

## The Scheme of Redemption

By Milburn Cockrell  
(1941 - 2002)

**"But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons"** (Gal. 4:4-5).

It is to be doubted if any two verses of Scripture are as rich and comprehensive as these. Here is an outline of the gospel plan from first to last, an abbreviated system of Christian divinity.

### THE FITNESS OF THE TIME

The verses begin with the words: **"But when the fulness of time was come..."** The idea in the Greek text is the completion or filling up of **"the time appointed of the father"** (Gal. 4:2). There is no premature action in the Divine Providence. God does nothing prematurely, but, foreseeing



the end from the beginning, waits till all is ripe for the execution of His purpose. This was the time agreed and fixed upon between the Father and the Son from all eternity in the covenant of grace when the Son should assume human flesh.

This was the time foretold by the Old Testament prophets concerning the coming of the Messiah. Genesis 49:10 declared: **"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come. . ."** According to this prophesy, there was to be a king or a governor in Judah or

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## Who We Were

By Paul Stepp  
of Indore, West Virginia

Something that is good for all of us to consider, from time to time, is our own past. Now, I am not saying that we can learn anything in particular from our own past that can elevate us unto Heaven; in other words, there is nothing in our past that can be useful in gaining salvation. But, there is something in our past (in fact our past as a whole and as a subject that we behold) that is very beneficial to the present and the future of every individual who has ever lived.

Certainly we can say that, practically speaking, the past is educational and instructional for every person to consider. It is by studying the past, and by contemplating our own history, that we are able to eliminate mistakes that we are perhaps prone to; or it is



by considering the past that we can improve in certain areas that we have been lacking; or it is by careful examination of our past that we can determine what has been

profitable in our lives, and then we are able to build upon those profitable areas. Those people that learn from their mistakes are most usually those people that are the most proficient and most successful in life.

Now, I want us to consider our own lives from a spiritual perspective. I want us to look at where we have been, what we have done, and who we were. It is

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## Six Things Every Pentecostal Should Know

By Curtis Pugh  
of Bocsa, Romania

I write as a Baptist, but as one with first-hand knowledge of the teachings and practices of Pentecostals because of my past experience among them. I am not against Pentecostals as a people or as individuals. However, my Bible causes me to see non-biblical beliefs and practices that are common among them. So I hope that Pentecostal people will not think that this is an attack against them. I only desire to make known to them some things that the Bible clearly teaches.

First of all let me say that people are not saved because they are Baptists or Pentecostals. Salvation is not in a church, but in the Lord Jesus Christ! Regardless of church membership, any person who has been regenerated (born again) by the Spirit of God and thus brought to repentance and faith in Christ, is saved.



The test of any man's salvation is this: does he rely wholly on Christ for his salvation or is he trusting also in his good works to save him or keep himself saved? Consider what

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 where he said, **"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the**

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## Arminian Verses?

By Larry J. Killion  
of Tacoma, Washington

John 6:33-40, 44, and 63-71.

There are several passages of Scripture in the New Testament that are similar to the text. We love to read them and to emphasize the sovereignty of God in them as we read. God the Father has given God the Son certain ones that will be irresistibly drawn to Him by the effectual work of the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Word of God. That is the eternal purpose of God according to His elective love and sovereign grace. This is what we call the Doctrine of Grace.

Around 500 years ago a man by the name of John Calvin summarized this system of theology into five points in answer to the teachings of James Arminius. Arminius taught that there is a spark of good in man somewhere that inclines him toward God. Calvin said no, man is totally depraved and if left to himself he will perish. Arminius taught that God looked down through time



and saw who was going to believe in Christ and chose them because of their foreseen faith. Calvin said no, apart from the grace of God, not one sinner would have ever repented and God therefore

purposed to save a people without any conditions upon them to merit His choice. Arminius taught that Christ died for every individual in the world without exception, even those who finally die in their sins and go to hell. Calvin said no, Christ died only for those that the Father gave Him, His sheep, which is a multitude that no man can number made up of all men without distinction, that is, a multitude out of every nation, people, kindred, and tongue. Arminius taught that we can resist the call of the Holy Spirit unto salvation. Calvin said no, there is an outward call and an inward

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**"If people have to ask us if we are Christians, after being in our company for a time, it is proof enough we are backsliders."** Milburn Cockrell, *Studies in the Book of Jonah*

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4. To encourage God's preachers and to strengthen His churches in the most holy faith.
5. To motivate God's children to a closer fellowship around His Word.
6. To inform people of world events in light of Bible prophecy.
7. To condemn and expose error wherever it may rear its ugly head.
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## The Scheme of

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Judea until the coming of the Messiah. At this time Judea still had a lawgiver or governor. Daniel foretold that the Messiah would come near the end of the 69 weeks (Dan. 9:24-27). According to Haggai, the Messiah would come before the destruction of the second temple in Jerusalem (Hag. 2:6-9). The second temple still stood at the birth of Christ.

The Mosaic age had come to an end (Luke 16:16; Mark 1:1). Of Christ the writer of Hebrews said: “**. . .but now once in the end of the world (age) hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself**” (Heb. 9:26). The whole economy of types and shadows had done its work in revealing some ideas in which Christ's person and work could be understood. The legal dispensation had worked out its educational purpose. It was the proper time fixed upon by the infinite wisdom of God to make known a new system.

That it was a good time for the Messiah to be born can be argued from many standpoints. First, it was a time when the world was at peace because of Roman conquests. This was an appropriate time for the “Prince of Peace” to be born. Second, communications between different parts of the world were rapid and secure as never before. This made it a good time to spread the gospel of Christ. Third, the Jews were scattered in all lands, looking for the Messiah as never before. This opened the door to world evangelism among the Jews. Fourth, the Greek language, being almost universal, was a ready vehicle to spread the good news and in which to write the New Testament. Fifth, this would be the turning point in the world's history in which Jesus Christ was to be its true center.

### THE IMPORTANT EVENT

“**. . .God sent forth his Son. . .**” These words imply the Son had an existence before He was made of a woman. In Scripture, God is often said to have sent forth His Son into the world. All such verses teach that He was a Son antecedently to His being sent to become human flesh. Consider a few other verses: “**. . .God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. . .**” (Rom. 8:3). This expression is equal to saying the Son of God assumed human nature, and that He was the Son of God before His incarnation. I John 3:8 reveals that He was “**the Son of God**” antecedent to His being manifested to “**destroy the works of the devil.**” His being the Son of God prior to His enfleshment proves He is a Divine Person.

Christ is not the Son of God by creation as were angels and Adam, nor is He the Son by adoption as believers. Neither is He the Son of God by incarnation

and resurrection as some argue, for sonship is not a progressive matter. If it arose from his miraculous conception, it could not, for that reason, arise from His resurrection. His enfleshment and resurrection declared, or proved, He was the Son of God with power.

In the sense in which Jesus Christ is the Son of God, He is the Son of God by Divine generation, begotten by the Father's Divine nature and essence, equal to Him and one with Him. The Second Person in the Godhead is “**the express image of his person**” (Heb. 1:3) and “**the image of the invisible God**” (Col. 1:15). He is the eternal Son of God, as God the Father is the eternal Father. The eternal Son was “**in the bosom of the Father**” (John 1:18) and had a glory with Him “**before the world was**” (John 17:5).

The Father and Son are two distinct persons, else the one could not send the other. The sender cannot be the sent. The Son came, not without a mission, for the Father sent Him forth into human history. The Son said: “**. . .for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me**” (John 8:42). The Son was not sent by the Father out of any disrespect, but because of His love to the covenant people (John 3:16). The Son readily and heartily agreed to the incarnation for redemptive purposes. There was entire harmony and agreement between them in this matter. The Father agreed to send His Son, and the Son came of His own free and cheerful will (John 17:4-5).

### THE NATURE HE ASSUMED

“**. . .Made of a woman. . .**” This language implies that He had another nature than that which was derived from the woman. If the Son already possessed humanity, there would have been no reason to say He was “**made of a woman.**” This phrase points significantly to His supernatural conception, for there is an exclusion of human fatherhood. The prophecy had said He would be of the woman's seed without a man (Gen. 3:15). The incarnation is here represented as a deed of God the Father, and in II Corinthians 8:9 it is seen as the Son's own act.

The expression, “**made of a woman,**” is full of meaning. In I Corinthians 15:45 it is written: “**The first man Adam, was made a living soul.**” Adam had no father or mother; he was made by a special creative act of God. Thus the words, “**made of a woman**” implies a special interposition of God in His birth as a man. The Father caused the Son to be conceived by the Holy Spirit: “**And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God**” (Luke 1:35). So much was God involved in the virgin birth that the Son could say: “**. . .a body hast thou prepared me**” (Heb.

10:5).

With respect to His physical nature, Christ was born of a woman and had a human nature, but He is never called the Son of Joseph and Mary. He is always in the Bible styled “**the Son of man,**” that is, the Son of humanity. His humanity was derived from common stock. He became the Second Adam, or, as He is called in Scripture, “**the last Adam**” (I Cor. 15:45). Jesus Christ was a veritable man!

The King James translators followed Wickcliffe and the Geneva Bible in rendering the Greek here “**made of a woman.**” I believe this is the correct translation. Some others translate it “born of a woman.” The difference of the sense is important. “Made” implies a previous state of existence, which “born” does not. The translation of “**made of a woman**” harmonizes well with other Scriptures. “**And the Word was made flesh. . .**” (John 1:14). Galatians 3:13 says that Christ was “**made a curse for us.**” The meaning here could scarcely be “born a curse for us.” I would ask those who are always denouncing the KJV and defending modern versions to check these verses in their new translations.

### HE IS PLACED UNDER THE LAW

“**. . .Made under the law. . .**” Originally He was the Divine Lawgiver, and as such, was above the law. But when He became the Mediator of the covenant, it was necessary that He should be made under it. No angel ever knew what it was to be under the law, yet the Son, who was higher than angels, humbled Himself to become a debtor to do the whole law, and to be “**obedient unto death, even the death of the cross**” (Phil. 2:8). He was made under law for the sake of those under law and not from any personal obligation of His own.

Jesus Christ was subject to the ceremonial law. He was circumcised (Luke 2:21) and presented to the Lord in the temple (Luke 2:22). He kept the feasts of tabernacles and the Passover (Matt. 26:2, 17; 27:15; Luke 22:1; John 4:45; 7:2, 8, 10-11, 14, 37). He also worshipped in the synagogue (Luke 4:16-28). He is never said to have offered a sacrifice for sins as He had none.

The Son of God was under the moral law. He lived it every day of His life on earth. In all He spoke, or did, or thought, He honored it. He kept it in all its extents, perfectly, and without fault (John 8:46). This is why none of His accusers (John 18:38; 19:4, 6), nor the prince of this world (John 14:30), could find any fault in Him. Of Christ Peter said: “**. . .who did not sin**” (I Pet. 2:22).

We must not think that the words, “**made under the law,**” signify no more than that Christ was born a Jew and therefore He was obligated to keep the moral and ceremonial laws of the Jews. Much more is meant by these words in the case of Christ. It means that He

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was made under the law as the surety of His people. God the Father made Him subject to the precepts and penalty of the law so He could fulfill all its claim for us. He was subject to it with a view to that meritorious obedience by which we are accounted righteous (Rom. 5:19). He bore the penalty of it, death, in our room and stead. He was under the law as the great sacrifice for sin, who should atone for transgressions, bear the dreadful curse, and thus magnify the law and make it honorable. By fulfilling it, He delivered us from its curse and condemnation. By facing the death-doom of the law Christ conquered the law for us and secured our adoption as sons.

## THE DESIGN OF THE MISSION OF THE SON

**“To redeem them that were under the law. . .”** Some render this expression from the Greek “that he might redeem.” These words certainly point to both the ceremonial and moral laws of God given to the Jews. Christ came to redeem them from that intolerable yoke of bondage. He came to deliver them from the bondage of the ceremonial law and the curse and condemnation of the moral law. But **“them that were under the law”** must not be limited to Jews only. No one but an antinomian heretic would ever dare to do such a thing. To deny that the Gentiles were under the law of God is to also say that they needed no redemption because they could not be sinners without law (I John 3:4; Rom. 4:15).

The Gentiles were also transgressors of the moral law of God, and they equally need redemption from their sins. The Gentiles had no written law, but they were under the law of nature (Rom. 2:14-15). Gentiles were guilty of what they knew to be wrong, and when their conscience operated it caused them to see they were under condemnation. All the world of both Jew and Gentile are transgressors of the moral law and guilty before God (Rom. 3:9-19). The only way to escape from the curse of the law is by Divinely ordained redemption. To redeem a people from the curse of the moral law and the wrath of God, Jesus Christ died at Calvary and suffered the penal consequences of sin with its curse and wages. The cross was the fulfillment of the law and the expiation of sin. Christ at the cross redeemed us from the bondage in which transgression had placed us and from which we were subjected by the curse.

**THE RESULTS OF REDEMPTION**  
**“ . . . That we should receive the adoption of sons.”** This sonship is based on redemption. Liberal scholars teach that Christ came to reveal the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. But the holy Scriptures never

state that He came and suffered and died to make these things known to men. He came to redeem us that we might receive the adoption of sons. All men are God’s creatures, but only those who have been reconciled to God by the death of His Son have the true spirit of sonship (Gal. 4:6). Sonship implies family likeness.

The Greek implies the suitability of the thing as long ago predestinated by God. It means to receive as something destined or due (Luke 23:41; II John 8). The sons of men are made sons of God because the Son of God was made the Son of man. Divine adoption has three foundations. First, it is by the free grace of God (Eph. 1:6). Second, it is by incarnation as seen in my text. Third, it is by the resurrection of Christ (I Pet. 1:3).

This does not merely mean sonship, but it also means son-position. It means to be brought nigh to God, to be reconciled to Him, to form a part of His family, to bear His likeness, to possess His favor, and to enjoy Him forever. It refers to the privilege of adoption and the inheritance we are adopted to receive. These things are received in consequence of Christ’s redemption, and those who receive one will receive the other.

The last clause, **“that we might receive the adoption of sons,”** embraces all Christians, whether Jew or Gentile. The **“we”** means we who have believed in the name of the Son of God (John 1:12; Gal. 3:26). It is by believing in Jesus Christ that we are brought to see our interest in the present and eternal riches of His grace. By faith we are accounted and treated as sons grown up and admitted to larger privileges than when we were under tutors.

Adoption, as a blessing of Divine grace, existed before it was received by faith. From all eternity God designed the elect to the position and privileges of sons. We were predestinated unto the adoption of sons, according to the good pleasure of His will before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4-5). It was provided and laid up for us in the before-time covenant and is a part of the grace given us in Christ. But sin entered into those predestinated to sonship. The broken law threw an obstacle in the way of God’s elect receiving and enjoying this privilege. Therefore, Christ was sent to redeem them from sin and the law. Faith in time does not make any sons of God, but it is by faith we receive the power or authority from God through Christ, under the witness of the Holy Spirit, whereby we realize our privilege and right to the heavenly inheritance.

## CONCLUSION

It was the incarnation of Christ which brought in the fullness of times. He came to redeem a people by paying the ransom price of His own precious blood. To accomplish this, He was made of a woman and made under the law, and thus undertook all His brethren’s

responsibilities. Having obeyed the precepts of the law and having paid its penalty of death for our disobedience, He redeemed us from the curse of the law and secured our adoption as sons.

All men are under the authority of the moral law. All are guilty of being transgressors of the law. All are concluded in unbelief. All are perishing sinners before God. All need redemption and sonship. A great multitude is destined to enjoy both redemption and sonship. If so many are destined, then why not you? Do you have a saving interest in these blessings? Have you been made free from the law of being made righteous in Christ (Rom. 8:3)?

Ask not whether you are predestinated to sonship. Don’t call upon an angel in Heaven to search the book of life to see if your name is written there before the foundation of the world. These things can only be known after you believe the gospel. The real question is, “Do you believe in Jesus Christ the Savior?” The Bible says: **“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”** (John 1:12). Galatians 3:26 declares: **“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”** If you have the faith of God’s elect you are one of those He predestinated to sonship. Therefore, if you believe in Christ, rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory!



# Arminian Verses?

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call. The outward call is given by man and is often rejected but the inward call is the effectual call of the Holy Spirit given to one of God’s elect and the response is always repentance and faith. Arminius taught that we can repent and believe on Christ but fall away and finally be unsaved. Calvin said no, once a person is truly saved, he will persevere in faith and holiness being preserved by the power of God.

Now, I said all of that to say this. Some time ago I received a letter from a church in Texas. The letter was a response to some questions I asked them about their doctrinal beliefs. They said, “We do not teach or preach Calvinism, believing the Lord meant what He said in John 3:16, I John 2:2, II Pet. 3:9 etc. We believe the Bible, studied in context and rightly divided, does not teach Calvinism.” I would like for us to take our Bibles now and rightly divide these verses and study each one of them in its context to see in which school of theology it fits most comfortably.

