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Baptists in Mississippi During the Civil War

By Jesse Laney Boyd

(1881 - 1967)

EVILS OF SLAVERY RECOGNIZED

Politically the South during this period was in a state of feverish excitement and confusion, with the future uncertain, both before and after the War for Southern Independence. Slavery—its abolition or perpetuation—was the burning question and disturbing element. The Negroes had been “kidnapped on their native shores by the North for money, sold to the South for money; the South bought them to make money, and kept them for money”; and yet there were unnumbered hosts of people in the South, as well as in the North, who were convinced that, in principle, slavery was wrong. In his message to the legislature as early as December 4, 1807, Governor Williams said, “I



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submit, therefore, whether it may not be proper to prevent their (slaves) introduction among us for the purpose of traffic and trade; by those, too, whose motives and sole objects are pecuniary; and who have no immediate or particular interest here, or concern for our political happiness.” And Governor Brandon, in 1828, advised the lawmaking body that: “Slavery is an evil at best, and has invariably

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The Abrahamic Covenant

By George Elliott Jones

(1889 - 1966)

1. The Importance of the Covenant.

The importance of the Abrahamic covenant is understood by few people. Very few works on theology have a chapter on this covenant. While almost every book of theology has one or more chapters on the law or Mosaic covenant, yet one is seldom found that gives a discourse on the Abrahamic covenant. In fact, most people have never learned that the Abrahamic covenant and law covenant are different covenants altogether. They think because the law covenant has been abolished that the promises made to Abraham concerning the possession of Canaan land have been abolished. Consequently they do not believe in the restoration of Israel to the land of promise. Their denial of



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the restoration of Israel grows out of the lack of understanding concerning the nature and duration of the Abrahamic covenant. The importance of the Abrahamic covenant is seen when we realize that the thousand years reign and Israel's restoration is based upon the Abrahamic covenant. Since most of the theological institutions are against the restoration of Israel and the

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The Sixth Commandment

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

“Thou shalt not kill” (Ex. 20:13).

“Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder” (Matt. 19:18).

“Do not kill” (Jas. 2:11).

The Sixth Commandment



contains a Divine prohibition: “Thou shalt not kill.” This forbids the taking of life unlawfully. We might better translate Exodus 20:13: “You shall not kill unlawfully.” It condemns parricide, infanticide, fratricide, homicide, suicide, and genocide. The Sixth Commandment may be called the life guarding statute. Second, this Divine prohibition implies positive responsibility to protect and to preserve human life at all cost. From a Christian prospective, there is such

a thing as the “sanctity of life,” human beings made in God's image.

The common word for kill in the Hebrew language is *harag*. But this

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Why Doesn't God Do Something?

By Roy Mason

(1894 - 1978)

“And all of the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and

none can stay his hand, or way unto him, What doest thou?” (Dan. 4:35).

“Why doesn't God do something?” That is the question that stared at



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me from the pages of a magazine the other day, and I guess that question has been asked countless times since this war began. “Why doesn't God just put a stop to this war, and bring an end to all misery and suffering?” If God is a God of love, then why does He allow men to kill each other? Why is He silent when oppression and violence fills the earth? These are some of the questions that people ask.

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"If Ye Ask . . . I Will Do"

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it” (John 14:13-14).

Having just assured His disciples they should perform marvelous achievements in the power of the Holy Spirit, transcending even His own deeds (John 14:12), our Lord proceeds to explain how the disciples would be able to perform such

effective services. Prayer would be offered in the name of Christ for the power and efficiency needed.

PRAYER DEFINED

What is prayer? Years ago John Bunyan (1628-1688) well said: “Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Spirit, for such things as God has promised.” It would be

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“THOU HAST GIVEN A BANNER TO THEM THAT FEAR THEE, THAT IT MAY BE DISPLAYED BECAUSE OF THE TRUTH” (PSALMS 60:4).

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Baptists in Mississippi

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operated oppressively on the poorer classes of every community into which it has been introduced, by destroying that mutual dependence which would otherwise exist between the rich and the poor. . . With these reflections I submit it to the wisdom of the general assembly to say whether the period has not arrived when Mississippi, in her own defense, should, as far as practicable, prevent the future introduction of slaves for sale." And Sergeant S. Prentiss, in 1831, declared that: "The sin of the business lies at the door of those who first introduced slavery into this country."

