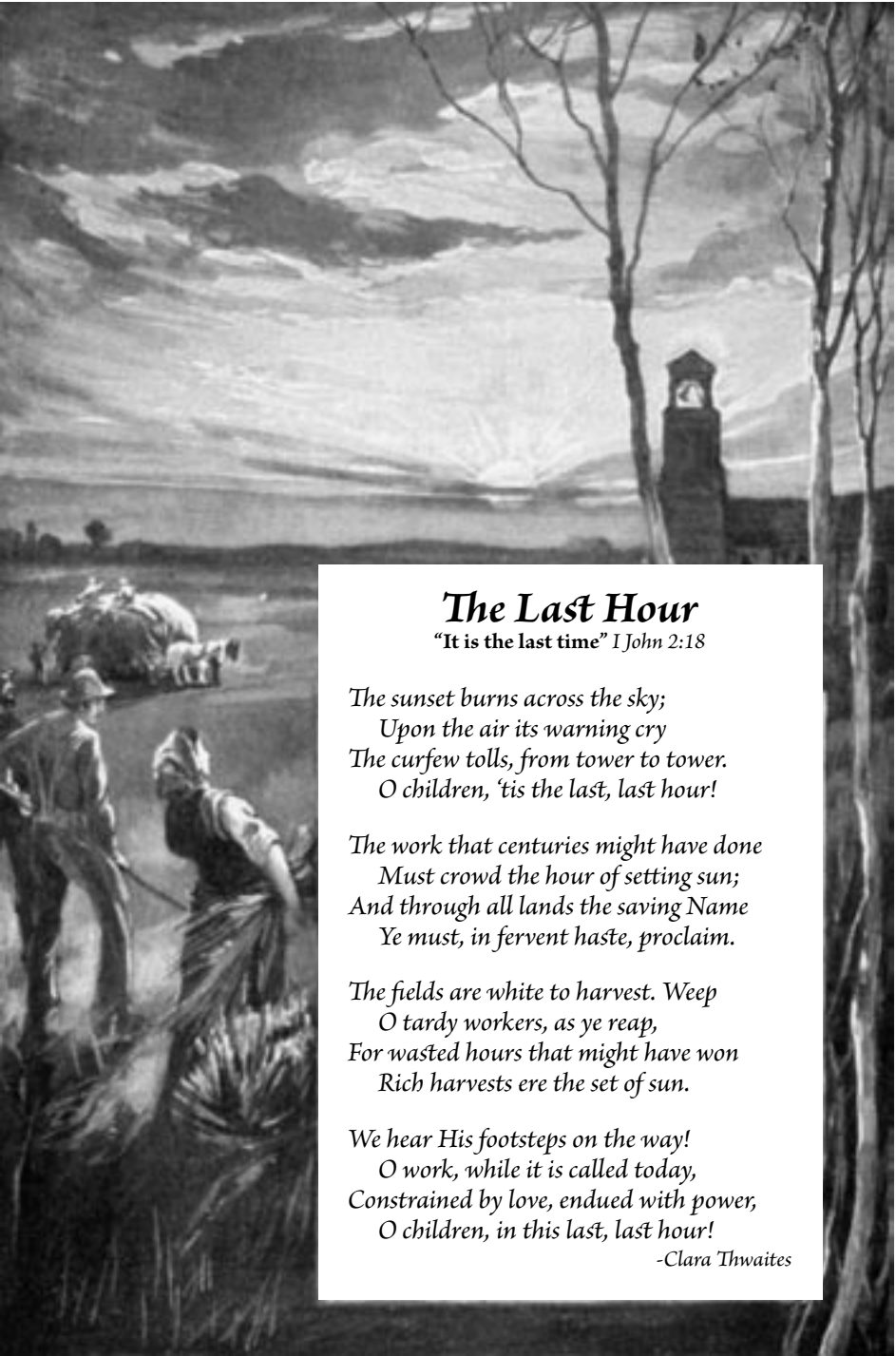
But let us take a look, and see what the Bible has to say about salvation. We turn to Acts 17:30 and there we find Paul preaching to the Greeks in Athens, and this is what he says: God “**Now commandeth all men every where to repent.**” Next we turn to Mark 1:15 and we read, “**Repent ye, and believe the gospel.**” Then again in Hebrews 6:1 we read of “**Repentance from dead works,**” which means the works that men do in order to be saved. So then, a part of God’s instructions given in His Guide is to repent. And to repent means to turn from one’s wicked ways and thoughts, and from all attempts to save self, in utter helplessness and dependence to God for relief.