I was reminded when I first read the above portion of that letter, of an incident that happened several years ago. A young preacher friend of mine came to

me frustrated by the constant misuse of certain verses of Scripture by some of the weak, milk toast messages he had heard about that time and he said, “I am sick and tired of all these Arminian preachers always quoting their Arminian verses.” Beloved, that was a major slip of the tongue. I submit to you that there are no Arminian verses in the Bible.

Before we get into the verses in question, let me say that I don’t know of any real Baptists that are true Arminians. Arminianism and Calvinism are the only two consistent systems of theology to choose from in Christendom and Baptists have historically always been Calvinistic. It is true that there are a number of inconsistent fellows that have departed from the truth of salvation by the free grace of God in favor of the doctrine of salvation by the free will of man but even the most militant of these do not forsake all five points of the doctrines of grace. I had a fellow tell me quite proudly, a while back, that he was a Calminian. Folks, Calvinism and Arminianism don’t mix. They are like oil and water. If you try and mix them, all you will get is an emulsified theological mess.

Consider now John 3:16. What does it teach? First of all, the thing that is to be stressed and emphasized in this verse is the love of God. Not the objects of God’s love, but God’s LOVE. It is not so much WHO He loves but HOW He loves. God SO loved, that He gave His only begotten Son. We miss so much when we emphasize the wrong things. The word world in this verse comes from the Greek word *cosmos*. Very seldom does this word ever mean every individual with out exception. Get out your concordance and your Bible and study it for yourself. It is almost always used in a limited sense. There is the world of the lost (James 4:4), the world of believers (John 3:16-17), the world of Gentiles as opposed to the Jews (Romans 11:11-12), the world of the pre-flood people (II Peter 2:5), and so on.

But what about Revelation 22:17? Here is another verse that is greatly abused by modern day free-willers, whether they are Arminians or Calminians. To tell you the truth, I have more respect for an Arminian than a Calminian. At least the Arminian is consistent in what he believes, as wrong as he is. Free-willers imply that this verse teaches that everyone in the world has the power to come to God and God is leaving it up to them. Nowhere does it teach any such thing. Notice that it says whosoever WILL. Not whosoever, but whosoever WILL. This, like John 3:16, is not a general atonement verse but a limited atonement verse. John 3:16 speaks not of every individual without exception, it is for believers and believers only. And so it is with Revelation 22:17. It is not for every individual without

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exception, it is ONLY for those who are willing and no one else. Who, pray tell, is willing? Listen to what Jesus said about the depraved will of the natural man. John 5:40, **“And ye will not come to me that ye might have life.”** That is the state of man left to himself and his so-called freewill. But God says in Psalms 110:3, **“Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power.”** Yes, whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely and him that is athirst let him come. That is exactly what the elect of God will do in God’s own good time.

Now, what about I John 2:2? Does this verse teach a universal atonement? Keep in mind what we have already seen about the word world, or *cosmos*, and how it is almost always used in a limited sense. Studying this verse in its context then, we see that John, the writer, was an Apostle to the Jews according to Galatians 2:9. The Jews commonly referred to the Gentiles as the world as in Romans 11:12 and 15. Therefore the most consistent interpretation of I John 2:2 in connection with the context of the New Testament is that John was simply stating the truth that salvation was now being freely given to not only the Jews alone, but to Jews and Gentiles alike. To use this verse in any way to suggest a general atonement is to strip it from its context and is not rightly dividing the Word of God.

Finally, what about II Peter 3:9? Oh how we love to study the context of this verse and read it in its context, which is what the free-willers never do. They tell us that God does not want anyone in the world to die in their sins and that He wants every individual to come to faith in Christ. If that is true, why are people perishing right and left? Is God not able to accomplish His will? Nay! The true God of the Bible is more powerful than that. Back up and get this verse in its context. Look at I Peter 1:1&2. Peter is writing to the ELECT. That is who the **“usward”** is in II Peter 3:9. Start at verse one of this chapter and read it again for yourself. Peter is not saying that God wants with all His heart to save every individual without exception. He is saying that the only reason why Christ has not come back yet is because there are still some of the **“usward”** (the elect of God) who must yet be born again. Who knows how many there are that are going to be saved before Jesus comes again at His second coming?

According to the Scriptures and the signs of the times, we are living in the very last days. Surely the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. We believe the coming of the Lord is imminent. How is it with you? Can you sing with the rest of the **“usward”** it is well with my soul? I pray that God would be willing to make you

willing to repent and believe the gospel. Oh that God would grant to you right here and now the grace that you need to receive Christ as your personal Savior. AMEN.



## Six Things Every

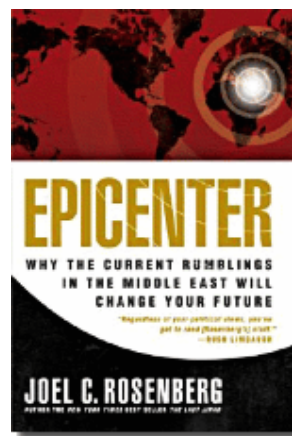
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**third day according to the scriptures...** (italics CP) Are you keeping in memory – is it your faith constant and continual in looking to the finished work of Jesus Christ at Golgotha as your Substitute? Or are you looking to and depending upon your own good works and religious experiences to keep you saved?

It is not the purpose of this present article to question whether or not the modern phenomena of tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy, etc., are of the same sort as those spoken of in the Bible. Let us assume that the modern day tongues, etc., are genuine. That having been said, please consider the following six things.

**One: Speaking in tongues does not mean that the speaker is spiritual.** Almost without exception, today’s Pentecostal thinks that tongues is the evidence of having either the baptism of or the filling by the Holy Spirit and they think that those who speak in tongues are more spiritual than other Christians who do not speak in tongues. They think this in spite of what the Bible says. Think about this: Paul wrote to the Lord’s Church in Corinth where speaking in tongues and all the other sign-gifts existed. He indicated that this Church had all the gifts when he wrote: **“So that ye come behind in no gift...”** (1 Cor. 1:7). They had all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but they were not spiritual! Paul said they were not! He wrote to them and said: **“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”** (1 Cor. 3:3)(italics CP). Thinking that speaking in tongues is proof that an individual or a church is spiritual is wrong thinking according to the Bible! Here was a Church that had all the gifts, but it was carnal. Paul said they were walking or living like unsaved people! There were divisions among them. They were carnal!

So then the idea that speaking in tongues or having any or all of today’s popular sign-gifts means that a person or a church is spiritual is a false idea and not according to the Bible at all. There are biblical evidences of spirituality, but having spiritual gifts and using them is not such an evidence! When will Pentecostals cease thinking that tongues speakers are more spiritual than those who do not speak in tongues? When will they think and say what the Bible says on this point?



### Epicenter

by Joel C. Rosenberg

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**Two: Speaking in tongues does not mean that the speaker is spiritually mature.** To this same church in the city of Corinth – the Church with all the gifts of the Spirit, Paul wrote: **“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ”** (1 Cor. 3:1)(italics CP). These Church members could speak in tongues, interpret tongues, prophecy, etc., but they were babies spiritually. They were such spiritually immature babies that Paul could not teach them the doctrines of the Bible that they needed to hear in order to be established in the truth. He wrote: **“I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able”** (1 Cor. 3:2)(italics CP). Their doctrine was wrong, and incomplete, because they were so babyish that they could not or would not receive the teaching of the Word of God. They, like natural babies, had to have milk given to them because they could not receive and understand the deep things of the Word of God – things that Paul likens to meat. Are modern Pentecostals also babyish in their understanding of Bible doctrines? According to the Bible it is a wrong conclusion to think that having or exercising the gifts of the Spirit means that a person or a church is spiritually mature.

Paul exhorts the Church at Corinth to be mature in their understanding. He wrote, **“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men”** (1 Cor. 14:20)(italics CP). In other words, Paul said, “Grow up! Put the emphasis on Bible truth and not on speaking in tongues!” When will our Pentecostal friends see and say that spiritual babies can speak in tongues and that such people need to grow up in knowledge of the Word of God?

**Three: Speaking in tongues is not to take place in church services except there be an interpreter present.** Often Pentecostal churches allow people to speak in tongues regardless of the circumstances. But this is contrary to the Word of God and thus contrary to the revealed will of God, for Paul wrote: **“If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God”** (1 Cor. 14:27, 28)(italics CP). Notice that only two or at the most three men (not women!) were to be allowed to speak in tongues in any one church service and that if no interpreter was present the tongues-speakers were to remain silent, speaking only in their hearts to themselves and to God. The words written by Paul are not optional! Churches do not have a choice in the matter if they would obey God! Tongues speakers are to be limited in number and then allowed only if someone is present who can interpret. When will Pentecostal churches begin to practice using their gifts according to Bible rules?

**Four: Speaking in tongues in church services is not for women.** While I have observed that most of the people who speak in tongues in Pentecostal and Charismatic gatherings are women, this is a sin according to the Word of God. Paul writes: **“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church”** (1 Cor. 14:34, 35)(italics CP). Now this next statement may come as a shock to the reader. Women are not to preach, to testify, to read poetry, to pray aloud, to prophecy, to speak in tongues, or to interpret tongues, or to have any speaking ministry in the church services! What a shame it is when women are allowed to speak aloud whether it be in a Baptist Church or a Pentecostal or Charismatic gathering! Dishonor is brought to the Lord by such behavior! The reader is asked to notice that the above quoted statement is in the same context with

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## Six Things Every

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the other regulations regarding speaking in tongues, but is also applicable to other activities as well. When will Pentecostal churches begin to obey the Lord's Word and require that their women **"keep silence in the churches"**? (italics CP) Paul wrote to his co-worker, Timothy, saying, **"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence"** (I Tim. 2:11, 12)(italics CP). The women are not to be only in partial subjection to the men, but in **"all subjection"** neither teaching nor speaking for they are **"to be in silence."** When will Pentecostals begin to teach that women are to remain silent in their meetings? When will they begin to enforce the rules set down by God regarding women?

**Five: Speaking in tongues is not a sign to believers.** Pentecostals and Charismatics of our day insist that speaking in tongues is the evidence of the Holy Spirit. Whether they speak of this gift as evidence of the baptism of the Spirit or of the filling of the Spirit, all insist that speaking in tongues is the evidence to believers that they have the Holy Spirit. Pentecostals insist that they must hear themselves or that others must hear them speak in tongues as proof that they have the Holy Spirit. They make speaking in tongues a sign to believers, as any honest person will admit. But the Word of God says: **"Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not..."** (1 Cor. 14:22)(italics CP). To say or think that tongues is a sign to believers when the Bible says otherwise is to pervert the Word of God and make tongues an unscriptural sign. Thus modern Pentecostals have perverted the purpose for which tongues were originally given. We would rejoice to hear that our Pentecostal friends are no longer teaching the error that tongues are a sign to believers! When will they begin to teach this and to insist that their people look scripturally at tongues?

**Six. Speaking in tongues is not as important as speaking in a known language if the Word of God is preached.** Paul said that he could speak in more languages than all of the tongues speakers in Corinth. He testified to this, saying, **"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all..."** (1 Cor. 14:18). Whether he referred to his learned knowledge in languages or to a spiritual gift is not clear here, but what is clear is that speaking to the Church in a language known unto them is more important than speaking in tongues. He wrote, **"Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an**

**unknown tongue"** (1 Cor. 14:19)(italics CP). Paul said that speaking words in a known language is 2,000 times more important than speaking in a language unknown to the hearers! This is the mathematical ratio of 5 words to 10,000 words. Is this not a clear exhortation to put the emphasis on teaching the truths of the Bible rather than in speaking in tongues? Let me ask this question, if I may: Do Pentecostal Churches spend 2,000 more minutes in their church meetings in preaching Bible truth than they do in speaking in tongues, etc.? Is the teaching of the Word of God looked

upon as 2,000 times more important than exercising the gift of speaking in tongues?

We could present other areas in which we believe Pentecostal people to be in error, but these six surely prove that there is a great need among Pentecostal people to begin to obey the rules of the Bible in the area of their practice of tongues and other things that they regard as spiritual gifts. Our prayer is that God might give grace and understanding to all whom God has chosen.



## Cunningly Devised Myths

By Rosco Brong  
(1908 - 1985)

**"For not having followed out cunningly devised myths we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but having become eyewitnesses of his majesty"** (II Pet. 1:16, literal translation).

Satan's ministers (II Cor. 11:15) talk much nowadays about the "myths" of the Bible. From seminary chairs occupied by infidels wearing a cloak of Christianity, and from pulpits occupied by their disciples, the prince of darkness, masquerading as an angel of light, sends forth a ceaseless stream of propaganda to the effect that we are not to take the Bible seriously in a historical sense---that it is largely a book of myths---myths, indeed, which may convey some valuable spiritual instruction, just as moral lessons may be drawn from Aesop's fables---but nevertheless myths.

When Bible believers not yet inured against shock at such blasphemy express their horror of these doctrines of devils, there comes an immediate protest of innocence of evil intent. The use of the word "myth" we are told, does not necessarily mean that the user intends to cast doubt upon the truth of the "story." And we are supposed to be ignorant enough to believe that these false teachers are ignorant enough to use words calculated to destroy the faith which they still believe even while they deny it in both practice and precept.



### A MONSTROUS MIRACLE

One thing harder to believe and understand than all the miracles of the Bible is that an educated and otherwise intelligent man can be sincere in professing to worship a God Whose word he flagrantly denies. But, whither sincere or not, such a man is none the less wrong, and an instrument of Satan of whom God's people need to beware.

The real myths of religion are not to be found in the Bible, but come forth from the depraved minds of wicked men under the inspiration of Satan. Let us look at a few popular religious myths current in our day---part of Satan's bag of tricks used by his ministers to deceive unwary Christians.

### THAT GOD MIGHT LIE

Of course, the devil is too smart to call God a liar in so many words: put so boldly, the idea would be as shocking to God's people who know something of His true character that they would immediately recognize Satan as the real liar and blasphemer that he is and flee from his presence.

No: Satan's method is merely to cast the shadow of doubt upon God's Word, and in effect to deny it by propagating lies---usually with enough mixture of

truth to make the lies plausible to the simpleminded. This was his method in the Garden of Eden, and it worked so well that he has been using it ever since.

### THAT THE BIBLE IS MYTHICAL

A sneakier snare for silly souls is Satan's suggestion that, though it may be true that God Himself cannot lie (Heb. 6:18); Titus 1:2), yet we have no sure way of knowing God: the Bible, Satan and his ministers tell us, is just another book, better than most, perhaps, but still just a collection of religious writings by well meaning men who learned of their experiences and ideas.

Of course, we are told in effect, these good men of old did not have all the advantages of modern scholarship. Still, considering their limitations, they had some pretty good ideas (rather primitive, naturally) and we can learn a few things from their imperfect gropings for the truth---though not as much as they might learn from us if they were fortunate enough to live in our enlightened age---and so on, and on, ad nauseam.

Now, the Bible represents itself to be the pure Word of God, and if it is not so it is a fearful fraud. Even while we pity we can have some respect for an honest infidel, but it is hard to either pity or respect the hypocrite that in one breath pretends to regard the Bible as a sacred book and in another pronounces it full of error.

Take thy choice, thou hypocritical denier of God's Word: if God be God, believe Him; if His Word be not true, claim not to believe in any god worthy of a creature's worship. But if thou do so claim, know even so that God's people who know His truth may recognize the falseness of thy pretensions.

### THAT OTHERS MUST INTERPRET FOR US

Baptists through the centuries have shed their blood for the principle of soul liberty---the freedom and competence of the individual soul to approach God directly through Jesus Christ as revealed in His word, without the necessity of any other mediator or of any authoritative teacher except the Holy Spirit. But now we hear from so-called Baptists the strange Catholic doctrine that ordinary Christians cannot understand the Bible: that some higher authority in this world must interpret for us and we are bound to accept that interpretation.

I have heard a Baptist Sunday School "teacher" stumbling through the comments in a "quarterly," hardly able to read, but practically sure that the comments were inspired and infallible. I have heard a Baptist "preacher" with a seminary degree for whom the answer to any theological question is to be found in what "Dr. Big Name" said. Such "teachers" and "preachers" may be far apart educationally, but spiritually they are equally to be pitied.

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## Tune in to the Berea Baptist Broadcast

| STATION                            | TIME                            | DIAL          | WATTS     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| WFTA, Tupelo, MS.....              | Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....     | 101.9.....    | 3,000 FM  |
| WCNA, Myrtle, MS.....              | Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....     | 95.9.....     | 3,000 FM  |
| WCTT, Corbin, KY.....              | Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....     | 680.....      | 5,000 AM  |
| KARI, Blaine, WA.....              | Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m..... | 550.....      | 5,000 AM  |
| DXUM, Davao City, Philippines..... | Sunday 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.....     | 819 Khz.....  | 10,000 AM |
| DXDS, Digos City, Philippines....  | Sunday 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.....   | 1161 Khz..... | 1,000 AM  |



## Cunningly Devised

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Jesus said: **"If anyone is willing to do his [God's] will, he shall know of the doctrine"** (John 7:17). See also I John 2:18-27.