STATES' RIGHTS CAUSE OF SECESSION

The sentiment for the abolition of the octopus was growing, and, though there was no righteous reason for its existence, the principle of States' rights stood menacingly in the way. This principle was a cherished heritage of all Southerners, talked of around all firesides—a thing to be conjured with by the politicians, and with which they fanned public

MARK OF THE BEAST

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opinion into a white heat leading up to secession. In defense of this principle the southern states seceded from the Union, and to secure its perpetuation their soldiers held out for so long in the face of tremendous odds. "The armies of the South were finer than anything they defended," chants one who evidently considered that the South fought simply for the possession of her slaves. This is a mistake; for of the 8,000,000 southern whites in 1861, 6,000,000 had no direct pecuniary interest in the ownership of slaves and were not dependent upon them for support. And of the 4,000,000 Negroes in the South 127,000 had been granted their freedom before the outbreak of the war. Many of the freedmen themselves, possessors of large plantations and valuable property, owned their own servants in respectable numbers, it being "estimated that forty thousand free Negroes owned nearly one-hundred thousand slaves." Truly, slavery was taken for granted in the economic life of the South and permitted as a necessary evil; and yet it was not the direct cause of the troubles of the sixties. It was the principle of States' rights behind the dark spectre of slavery that precipitated the war with all its severe trials and grim tragedies.

WHITE SUPREMACY AT STAKE

After the War, the main issue was whether white supremacy should continue in the South, and in Mississippi. It was seriously threatened, and in many instances supplanted, through the activities of an alien element. The Reconstruction period from 1868 to 1875 was one of political oppression, when martial law prevailed, and carpetbag government was a burden. And all the problems of social, economic and political readjustment were made the more difficult for both the white and colored races by interlopers from the North whose presence and manipulations complicated the complex situation. Before the smoke of battle had cleared away, this floating citizenry, dubbed "carpetbaggers", swooped down upon the South like birds of prey, hungry for personal profit from the spoils of war.

They and the "scalawags", together characterized as "alien greed and home ignorance", were office seekers who attempted to use the freedmen in the effort to elevate themselves and certain of the freedmen class to positions of trust in the affairs of state. And by so doing, they pitted the native whites and the freedmen against each other, and rendered themselves odious and despised. To accomplish these ends they secured the disfranchisement of every male citizen who had "taken up arms in the Rebellion" who regained citizenship slowly and with great difficulty. The freedmen who knew nothing of the privileges of the franchise were given the ballot, and "stood in lines a hundred yards long awaiting their turn to vote." The white man was thus foiled in his political privileges, and the oppressor sought to make him feel the gall and bitterness of his unbearable lot.

GOODWILL FOR THE NEGRO

Yet in the midst of the turmoil and painful readjustments, it is a noteworthy fact that the white man, as a rule, ever sought to help, rather than to harm, the colored man. Instances are too numerous to recount here, but one illustrious case ought to be recited that the world may not forget. A Negro policeman had killed a white man, and was being tried for his life. L. W. C. Lamar, the greatest light in the legal profession of that day in Mississippi, came to the side of the un-named black to see that he got his just rights at the bar of justice. And in the midst of the trial the noted barrister spoke thus to the jury: "Gentlemen, in the trial of this humble and friendless and despised prisoner, you yourselves are on trial, and this country in which we live is on trial, and the white race is on trial, and our civilization is on trial. If it shall be demonstrated that in these passionate and troublous days in which we live, we are unable to rise above passion in the solemn precincts of justice and do right by a friendless man, then it will be demonstrated that the spirit of civilization has departed from us. . . This man wrote me, 'Mr. Lamar, I am in trouble and I have no friends and no money. Won't you come and see that they don't do me any wrong?' When this humble man sent me that message I was afraid not to come, lest when I appear at the great judgment seat, to which you and I and all of us are hastening, and from whose righteous decisions there are no appeals, gentlemen of the jury, I would be afraid that I would have to hear the retreating footsteps of this friendless man and be condemned by the God of all the earth."

(A Popular History of Baptists in Mississippi by Jesse L. Boyd, pp. 82-84, 1930 edition).

Sixth Commandment

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word is not used in Exodus 20:13. Instead another word *ratsakh* which has a wider range of possible meanings. The word used normally refers to murder—the willful premeditated killing of a person. *Yatsakh* (ratsakh) is never used of God killing someone or putting to death an enemy in wartime. But it is used of unintentional homicide (Deut. 4:41-43). So the commandment says you shall not kill intentionally or unintentionally.

Does "Thou shalt not kill" mean human beings? or does it also include animals and plants? Are blood-sucking mosquitoes protected by the Sixth Commandment? What about houseflies and chiggers? God allows man to eat both plants and animals for food. But man does have a responsibility to care for plants and animals (Ex. 20:10; 23:5, 12; Deut. 20:19; 25:4) There is no biblical basis for vegetarianism.

HUMAN LIFE IS GOD-GIVEN

Human life is derived from God and it is perpetuated by God: "The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life" (Job 33:4). The Almighty is the sovereign disposer of life and death: "I kill, and I make alive" (Deut. 32:39). Human existence is one of the gifts of merciful God: ". . . he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things" (Acts 17:25). Man cannot give himself life, nor is he at liberty to take it away from others, seeing he cannot restore it again. Life is sacred because it is God-given. Puny man has no business whatever of interfering with God's greatest gift.