Suppose that one has repented, what next? Let us turn to Acts 16:30 again. There we find a lost man, evidently already a repentant man, asking Paul and Silas the direct question, “**What must I do to be saved?**” They answered him in the simplest, plainest, manner possible, “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.**” And to believe on Him means to accept and receive Him as one’s personal Savior, trusting Him fully and completely to save.

But how am I to know that I *am* saved? You ask. Well, one certainly ought to know whether or not they have in repentance turned to Christ and received Him as their Savior. I once asked the women of a certain audience how many of them had forgotten the time when the man they married proposed to them, and they accepted him to be their husband. Not one of those married had forgotten. That was a definite experience in their lives. And certainly it is just as definite an experience in one’s life when they in their state of sin and need see Christ as the only and all sufficient Savior, and receive Him as such.

If you in repentance have turned to Christ, received Him, and are depending solely and entirely upon Him and His work in suffering and dying for your sins, then for you to doubt your salvation is for you to doubt the truth of God’s Word. For God plainly says in His inspired Word, (John 3:36), “**He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.**” And again in John 6:47, Jesus solemnly and earnestly says: “**Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.**” If He, the Son of God, should stand in front of us and say those words, certainly we would believe Him. When we read them from the pages of His inspired Word, they are just as true, just as definite, just as meaningful, as

♦ (Continued on page 99)





Berea Baptist Church Bookstore

PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855 (662) 282-7794

We are now beginning to carry several books by Lifeline Printing from the Philippines. Below is several books that are available. Many of these books have been out of print. All books are hardback and the pricing is very resonable.

Christian Theology

Bancroft, Emery H. \$12.00
Intended as an “original compilation” this work by Dr. Emery H. Bancroft is an “interesting reading of a mass of material in all areas of theology.” It is a doctrinally sound, scholarly work that covers the topic well.

Elemental Theology

Bancroft, Emery H. \$11.00
This work presents the basics of systematic theology in an easy-to-follow format. It will be useful to students, teachers, pastors, and laymen wanting a practical introduction to systematic theology. It includes study questions at the end of each chapter.

Memorials of Baptist Martyrs

Brown, J. Newton..... \$11.00
This book was originally published in 1854. It contains a preliminary historical essay, along with the main work itself. The content is drawn from such works as “Foxe’s Acts and Moments,” and “Braght’s Dutch Martyrology.” Other sources include works by Crosby, Ivimey, Mann, Jones, etc. etc. The author took considerable pains to authenticate the work’s statements “both general and denominational.”

The Baptist Story

Davis, A. A..... \$10.00

The Preacher and His Preaching

Gibbs, Alfred P..... \$14.00
This book will not only serve as a text on Homiletics, but also as a guide to believers who desire to rightly proclaim the Gospel.

The Two Babylons

Hislop, Alexander \$12.00
This book is a scholarly study of the origins of the practices of the Roman Catholic Church. It provides an in-depth examination of the similarities between ancient Babylonian religion and today’s Roman Catholic Church. Read how a religion that was started by Nimrod and his wife spread, taking different names, but keeping the same rituals.

Baptist Doctrines

Jenkins, Charles A..... \$14.00
This work is a compilation of a series of essays on the faith, practice, and distinctives of the Baptists.

Life of Adoniram Judson

Judson, Edward \$16.00
This book is the story of Adoniram Judson’s life as penned by his son. Included are large excerpts of his letters and journals.