### THAT CHRIST'S CHURCH HAS FAILED

A myth almost universally believed and enthusiastically propagated by the ministers of Satan is the fable that the church which Jesus established to carry on His work utterly failed, but that the imaginary "invisible church" of human vanity or the counterfeit "churches" of human invention are doing a better job and will soon "bring in the kingdom."

Catholics and Protestants agree on the myth that Catholicism is the oldest existing "church," but most Protestants "protest" that Catholicism is apostate rather than apostolical Christianity. Baptists ignorant of their heritage join in the chorus, allowing themselves to be wrongly classed with Protestants.

Jesus sarcastically reproved the Pharisees for acknowledging as their fathers the ancient persecutors of the prophets, adding in bitter irony: **"Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers"** (Matt. 23:29-32). It is no accident, but a natural consequence, that so-called Baptists who claim a Catholic ancestry show strong tendencies toward Catholic-style organization and practice.

### THAT HUMAN PROGRAMS CAN SUCCEED

Characteristic of those who despise the quiet operations of the Spirit of God is the myth that human plans and programs can succeed where the Word and Spirit of God have failed. To such people it is unbelievable that Baptist churches preserved a ministry and testimony faithful to the Word of God for eighteen centuries before there was a Southern Baptist Convention, and to many Southern Baptists it is incredible that Southern Baptists carried on worldwide missionary work for generations before there was a "Cooperative Program."

So not only among Baptists but among Christians generally the people who have least faith in the promises and in the revealed purposes of God and most ready to put their faith in human plans and programs, making these things their idols instead of turning back to God.

Diana of the Ephesians (Acts 19:23-28) commanded no more devotion of her craftsmen than to modern hierarchical denominations of their blind followers.

### THAT WE CAN AVOID RESPONSIBILITY

When all else has failed, Satan quiets the consciences of Bible believers with the myth that we can shift to some church, committee, or board the responsibility for the heresies we abhor. Not so. **"Every one of us shall give account of himself**

**to God"** (Rom. 14:12).

Even a church, even a true church of the Lord Jesus, has no rightful dominion over the conscience of an individual member, who must in the end **"bear his own burden"** (Gal. 6:5). So when our Lord was shut out of His own church at Laodicea, He appealed for fellowship with the individual members (Rev. 3:14-22).

Much less does any board or commission, originally created by messengers of the churches to serve as agencies of the churches, have the right to demand support of a program well calculated to destroy what these churches have believed and stood for in past years. Well may we ask today, as Moses asked of old, **"Who is on the Lord's side"** (Ex. 32:26)?



## From the Pen of a Country Preacher

Milburn R. Cockrell  
(1941 - 2002)



## Christ Our Mediator

### Part Two

**"For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both"** (Job 9:32-33).

Here Job speaks highly of God and humbly of himself. He complains because there was no man on earth qualified to arbitrate matters between him and God. And well might we all declare that among the children of men there is not a man upon earth who can execute the office of a daysman between us and God. None can act as an umpire between the children of ungodliness and the Lawgiver whom we have so deeply offended. There is no common man who can stand in the place of a mediator and lay his hand upon us both.

It is because of this condition of men on earth that God chose Christ to be a mediator between God and man. In our last lesson we saw how that the mediator had to be a man to mediate in behalf of men. Today I want to show how that He must also be God to be a qualified mediator between God and man.

### HE MUST BE GOD

It was not enough for the mediator to be truly a man, nor merely an innocent person. To redeem fallen man He must be more than a man, for a man cannot redeem other men. He must be God in nature, for a mere man could not satisfy infinite justice. The obedience and suffering of an innocent man could not have been

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meritorious. It was the union of the Divine nature with the human nature that put a meritorious efficacy in His sacrifice.

First, the mediator had to be God that He might be able to draw nigh to God and treat with Him about the terms of peace. A mere man who is a sinner cannot approach unto God. I Timothy 6:16 tells us that God dwells **"in the light which no man can approach unto."** By the pen of Jeremiah it is written: **"...for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the LORD"** (Jer. 30:21). No one is qualified to mediate between a holy God and an unholy man, but Jehovah's fellow. In Zechariah 13:7 Christ is called by God the Father **"my fellow."** This expression indicates the Divine nature of Christ, who is near and equal with God the Father.

Second, the mediator must be God because of the evil of sin He was to expiate. Sin is committed against an infinite God, and it deserves infinite punishment. The mediator must **"put away sin by the sacrifice of himself"** (Heb. 9:26). Therefore, His atonement had to be of infinite worth to satisfy the infinite majesty of Heaven.

Third, Jesus Christ to be our daysman had to be God in order to bear in His body and soul the great weight of sin and wrath laid upon Him. If the weight of one sin was laid by God upon a mere man, it would sink him down to the lowest Hell. The psalmist cried: **"For mine iniquities**

**are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden because they are too heavy for me"** (Ps. 38:4). Much more would the weight of the sins of all God's elect have sunk down our Lord Jesus Christ when laid upon Him, had He not been God. Upon His Divine shoulders the Lord God **"laid upon him the iniquity of us all"** (Isa. 53:6). Peter wrote: **"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed"** (I Pet. 2:24). No mere man could have done such work.

Fourth, the mediator between God and man must be God to have power to redeem the covenant people. In Christ's body dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead (Col. 1:19; 2:9). The blood shed on Calvary was the blood of God (Acts 20:28). This is why His blood purchased grace and glory for His people. The mediator not only satisfied the justice of God as to His vindictive vengeance, but He also delivered our souls from Hell. But He did more than that. His sacrifice was of such infinite worth as to raise us up to Heaven (Eph. 2:6), make us sons of God (I John 3:1-2), and bestow upon us eternal glory (II Tim. 2:10). This is all because of the dignity of His Divine Person and the infinite worth of the purchase of His blood being God!

It was His divinity which gave value and virtue to His obedience and suffering. If He had been a mere man, His obedience and righteousness would not have been sufficient to justify many. Yet the Bible tells us we are **"justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"** (Rom. 3:24). Being God, as well as man, His righteousness is **"the righteousness of God"** (Rom. 1:17; 3:21). His blood is the blood of God, for God is said to purchase the church by His own blood in Acts 20:28. This is why the blood of Christ cleanses from all sin (I John 1:7) and obtained for us eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12).

Fifth, the mediator must be God to subdue and overcome all His enemies. What mere man could wrestle with Satan and overcome him and the powers of darkness? Not one! But the Godman triumphed over Satan and the powers of darkness through His cross (Col. 2:15). Our mediator destroyed **"the works of the devil"** (I John 3:8). What mere man could conquer death? Not one! But the Godman redeemed us from the power of death (Hos. 13:14). By His death He destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil (Heb. 2:14-15; I Cor. 15:26). None of this could have been done unless Christ was the eternal God.

Sixth, He must be God in respect to His work as the mediator in reference to man. As the mediator it was His responsibility to quicken all of God's elect who in the first Adam were dead

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# Christ Our

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in sins and trespasses. **“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins”** (Eph. 2:1; cf. Col. 2:13). John 5:21 informs us that **“the Son quickeneth whom he will.”** Christ was responsible to raise the covenant people from spiritual death and overcome the power of sin and Satan in them as well as for them.

Seventh, our daysman must be God to be an object of absolute trust to all His believing people. They must rely upon Him for peace and pardon, they must put their trust and confidence in Him for salvation and security. If He were a mere man and not God, this would have brought a curse upon them. In Jeremiah 17:5 the Lord said: **“Cursed be the man that trusteth in man. . . .”**

## DIVINITY SUFFERED

It was not some helpless martyr who suffered on Calvary's cross. It was the Godman. Divinity suffered the just for the unjust. If Jesus Christ was not Divine, then He cannot be an object of worship. To worship and adore a mere man is idolatry. The mediator is to be worshipped by men, not as a man, but as God. To deny the essential Divinity of Christ is to rob the cross of its Divine Christ. It is to dethrone the Slain Lamb from the midst of the throne and fill the vacant seat with a man for the homage of the redeemed and the adoration of the holy angels!

There are some theological schoolmen who contend that it is impossible for a Divine Person, as the Son of God, to suffer grief and to pour out His soul unto death. But this is precisely what the Bible says that our mediator did for us. How then can mortals deny that Divinity can suffer pain and grief, even if He wished and desired to do so!

The Scriptures speak plainly of this humiliation and degradation of the Divine Son of God. **“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man”** (Heb. 2:9). This is the same Jesus Who was infinitely above all the angels of God. Before He voluntarily degraded Himself by clothing His Divinity in our flesh, He emptied Himself of the honor and glory He had with the Father before the world was.

Paul wrote: **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”** (Phil. 2:5-8). Our Divine

mediator suffered at Calvary and atoned for our sins. If He was not Divine, then we are yet in our sins and without hope.

## THE MEDIATOR MUST BE THE GODMAN

There are certain works of Christ as the mediator in which both natures are seen. The incarnation itself manifested both natures. It was the eternal Son of God Who partook of flesh and blood. It was the Word Who was with God in the beginning Who was made flesh (John 1:1, 14). It is the One equal with God Who was found in fashion as a man and took the form of a servant. In the person of Jesus Christ **“God was manifest in the flesh”** (I Tim. 3:16).

In the obedience of Christ both natures were seen. The two natures were obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Hebrews 5:8 says: **“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.”** It was the Divine nature which gave virtue to Christ's obedience and made the law honorable. In Romans 5:19 Paul said: **“. . . so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”**

In the act of laying down His life for the sheep both natures are seen. The human nature was passive in this. It was the Divine Person Who laid down His life of Himself. The eternal Son of God offered His blood **“through the eternal Spirit”** --His Divine nature (Heb. 9:14). He said: **“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again”** (John 10:17-18). It was the Divine Christ Who raised up His human nature from the dead. In Romans 1:3-4 Paul declared: **“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”** Peter tells us that Christ was **“put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit”** ---His Divine nature (I Pet. 3:18).

## BOTH NATURES IN ONE PERSON

It was not only necessary that the mediator be God and man, but it was also essential that the two natures be united in one Person. The Son was a Divine Person before He took upon Himself a human nature. What He assumed was a nature, not a person. It is called **“that holy thing”** (Luke 1:35) and **“the seed of Abraham”** (Heb. 2:16). Had the human nature been a person, then there would have been two persons in Christ. This would have made two mediators, a thing contrary to Scripture. **“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”** (I Tim. 2:5).

If the human nature was a person it would have been a finite person. Such a

finite person would not have been able to draw near to God and make a covenant of peace with Him. This finite person's sufferings would have had no virtue and value in them to justify men and atone for sin. But these two natures are united in the Person of Christ so that the works and actions of either, though distinct and peculiar to each, belong to the whole Person. This personal union gave virtue and dignity to whatever was done in the human nature. This is what gives power and virtue to the mediation of Christ.

## THE PERSONS HE MEDIATES FOR

The persons for whom Christ mediates is variously described in the Bible. They are said in I Timothy 2:5 to be **“men.”** Good angels need no mediator, and none is provided for bad angels. By **“men”** in I Timothy 2:5 we must not understand all men without exception, but all men without distinction. Christ is the mediator for the men for whom He made reconciliation and for whom He now makes intercession. Of the mediator Isaiah said: **“. . . he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors”** (Isa. 53:12). In Romans 8:34 it is written: **“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”** Christ does not make intercession for the non-elect. In John 17 He said: **“I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine”** (v. 9).

Christ is a mediator for those He represented in the covenant of peace. The Scripture says that all for whom He mediates receive eternal inheritance: **“And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance”** (Heb. 9:15). So the persons for whom Christ acts as a mediator by means of death for the redemption of their transgressions receive an eternal inheritance. This can only be those who are actually saved by Christ. He does not mediate for men who die in their sins unreconciled to God. The damned in Hell have no mediator; for if they did, they would not be in Hell.

## SOME GLORIES OF HIS MEDIATION

The mediation of Christ is always effectual. His work ever succeeds and is infallible. His intercession is never in vain. He said to the Father in John 11:42: **“And I knew that thou hearest me always. . . .”** He saves those who come to Him **“to the uttermost”** (Heb. 7:25). Christ agreed to make peace in the covenant and He actually did it. **“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For**

**he is our peace. . . .”** (Eph. 2:13-14). Our mediator did not try to reconcile a few people to God, He actually did reconcile a people to God. **“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life”** (Rom. 5:10).

Our mediator is no failure. He did not make some unsuccessful attempt at putting away sin, but He **“put away sin by the sacrifice of himself”** (Heb. 9:26). His works as the mediator did not slightly heal our spiritual sicknesses. The Bible says that by His stripes we were actually healed (I Pet. 2:24). Arminians have a mediator who is a failure in that He is unable to bring some men to peace with God. A mediator must bring both parties to peace, and if he does not, he is a failure. Such can never be said of Christ, for Isaiah said of Him: **“He shall not fail nor be discouraged. . . .”** (Isa. 42:4). Yet Arminians have the audacity to affirm that the Godman in His office of a mediator has tried to bring peace to a multitude of sinners and has utterly failed in His work!

Our Lord Jesus Christ is an everlasting mediator. He was such in the before-time covenant. He was such through the old dispensation, for Old Testament saints were saved by the mediation of Christ as much as the new. Christ is now sitting at the right hand of the Father in Heaven as our mediator. His blood always speaks peace and pardon, **“seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them”** (Heb. 7:25) who come to God by Him. Even in the Millennium Christ will be a priest upon His throne (Zech. 6:13), administering the covenant of peace.

## ONLY ONE MEDIATOR

**“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”** (I Tim. 2:5). There is not one mediator for kings and another for subjects, one for rich men and another for poor men, one for employers and another for employees. All are on the same level, for all there is but one mediator. Roman Catholics plead for other mediators such as Mary, angels, and departed saints. They distinguish between a mediator of redemption and a mediator of intercession. The former they say belongs only to Christ, the latter is common to angels and saints. But the Bible teaches that there is but one mediator of redemption and intercession. Prayer offered to the saints and to the virgin Mary is idolatry. It is a cruel attempt to remove the One great mediator from the office which He alone holds. Christ only can make intercession with God. There are no more two mediators than there are two Gods! **“For there is ONE God, and ONE mediator. . . .”** (Emphasis MRC).

How beautifully Christ's mediation harmonizes with the gospel plan of

♦ (Continued on page 328)



# CELLBLOCK TO CELLBLOCK

By David G. Hoffman

Encouragement and thoughts from a prisoner to other prisoners and readers.

**"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried" (Rev. 2:10).**



## "... Seventy Times Seven..."

Greetings, grace, and peace to you, dear reader. May this find you doing as well as can be expected and blessed through it all.

As I said last month, nothing in a Texas prison is a sure thing until it's a done deal! I still have not gone to the Culinary Arts class. However, I did find out that I am actually on the waiting list to go. The new kitchen captain said he couldn't tell me exactly when my class would start, but I am definitely on the list.

Please keep this class in your prayers for me. I'm very excited about starting formal culinary training and can't wait to get started.

In the meantime, I'm getting more proficient in my job as the second 1<sup>st</sup> shift meat cook. My co-worker has trained me well and has begun to ask my opinion about our meals instead of telling me what to do. I'm taking that as a sign he has begun to trust my ability as a cook. I still defer to his judgment. After all, he is the head cook and a graduate of the Culinary Arts class I'm waiting to take. But it sure feels great when he asks me what I think about something we're going to do.

On another note, my academic classes are going well. This semester is just about over and I found out I'll be here for at least one more semester before I go to the culinary class. I couldn't find out exactly when my culinary class begins but I did find out the current class just started in March so I'll be here until the end of August. I'm hoping my class will be the one starting in September but I'll just have to wait and see.

Please continue to pray for me, dear reader, as I face each new day within the walls and fences, blooming where the Lord planted me. Grace be with all who love the Lord in sincerity.

\*\*\*\*\*

Now I would like to direct your attention to Matthew 18:21-22, **"Then came Peter to him [Jesus], and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."**

Did the Lord literally mean to forgive your brother 490 times? What if your brother sinned against you 491 times? Does that mean he finally sinned beyond forgiveness?

I don't think so.

I've heard it told that the number seven in the Bible is the number of perfection, of completeness. And the phrase, **"seventy times seven"** doesn't literally mean 490 times, but is understood as innumerable times. This explanation holds up to the rest of the Bible's teaching of forgiving one another as Christ forgave us.

If we, sinners by nature, can be forgiven by the Lord Who knew no sin--how can we not forgive our brothers and sisters who are forgiven by the same Lord?

In short, we can't.

True, we are to admonish and try to correct a wayward brother or sister. But if forgiveness they seek, then forgiveness we should give.

Hold not a grudge against a seeming sin from a brother for the Lord did not hold a grudge against you when He had every right to do so. Think about it: if you're one of His, then your sin and my sin laid the rods and whips on His innocent back, and your sin and my sin drove the nails through His innocent hands and feet at the execution stake on that, as yet, darkest day in human history. He went through all of that to atone for your sin and my sin.

How can we not forgive those for whom the Lord endured so much to save?

\*\*\*\*\*

Krystal Ruthann, I love and miss you dearly. I pray all is well with you.

Bro. Jeff & family, I love you guys, too. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Bro. Harold, thank you for your continued letters and prayers.