Every man under Heaven, whether a banker or barbarian, has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Every man should have the right to enjoy life unhindered by his neighbor. It is the nature of man to love life and to strive to protect it from hurt or harm. To rob a man unlawfully of his life, or to molest him in the enjoyment of it, is a serious offense to both God and man.

Man is made in the image of God in the sense he is a living, moving being who possesses self-government. While this image was marred by the fall in Adam, all men, good or bad, still hear some of God's image and superscription (Jas. 3:9). By the act of murder the criminal defaces God by killing a man made in His image (Gen. 1:26). Murder is not only a crime against man, but it is also a crime against God—it is to commit sacrilege.

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Cockrell's



Corner

(The views expressed in this column are strictly those of the editor of this paper. They do not necessarily represent the views of supporters or readers.)

THE PURPOSE OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST

V. TO PURCHASE THE CHURCH OF GOD.

Addressing the elders of the church at Ephesus, the Apostle Paul said: **"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood"** (Acts 20:28). The general truth in this verse is that the atonement consisted of the sacrifice and death of Jesus Christ. Blood is often put for life, for the life of the flesh is in the blood (Lev. 17:11). To shed a person's blood is equivalent to taking his life (Prov. 1:16, 18-19).

What is meant by **"the church of God"**? This expression frequently occurs in Scripture (I Cor. 1:2; 10:32; 11:16, 22; 15:9; II Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:13; I Thess. 2:14; II Thess. 1:4; I Tim. 3:15). I believe the word "church" in the New Testament means an organized body of scripturally baptized believers. Acts 20:28 was addressed to the elders of the church of Ephesus. This church had overseers who were responsible to feed the flock. Elders can only feed a local assembly. They cannot feed a so-called universal, invisible church which consists of all believers—some dead, some alive, and some not yet born. These words can be applied to any local assembly of baptized believers, for, as Baptists, we believe in a regenerated church membership (Acts 2:41, 47).

Even if one makes **"the church of God"** to be the universal, invisible church, it is still a very restrictive term limited either to all believers from Pentecost to the Rapture as dispensationalists say, or all the elect as the covenant theologian says. This

is no way under Heaven to make **"the church of God"** to be every person of Adam's fallen race. There is no universal redemption in this verse. Arminians, as well as Calvinists, must concede the term **"church of God"** cannot be taken beyond real believers who are actually saved by the blood of Christ. Acts 20:28 teaches a definite atonement.

"Which he purchased (peripoiemai)" means "to acquire for one's own possession." The corresponding noun occurs more frequently and always in reference to redemption or salvation (Eph. 1:14; I Thess. 5:9; II Thess. 2:14; Heb. 10:39; I Pet. 2:9). Christ obtained for Himself as a possession the people for which He gave His life. No creature could have made such a purchase (Ps. 49:7-8). No man or angel could have purchased so much as one sheep, much less the whole flock. But Christ, being God, actually made such a purchase from God the Father.

Some Bible students try to change or water down the truth that the church was purchased by the blood of God. They say it is absurd to imagine God with a human body and blood. But when the Bible sets forth

God manifest in the flesh, it does not always separate the human nature from the divine. The princes of this world are said to **"have crucified the Lord of glory"** (I Cor. 2:8). The man Jesus Christ, who shed His blood for us, was also God. If Christ had not been a man, He would have had no blood to shed, and if He had not been God, the blood He shed would not have been a sufficient price for purchasing the church of God. The church fathers (Ignatius and Tertullian) did not hesitate to speak of the blood of God as purchasing the church.

The Christian church is an institution bought by the blood of God. It should be as dear to us as it is to Christ. The value of the church can be estimated by the price Christ paid for it. Pastors should carefully guard and defend the church of God which has been bought with the highest price in the universe.

Our Lord did not merely try to purchase the church with His blood. Rather, the Bible says He actually obtain it for His own possession. Christ is no failure. The old prophet said of Christ: **"He shall not fail nor be discouraged"** (Isa. 42:4).



SO THERE IS NO DEVIL ON EARTH!

I have been receiving a number of articles from Elder Joe Thomas in Pensacola, Florida. I have read these with great interest. I received one some days ago in which he writes: **"We believe in the personality of Satan, that he was the unholy god of the Old Testament age and world-system, that he was the prince of all the powers of darkness until the Lord Jesus Christ came and defeated and destroyed all the works of the devil, and then cast him into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet are"** (Matt. 4:1-4; II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2-6; 1:20-22; I John 3:8; Heb. 2:14; John 4:34; Acts 3:18; Rev. 20:10).