Baptist Beliefs

Mullins, E. Y.....\$6.00
In this work Mullins does not set out to create a formal creed for Baptists, since there are already several in existence. He sets out rather to create

a manual for “common use” by the teacher and student of the distinctive beliefs of Baptists. If you want to learn what makes a Baptist different this book is an excellent place to start.

Autobiography of George Müller

Müller, George \$16.00
This work is compiled by G. Fred Bergin. It was published originally as an centennial memorial of the birth of George Müller. It is written up to the point of Mr. Müller’s death in his own words. An excellent addition to any library.

The Holiest of All - An Exposition of Hebrews

Murry, George..... \$12.00
Originally written in Dutch, and then converted to English, this book was written under the conviction that the teaching in the Epistle to the Hebrews was needed by the church. It is a verse by verse handling of the book of Hebrews filled with valuable lessons. Read it for yourself, and see how God touches your heart.

Bible Questions Answered

Pettingill, William..... \$14.00
This book is the compilation of questions and answers on Bible subjects. Its contents were gathered from the author’s personal correspondence and from his editorial work on the periodical “Serving-and-Waiting” published by the Philadelphia School of the Bible. Topics covered include God, Man, Satan, Angels, Israel, Eternal Security, Christian Conduct, and many, many more.

Keys to the Word - The Bible Book by Book

Pierson, A. T.....\$7.00
This work contains key words and key verses for every book of the Bible. The introduction contains an instructive method for Bible Study. It will be an excellent addition to your library.

5000 Questions & Answers in the Old and New Testaments

Smith, William\$7.00
This work is intended to be a help to students and Sunday School teachers. The layout is simple starting in Genesis and working its way through the Bible. The book is sure to be a help to any Christian.

The Believers Daily Treasure

.....\$7.00
A Scripture text for each day of the year.

Commenting on Commentaries

Spurgeon, Charles H..... \$10.00
This book is a catalog of commentaries recommended to preachers by Spurgeon. It also includes two lectures on commentaries and commenting delivered to the students and The Pastor’s College.

Lectures to My Students

Spurgeon, Charles H..... \$14.00
This book is a collection of selected lectures delivered by Charles Spurgeon to the students at The Pastor’s College.

Salt-Cellars - A Collection of Proverbs

Spurgeon, Charles H..... \$7.00
This book is the first of a two-volume set. The second volume is not available at this time. This is a collection of proverbs and Spurgeon’s thoughts on those proverbs. It includes proverbs for letters

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A through L. (abridged)

Lectures in Systematic Theology

Theissen, Henery H. \$14.00
A classic treatment of Systematic Theology. This work has been compared to Ryrie, Chafer, and Augustus Strong’s works on Systematic Theology. This is a pre-1979 edition of this book with the original work by Thiessen on Election.

How to Study the Bible

Torrey, R. A.....\$7.00
This book was written in response to a perceived need for a manual on Bible Study. Mr. Torrey had been receiving a constant inflow of letters asking how to study the Bible. This book was written in answer to those letters.

How to Work for Christ

Torrey, R. A..... \$12.00
This book was intended for those in “Full-time” Christian work, and those who would be considered laypersons. It was intended to tell people how to work for Christ that did not know how. It will also be helpful to the Pastor with suggestions for getting his people to work for God.

The New Topical Textbook

Torrey, R. A..... \$11.00
A reference for study of the Bible including a forward on Methods of Bible Study, the content of the textbook, and an “Outline of The Fundamental Doctines of the Bible” by David Allen Reed. Mr. Torrey indicates that there are 20,000 Topics and Sub-topics in the reference work and 30,000 scripture references.

A Short History of the Baptist

Vedder, Henry C. \$12.00
This book was written as a shorter textbook on the history of the Baptists. For fifty years it was the standard textbook for Baptist history.