Bro. Kevin, man, I wish you were here! If we gotta be in this place, I wish we were in the same place. I miss you, brother. Stay strong, you're still not alone.

Bro. Danny, what's the word on parole? Keep up the book project, the Lord blesses humble effort.

Until next month, grace be with you all!



## Christ Our Mediator

(Continued from page 327) ♦

salvation. Men do not deal directly with God. They can come to God through **"the man Christ Jesus."** During the days of His flesh our mediator declared: **"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"** (John 14:6). Paul wrote: **"For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father"** (Eph. 2:18).

To have the knowledge of salvation we must receive Him as our mediator and place our interest in His hands. To put the mediator away from you is to believe in the sufficiency of your own ability to make peace with God. Such action reflects upon the wisdom of God who graciously provided a mediator for sinners. It is an insult to the throne of His majesty and a challenge to Him who admits no compromise with sinners who violate His honor. Those who dare to do so are blind to the enormity of sin. It is equivalent to a formal announcement on your part that your performances, sinful and polluted as they are, are good enough for Heaven. It is a provoking contempt for mercy!

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



## Who We Were

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upon careful examination of these basic questions as to our past that we can realize a little more fully, what it is that God has truly done for us.

Mostly, I am writing to the Christian who might be reading this article. However, if you are unsaved and you are reading this message, let me urge you to consider all of these questions we are about to examine from a present perspective. I mean to say, that as far as those that are saved are concerned, I want each to consider our own past and despicable condition which we were in before Jesus Christ came unto us. Those who are unsaved, I want you to apply these questions to your present state---where are you now? What are you doing? Who are you? And, as you think on these things, I pray that God will impress upon you an answer that will show you your need of Jesus Christ as your Savior.

Before we get into these questions, and begin applying them to ourselves on an individual basis, let me read you some Scriptures that I want all of us to carry on our minds throughout this article. **"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and**

**sins; Wherein, in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus"** (Eph. 2:1-7).

### WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

You might not think that these questions we ask ourselves are actually answered in a direct manner in the Bible--but they are. When you ask yourself, **"Where have I been, or where was I,"** then you can look in the Scriptures and find the answer for your own personal condition, and for every man that has lived with the exception of Jesus Christ. In fact, you can look at the Scriptures which I have just read, and you can see there a description of where you were.

We read in Ephesians 2:2-3: **"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh. . ."** We can see that Paul tells the saints at Ephesus and all of the faithful in Christ Jesus (see Eph. 1:1) to remind yourself of the recipients of this Epistle, that they were in the **"past"** those that **"walked according to the course of this world,"** and that they were **"among. . .the children of disobedience."** This is something that I believe every child of God acknowledges when he comes to know the Lord Jesus Christ, and his own need of Him. Certainly, we were **"all"** of us (and Paul includes himself in this number) in the world. We were closely entwined with the elements of the world and of Satan himself. Where we were, is smack-dab in the middle of sin and self!

The Apostle Paul reminded the Colossians of this when he said to them, **"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked sometime, when ye lived in them"** (Col. 3:5-7). Apparently, Paul

♦ (Continued on page 329)



## Mini-Edition by Joseph Harris

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## I'm Just Thankful

What shall I render unto the Lord for all He has done for me? How can I ever repay His goodness, gifts, and blessings. Well, I can't. But I can sure try. Reflecting upon the goodness of God should overwhelm and humble each recipient. We often take for granted the "little" things in life, like life itself, good health, family, friends, and material blessings. I have tried to list a few things below for which I am extremely grateful.

I'm thankful that, in this nation founded on Christian principles from Scripture, we can still assemble and preach the Gospel of Jesus, which is the only answer to our sin problem.

I'm thankful that with the privilege of being a US citizen, I can own property and bear arms to protect my family, if needed.

I'm thankful that I can still make my small voice heard at the voting booth.

I'm thankful I live in America and not a country dominated by Islam.

I'm thankful that my wife loves me and supports my ministry work, and am especially thankful for our daughter and son.

I'm thankful for the prayers of God's people for one another in times of distress, trouble, heartache, sickness and mourning.

I'm thankful God called me to preach and placed me in a preaching/teaching ministry twenty five years ago.

I'm thankful for the hundreds of students in my college classes over the past 21 years, for teaching me as I taught them.

I'm thankful for my Christian heritage from a Godly preacher father and mother who are now in Heaven.

I'm thankful for my five brothers and sisters.

And last of all (no offence to Yankees here), I'm thankful I was born and bred in the south where I learned to hunt and eat squirrels and rabbits, set trot lines for catfish, gather eggs from the chicken yard, pluck chickens, eat cornbread dressing, grits, "taters," "mater" gravy and biscuits, learned to pick and shell peas and beans, raise corn and squash, bale and haul hay, run cows, fall asleep on the porch at night, hear good old fashioned preaching and singing in a country church, etc., etc. *Now that's living.*



## Who We Were

(Continued from page 328) ♦

is exhorting the Colossians by reminding them that they had once been among **"children of disobedience."** And he tells them that they had been walking among the things that are listed in Colossians 3:5. So, where we were, and where the Colossians and Ephesians were, was among the **"children of disobedience"** and among the works of the devil and the natural man.

If we go even farther, we can see another illustration of where it is that we were. The first verse of our text tells us, **"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins"** (Eph. 2:1). More than being lost and mired in sin, we were in fact **"dead in trespasses and sins."** This is a terrible thing to consider, but just as any man that is dead physically, so we were dead spiritually. And just as any man, humanly speaking, is without hope who is dead after the flesh, even so we were without hope that were dead spiritually. Brethren, we have great cause to rejoice in our Savior, for He has delivered us from death itself.

David said, when he prayed unto God, **"For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?"** (Ps. 56:13). David is praising the Lord for delivering his soul from certain death. And he is requesting that the Lord will continue to deliver him from the physical death that is always threatening us. This should be our prayer as well: We should thank and praise the Lord from delivering us from the death that awaited us---indeed the death that our spirit was already subject to---and we should seek the Lord's deliverance from the physical death that is all around us.

Consider the words of the Apostle Paul as he addressed the Corinthians: **"For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us"** (II Cor. 1:8-10). Paul acknowledges that it is God that delivers us from the death that is always near us, and the death that the world would like to bring to us. But, I think that we could say that Paul is also attributing any life that he has, and any hope of life that he has, both physical and spiritual, to the God of his salvation. We can see this in the words that he wrote, **"...that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered**

**us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us"** (II Cor. 1:9-10).

So, it is clear from these passages which we have read, our condition was, that where we were was dead, and in sin, and without hope. Just as Lazarus was dead in the grave, even so we were walking dead men and women. Remember that the Lord Jesus cried unto Lazarus, when he was dead, **"...Lazarus, come forth"** (John 11:43). Even so, the Lord Jesus came unto us, when we were dead, and He called unto us, and brought us unto life. **"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand"** (John 10:27).

### WHAT WE HAVE DONE

As you will see in this article, all of these questions we ask concerning our past are really very closely related. To answer this second question, "What We Have Done," we could just reiterate the point that we just went over, but look at it from the perspective of actively participating in the sins and wickedness of the place where we found we have been.

However, I want to begin our study in this point, with another portion of our text verses. We read in the middle portion of Ephesians 2:3, that we have done wickedly in that we have been **"...filling the desires of the flesh and of the mind..."**

Was there ever any good thing that you or I did in our former state? We see that we were in a place of wickedness and death. While we were there, what did we do? I am sure that you and I must acknowledge, if we will be honest with ourselves and God that the things which we did were never done in order to be pleasing to our God. There was never any good thing which we did, when we were in the place that we were. Moses said of the people in the time of the great flood, **"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"** (Gen. 6:5).

I will use some verses from Romans chapter three to describe who we were, but I want to use some verses there to describe what we have done. Paul said this of sinners: **"Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes"** (Rom. 3:13-18). Every work of our hands, every thought of our minds; every word of our lips, everything that we do, say, or think, is done for our own

benefit in our natural condition. (At least we can say that everything that we say, do, or think is not meant to glorify God or obey Him.)

### WHO WE WERE

I can see in our text verses, right immediately, at least two answers to this question of "Who We Were?" I can see no answer that is given in the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse of our text: **"...and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others"** (Eph. 2:3). We were not good people, when God came to us. (In fact, we must admit that even now we are not good people---only that the Holy Spirit has taken up abode in us and quickened the inner man.) The Apostle Paul makes it clear here, that even those who are the children of God, were, in the past, **"children of wrath."**

Now, you must admit, if you are honest with yourself, that once in a while you forget this very fact. Once in a while (if not more often) you and I look at others and we vainly imagine that we were never that bad. But, it is clear, from this verse and others, we were **"by nature the children of wrath."** In fact, let's go to another of Paul's Epistles where he makes this very clear again. We read in Romans 6:17: **"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."** And when Paul quoted the Psalmist in the following verses, we must remember that he is speaking of us as well when he said, **"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one"** (Rom. 3:10-12).

You know what, instead of being "fairly good" people, and instead of being "mildly ungodly" people; you and I were actually enemies of God and everything that represents God and godliness. Let's not fool ourselves, but let's admit who we were before Christ came unto us! James tells us, **"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"** (James 4:4). Though it is hard to comprehend, I believe James is speaking to Christians (and perhaps his brethren after the flesh as well) here when he wrote these words. I think what he is saying is that we can live and act as if we are an "enemy of God." Brethren, this ought not to be! However, I can assure you that this is who we were before Christ came unto us. We were His enemies, and we hated everything that had to do with God.

Just because we were predestinated to salvation by the grace of God, it does not mean that we are just better than

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## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. What Bible verses can you give to prove that there are different degrees of punishment in Hell? – Mississippi

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The clearest passage of Scripture that definitively proves there are degrees of punishment in Hell is found in Matthew 11:20-24 which states: **"Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee."** It is obvious that the final judgment meted out by Christ for Chorazin and Bethsaida will be more severe than it will be for Sodom. Christ even states the reason why the judgment for Chorazin and Bethsaida will be hotter. They had the advantage of the ministry of Christ in their midst, whereas Sodom only had the warning of Lot and the angels. Those who have more light and advantages will be judged more harshly than those who don't have these benefits in their midst. For example, the unbelievers in America will definitely be judged more harshly than those in the remote places in Africa and other countries where the Gospel is not freely preached. Other verses where degrees of punishment are either stated or implied may be found in Matthew 23:14 where Jesus informs the hypocritical Pharisees that they will receive **"the greater damnation"** and in Hebrews 10:29 where those who have despised the blood of Christ will receive **"much sorer punishment"**.

One other passage that should be mentioned regarding the degrees of punishment for the wicked is found in Revelation 20:11-15 which describes the scene at the Great White Throne of Judgment. It is a fact that all unbelievers, small and great alike, will suffer the

eternal torments of the Lake of Fire. However, each one will be brought before God to be judged **"according to their works"** (Rev. 20:12 and 14). If they were all receiving the same degree of punishment there would be no need to judge them according to their individual works.

John Gill in his Body of Divinity wrote:

"The degrees of this punishment; for it seems such there will be, since wicked men will be judged, and so punished, according to their evil works, whether more or fewer, greater or lesser... some are lesser sinners and others greater; some are only guilty of original sin, and not of actual transgressions, at least of very few, and so are deserving of a milder punishment only, as before observed; and of actual transgressions some are guilty of more, and of more heinous ones; see John 19:11, and their guilt and punishment are in proportion to them; some are attended with greater aggravations, and so are deserving of a greater punishment; some are done in ignorance, and others against light and knowledge; one knows his master's will and does it not, and so deserves to be beaten with many stripes; and another knows it not, and yet does things worthy of stripes, and therefore to be beaten with few stripes, Luke 12:47. Some have had the advantage of a written law, the law of Moses, as the Jews had, and this explained with the sanctions of it; when other, as the Gentiles, had only the light of nature and the law of it to guide them; and as both will be judged according to their different laws, so will they be punished in a different manner, Rom. 2:12." (p. 494)

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Different degrees of punishment in Hell is *implied* by a few verses but never really proven. Sin is sin, and all sin is an affront to a Holy God, thereby punishable by Hell. It must be remembered that all who have never come to Christ for salvation will go to Hell no manner how scripturally ignorant or how moral they may have been on earth! Hell is a place of eternal fire and torment, described by our Lord as: **"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"** (Luke

9:43-48).

Even without a preacher, they are without excuse! **"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."**

Different degrees of punishment may be implied from **"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes..."** (Luke 12:47-48). But that verse may also be seen to only apply to the Lord's "servants" who have been kept ignorant by the shallow preaching and traditional religion that has so permeated Christianity. Ezekiel 45:20 may also indicate a grace provision to those who lack the knowledge or ability to understand the gospel. **"And so thou shalt do the seventh day of the month for every one that erreth, and for him that is simple: so shall ye reconcile the house."** When compared Ezek. 3:18: **"... and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand"** that the "un-warned" sinner may face a slightly less punishment.

The most likely evidence of some lesser degrees of punishment would be found in Matthew 11, where the Lord clearly says that it will be **"more tolerable"** for those from whom God has withheld the miracles and testimonies of Christ.

**"Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee"** (Matt. 11:20-24).

The clear warning for those who have "been" given the gospel, or who have had opportunity to hear the gospel but rejected it, is that there will be people who "have not had" your light, who will **"rise up in the judgment"** against you in that day.

May God, in His rich grace and mercy, grant you spiritual light and understanding so that you *will* believe and repent!

RAY BENNETT

## Who We Were

(Continued from page 329) ♦

everyone else. It provides a good dose of humility to pause and to consider just who we were. It glorifies God's grace to pause and to consider who we were. It gives us further reason to praise and extol the name of our God when we pause to consider who we were.

### WHAT HAS GOD DONE

I think we can each of us see just a little bit more now, how miserable our condition and person was in the past. Now that we have seen just a little bit of this, I believe that it is now a good time to just briefly speak of what God has done for us. We could go into great depth and apply this thought of what God has done to each of our conditions that we have looked at above. But, please just read the last four verses of our text, and then make some observations: **"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us through Christ Jesus"** (Eph. 2:4-7). Throughout the ages to come, these thoughts we have just considered will be remembered. Throughout the "ages to come" our past will be the backdrop upon which the grace of God is displayed! Yes, we were among the children of disobedience---but He has made us obedient! Yes, we were workers of iniquity and wickedness---but He has made us workers in the vineyard of the Lord. Yes, we were lost, miserable, and dead in trespasses and sins---but He has found us, and quickened us and made us alive in Christ Jesus! These things will be marveled at, throughout eternity, to the glory of our gracious God.

### CONCLUSION

The understanding that I want all of us to take with us, as we leave today, is the understanding that we cannot properly praise God for where we are, what we do, and who we are, with out first properly understanding, even just a little bit, of where we were, what we did, and who we were. In fact, I think this examination of our past is necessary and very valuable and edifying, in the case of nearly every consideration of the sovereignty of God. This study and examination of our past, gives us great reason to magnify our God. Our past, and our natural condition, reveals unto us just how wicked and evil we were (and still are in the flesh), and yet how gracious and loving and powerful our God must be in order to deliver salvation unto us.





## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. How do we win over those who serve Communion with a divided tray-half wine and half grape juice? – Indiana

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Frankly, I've never heard of such a practice. It is obviously a compromise solution that someone has come up with in an attempt to meet some of the difficult problems that arise from using wine. In this country, thanks to the WCTU and like organizations, almost any use of alcohol is considered sin. So perhaps they have sought out this compromise solution to allow their underage children to partake of the communion without creating legal difficulties.

This is an understandable problem if there are teenage children who have been saved and brought into the local church but are from unsaved families who might be quick to bring legal action against the church. There is always the ACLU and others, looking for some excuse to charge the church with "child abuse." There are legal limitations of age which, if strictly adhered to, would prevent underage members from partaking of even the little bit of wine that is used for communion. If this is a problem in the particular church or community I suppose those underage could abstain from the cup. It might be better to not serve the Lord's Supper to any underage members. It would be better to abstain than serve it wrongly.

There may be recovering alcoholics for whom just the smell of wine could be dangerous, but a split tray would not solve that problem. I can't really speak from the perspective of an alcoholic, but I understand addiction. I would hope that the grace of God and faith/dedication of the participant would be sufficient, again for the little bit of wine used for communion, much like a person who is afraid to be under water still submitting to Scriptural Baptism for that brief few seconds which they would be totally immersed.

There may be some with allergies which would prevent their use of wine, but I suspect any such allergy would also prevent even grape juice. I have seen this situation in the past. The party just didn't take the cup.

In any of these situations the heart attitude is what counts. Joel 2:13 addresses the difference between a "heart attitude" and the literal, visible act. "...rend your heart, and not your garments ...," but

a divided tray – half wine and half juice does not solve their problem.

The point is, Jesus said of the cup; **"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"** (Matt. 26:28). His blood was sinless! Unfermented grape juice contains leaven, which is a type of sin. That is why the Passover has to be unleavened bread and wine. We dishonor Christ and destroy the "type" whenever we use elements for the communion that contains leaven.