"Our article about the Devil or Satan is the first article with any significant change that brings out the preterist view, and brings a division between the preterist view and the futurist view."

"I believe even though the Devil has been defeated and destroyed for two thousand years he is still real to many. His legend is just as real to many futurist as his actions were in the past. Satan is only real in their minds and your mind can play tricks on you."

Unless language has lost all its meaning, I take from these words that Bro. Thomas believes Christ put the

Devil in the lake of fire about A.D. 33. According to him, there is not now, nor has there been, for nearly 2,000 years any real Devil loose on earth. According to him, Satan is a mere legend. The dictionary says a legend is "a popular myth of recent origin." He tells us Satan is nothing more than a mere concept of the mind of some deluded futurist.

The issue is not over Christ defeating and destroying the Devil as to the salvation of His people. I believe this as much as he does, but I do not believe Christ cast the Devil in the lake of fire at Calvary about A.D. 33. I am told the preterist redate the time of the writing of many of the books of the Bible, not out new historical material, but out of doctrinal necessity. Even the Book of Revelation was written before A.D. 70. In order to prove their point, I would think that nearly every epistle, as well as the Book of Acts, would all have to be written before A.D. 33. Very few scholars of any denomination would accept such foolishness.

Evidently the preterist forgot to tell the writers of the New Testament the Devil was put in the lake of fire two thousand years ago. All the books I am about to quote were all written after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and many of these books speak of the death of Christ as an event that was already past.

Satan filled the hearts of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:3). In Acts 26:18 lost sinners are under his power. How can this be if Satan exerts no power on earth? When Paul wrote the Book of Romans, Satan's bruising was future (Rom. 16:20). Paul told the Corinthians he tempted people (I Cor. 7:5). In Ephesians Paul told them to give him no place (Eph. 4:27), and to stand against his wiles (Eph. 6:11). Paul was hindered by Satan (I Thess. 2:18). Satan will work to bring Antichrist (II Thess. 2:9). Some were delivered to Satan (I Cor. 5:5; I Tim. 1:20). Some went after Satan (I Tim. 5:15). James said to resist the Devil (Jas. 4:7), and Peter said the Devil was loose and our adversary (I Pet. 5:8). In John's day (A. D. 96) he cast some into prison (Rev. 2:10) and had a throne on the earth (Rev. 2:13).

Really there is nothing new under the sun. The idea that there exists on earth no real personal Devil is the belief of all atheists and skeptics. The Jehovah (False) Witnesses, commenting on Ezekiel 28:16-19, in *Let God Be True* maintain Satan's annihilation (*The Kingdom of the Cults* by Walter Martin, p. 93). Mrs. Eddy, founder of the Christian Science Movement, wrote in *Science and*

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So There is No Devil

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Health: "The beliefs of the human mind rob and enslave it, and then impute this result to another elusive personification, named Satan" (p. 81). You will recall that Bro. Thomas said that Satan is "only real in their minds and your minds can play tricks on you."

Also the preterist view that Christ came back in A.D. 70 is much akin to Charles T. Russell's idea that Jesus returned in 1874 (See *Zion's Watch Tower*, Oct. and Nov. 1884).

Satan is not the god the Old Testament only. Paul speaks of him as the god of this present evil world in the New Testament (II Cor. 4:4). Satan is defeated, but he is still loose on earth. If he is now bound, as Bro. Thomas believes, I wonder what will happen when he is loose for a little season? The Bible says when he is bound he shall "deceive the nations no more" (Rev. 20:3). Are we to assume that there is no deception among the nations at present? Any man that can bring himself to believe such foolishness should also believe in the great pumpkin as well!

Sixth Commandment

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It is to shorten man's probation on earth and it usurp the place of God. Such action is the darkest form of sacrilege.

MURDER DEFINED

Biblical scholars agree that "murder" is a more correct reading of the original inspired Hebrew than the word "kill" in Exodus 20:13. But ~~granting~~ that the word is murder, there remains the question: What is murder? Some would say that it is the unlawful and malicious killing of one human being by another. Centuries ago Edward Coke defined murder thusly: "When a person of sound memory and discretion unlawfully kills any reasonable creature in being, and under the king's peace, with malice aforethought, expressed or implied." I believe these definitions are sufficient for our study.

There are different degrees of murder distinguished in the Bible and in human law. Our courts distinguish between first degree and second degree murder. They distinguish between capital offense, bodily harm in various degrees, and malicious thoughts against our neighbor. Neither the Bible nor the laws of our land consider accidental homicide to be murder (Ex. 21:13, 28-32; Num.

35:11-15, 22-32; Deut. 4:41-43; 19:1-10; Josh. 20:1-9).