Manners and Customs of Bible Lands

Wight, Fred H. \$11.00
Have you ever wondered how it was a woman could come unnoticed to wash Jesus’ feet during a meal? Do you know what the layout of the typical house was in Bible times? Do you know what it meant to “gird your loins” as referenced in Ephesians 6:14? This book has the answers, it covers the areas of tent dwellings, houses, food and food preparation, mealtime customs, dress, education and much more.

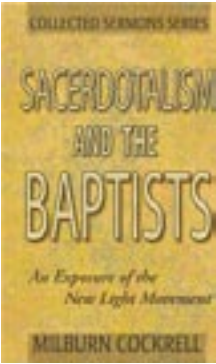
A Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine

by T. P. Simmons

Retail Price **\$24.95**

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PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855

BACK IN PRINT!



Retail Price
\$4.95


This book was written to reply to the New Light Movement which limits God’s priesthood on earth to Landmark Baptist Churches. The book traces the history of the movement and sets forth its principle teachings. The author shows the New Lighters have neither the Bible nor Baptist history to back up their new teachings. On five or more copies the price is \$3.25 plus P&H.

ALSO NOW AVAILABLE!

Living Through the Storm

by Raymond Bennett

Retail Price
\$5.25



This book is a daily devotional through the book of James. It is written by Elder Raymond Bennett of Ithaca, NY. It is divided into small daily portions which are good for morning devotionals for God’s people. On five or more copies the price is \$3.50 plus P&H.

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How Do You Know

(Continued from page 98) ✧
though they came from His lips this very moment.

Reader, if you have come into possession of eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus, if you know that there is no mistake about it; that you are depending upon Him, then you are ready to consider with me the question of your duty as a Christian and follower of Jesus. Otherwise let me urge you to stop right NOW and settle the question of your salvation by trusting Christ to save. Look up to Him with the cry:

*“Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bid’st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!”*



WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

Bush Criticized for not Signing Kyoto Treaty



It would be nice if all nations, including the United States, would agree to sign the Kyoto Treaty and live happily ever after. Unfortunately the world is not made that way.

A recent editorial in *The Virginia Pilot*, Norfolk, Virginia, criticized President Bush for not signing the Treaty. "A leader needs to lead. A leader needs to put the interest of others, occasionally, before his own. A leader needs to set an example."

The rest of the world, 141 nations, in fact have signed onto the global warming pact, which obliges them to limiting emission of greenhouse gasses. But the United States refused to sign, citing the damage it would do to the country's economy.

President Bush is trying to protect the interests of the United States, not win a popularity contest. He was leading by example. The rest of the world will respect President Bush for looking out for the interest of his nation, I suspect.

WARMING INCONSEQUENTIAL

Many people realize that the Kyoto Protocol on global warming would have the effect of restricting and penalizing U. S. industry---while exempting the really heavy polluters, China, India, Mexico and other Third World countries.

But people probably don't know that it could be an exercise in futility, because it just won't make much difference---even after all the gyrations. Implementation of the Kyoto restrictions would be bad news for the world:

* According to the scientific facts known today, the actual arrested warming would be inconsequential.

* U.S. industry would be hobbled and the economy at risk.

THE BAD GUYS

The matter of U. S. rejection of this highly touted, Al Gore sponsored Protocol, has become one more reason for our allies to blame America. Somehow, our allies seem envious when our President acts to put America first, as is his duty, and which he did by rejecting the Kyoto restrictions. At the meeting, we see the environment ministers slamming the United States for rejection of the Kyoto Protocol and its restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions---Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Japan and Russia, and of course the United Nations. They called the U.S. position, "Political maneuvers to pressure the energy-burning American lifestyle."

U. S. REPRESENTATIVE

The U. S. representative at that

conference was Christine Todd Whitman, head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Unfortunately, she had very little rebuttal.

Now, why didn't our EPA chief have with her some top notch expert like Dr. Sallie Baluinas, astrophysicist of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, who could have stunned these ministers with charts and data to prove that a 0.06 degree temperature Celsius decrease would have a miniscule effect with the full implementation of the Kyoto Treaty requirements over the next half century.