To win these people over is probably out of the question. The fact that they use wine at all indicates knowledge of the proper elements. A convenient compromising is one of the hardest issues to change. I think I would use: Luke 9:62: **"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God"** and John 6:66: **"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."** There are no "halfway" measures with God.

**"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ"** (Gal. 1:10). Paul said this when confronting the legalistic Judaizers who were limiting the work of the church with their legal religious traditions. It applies to this situation too.

RAY BENNETT

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Every New Testament Baptist church is an independent, autonomous body of baptized believers. As such each Baptist church is responsible to God for its doctrine and practice. I am not in the business of pastoring any other church besides the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church which congregates on Buffalo Creek Road in Chesapeake, Ohio.

I will be glad to state our church's position on the matter. Our church has always believed and practiced that wine is the proper liquid element in the observation of the Lord's Supper. We would never consider serving both wine and grape juice in our Communion service. The Lord's Supper not only pictures the body and blood of our Lord, it also should reflect the unity of the local church according to I Corinthians

10:16-17 which states: **"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."**

To offer both wine and grape juice in a divided tray reveals that there is a serious division and confusion in the church. I Corinthians 1:10 declares: **"Now I**

**beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."** My advice would be to serve only wine and unleavened bread in the Lord's Supper, and require all the members to submit to the church's authority on the matter.



### THE BIBLE 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.

#### BUSH DEFENDS BROADCAST FREEDOMS

(EP News)--President Bush assured members of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) on March 11 he will not let Congress take away their freedom to use the airwaves to spread the truth. Congressional Democrats have threatened to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine, which was put in place by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 1949 and later repealed. It required the nation's TV and radio broadcasters to make time for voices on both sides of controversial issues. For example, pro-life stories would need to include comments from Planned Parenthood or another pro-abortion group, if the Fairness Doctrine is reinstated. Bush told the NRB conference it won't happen on his watch.

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#### WASHINGTON GOVERNOR INCREASES DOMESTIC-PARTNER BENEFITS

(EP News)--Gov. Christine Gregoire, a Democrat, signed a law March 12 granting domestic partners in Washington more than 170 rights and benefits traditionally reserved for married couples. The law, which goes into effect June 12, covers community property, guardianship and powers of attorney. The measure was sponsored by Democrats Sen. Ed Murray and Rep. Jamie Pedersen, both openly gay members of the Legislature. Jenny Tyree, associate marriage analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said Washington's law now resembles California's, which mirrors traditional marriage in every way but the name. "Domestic partnerships blur the lines of family law until marriage — our most pro-child institution — is meaningless," she said.

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#### ATHEISTS FIND SUPPORT IN THE MEDIA, WATCHDOG GROUP SAYS

(EP News)--According to statistics gathered by the Media Research Center's Culture and Media Institute (CMI), out of 105 atheist-centered stories analyzed in 2007,

80 percent had a positive tone and 20 percent were neutral. Not one of the stories showed any downside to atheistic beliefs. On the other hand, nearly three-quarters of Christian stories included some sort of rebuttal, but nearly half of stories dealing with atheism did not allow an opposite view. CMI found Newsweek and ABC were the worst offenders. According to Bob Knight, director of CMI. "Many journalists -- 91 percent, according to a recent survey -- say it's not necessary to believe in God to be a moral person, which is what the atheists are saying. Further, the sympathetic coverage of atheism is a bit like the media's ongoing defense of the sexual revolution. It reinforces their prejudices, and for some, their practices."

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#### FOLLOWING LAWSUIT, PRO-LIFE CLUB ALLOWED TO MEET IN SCHOOL BUILDING

(EP News)--The Rapid City School District in South Dakota has agreed to allow a pro-life group to hold events in its facilities after the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) filed a lawsuit. School officials originally denied requests by Citizens for Life to use the Dakota Middle School auditorium for its meetings, claiming the group's message was "too controversial." District policy allows other community groups to use its facilities for meetings, but forbids those with religious and/or political affiliation. "Pro-life groups shouldn't be discriminated against for their beliefs," said Byron Babione, senior legal counsel for ADF. "They have the same First Amendment rights as anyone else in America. The equal access rights of Citizens for Life must be honored regardless of whether school district officials agree with the group's message."

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#### PLANNED PARENTHOOD ACCUSED OF OVERBILLING GOVERNMENT

(EP News)--Planned Parenthood affiliates in California are being sued after allegedly overcharging the state and federal

◊ (Continued on page 332)

# Bible & Newspaper

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governments by \$180 million for birth-control pills. A former executive filed the lawsuit. Victor Gonzalez, former vice president of finance and administration of the Los Angeles affiliate, said he was fired for questioning Planned Parenthood's "illegal accounting, billing and donations practices," which began in the late 1990s and continued until 2004. Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, is accused of purchasing contraceptives and other medicines at discounted rates and then billing the state "12 or more times their purchase rate."

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## PRESIDENT BUSH PROPOSES \$28-MILLION BOOST FOR ABSTINENCE EDUCATION

(EP News)--President Bush's budget proposal for 2009 includes \$204 million to support Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) -- a \$28 million increase over last year's budget for the program. U.S. Reps. Lee Terry, R-Neb., and Mike McIntyre, D-N.C., have co-signed a letter to the chairman and the ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee, urging support for CBAE funding and current guidelines. The president's proposal coincides with a new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showing that one in four teen girls in the U.S. has a sexually transmitted infection (STI).

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## CDC: 1 IN 4 TEEN GIRLS HAS SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION

(EP News)--One in four teen girls in the U.S. has a sexually transmitted infection (STI), according to a study by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That adds up to more than 3 million girls. Among girls who admitted having had sex, the rate was 40 percent, The Associated Press reported. Human papilloma virus (HPV), which causes cervical cancer, is the most common STI in teen girls ages 14 to 19, the CDC found. Wendy Wright, president of Concerned Women for America, said bad public policy is to blame for the STI epidemic. "Current public health policies are clearly failing to reduce the spread of STDs among young women," she said. "Public health officials need to admit their failures that have led to kids paying the price. Funding irresponsible sex-ed programs, ones that encourage kids to be sexually active, 12 times higher than funding abstinence programs unsurprisingly results in more kids being sexually active."

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## CALIFORNIA STATE DROPS FREE SPEECH RESTRICTIONS

(EP News)--The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) Center for Academic Freedom has reached a settlement with California State University (CSU) system officials to eliminate problematic restrictions on student speech at all 23 of the system's schools. "Christian and conservative students shouldn't be penalized

for expressing their beliefs," said David Hacker, ADF litigation staff counsel. "The university is supposed to be the 'marketplace of ideas,' but these 'speech codes,' with few exceptions, were selectively applied. This settlement benefits everyone who cherishes their First Amendment rights." A federal judge suspended or limited aspects of the CSU speech policy last year, saying it contains serious constitutional problems. ADF sued on behalf of the College Republicans, in conjunction with the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

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## EFFORT TO PROTECT TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE IN IOWA FALLS SHORT

(EP News)--Seven Democrats in the Iowa House who supported a marriage amendment have changed their minds, allowing a state court ruling redefining marriage to stand — at least for now. "If those seven had voted with us, (the amendment) would have passed, but I guess they will have to explain to their constituents why they flip-flopped on this issue," House Minority Leader Christopher Rants told Iowa's Quad-City Times. The Iowa Family Policy Center had tried to gather enough signatures to pull the amendment out of committee, but fell short. A judge struck down the state's Defense of Marriage Act in August. The case is headed for the Iowa Supreme Court.

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## U.S. SENATE REJECTS PRO-LIFE AMENDMENT TO HEALTH BILL

(EP News)--The U.S. Senate rejected a pro-life amendment last week that sought to protect preborn babies under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Presented by Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., the amendment would have legally recognized preborn children. "This would classify the unborn child as a patient," said Steve Wymer, a spokesman for Allard. The amendment would have redefined the term "targeted low-income child" to include children from conception to birth.

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## HUCKABEE: 'CUT SOME SLACK' FOR OBAMA'S PASTOR

(EP News)--Former presidential candidate Mike Huckabee said the criticism of Barack Obama's pastor Jeremiah Wright has gone far enough. On MSNBC's Morning Joe program, the Arkansas Republican said his experience as a pastor gives him some empathy with Wright. "Sermons, after all, are rarely written word for word by pastors like Reverend Wright, who are delivering them extemporaneously, and caught up in the emotion of the moment," he said. "There are things that sometimes get said, that if you put them on paper and looked at them in print, you'd say 'Well, I didn't mean to say it quite like that...'" Huckabee also grew up in a segregated South and reminded viewers to think about what others must be feeling. "You have to cut people some slack — and I'm gonna be probably the only conservative in America who's gonna say something like this, but I'm just telling you — we've gotta cut some slack to people who grew up being called

names."

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## ARIZONA LEGISLATURE SET TO VOTE ON MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

(EP News)--The Arizona Legislature soon will vote on a constitutional amendment to protect marriage. The amendment states that "only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state." If the Senate and House approve the measure, it will go to voters in November. Arizona has a law defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman, but marriage supporters say an amendment is necessary to protect marriage from being redefined by activist judges. Cathi Herrod, president of The Center for Arizona Policy, said homosexual-"marriage" activists don't want the people of Arizona to vote on the issue. "Opponents to one-man, one-woman marriage are making outrageous claims — and even threats — in their desperate effort to defeat the marriage amendment so they can push for same-sex 'marriage' in Arizona," she said.

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## NASHVILLE HOTEL REPLACES BIBLES WITH "SPIRITUAL MENU"

(EP News)--Hotel Preston in Nashville, Tenn., will replace Bibles with "spiritual menus" in all of its guest rooms, allowing guests to call room service to order their religious book of choice. The book list includes the Quran, The Book of Mormon, the Torah, books on Scientology and the Bible. Dr. Albert Mohler Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Focus on the Family board member, wrote on his blog that the growing absence of Bibles from hotel rooms speaks to the secularization, sexualization and extreme sensitivities of the culture. "The fact is that many persons have come to faith in Jesus Christ by reading a Bible supplied to their hotel room by the Gideons," he wrote. "Many others have turned to the Bible when in crisis. Some have even decided against suicide when they read from the Gideon's Bible."

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## STUDY LINKS LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE TO HAPPY MARRIAGES

(EP News)--If you're happily married, your heart is probably healthier. That's according to a study from Brigham Young University. Researchers found the happier the pair, the lower the blood pressure. In fact, those couples that reported greatest satisfaction from their union scored four points lower on blood pressure readings than single adults. Those readings dropped even further during sleep, translating into increased heart health.

"There seem to be some unique health benefits from marriage," study author Julianne Holt-Lunstad said. "It's not just being married that benefits health — what's really the most protective of health is having a happy marriage." She pointed out that spouses often encourage healthy habits in their mates and offer a support system.

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## WISCONSIN APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS PHARMACIST'S RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE

(EP News)--In a mixed ruling, a Wisconsin appeals court has recognized a pharmacist's right to refuse to fill a birth-control prescription based on his religious beliefs. However, the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals said patients should be referred to another pharmacy in such cases. The Pharmacy Examining Board ruled in 2005 that Niel Noesen violated a professional standard of care when he refused to fill a patient's prescription for oral contraception while working as a substitute pharmacist at a Kmart in 2002. The court ruled that a pharmacy should accommodate a pharmacist's religious beliefs, but a pharmacist is required to make sure patients have access to medication elsewhere.

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## SOUTHERN BAPTIST PRESIDENT CALLS ON ALL CHRISTIANS TO VOTE

(EP News)--Dr. Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention -- the nation's largest evangelical denomination -- is urging all Christians to vote, even if their first choice for president isn't on the ballot. Page admitted the political process is not perfect, but said it is one of the most effective ways for Christians to make a difference. "There is no perfect candidate; you must vote — and particularly this fall," he told OneNewsNow.com. "Whoever the next president is going to be is most likely going to appoint at least two Supreme Court justices." Page also reminded believers that an election doesn't always bring about immediate change. "Unfortunately, you've got a lot of foggy notions out there that electing the right person is going to change everything," he said. "The reality is we're in a system of checks and balances, and no one person can do everything."

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## JOURNALISTS ADMIT THEY TEND TO LEAN LEFT

(EP News)--Only 6 percent of journalists describe themselves as conservative, while more than 30 percent say they are liberal. That's according to a survey from the Project for Excellence in Journalism. "There's a heavy tilt to those describing themselves as liberal," said Amy Mitchell, deputy director of the group. But do the political leanings of reporters find their way into stories? Yes, according to the survey. Almost two-thirds of journalists conceded that the line between reporting and commentary is blurred. Cliff Kincaid, editor of Accuracy in Media, said the number of conservatives in the media seems even lower than 6 percent. "There are very few," he said. "This is based on not only the surveys but personal experience. The fact is that conservative students tend not to go into journalism. "Liberal students want to change the system. They see journalism as a tool to accomplish that."

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## WAL-MART LAUDED FOR POST-KATRINA RESPONSE

(EP News)--A new study praises Wal-Mart for its quick and effective response following Hurricane Katrina. The report, by Steven Horwitz, a professor at St. Lawrence ♦ (Continued on page 333)



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University in Canton, N.Y., details how Wal-Mart and others made use of their local knowledge about supply chains, infrastructure, decision-makers and other resources to provide emergency supplies and reopen stores, ConsumerAffairs.com reported. Wal-Mart and others sent truckloads of free supplies to the hardest-hit areas in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. "Profit-seeking firms beat most of the government to the scene and provided more effectively the supplies needed for the immediate survival of a population cut off from life's most basic necessities," Horwitz wrote in the study. "Though numerous private-sector firms played important roles in the relief operations, Wal-Mart stood out."

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### DALLAS CLUB HIRES 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL TO STRIP

(EP News)--She may look 19, but she's really 12 — and a runaway. Two employees at Dallas' Diamonds Cabaret offered her shelter if she would strip at the club. The employees are being charged, but the club will keep its license, thanks to a loophole in the city ordinance. Nancy McBride, national safety director for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, said the case "points up what happens to runaways, and none of it is any good." Hiram Sasser, director of litigation for Liberty Legal Institute, said he has no idea why the business wasn't shut down. He is investigating. "If they don't shut this down, it says that there's no need for the crazies and weirdoes to go to some foreign country to exploit 12-year-old girls," he said. "They can just do it in Dallas, Texas."

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### KANSAS HEALTH DEPARTMENT WON'T CERTIFY ABORTION RECORDS

(EP News)--The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has refused to certify abortion records in a criminal complaint against Planned Parenthood. Johnson County District Attorney Phill Kline has the records and is seeking state certification of them. District Judge Stephen Tatum has scheduled a hearing for Wednesday, The Kansas City Star reported. In October, Kline filed a 107-count criminal complaint against Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri and Comprehensive Health, its Overland Park clinic. Twenty-three of the counts — all felonies — accuse the clinic of manufacturing or forging documents regarding 23 late-term abortions. Kline is seeking the state's certification of those records. Jennifer Giroux, executive director of Women Influencing the Nation, said Kline has other ways to have the records validated. "Whatever the judge decides," she said, "the case is moving forward."

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### MARYLAND MAN CONVICTED FOR MURDERING WOMAN, PREBORN CHILD

(EP News)--A Maryland man has been convicted of killing his pregnant girlfriend and their preborn child — the first conviction

under the state's fetal homicide law, which allows charges for the death or injury of a preborn child. Baltimore County jurors took less than an hour last week to convict David Miller of the murders of Elizabeth Walters and their daughter, Olivia. Walters was 32 weeks pregnant. Prosecutors are seeking life in prison without the possibility of parole. "In the face of the tragic death of this woman and her preborn child, Maryland's law is a good example of life-affirming laws that recognize the humanity of preborn children," said Dawn Vargo, associate bioethics analyst for Focus on the Family Action. Thirty-five states have laws similar to Maryland's, including California, where Scott Peterson was sentenced to death for the 2002 murders of his wife, Laci, and their preborn son.

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### RALLY SUPPORTS CONSERVATIVE OKLAHOMA LAWMAKER

(EP News)--At least 1,000 people gathered today at the Oklahoma State Building to show their support for family values and Rep. Sally Kern, who has received death threats since speaking out about homosexuality. "According to God's Word, that is not the right kind of lifestyle," she told a Republican group in January. Kern said the gay agenda to redefine marriage and mainstream homosexuality is "destroying this nation." She went on to describe the continuing push from militant homosexual activists as the "biggest threat our nation has, even more so than terrorism or Islam." Now, Kern is facing the wrath of national and state leaders of the homosexual movement and their allies. Online polls have called for her resignation. Mike Jestes, executive director of the Oklahoma Family Policy Council, said the rally was successful in its effort to encourage Kern. "It was a chance for her to be with people who supported her and her freedom of speech," he said.