It is wrong to look upon the Sixth Commandment as forbidding all killing. All murder is killing, but not all killing is murder. When a magistrate sentences a murderer to execution he does no wrong, for he is vested with lawful authority to put capital offenders to death. Genesis 9:6 commands: **"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."** The Lord solemnly tells the magistrate in Deuteronomy 19:21: **"And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life. . ."** Numbers 35:16 says: **"The murderer shall surely be put to death."** To kill such offenders is not murder but justice. The magistrate must not bear the sword in vain (Rom. 13:1-4). By punishing murderers the government constructs a protective wall around the life of its law-abiding citizens.

The Sixth Commandment does not prohibit killing in defense of our country during a time of a lawful war. I Chronicles 5:22 reads: **"For there fell down many slain, because the war was of God."** Nor are we to think that it condemns self-defense, for it does not. The Bible makes it plain that it is permissible to kill in self-defense. Exodus 22:2 says: **"If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him."**

The sword of justice has been entrusted to the government, and not to every individual citizen. Believers are to take no revenge, but let God be the Judge (Rom. 12:19). However, Romans 13:1-4 teaches that government may exercise, as God's minister, the vengeance due those who practice evil. What I may not do as a citizen and a Christian, the government may do. The government must not bear the sword in vain (Rom. 13:4), whereas we as individuals must keep hands off (Matt. 26:52).

A government has the right to wage war against invaders (Deut. 20). There is such a thing as a just war, as Augustine declared centuries ago (Num. 21:14; Deut. 20:16-18; Rev. 19:11). The goal in war must always be to achieve peace. War is not viewed as an ideal state (Josh. 1:13; I Chron. 28:3; Isa. 2:2; Micah 4:1-5). But the believer cannot be an antiwar activist; he cannot be a nuclear pacifist, as horrible as nuclear weapons may be.

War is a terrible thing. As a result of World War II in Europe: 20 million Russians died; 6 million Jews were exterminated; 6.5 million Germans lost their lives; and one million Allies died. When America dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima 70,000

Japanese went into eternity. During the Vietnam conflict 4 million Vietnamese died and about 58,000 Americans. It is disturbing to know that we today have the equivalent of four tons of TNT for every man, woman, and child alive. Truly the nations are arming for Armageddon.

PREMEDITATED MURDER

The worst murder of all in the physical realm is premeditated murder. Exodus 21:14 discloses: **"But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbor, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die"** (cf. Lev. 24:17; Num. 35:30-33; Deut. 27:24). An example of this is when Joab murdered Amasa: **"And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died"** (II Sam. 20:9-10). Murder of this kind, whether perpetrated swiftly by a knife, or slowly as by arsenic, is the most fiendish of crimes.

Any person who helps plan a murder, or even consents to it, is in the eyes of God guilty of murder. The Sanhedrin falsely accused Christ and caused the Romans to crucify Him. Because of this the Sanhedrin was charged with murder by the inspired apostles of Christ (John 18:30; Acts 3:15; 4:10; I Cor. 2:8). David plotted the death of Uriah by writing to Joab his military commander. Although the Ammonites actually killed Uriah, the prophet Nathan told David: **"Thou hast killed Uriah"** (II Sam. 12:9). Jezebel plotted the death of Naboth and caused him to be wrongfully executed for treason. The all-seeing One charged Jezebel with murder (I Kings 21). Saul consented to the death of Stephen and became an accessory to murder (Acts 22:20).

There are many ways to commit murder, or to be an accessory to it. Any person who allows an innocent person to die and has the power to prevent it has committed murder (Deut. 19:16-19). Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, but he did not hinder His death. Another way to murder is to remove things necessary for the support of human life: **"No man shall take the nether or the upper millstone to pledge: for he taketh a man's life to pledge"** (Deut. 24:6). Still another way to murder is by a magistrate failing to execute a willful murderer as God commanded. A murderer who is freed by the judge and kills again makes the judge guilty of murder in his second offense, for

he has failed to execute the murder for the first offense.

SUDDEN MURDER

Some murder is born of sudden passion. Cain in anger and envy rose up and murdered his brother, Abel. There are times when an outraged husband encounters and slays the destroyer of his home. There is the murder of a lynch mob who usurps the functions of a court of justice. There is the slaying of a person by automobile accident. This we call manslaughter. There is the killing of others when the murderer is under the influence of alcohol or narcotic drugs.

"Murder" or "unlawful killing" includes a number of things. A person may be killed by recklessness. A driver may run a red light and kill another person. In such a case he is guilty of reckless homicide. A nurse could give a sick man the wrong drug and cause his death (Ex. 21:29; Deut. 19:4-6). By ignoring safety measures pollution from a nuclear plant could kill people like Chernobyl. Automobiles and airplanes can be poorly constructed as to endanger the lives of others.

We must not be sentimental about these things. While there is no malice there is still murder, and murder is forbidden in the Sixth Commandment. However, it is a much lesser degree of murder than premeditated murder.