Instead, Whitman took it on the chin---when she could have met every putdown with overwhelming evidence that the Kyoto Treaty is no bargain. To meet the Kyoto standards of carbon dioxide emissions by 2012, the United States would have to cut its energy use by about 25 percent, with the subsequent cost to the economy of almost \$400 billion per year.

OTHER FACTS

Baluinas reports the following facts about global warming, based upon the best scientific research available today:

* The greenhouse gases absorb infrared radiation and thereby, retain energy on earth that would otherwise escape into space.

* The main greenhouse effect however, is a natural phenomenon caused by clouds and water vapor.

* Finally the earth's average increase in temperature would be only 1 degree

Celsius for a doubling of the air's carbon dioxide content---a meager warming for such a profound increase in greenhouse gasses and well within the range on natural variability.

NOT JUSTIFIED

The rapid cuts in carbon dioxide mandated by the Kyoto Protocol are not justified, according to the best available research, as reported by Baluinas. If EPA Chief Whitman had been armed with the Baluinas report, she'd not have needed to make the concessions she did, namely, that the United States would cut greenhouse gas by 18 percent by the year 2017. Perhaps such reaction is good diplomacy, but why pussyfoot?

According to the preordnance of scientists, global warming isn't happening. Now an international team of scientists has found yet another sign that the liberals are wrong.

New findings, published in the influential journal of Geophysical Research Letters, reveal a key method in measuring a supposed change in temperature was off by almost 40%. It turns out that measurements of seawater have grossly exaggerated global warming over the seas. But do environmentalists care about facts? No, the liberals do not care!

As for *The Virginian Pilot* criticism of President Bush, wouldn't it be nice to hear the other side of the story?

(Excerpts are from previous writings).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bro. Wade Redden passed away in March at the age of 87. Bro. Redden moved west in the late 1950's from Kentucky to help Elder Glen Tweet in the ministry. He was a charter member of the South Park Missionary Baptist

Church, Seattle, Washington.

".. and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty" (I Sam. 20:18).

The Philidelphia Baptist Church of Decatur, AL will be having special services with Elder Leroy Pack, June 22nd-26th. The area fellowship meeting will also be on Saturday the 25th. All are invited to attend.

The church is completing their new building and hope to be in it by this time.

For more information contact Pastor Doyle Thomas at (256) 773-1474 or email coraltom@charter.net.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Pensacola, FL, is actively searching for a pastor. Any interested and unattached Brother is urged to contact Bro. Warren Burrell, church clerk at (850) 941-8067.

Brother Joe and Sister Kathy Martinez have now made available two audio CDs that contain the music off of their three albums: *Jesus Christ, The Lord of Glory; Let Your Treasure Be In God; and A Taste of Heaven*. These are being made available through the *Bookstore*. The only cost is that of \$2.50 to cover postage and mailing. Also a CD of just the music (no vocals) is available for the songs from the album *A Taste of Heaven*.

Most of these songs have been aired on the *Berea Baptist Broadcast* over the last several years. We appreciate Brother and Sister Martinez for making these good Christian songs available.

The next issue of the *Banner* will be our 25th Anniversary issue. Many have inquired about having a *Banner* that would be good to pass out as a tract or an issue that could be used to give to people while asking them to attend church services. To the left of this announcement you can see a listing of articles planed for the next issue. This would be a good issue to request extra copies of if you wanted something good to handout and give to the people. If you are interested please let us know how many copies you would like so that we may print enough copies. Pricing would be around \$10 per 100 copies or about 10 cents each. Postage for these would depend on the amount requested.

The Grace Bible Baptist Church of Denham Springs, LA will be having their 9th Annual Bible Conference June 3rd through the 5th. All are invited to attend.

For more information contact Pastor Jerry Dodson at (225) 664-3223 or email: Jerrydodsonsr@wmconnect.com.



Coming in the 25th Anniversary issue...
God's Perfect Way to Save Satan's Imperfect Sinners by B. A. Langford
Why Your Faith and Your Baptism Will Not Save You by Curtis Pugh
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