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### MCDONALD'S EMBRACES HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

(EP News)--McDonald's vice president of communications has been appointed to the board of directors for the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. The move is part of the fast-food restaurant's efforts to support the agenda of homosexual activists. Last month, McDonald's endorsed the chamber and made a contribution to the group, WorldNetDaily.com reported. Richard Ellis, formerly the vice president of communications and public affairs for McDonald's in Canada, said he shares the group's passion for growth and development within the homosexual community. In 2005 and 2006, the chamber lobbied against the federal marriage-protection amendment. In addition, the group continues to lobby in favor of awarding special rights based on sexual orientation. Caleb H. Price, research analyst for Focus on the Family, said: "It's disconcerting to see major corporate players like McDonald's fumble away fast-food transactions from family-minded consumers by elevating organizations that seek to normalize homosexuality and dismantle the institution of marriage."

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# Compensation For Loyal Deed

By John G. Butler  
of Clinton, Iowa

## Esther 6

Great changes took place suddenly and simultaneously in the situation of Mordecai and his enemy Haman. In a series of actions which emphasize the providence of God in a most pronounced way, dramatic changes occurred in these two men's lives which the human mind would not have anticipated and which only God could have brought to pass the way in which it all happened. These great changes began with the compensating of Mordecai for his loyal deed of saving the king's life. Because of this compensation, which had been delayed for some four or five years, Mordecai's status began to rise; but Haman's status began to fall. It is an exciting story filled with much drama which can keep a first-time reader of the book of Esther on the edge of his seat in suspense and excitement.

When Mordecai's noble deed of saving the king from an assassination plot was recorded earlier in the book of Esther, it seemed like an isolated incident of heroism that was unrelated to the events being recorded at the time and to anything concerning Mordecai's future. But now in this sixth chapter of Esther, its extremely important place in the story of Mordecai is made evident. We learn that no only was the king's life saved by this deed of Mordecai, but Mordecai's life was also saved because of this deed. Furthermore, saving Mordecai's life was a big factor in saving the lives of thousands of Jews later on.

To study our text regarding the compensating of Mordecai for his loyal deed of saving the king's life and how it started a great and contrasting change in the lives of both Mordecai and Haman, we will consider the reading for the compensation (vv. 1-3), the recommendation for the compensation (vv. 4-9), the receiving of the compensation (vv. 4-12, and the reaction to the compensation (vv. 12-14).

### A. THE READING FOR THE COMPENSATION

The compensation for Mordecai for his loyal deed of saving the king's life from an assassination finally came to him as a result of the king having some records from the Persian chronicles read to him. To look at this incident of the reading of the Persian chronicles to the king, we note the insomnia for the reading, the informing from the reading, and the inquiry after the reading.

#### 1. The Insomnia for the Reading

The important reading of the Persian chronicles to King Ahasuerus---which led not only to the honoring of Mordecai

but also to the saving of Mordecai's life---occurred because of the king's insomnia. This insomnia was one of the most significant cases of insomnia in the history of man. We note when the insomnia occurred and why the insomnia occurred.

When the insomnia occurred. "**On that night could not the king sleep**" (v. 1). "**That night**" was a most significant night. It was the night after the first "banquet" Esther had for the king and Haman and the night before her second "banquet" for these same two men. It was also the night after Haman had the gallows built on which he wanted to hang Mordecai. Therefore, it was indeed a very important night for the king to have insomnia! Providentially it could not have been a better night for the king to have sleeping problems. Especially for Mordecai it certainly could not have been a better night for the king's insomnia. Time was running out for the rescue of Mordecai. The gallows had been built for his death, and in a matter of hours permission would be sought (and doubtless gained) by Haman from the king for Mordecai's hanging. But time never runs out for God. It may be at the eleventh hour when He steps in to do His saving work, but it will never be too late.

The providential timing of the insomnia for King Ahasuerus shows two important truths, namely, the might of God and the miracle of providence.

First, the timing shows the *might of God*. The time when God stepped in to finally stop the evil work of Haman from accomplishing its design does not denote a weak God as some might think here. The delay in God's intervention never indicates His lack of power. Rather, it denotes the greatness of His power. It provides great evidence that we have a mighty God. Men would like to have God step in long before this time, but God delays His intervention until His might and power can be seen most gloriously. God's power is best seen when He works in circumstances which have gotten their worst. And they certainly had gotten very bad for Mordecai. The planned, and to the human mind, certain hanging of Mordecai was just hours away; but Almighty God controls everything and stopped the hanging before it could occur.

Second, the timing shows the *miracle of providence*. In the great deliverance of the Jews from Egypt during Moses' time, miracles were a very prominent factor in the deliverance. But in the deliverance of the Jews during Mordecai's time, providence was a very prominent factor in the deliverance. And the part of

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# Compensation

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providence in the deliverance of the Jews in Mordecai's time was so influential that it was nothing less than miraculous in its effect. Miracles are wonderful and exciting, but providence is no less wonderful and exciting. Miracles can really change situations, but providence can change situations just as much as miracles. Providence may not be as spectacular as miracles when it comes on the scene, but it is no less spectacular in the work it accomplishes---a truth which the book of Esther confirms again and again. Therefore, do not feel slighted or disappointed if you do not see great miracles in your life; simply keep your eyes open and you will see that providence is accomplishing just as much in your life as miracles could.

*Why the insomnia occurred.* While we are not told exactly what God used to keep Ahasuerus awake, we can easily perceive many things in the king's life that could have been used to keep the king awake. There was the banquet which Esther gave him plus the invitation to a second banquet and the mystery behind it all that could keep the king worried and awake. He could be very concerned about Esther's petition and what it was about the petition that made it so important that she would have two banquets before she would state the petition. Also he might do a lot of wondering as to why Haman was invited to both banquets. Furthermore, the king had a great many sins that could trouble the soul so greatly it could keep anyone awake for the rest of one's life. So the king had plenty to keep him awake. But the fact that we are not told specifically what kept him awake helps us to better focus on the God of providence Who was the Prime Mover in the insomnia. It was time for God to act on behalf of Mordecai and the other Jews, and so Ahasuerus was going to have a case of insomnia. How God caused the insomnia is not nearly as important as the fact that God had the power to cause the insomnia at just the right time.

## 2. The Informing From the Reading

**"He commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus"** (vv. 1-2). When Ahasuerus could not sleep, he employed his wakefulness to good use. He asked that the records of the government be read to him. This helped him to be a better king. It informed him of some matters of which he needed to take immediate action. And this informing helped him to make the right decisions in some very crucial situations that

came up right after the insomnia. Unlike Ahasuerus here, many folk would have used their insomnia in the pursuit of frivolous and foul activities rather than in profitable activities. As an example, today, the insomnia of Ahasuerus would have caused many people to watch TV. It is hard to think of a more unprofitable use of time than to watch TV.

To examine this informing of Ahasuerus about Mordecai from reading the government records when he had insomnia, we will note the providence in the informing, the promise in the informing, and the particulars in the informing.

*The providence in the informing.* The phrase, **"It was found written"** (v. 2), speaks the same providential language as **"on that night"** (v. 1). As we said at the start of this chapter, providence is most prominent in the compensating of Mordecai for his loyal deed of saving the king's life. And we have just seen its great prominence in **"on that night."** Now we see it again in **"it was found written."** From our text here, we note two important factors involved in the providence concerning the informing from the reading about Mordecai's deed. They are the Divine factor in providence and the diligence factor in providence.

First, the *Divine factor* in providence. This is the most obvious factor in providence. God rules and controls. He is the One behind all providential circumstances and events. God guided Ahasuerus to request that someone read to him, and that it be from the Persian chronicles. God guided the readers to read about Mordecai. In every providential circumstance we must remember God is the Prime mover.

Second, the *diligence factor* in providence. **"They were read before the king"** (v. 1). The Hebrew language here "denotes the long continuance of this reading" (Keil). It was not just a moment or two of reading in the chronicles that comprised the reading that night for Ahasuerus, but the readers read a long time for the king. The lengthy reading resulted in their coming upon the account of Mordecai saving the king's life. While the readers for King Ahasuerus were not aware of the providence in their reading, the fact that they read a long time which resulted in coming upon the record of Mordecai's deed does illustrate the lesson that Divine providence does not come to lazy folk. If you would enjoy God working providence on your behalf, stick to your job. Be industrious. Work hard and well. Providence is a blessing that comes to the industrious, not to the indolent.

*The promise in the informing.* **"It was found written"** (v. 2) is the promise for those who do good just as **"it was found out"** (2:23) is the promise for those who do evil. We often think only of evil conduct when we think about having our deeds found out. But the promise of the

law of harvest applies to both good and evil conduct. **"Be sure your sin will find you out"** (Num. 32:23) is the promise for those who do evil. We often think only of evil conduct when we think about having our deeds found out. But the promise of the law of harvest applies to both good and evil conduct. **"Be sure your sin will find you out"** (Num. 32:23) is the promise for evil conduct, but **"every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour"** (I Cor. 3:8) is a promise for good conduct. **"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh (evil conduct) shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit (good conduct) shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting"** (Gal. 6:7-8) cites the promise for both evil and good. The evil deeds of Bigthana and Teresh were found out and so were the good deeds of Mordecai. Evil men often think that because their evil deeds are not found out for awhile that they have successfully concealed their evil. But they eventually discover that they cannot conceal their evil forever, for it will be found out. In like manner, good people often think their good deeds have been done in vain; for they seem to be unknown to anyone. But their good deeds will eventually be rewarded, for God knows all about them, and **"God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love"** (Heb. 6:10). This informing about Mordecai's good deed should greatly encourage God's people. It says, **"Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"** (Gal. 6:9).

*The particulars in the informing.* **"Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus"** (v. 2). The particulars of Mordecai saving the king's life are reviewed here. They tell us that Mordecai was specific, speedy, stouthearted, and steadfast in exposing the assassination plot.

First, he was *specific*, **"Mordecai...told of Bigthana and Teresh...who sought to lay hands on the king."** Mordecai was specific in that he named names and named deeds when he reported this evil. Had he not named names and named deeds, his warning would have lost its value. The assassination would not have been stopped. Preachers need to remember this when they preach. If they are going to do any good in fighting sin they must name names and name deeds. Failure to name names and name deeds only conceals evil and enables it to do its evil work more successfully. Of course, some people get upset when preachers name names and deeds. But often the reason they get upset is that the preacher is exposing their sins.

Second, he was *speedy*. Mordecai was not delinquent in reporting the assassination plot. Had he been

delinquent, the king would have been killed. Likewise, God's people must not be delinquent in their service for Him. Delay can result in the perishing of sinners and in the loss of opportunity to do good.

Third, he was *stouthearted*. It took much courage for Mordecai to expose the evil deed, for had his intentions to expose the deed been found out by those wanting to assassinate the king, it would have been curtains for Mordecai. Later when Mordecai told Esther to risk her life for the deliverance of the Jews, Mordecai could charge her to do so without being a hypocrite; for he had risked his life to save the king. It always takes courage to expose evil. And preachers will find that it always takes much courage to preach against sin.

Fourth, he was *steadfast*. Saving the king's life showed that Mordecai was steadfast in his loyalty to the king whether the king was popular or whether the king was unpopular (the assassination plot said he was very unpopular with some people). And his steadfastness not only benefited the king, but it also later benefited Mordecai and his people as the book of Esther confirms. God's people should likewise be faithful to Christ whether He is popular or unpopular. When they are faithful they will find, as did Mordecai, that their faithfulness not only will benefit the work of God but will also benefit themselves and others. Unfaithfulness does nothing helpful for God or the unfaithful person or others. But faithfulness is a different story.

## 3. The Inquiry After the Reading

**"The king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him"** (v. 3). To examine this inquiry of the king, we note the responsibility in this inquiry and the reproof from this inquiry.

*The responsibility in this inquiry.* The king showed some good responsible action here in inquiring about what honors had been given Mordecai for his saving the king's life. When someone has done us a favor, we have the responsibility to show our gratitude toward them. This inquiry showed the gratitude of the king for the deed. Gratitude is an obligation not an option. Unfortunately, many forget that fact. But the Persian government seemed concerned about gratitude; for rewarding the meritorious "was a settled principle of the Persian government [and]...Royal Benefactors' were to receive an adequate reward. The names of such persons were placed on a special roll...and great care was taken that they should be properly recompensed" (F. C. Cook). Gratitude needs to be great concern of all of us. Especially do we need to be concerned about giving gratitude to God, for He has done more for us than anyone else.

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Therefore, **“in everything give thanks [to God]; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”** (I Thess. 5:18).

The reproof from this inquiry. **“There is nothing done for him.”** The inquiry brought a reproof, for nothing had been done to Mordecai to show the gratitude of the king for Mordecai’s deed of saving the king’s life. This failure “was a gross breach of Persian law, and a great dishonor to the king” (Rawlinson). Therefore, when Ahasuerus was told that **“nothing”** was done for Mordecai, he earnestly, immediately, and wisely sought to correct the situation.

“Nothing” is a picture of the world’s failure to reward good people. As Matthew Henry said, “The greatest merits and the best services are often overlooked and go unrewarded among men. Little honor is done to those who best deserve it, are fittest for it, and would do most good with it.” The world readily rewards the worthless and despicable people (Haman) but builds gallows for the gallant people (Mordecai). John the Baptist was put in prison and beheaded while wicked Herod lived in a palace and had his life protected by hundreds of soldiers. Our news media honors evil people but scorns good people. So do not be surprised if your goodness is unrewarded by the world. It is the habit of the world to fail in this matter. However, God will not fail to reward you, as we have already noted. Keep your eyes on His rewards and you will never be disappointed.

## B. THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE COMPENSATION

The compensation given Mordecai for saving the king’s life was determined by a recommendation given the king on how to honor **“the man whom the king delighteth to honor”** (v. 7). We note the seeking of the recommendation, the source of the recommendation, the stimulant of the recommendation, and the specifics of the recommendation.

### 1. The Seeking of the Recommendation

**“Who is in the court?”** (v. 4). With the honor of the king involved in compensating Mordecai for his loyal deed, King Ahasuerus wanted to do things acceptably and quickly. Not knowing what best to do, he sought advice as to what to do. In seeking advice, he asked his attendants, **“Who is in the court?”** (ibid.) The court was where advisors and attendants would be waiting to see and serve the king. Ahasuerus wanted to know if anyone was in the court, “i.e. whether some minister or state functionary were there with whom he might consult concerning the honor due Mordecai” (Keil).

Seeking and listening to advice was not uncommon with Ahasuerus. We noted in the first chapter of Esther that Ahasuerus sought advice about what to do with Queen Vashti for her disregard of the king’s orders. Later he was given and followed the advice of his attendants on how to obtain a new queen. It is good to seek advice; but, of course, one needs to seek it from good people. Ahasuerus too often sought advice from bad people, and these bad people gave him bad advice. However, in this case concerning how to honor Mordecai, the advice turned out to be good advice even though it came from a very bad man. The honors recommended were most appropriate but would never have been recommended had the one recommending the honors known who was to receive the honors. However, God was controlling matters here. He so firmly controls matters that **“the wrath of man shall praise him”** (Ps. 76:10).

### 2. The Source of the Recommendation

**“The king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king’s house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. And the king’s servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in”** (vv. 4-5). There was a man in the court, and it was Haman. So Haman became the source of the recommendation on how to honor **“the man whom the king delighteth to honor”** (v. 6). As the source of the recommendation, Haman was both a polluted source and a providential source.

A *polluted source*. Haman was very wicked. He was thoroughly polluted with evil. His presence in the court at this time emphasized the pollution of his character. It showed his eagerness, his shamelessness, and his viciousness in doing evil.

First, his *eagerness* in doing evil. Being in the court at this time emphasized Haman’s eagerness to hang Mordecai, for it was an early hour in the morning. Haman was so eager to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he came early in the morning to get the king’s permission for the hanging. The zeal of Haman to do evil rebukes God’s people for their lack of zeal to do good. Evil is aggressive and earnest. It rises early in the morning to pursue its wicked projects. In contrast, many professing Christians are dilatory in serving God. Churches are plagued by dilatory members who drag their feet and delay every action of the church while evil rushes pass in zealous efforts.

Second, his *shamelessness* in doing evil. Haman was unashamed of what he planned to do to Mordecai. His heart was so hard that without a taint of shame, he eagerly went to the palace to get permission from the king to cruelly impale Mordecai on the tall gallows. We have many folk today who have so hardened

themselves by doing evil that they have no shame for their evil deeds. They can do the most vile things but still show up in public unashamed, unapologetic, and unrepentant. Like the people in Jeremiah’s day, **“Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush”** (Jer. 6:15). Such people no longer have a working conscience. But their lack of shame will hurt them, for it builds up more judgment from God for themselves.

Third, his *viciousness* in doing evil. Haman’s presence in the court was to do a vicious deed, namely, to impale Mordecai on the seventy-five foot pole. Once again we see in Haman a sober warning of what happens if one does not stop sin early in one’s life. Haman had the sin of pride, and it was not curtailed. This led to his being so upset with Mordecai not bowing to him that he plotted the death of all the Jews, and now he plots to slay Mordecai in a most cruel and bloody way. Sin not stopped early will grow into a huge, vicious monster that no one can control.