SELF-MURDER

The Sixth Commandment also forbids all forms of self-murder. This is a murder borne of despair like the case of Saul (I Sam. 31:4), Samson (Jud. 16:30), and Judas (Matt. 27:3). An example of this is seen in the account of Ahithophel. **"And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died. . ."** (II Sam. 17:23). Well did the apostle Paul write: **"The sorrow of the world worketh death"** (II Cor. 7:10).

Suicide is often a consequence of some form of insanity, permanent or temporary. But often what we call "insanity" is a moral madness rather than a mental. Suicide when committed by a sane person is murder. How terrible the thought of the self-murderer passing to the Judge with his hands covered in his own blood, leaving this world without space of repentance! Suicide proves that man is a totally depraved sinner, for even animals do not knowingly commit self-murder.

The willful risk of human life when it is not called for is a form of self-murder. Fightings, stunts, races, and

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games, which require risk of life are against the law of God. When such risks are taken we often call them heroic, but God thinks otherwise. Only risks for the benefit of human life are permitted. Certainly a father should risk his life to save his child or his wife. But to play the daredevil is condemned by God.

A man must take the time to seek a remedy for the cure of human sickness. If he does not, he is an accessory to his own death. God told Hezekiah to lay a lump of figs upon his boil (Isa. 38:21). If he had failed to do this, he would have caused his own death. A person may grieve himself to death over the loss of some person or property. This is also condemned by God.

This commandment forbids the indulgence of slavish appetites. Overindulgence of food and drink is wrong. A man can commit suicide with a fork as well as with a gun. He can use his teeth to dig his own grave. Such sins against his body have a suicidal tendency.

Immoral habits which harm or shorten human life are forbidden. A man may smoke or drink himself into his grave. God sees all of these sins and forbids them.

No one is to hate his own flesh (Eph. 5:29). Yet in the U.S. 5,000 young people kill themselves every year—a 300 percent increase since 1960. Suicide is a terrible sin. It usurps the divine prerogative, destroying something made in the image of God. It says to society, "I think you are not worth being a part of." The person who commits suicide refuses to take interest in human existence. Suicide is not a permissible way out of human struggles of life. It is not necessary, for Jesus Christ offers hope and refuge for the most desperate cases. In some cases self-sacrifice may be permissible suicide (John 15:13, but do not take this so far as to try to justify Japanese kamikaze pilots or Islamic terrorists.

INFANTICIDE

Many people in civilized nations despise and deplore the practice in heathen lands of mothers throwing their children to the crocodiles. But infanticide is not confined to heathen lands. It prevails in Christian lands and is often perpetrated in what is called the upper classes of society. Abortion on demand is murder. The unborn infant is a person from conception (Ex. 21:22; Jer. 1:4-5; Psa. 139:13-16; Luke 1:44; 2:5). A mother who can consent to the murder of her own offspring is without natural affection. Any doctor who is

responsible to preserve life, but who instead takes it, is a disgrace to his profession and a hired gun.

According to the Bible, abortion is murder. **"If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life"** (Ex. 21:22-23). Abortionists are under the curse of God: **"Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person"** (Deut. 27:25). Psalms 10:8 says the wicked **"in the secret places. . .murders the innocent."** Every mother who consents to the death of her own offspring may have said of her: **"In thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents"** (Jer. 2:34).

Modern-day defenders of abortion on demand claim the unborn embryo in its first stages is really nothing more than a collection of cells, a lump of tissue, formative life at best. They tell us the embryo is nothing but a part of the woman's body, and since she controls her own body, she is free to do what she wishes. The United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of this idea in 1973, although the Constitution of the United States does not say one word about a person's right to an abortion. This ruling by liberal judges gave no consideration to the rights of the unborn. It gave no consideration to the right of the baby's father or the baby's grandparents.

Since the Supreme Court legalized baby killing in *Roe v. Wade*, some 40,668,335 abortions have been performed from 1973 to 2000. This is a tragic and deeply troubling milestone to close the 20th century. God's wrath is surely upon a nation who has murdered 40 million helpless infants.

Christians must be prolife. We must defend the rights of the fetus as well as its mother, whose life could be in danger in rare cases. But in defending the sanctity of life, the believer must

never take the life of another. To bomb an abortion clinic or to kill an abortion doctor is a violation of the Sixth Commandment, and God will not hold such a person guiltless. Surely Christians have better things to do than to picket abortion clinics or the places where people receive abortion counseling.

Let men call abortion what they will. When all is said and done, it will forever remain intentional, premeditated murder—a violation of the Sixth Commandment.