A *providential source*. The providence of God is again so very conspicuous here. It was conspicuous in the insomnia of Ahasuerus. It was conspicuous in what events were read from the Persian chronicles to Ahasuerus. And now it is conspicuous in Haman being the one who was in the court. The timing of Haman being in the court worked out to the utter humiliation of Haman and to the great exaltation of Mordecai. God can by providence do things so easily that men could not imagine could ever come to pass. Sometimes it looks like God’s program and work is finished. But we must not give up; God can step in and marvelously turn everything around in a very short time. By acts of providence God can reverse matters completely so that truth will triumph and evil will suffer a devastating defeat.

### 3. The Stimulant of the Recommendation

**“Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?”** (v. 6). With his pride causing him to think that it was he whom the king wanted to honor. Haman was inspired to recommend the highest possible honor the king could give to a person. Ahasuerus would purposely not name the recipient of the honor lest Haman (or whoever the adviser might be) would be prejudiced in prescribing what the honor should be. He knew that if the man whom the king wanted to honor was not especially liked by the adviser, it would decrease the extent of the honor recommended. This helped Mordecai to obtain a great honor. It also caused Haman to reap what he had earlier sowed. Earlier he did not tell the king who the people were he wanted to kill (3:8), now the king does not tell

Haman the person he wants to honor (v. 6).

Haman’s high view of himself is not unique. The world is filled with people who think extremely highly of themselves. Self-esteem is not lacking in society! All the concern about the lack of self-esteem today is nonsense, for one of mankind’s big problems is self-esteem. Paul warned people **“not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think”** (Rom. 12:3); but like Haman, most people think more highly of themselves than they ought to think. And worldly wise men (psychologists and others of their kind) encourage it. But the Bible never talks about the need of self-esteem. Rather, it warns many times about pride which is what self-esteem is all about.

### 4. The Specifics of the Recommendation

**“Haman answered the king. For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: and let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king’s most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour”** (v. 7-9). Four things were involved in this recommendation honor for the man **“whom the king delighteth to honour.”** They were an apparel, an animal, an attendant, and an announcement. Separately each would be a great honor, but together they would give one a tremendous honor from the king. In fact, “the honors here proposed by Haman. . . have been thought excessive, and certainly they are such as Persian monarchs rarely allowed to subjects. Each act would have been a capital offense, if done without permission” (F. C. Cook). But the recommendation, which only a Haman would make, was accepted; so Mordecai received a very great honor for his loyal deed of saving the king’s life.

*Apparel.* **“Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear. . . that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour”** (vv. 8-9). A royal robe was to be put on the man whom the king wanted to honor. This would certainly honor a man. Haman realized that fact and envisioned himself wearing the king’s robe. But Mordecai wore it instead.

With Mordecai wearing the king’s clothes and Esther wearing the queen’s clothes, Mordecai and Esther certainly wore much different clothes than anyone would have anticipated they would wear. It is another encouraging illustration for God’s people which says they do not have

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to pull strings, manipulate people and circumstances, and play politics to get ahead. Just attend to your duty, and God will take care of the rest.

*Animal.* “**Let. . .the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head. . .and bring him on horseback through the street of the city**” (vv. 8-9). Haman recommended that the honored one be given a ride on the king’s horse. Today it would not be a horse but an automobile. And as the horse had on the special “**crown**” to indicate that it was the king’s horse, so the automobile would be royally decorated. Mordecai riding in honor and Haman walking (as we will see later) is seldom the case in society. Too often the bad man rides and the good man walks (Eccl. 10:7).

*Attendant.* “**Let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king’s most noble princes, that they [he] may array the man withal**” (v. 9). Haman did not want just anyone being the attendant to take care of his honor (which he erroneously thought he was going to get), but he wanted one of the highest ranking princes to be his servant. This would make Haman feel even more important. He was such a proud man that he wanted to lord it over his rivals and rub their noses in the dirt by having them serve him. Little did Haman know that he was to be the attendant. He will have his own nose rubbed in the dirt of his pride. Pride is not kind to the proud.

*Announcement.* “**Proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour**” (v. 9). The attendant was to be the herald who would go before the horse and honored rider and announce to the people that his man was being honored by the king. Having a herald go before an important person and announce his coming and other important information concerning the person was the custom of the time. Figuratively, John the Baptist was the herald of Jesus Christ. He went “**before**” (Mark 1:2) Jesus Christ and announced His coming. His message about Christ is summed up in “**Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world**” (John 1:29). We all should be heralding such a message.

## C. THE RECEIVING OF THE COMPENSATION

To examine Mordecai’s receiving of the recommended honors which were to compensate him for saving the king’s life, we note the selection for receiving the honors, the supervisor for receiving the honors, the speed in receiving the honors, and the stipulation about receiving the honors.

### 1. The Selection for Receiving the Honors



TRIUMPH OF MORDECAI

Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate  
....(Esther 8:10)

“**Do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king’s gate**” (v. 10). After Haman had with a good deal of selfish glee recommended what should be done to the man “**whom the king delighteth to honor**” (v. 9), the king informed Haman that the man selected to receive the honors was Mordecai. We note the shock from the selection, the specifics in the selection, and the sagacity in the selection.

*The shock from the selection.* The announcement by the king had to be a terrible shock to Haman. Nothing could have jolted this proud man more than to know the king wanted to honor Mordecai so greatly. But though shocked terribly by the announcement, Haman had to keep up a good face before the king. Haman dare not show even a hint of his displeasure before the king, nor let the king know of the plans to hang Mordecai, plans which ended permanently with the king’s announcement about honoring Mordecai. That Haman was terribly shocked is confirmed by what he did as soon as the honoring of Mordecai was completed which we will see later on in this article.

The shock that Haman experienced here was only the first of the jolts he was going to get that day. The next one was his exposure by Esther about his plot against the Jews, and that shocking experience was followed by the shocking decree from the king to hand Haman on the gallows that Haman had ordered made for Mordecai. Haman’s shocking experiences illustrate something of what the lost sinner will experience at the end of his life. No shock will be greater than to wake up in hellfire. But that is what happens when you reject Christ.

*The specifics in the selection.* In telling Haman who the man was who was to be honored, the king gave some very specific facts about Mordecai so there would be no mistaking who the honored person was. The king gave the *name* (Mordecai), the *race* (Jews), and the *job* (sitteth in the king’s gate) of the man to be honored. There is much encouragement for God’s people in Ahasuerus being so specific about who was to be honored. Many times God’s people feel insignificant and wonder if anyone knows the good they are doing. But the King of kings knows. And he knows all about us even much

better than Ahasuerus knew about Mordecai. And He does not have to have a night of insomnia to find out about our faithful service but knows it the moment it is performed and will reward us in due time. Do not worry about whether you are known and duly recognized by the world. It only matters that God knows you. That is enough to encourage you to serve earnestly and faithfully.

*The sagacity in the selection.* Five times in our text we read, “**the man whom the king delighteth to honour**” (vv. 6,7,9,11). How wise it was that King Ahasuerus chose Mordecai as “**the man whom the king delighteth to honour**,” for whom one delights to honor can either curse or bless you. Delighting to honor Mordecai would result in much blessing upon Ahasuerus and his empire, for honoring good people always brings blessing. But if you delight to honor evil people, you will bring a curse upon yourself and others. The king had previously been delighting to honor Haman. But honoring Haman was honoring evil, and it brought a great cure on the land especially in the form of Haman’s attack on the Jews and also in trying to kill the man who saved the king’s life. But honoring Mordecai did just the opposite. It honored a man who had saved the king’s life and it honored the Jews, a race you honor for God’s blessing or mistreat for God’s cursing (Gen. 12:3).

Our country is suffering much from the effects of honoring the dishonorable and failing to give due honor to the honorable. We are giving more and more honor to such dishonorable people as wicked politicians, immoral entertainment stars, apostate religious leaders, homosexuals, and other unholy people and movements in society. But little honor is given to good people, and there is also a great decline in honoring the Jews by our nation. All of this spells trouble for our nation. Honor the right people if you want blessing.

### 2. The Supervisor for Receiving the Honors

“**Then the king said to Haman. . .do even so to Mordecai the Jew**” (v. 10). In his recommendation to the king about how to honor the man “**whom the king delighteth to honour**,” Haman said, “**One of the king’s most noble princes**” (v. 9) should supervise the giving of the honor. When announcing that Mordecai was to be honored, the king designated Haman as the supervisor for honoring Mordecai. While this complimented Haman as “**one of the king’s most noble princes**,” Haman would not enjoy the compliment because of his great vexation about honoring Mordecai and his great humiliation about having to supervise the honoring. Evil has a way of taking all the joys out of life. Had Haman been a good man, however, he would have counted it a special honor and joy to give honor to

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the man who stopped an assassination plot against the king.

## 3. The Speed in Receiving the Honors

**“Make haste”** (v. 10) expressed the urgency of the king to give high honors to Mordecai immediately. Much time had gone by since Mordecai’s loyal deed, in fact, too much time. Ahasuerus is anxious to correct the failure to give due honor to Mordecai earlier. Mordecai had saved the king’s life and the king wanted this loyal deed honored without delay.

Men also need to **“make haste”** in honoring God. Too often God’s people drag their feet in doing service that will result in honoring Him. Such was the case in the day of the prophet Haggai regarding the building of the Temple in Jerusalem. Haggai rebuked the people’s delinquency by saying, **“This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD’s house should be built. . . is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house [Temple] lie waste?”** (Haggai 1:2, 4). Folk can get excited and earnest in their own interests, but too often they push God’s interests to the back burner.

## 4. The Stipulation About Receiving the Honors

After announcing to Haman that Mordecai was the one to be honored and that Haman was the one to supervise the giving of the honors to Mordecai, the king then gave Haman a stipulation about the honors. To examine this stipulation, we note the order in the stipulation and the obedience to the stipulation.

*The order in the stipulation.* **“Let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken”** (v. 10). The language in this stipulation means “to carry out your proposal exactly” (Keil). In the margin of the original KJV the alternate reading says, “Suffer not a whit to fail.” Haman is ordered to fulfill every detail of the honors he recommended for the man **“whom the king delighteth to honour.”** Haman would have liked to eliminate as much honor as possible from Mordecai’s honors, but he is forced by the king to give them all. Haman would have wanted every detail fulfilled if he were the one honored. But how different his feelings towards Mordecai. Ahasuerus knew the character of Haman and made the stipulation very plain to Haman so Haman would not, because of his jealousy, try to diminish the honor.

*The obedience to the stipulation.* **“Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour”** (v. 11). Haman did exactly as he had recommended and as the king ordered. But he certainly did not do it with his

heart. If ever there was a man who did something only in form but not in spirit, it was Haman’s honoring of Mordecai. Haman’s actions remind us of many church members who go through the motions on Sundays but whose heart is far from their worship. Their worship is only outward, not inward.

The emotions in this scene of Mordecai receiving honors for saving the king’s life have to be very great. Haman’s vexation and humiliation had to be extremely great. Mordecai’s wonderment about the greatness of the honor and in having Haman supervise them would be very great. And the surprise and fear of Mordecai’s fellow workers who reproved Mordecai for not bowing to Haman and who told Haman about Mordecai not bowing certainly would also be very great. The author of the book of Esther puts so much into one verse. Like a picture painted by a great artist, one can look at it for hours and continue to see new aspects of the story. The book of Esther, like the entire Bible, is a great work of art that is second to no literary effort of man.

## D. THE REACTION TO THE COMPENSATION

The reaction recorded in Scripture to the great honoring of Mordecai by the orders of King Ahasuerus was threefold. There was the good reaction, the grieving reaction, and the grim reaction. The good reaction was the reactions by Mordecai to his honors. The grieving reaction was the reaction of Haman to Mordecai’s honors. The grim reaction to Mordecai’s honors was the reaction of Haman’s wife and wise men in their forecast of Haman’s grim future because of Mordecai’s honors.

### 1. The Good Reaction

**“And Mordecai came again to the king’s gate”** (v. 12). Mordecai’s reaction to the compensation was to return to his post of duty after he had received the great honors bestowed upon him by the king. What a good reaction this was to all his honors. Mordecai did not set his heart on the rewards of men but on the rescue of men (his Jewish brethren). Mordecai, unlike many people, could endure high honors. He did not let it go to his head. He did not let honors keep him from his duty. “Honor is well bestowed on those that are not made proud and idle by it, and will not think themselves above their business” (Henry). We need more people who are like Mordecai in that they are more concerned about their work than their wages, about helping others than being honored by others, and about their responsibilities than their rewards.

How differently would Haman have acted if he had received the honors Mordecai received. Haman would have been intoxicated with the honors and his head would have swelled to enormous size in pride. He would have spent many days afterward going here and there

telling everyone he could all about his honors. But Mordecai did not do that. He knew how to react to worldly honor. He did not let it injure his character.

### 2. The Grieving Reaction

**“But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered. And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him”** (vv. 12-13). Haman grieved over the honoring of Mordecai. We note the cause for his grieving and the conduct in his grieving.

*The cause for his grieving.* **“Haman returned to his house mourning”** (v. 12). There are at least three reasons why Haman would mourn. They were the ending of his plans, the exalting of his antagonist, and the embarrassing of his person.

First, the *ending* of his plans. Haman had to be very upset about the fact that the honoring of Mordecai ended permanently any plans Haman had for hanging Mordecai. Haman had been so vexed by Mordecai, but the plans to hang Mordecai on the gallows fifty cubits high had restored Haman’s joy. Now all this joy has been dashed to pieces by the honoring of Mordecai.

Second, the *exalting* of his antagonist. The man Haman loathed more than anyone else was given high honors from the king. The man who was such a thorn in the flesh for Haman received great honors from Ahasuerus. It is hard on the flesh to see others honored, but to see an antagonist honored is doubly hard on the feelings of a person.

Third, the *embarrassing* of his person. Having his plans ended and seeing his antagonist exalted really hurt, but what added salt to the wound is that Haman himself was embarrassed by having to be the person to supervise all the honoring. Many of his friends and associates would witness the honoring of Mordecai, the man hated by Haman; and they would see Haman leading the honoring of Mordecai. This meant Haman was going to have to eat a lot of humble pie when he met up with these friends and associates. It was all terribly embarrassing for Haman and would be a strong factor in causing him to grieve.

*The conduct in his grieving.* **“Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered. And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him”** (vv. 12-13). Haman’s conduct after the honoring of Mordecai consisted of returning to his house and reporting his happenings.

First, *returning to his house.* **“Haman hasted to his house mourning, having his head covered”** (v. 12). We note the heaviness, haste, and headdress of Haman in his return to his house.

The *heaviness*. Unlike Mordecai, Haman did not return to any post of duty. He went home **“mourning.”** This

was not smart conduct, for shirking one’s duty to mourn is a good way to make matters worse in your life. This was so true for Haman; for in returning to his house rather than to his duty, he was further depressed by the prediction of his wife and his wise men---which we will consider shortly. When you feel like mourning, get to your post of duty. It is some of the best medicine for your mourning. When grief comes into your life, do not waste your money on a psychologist or other like troubler of society, but hasten to your post of duty and serve faithfully.

The *haste*. **“Haman hasted to his house”** (v. 12) because he wanted to get away from further humiliation. We have already noted how embarrassing it was for Haman to see Mordecai honored and to have to supervise the honoring. But running from humiliation does not solve problems. If you cannot take ridicule and scornful remarks, you are not much of a man.

The *headdress*. When Haman came home, he had **“his head covered”** (v. 12). Covering the head was not only a token of his “grief” (Poole), but it was also a “token of his shame” (ibid.). How backward Haman had matters. He should have shown great shame over his attack upon the Jews and over his attempts to hang Mordecai. But honoring Mordecai certainly was not something that should cause shame, for Mordecai had done a most honorable deed. But sin had so distorted things for Haman that he grieved when he should have been glad and was glad when he should have grieved. Sin has made many folk like that.

Second, *reporting his happenings.* **“Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had befallen him”** (v. 13). After returning home, Haman reported to his wife and his friends all that had happened to him since early that morning when he left home to get permission from the king to hang Mordecai on the newly build gallows of fifty cubits in height. That which had happened had ruined Haman’s plans and happiness. It was a great disaster for him. But an even greater disaster was awaiting Haman, for he would be hung on his gallows before the day was over.

In reporting his happenings, Haman is like those people who are only concerned about their own troubles, not the troubles of anyone else. Others had troubles, too; but Haman must have the floor to tell all about his troubles. Such people are detestable, for they only focus on themselves. And this selfish focusing on yourself is a good way to get in big trouble---just ask Haman.

### 3. The Grim Reaction

**“Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou**

♦ (Continued on page 338)

# Compensation

(Continued from page 337) ♦

**hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him**” (v. 13). Haman’s wife and wise men predicted a very grim future for Haman after hearing his mournful report of his happenings that day. Haman’s wife and wise men were certainly poor comforters. But bad counselors will be poor comforters. “They did not advise him to repent. . .but foretold his destiny as fatal and unavoidable” (Henry). There was no comfort or help for that. Haman could have said to his wife and wise men what Job said to his friends, “**Miserable comforters are ye all**” (Job 16:2).

To examine the message given Haman by his wife and wise men about Haman’s grim future, we note the intuition for the message, the intelligence of the message, the indictment in the message, and the interruption of the message.