MENTAL MURDER

The Sixth Commandment forbids all degrees and causes of murder such as rash anger and hatred, slander, revenge, envy, whatever may prejudice the safety of our neighbor. In the Sermon on the Mount Christ taught that causeless or unreasonable anger, whether expressed or unexpressed, is virtual murder, and, as such, exposes the one who cherishes it to the doom of Hell-fire. **"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire"** (Matt. 5:21-22).

According to Jesus Christ, murder is not a matter of outward act, but of inward feeling; not a question of standing before the community, but of character before the Omniscient One. Murder is not in the pistol, nor in the hand that fires the pistol, nor in the volition that directs the hand to fire the pistol. Murder is in the nature that is capable of the volition to move the hand to fire the pistol. In God's sight murder is in the nature of a man. And this before the man himself became conscious of his murderous desire, purpose, and deed. If then every one who is angry with his brother is a murderer, how many embryo assassins there are all around

us? Could it be that murder may be found within our own bosom? Who of us has not at some time been angry, passionate, and revengeful?

If we harbor hate in our hearts against our neighbor, we are harboring the spirit of murder. If you insult people, if you wish them dead, if you want them out of the way, you are a murderer in your heart! The apostle John wrote: **"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer"** (I John 3:15). Any time we harbor a hatred of the life and welfare of another that hatred naturally tends to desire his extinction. Murder begins in the heart a long time before the hand commits it: **"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders. . ."** (Matt. 15:19). Private malice, the envy which is harbored in the heart, the secret grudge, is murderous in its tendency. These things would lead to the overt act of murder if it were not for the restraints of human laws and the dread of punishment. According to the Bible, every person who hates his brother is a murderer! Not all murders are in jail; some are members of Christian churches!

The sin of envy is forbidden in the Sixth Commandment because it also leads to murder. Joseph's brethren envied him and took counsel to murder him (Gen. 37:20). Cain envied his brother and slew him (I John 3:12; Gen. 4:6-8). The Sanhedrin was envious of Christ and asked Pilate to execute Him (Matt. 27:18). The apostle Paul lists envy and murder side by side in Galatians 5:21. Envy has deep roots, and its thirst can only be quenched by blood.

MURDEROUS THOUGHTLESSNESS

A Mosaic precept said: **"When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence"** (Deut. 22:8). To the modern world this mandate reads: Whenever you build a structure, or manage a corporation, or engage in any kind of transaction, provide beforehand against the possibility of injuring the life and health of any human being; otherwise you may be guilty of murder.

Our modern world is beginning to slowly awake to the need of these things. States are requiring new structures to be built according to national fire and electrical codes. Safety measures are required in factories and on construction jobs. Seat belts are urged for those who drive an automobile. Life preservers are required in boats. There is stress on fresh air and pure water. Thank God, society is at last beginning to

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Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS	Sunday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	101.9	3,000 FM
WJOR, Saint Joseph, TN	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	101.5	1,000 FM
WVSA, Vernon, AL	Sunday 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	1380	1,000 AM
WLZA, Starkville, MS	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	710	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS	Sunday 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	95.9	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	680	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	550	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	1050	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	783 Khz ...	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines ..	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	1494	16,000 AM

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practice the old proverb: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Any failure to provide the ounce of prevention can lead to the guilt of possible murder.

THE EVIL OF MURDER

First, murder is a terrible sin because it is a violation of the mandate of Heaven, a trampling upon the royal edict of the King of kings. It defaces God when a man made in His image is murdered.

Second, murder is a crying sin. When Cain killed Abel the Lord God said to him: **"The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground"** (Gen. 4:10). The souls of the tribulation martyrs in Heaven cry: **"How long, O Lord, holy and true, doest thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"** (Rev. 6:10). The earth has been made to drink the blood of millions in family feuds, in gangland killings, in wars, in abortions, in revolutions, and in deeds of violence. The mountaintops and the green valleys, the highlands and the lowlands, countries, towns, cities, islands, seacoasts, and the solitary caverns have all become drenched with unlawful blood. The mouth of the earth is red with the blood of men.

From every crevice and pore of the ground, from the deep seas and wild deserts, there come through all past centuries the accusing voice of fraternal blood. The blood of millions cry out from the battlefields of the world. Fifty million Anabaptists cry out against the religious systems which murdered them. Six million Jews cry from Europe. Sixty million slaughtered by Communism cry out. Millions upon millions of helpless infants, who were murdered by abortion cry out against their parents and their murderers. Billions of doomed and damned souls cry out from Hell which were deceived by false prophets. All of these cry for revenge and justice, and Heaven has heard their cry and is soon to answer in judgment without mercy. The Judge of all the earth cries back: **"I will avenge the blood"** (Hos. 1:4).