*The intuition for the message.* It is most significant that Haman’s wife and wise men predicted a grim future for Haman. They were right on target in their prediction. Their prediction was Scriptural although they did not make the prediction from their knowledge of the Scripture. Rather, they made it from intuition. “The revival of the Jewish people since the times of Cyrus was sufficient to induce, in the minds of heathen who were attentive to the signs of the times, a persuasion that this nation [Jews] enjoyed divine protection” (Keil). The intuition of Haman’s wife and wise men was correct. God’s hand is upon the Jews. They will not be eliminated. They will survive every attack against them. And those who attack them will be brought face to face with Divine retribution.

*The intelligence of the message.* Haman’s “**wise men**” were indeed wise in this message concerning the Jews and also concerning those [such as Haman] who persecute the Jews. Wise men in every age will say the same. God has a special place for the Jews. That is plain in the Scripture. The Jews are the seed through which Jesus Christ came and over whom Christ will reign. Therefore all attempts to eradicate them from the earth will meet with defeat and ruin. The Jews’ importance in history is primarily because of Christ. The same can be said about any of us. Our true importance is only as we honor Christ.

*The indictment in the message.* The message which predicts Haman’s grim future is a warning indictment of every persecutor of the Jews. Their message says that if you persecute the Jews, you will bring judgment upon yourself. No people or nation will escape the promise of condemnation found in Scripture about mistreating the Jews. God said, “**I will curse him that curseth thee** [the Jews]” (Gen. 12:3). This is an irrevocable

decree of Almighty God that you ignore to your destruction.

*The interruption of the message.* “**And while they were yet talking with him, came the king’s chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared**” (v. 14). When Haman was in the midst of the conversation with his wife and his wise men, “**the king’s chamberlains**” interrupted the scene to take Haman to Esther’s banquet at which would begin the fulfillment of the prediction made by Haman’s wife and wise men about Haman’s grim future. This second banquet of Esther---which Haman had the day before been anticipating with great gladness---was suddenly no longer anticipated with gladness, for Haman was certainly in no mood for banqueting.

That the chamberlains “**hasted**” to bring Haman to the banquet implies delay which could only be caused by Haman’s mourning. The delay being caused by the fact that Haman was not ready for the banquet. He had been so consumed with his grief over having to honor Mordecai that he had neglected getting ready for the banquet. Things are going from bad to worse for Haman, and they would not get better at the banquet.

How wonderfully God was working since the last banquet to set the scene for Esther to inform the king of Haman’s wicked plot to kill the Jews. The king had just decreed that Mordecai the Jew be honored. Now at the banquet he will discover that Haman has been wanting to kill the very man who saved the king’s life. God prepared both Ahasuerus and Haman well for Esther’s accusation which made her accusation most effective.

*(Editor’s note: Bro. Butler graciously gave his premission to print this chapter from his book Mordecai. This is an excellent book that is easy reading and simple to understand. Bro. Butler brings out many things about the book of Esther.)*



## World Scene

(Continued from page 340) ♦

Thanks in large part to ProEnglish’s efforts, 30 states have already adopted official English laws. Twice in the last two years the U.S. Senate has passed amendments declaring English our “national language.”

Even though we’ve made progress, we’ve still been unable to make English our nation’s official language. Polls show that an overwhelming 85% of all Americans agree that English should be our official language.

Doctors should not be forced to pay for interpreters for their non-English speaking patients. Since E. O. 13166 only applies to doctors who accept government reimbursement, it will help persuade many more doctors to stop

taking Medicare and Medicaid patients.

“A man’s strength is shown by what he stands for. A man’s weakness is shown by what he falls for.” ---Unknown

*(Letter and excerpts are from Clifford Colwell, Jr., M.D., ProEnglish National Board Member)*



### BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 3-1-2008 to 3-31-2008

Beginning Balance ..... \$11,256.84

#### RECEIPTS:

Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY ..... 100.00  
Berea M. B. C., West Point, TN ..... 50.00  
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY ..... 100.00  
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS ..... 225.00  
..... 475.00  
TOTAL ..... 11,731.84

#### EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time ..... 410.00  
TOTAL EXPENDITURES ..... 410.00  
..... \$11,321.84  
Less Corbin, KY des. .... -1,250.92  
ENDING BALANCE ..... \$10,070.92

### CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance ..... \$1,410.92

#### RECEIPTS:

..... 1,410.92

#### EXPENDITURES:

WCTT ..... 160.00  
ENDING BALANCE ..... \$1,250.92

### BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 3-1-2008 to 3-31-2008

Beginning Balance ..... \$8,558.21

#### RECEIPTS:

Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS ..... 200.00  
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL ..... 60.00  
Berea M. B. C., West Point, TN ..... 150.00  
Bethel M. B. C., Pasadena, TX ..... 100.00  
Bible Believers B. C., Naples, ID ..... 100.00  
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV ..... 300.00  
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY ..... 150.00  
Cedar Grove B. C., Millport, AL ..... 50.00  
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Eve Knowles, Scarborough, ME ..... 200.00  
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Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME ..... 20.00  
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY ..... 100.00  
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC ..... 50.00  
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL ..... 50.00  
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK ..... 35.00  
Indore B. C., Indore, WV ..... 100.00  
Joseph Jurzec, Richmond, IL ..... 50.00  
L. H. Farrell, Des Allemands, LA ..... 125.00  
Landmark M. B. C., Moncks Corner, SC ..... 50.00  
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM ..... 100.00  
Lord’s Church, Goose Creek, SC ..... 200.00  
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM ..... 500.00  
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH ..... 100.00  
New Testamnet B. C., Bristol, TN ..... 10.00  
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN ..... 50.00  
Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA ..... 40.00  
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL ..... 100.00  
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS ..... 25.00  
South Park M.B.C., Seattle, WA ..... 25.00  
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS ..... 50.00  
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL ..... 100.00  
Sovereign Grace B. C., Wake Forest, NC ... 100.00  
Steve Cooper, Kansas City, KS ..... 30.00  
Thurman Phillips, Beaver creek, OH ..... 5.00  
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA ..... 25.00  
Walnut Creek B. C., Grove City, OH ..... 50.00  
Subscriptions ..... 414.00  
Anon ..... 230.00

Dividing Checks ..... 150.00  
Sub Total ..... \$4,244.00  
TOTAL ..... \$12,802.21  
**EXPENDITURES:**  
Printing ..... 581.71  
Postage ..... 847.03  
Wages ..... 2,000.00  
FICA ..... 153.01  
Dividing Checks ..... 150.00  
Total Expenditures ..... 3,731.75  
ENDING BALANCE ..... \$9,070.46

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Indore Baptist Church of Indore, WV and Pastor Paul Stepp would like to announce their Spring Revival & Fellowship Meeting that is scheduled for Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Service times are Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday beginning at 9:45 a.m.

For more information you can contact Pastor Stepp at prstepp@indorebaptistchurh.org or phone at (304) 587-4660 or email at prstepp@frontiernet.net

All are invited to attend the services.  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Grace Baptist Church and Pastor Raymond Ellis would like to announce that the church has moved its location into the city. The church’s new location is at 408 East Deyoung St, Marion, IL.

Anyone located close to this area is invited to attend the services. For more information contact Pastor Ellis at 618-983-8697.  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Grace Bible Baptist Church or Denham Springs, LA, and Pastor Jerry Dodson would like to announce their Annual Bible Conference June 6th -8th.

Service times are Friday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

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

All are invited to attend the services.  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Heritage Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Given, WV, and Pastor Benjamin Stepp would like to announce their Memorial Day Weekend Bible Conference on May 23rd - 25th.

For more information contact Pastor Stepp at (304) 372-7053 or email at bmstepp@citynet.net.

All are invited to attend the services.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Elder Tom Ross would like to announce that he plans to publish his book on *An Exposition of the Book of Acts* the first of July.

The book is expected to be approximately 350-400 pages. It is a practical, doctrinal, devotional, readable exposition of Acts.

This book will reflect the scriptural views on Landmark church truth including Baptist baptism, a local and visible independent church, missions, restricted communion and Baptist perpetuity as well as the doctrines of grace.

Prepublication pricing is \$16 per book or \$14 each on 25 copies or \$12 for 50 copies.

To order or for more information contact Elder Ross at 740-894-1455 or email at tomross@zoominternet.net





## Berea Baptist Church Bookstore

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- 8-Peter: The Illustrious Disciple .....\$22
- 9-Abraham: The Father of the Jews .....\$22
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- 11-Paul: The Missionary Apostle .....\$32
- 12-Moses: The Emancipator of Israel .....\$32
- 13-Joshua: The Conqueror of Canaan .....\$21
- 14-Samuel: The Prophet of Transition .....\$19
- 15-David: The King of Israel .....\$37
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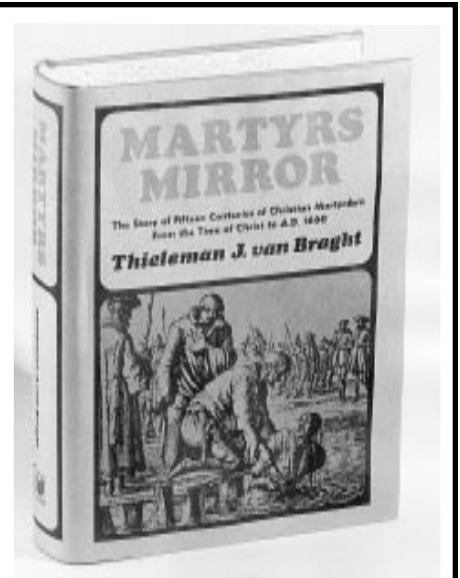
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## NOW AVAILABLE

The complete television sermons of Milburn Cockrell.

We now have all fifty-eight sermons that Elder Cockrell preached on the television programs *Gleanings from the Scriptures* and *The Sovereign Grace Telecast* available on DVD.

This is a fourteen disc set collection that contain fifty-eight sermons. Many have been waiting for these and they are now all here at last.

These programs are good to loan or give to those that are unable to attend services. These are also good for showing at rest and retirement homes to those who are bedridden or disabled.

We are making this entire set available for only \$25. This is below what it cost us to have them produced but we are making these available so that everyone is able to obtain them.

If you are wanting multiple copies of these, please let us know because we are only having a limited number produced.

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## WORLD SCENE

By  
Capt. G. Russell Evans USCG (Ret.)



### Should Illegal Aliens Have Driver's Licenses?

Since 9/11 there has been such a controversy over illegal aliens and what they should be entitled to. Between the issues of out-of-control illegal immigration, and a mass fury on various opinions about border control, is it any wonder why the American public (those that have any brains in their head) is outraged about driver's licenses being given out to illegal aliens.

It's not that we don't want them to have them. The truth of the matter is we don't mind if they have them at all. What we do mind is the fact that "they are illegal." If they came in this country and registered like they are supposed to, got jobs legally, and lived like the rest of the citizens here, there would be no problem. But for them to "assume" that they can come here and get all the benefits of U.S. citizens and they are illegal is beyond comprehension.

#### HILLARY CLINTON/BARACK OBAMA POSITION

The results will show that the Hillary Clinton/Barack Obama position favoring such licenses is not only way outside the mainstream of voters in both parties, but also that their radical and extremist views on illegal aliens threaten the security of this nation. Hillary waffled around, half denying her support after being attacked in the media---and by many voters!

But facts are facts. The far left democrat candidate Barack Obama whole-heartedly endorsed a now tabled plan by the governor of New York to grant illegal aliens the right to obtain a driver's license. Senator Clinton let the cat out of the bag during the democrat presidential debate where she endorsed this insane plan, and while she now denies it, it's clear where Hillary and the Democrat National Party stand on rewarding illegal aliens.

#### FORM OF IDENTIFICATION

In the U.S., a driver's license is the recognized government form of identification. A license opens the door to many of the freedoms enjoyed by legal American citizens. Hillary Clinton wants to turn those same rights and freedoms over to illegal alien lawbreakers.

In most states a person can register to vote at the Division of Motor Vehicles bureau immediately after receiving a driver's license. This is where Senator Clinton's vote for illegal amnesty pays off for the democrat party.

Grateful illegal aliens will line up at the voter registration booth eager to

reward the democrats with their votes for President. Illegal aliens could water down the votes of legal citizens like you and me so much that only amnesty supporters can be elected to national office. But the most dangerous thing about allowing illegal aliens to obtain a U. S. driver's license is how it would involve undercutting the prevention of terrorism on U.S. soil.

#### TERRORIST WHO BREAKS

In the hands of a terrorist who breaks into our country, a driver's license becomes a deadly weapon. Driving legally across state lines would allow a terrorist to keep a low profile and avoid police attention. A terrorist with a legal ID can open a bank account and get credit cards.

This is exactly what the September 11 hijackers did, and it made their mission of mass murder that much easier to carry out. Those same terrorists walked through the airport check-in line to board their planes with "valid" driver's licenses---nothing to it.

#### NEW TERRORIST PLOTS

It chills me to the bone to think of how many new terrorist plots will be set in motion by granting driver's licenses to illegal aliens! But Hillary Clinton is not about to allow commonsense citizenry protections, or any basic counter-terrorist restrictions on illegals to get in the way of her political ambition and lust for power! She needs the votes of illegal aliens, "and she will support any plan to get those votes. No matter how dangerous or reckless."

#### WAR CHEST IN HISTORY

The democrats are loaded with what promises to be the largest presidential campaign war chest in history and Hillary Clinton beats all republican challengers in the public opinion polls. Our time is short.

There is still a chance to defeat Hillary Clinton and her bad, pro-illegal agenda--before it's too late. The internal security

of our nation demands nothing less. The first thing we must do is call public attention to Hillary Clinton's reckless endorsement of allowing illegal aliens to obtain a U.S. driver's license.

#### ILLEGAL ALIEN ONSLAUGHT

Here's how Minuteman PAC plans to use it in states facing the worst of the illegal alien onslaught:

\* *Voter Outreach:* Target likely voters to receive calls and mailings with details of the extremist records of Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and the DNC.

\* *Alternative Media:* Communicate through talk-radio and the conservative press. Produce and broadcast anti-Clinton ads on cable channels and radio for maximum reach and to bypass the liberal major TV networks.

\* *Internet:* Establish website links to local talk radio in target states and sample Letters-to-the-Editor on our issues. Create e-mail contact lists of broader security activists and regional volunteers.

#### AGAINST THE CLINTON DNC

We are up against the Clinton DNC machine and well-funded pro-amnesty groups who are already pouring money and operatives into the same states targeted by Minuteman. The 9/11 hijackers carried out their deadly mission in plain sight, because they had valid driver's licenses. Now Hillary Clinton (despite her weak 11<sup>th</sup> hour denials) supports driver's licenses for illegal aliens, including the unknown terrorists among them.

Right now the most dangerous person in America is Hillary Clinton herself.

"Stand with anybody that stands right. Stand with him while he is right and part with him when he goes wrong."  
---Abraham Lincoln

(Letter and excerpts, Chris Simcox, Honorary Chairman, Minuteman PAC.)

### English - Our Nation's Official Language

Just before President Clinton left office, he signed an Executive Order that requires doctors and hospitals to provide interpreters free of charge to non-English speaking patients.

If doctors fail to abide by Executive

Order 13166 (E. O. 13166), they can be prosecuted for violating patients' civil rights. The penalties for these infractions include stiff fines and even potential jail time!

#### FACE SKYROCKETING

Doctors already face skyrocketing malpractice insurance costs, and lower reimbursement from insurance companies and government programs like Medicare and Medicaid. Now this new rule means doctors will have to raise their fees to pay the cost of translation for non-English speaking patients.

This is not fair, and it is one reason why ProEnglish, a national organization dedicated to making English the official language of the United States---and challenges Executive Order 13166 in federal court.

#### WE LOST ROUND

Unfortunately we lost round one of this court battle when U.S. District Judge Barry Moskowitz ruled we were not sufficiently harmed by the order and therefore lacked the "standing" to sue. That decision is a setback for everyone who believes that we need to defend English as the common language of the United States!

We were concerned Judge Moskowitz might rule against us because he had been appointed by President Clinton. You see, the "standing" argument is a procedural ruling that prevents us from having our day in court.

Federal courts routinely grant "standing" to anonymous illegal aliens, and various radical fringe groups with the most flimsy claims to "standing."

#### HERE ARE THE FACTS

Here are the facts:

\* The Department of Health and Human Services issued an official memorandum August 16, 2000, saying that E. O. 13166 was effective immediately.

\* Since most doctors accept federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, they fall under E. O. 13166.

\* If doctors refuse to provide interpreters, they can be prosecuted for violating patients' civil rights.

#### IT IS VITAL

It is vital because multicultural activists backed by government "civil rights" enforcers already are starting to implement this unconstitutional mandate. For example, immigrant's rights groups in New York recently sued several national drug store chains and cited E. O. 13166 to demand the stores provide interpreters as well as prescription instructions in numerous foreign languages. You and I will wind up having to pay for it.

If E. O. 13166 is allowed to become the law of the land, the ramifications, culturally and financially, in our society will be enormous.

#### PRO-ENGLISH EFFORTS

♦ (Continued on page 338)

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