Third, murder is a diabolical sin. It proves the murderer is a son of Satan, who was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). I John 3:12 says: **"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother."** Verse 15 adds: **"Ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."**

Fourth, murder is a sin which brings down the wrath of God upon the head of the guilty one. The Lord has said:

"Vengeance is mine; I will repay" (Rom. 12:19). He has declared: **"Bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days"** (Ps. 55:23). The ultimate doom of the murderer is written in Revelation 21:8 which reads: **"But . . . murderers. . . shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."** But the fires of Hell can never purify bloody hands. Rather, they can only eternally punish the guilty.

SOUL MURDERERS

To take a man's life is a terrible breach of God's holy law, but it is worse still to murder his soul as Satan did our first parents. Ministers of the Word can murder their hearers, if they starve or poison the souls who listen to them preach. Some deny the divinity of Christ and reproach His substitutionary atonement. Others exalt the will of man and make it the savior of souls. Still others teach the grace of God is a license to sin. Such things poison the souls of men and make proselytes for the Devil. To handle to Word of God deceitfully is to be a murderer of lost souls. Surely the blood of these souls will cry out against their deceivers at the judgment (Ezek. 3:17-21). ab: God help us to never be guilty of corrupting others by a bad example or enticing others to sin. To injure another is his soul is worse than to injure him in his body. This is the greatest murder of all, for there is more of the image of God in the soul than the body. Let us pray with the psalmist: **"Deliver me from bloodguiltiness"** (Ps. 51:14).

Another way to be a murder of souls is to withhold from them the saving message of the gospel. Those who have the true gospel must preach it to every creature. We must warn men of Hell and the judgment. Ezekiel 3:18 gives this stern warning: **"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; 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."** If we do not take the gospel to every person in every nation in our generation, God will hold us responsible for our failure (Acts 18:6; Acts 20:26-27).

All unbelievers in Christ are committing spiritual suicide. Some laugh at Hell and make it a byword. They reproach the name of God and Christ. They give no thought of the world to come. They are joined to their lusts and pleasures. They see no beauty in Christ that they should desire Him. Such souls should cry out, **"I am killing myself; I am committing spiritual suicide."** God says to such

people what He did to Israel of old: **"O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help"** (Hos. 13:9).

Any person murders his soul who avoids the means of grace, who runs after pleasure and profit, fun and frolic, and refuses to come to the house of God to hear the gospel of Christ. To such people Jesus says: **" . . . for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins"** (John 8:24). He is a self-murderer who shuns the gospel and chooses rather to die in his sins! Are you committing spiritual suicide?

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That the earth is really in a terrible mess, no one can deny—no one will even want to deny. If the war should end right now this world wouldn't get over it for years to come. In fact we hadn't gotten over the last war when this new one was started. And at the present time it looks as if the war might go on for years. If Germany knocks out Russia, and secures the oil for her war machine, who knows how long this war may continue? I tell you, we of this earth, face a bleak and fearful future. Famine and pestilence and starvation and misery such as was never experienced before, is bound to come upon this earth. And the saddest thing is that millions of people, who have *no hope for the present*, likewise have *no hope for the hereafter*.

Personally, I don't see how people get along in such a time as this without God in their lives. Yet this is not a time of turning unto God. One of the pastors of this city was talking to me the other day and he said, "Do you find any signs of increased turning to God in these war times?" I said, "Absolutely no. To the contrary, I find increased carelessness even among my own members. I find that if people can grab the almighty dollar a little quicker from a war industry, they see no further than that dollar." And up in Georgia and Tennessee recently I was asking about the general attitude of people toward God and religion, and I was told that instead of turning unto God, there are indications of a turning away from God in this perilous times. Yet, in spite of this, people are continually asking the question, "Why doesn't God do something?"

I want to ask a question right here. It is this: WHY SHOULD GOD DO SOMETHING? Under what obligation is God to do something, when the human race is so wicked, and when even Christian people are

so neglectful of Him and His Cause. Men have lived in the past, and are living today in violations of every law and set of laws that God has established for the well being of mankind. Let me prove that.

1—Men are breaking the MORAL LAWS OF GOD. What do the majority of people today care about right or wrong? Back in the past people seemed to have some regard for decency and morality, but today just about every moral standard has been junked. From the day that sin entered the Garden, God put clothes on people to safeguard modesty and morality. But right here in our day people are throwing off their clothes and are going almost naked. Men around the beaches are wearing nothing more than a loin cloth like the savages. And women around the beaches and on the streets and in the homes are going almost naked. And because nudism is the style, church members are dressing—or rather are undressing in this fashion. Yet God's Word has been abolished which says: **"I will that women adorn themselves in modest apparel."**

BEACHES AND IMMORALITY
And what is the result of the nakedness of this day? The answer is widespread immorality. When modesty, which is the safeguard of purity, is cast aside, then immorality is the inevitable result. What proof do I have that my charge of wide-spread immorality is so? In answer to that, I ask, have you been reading about the drive against prostitution that is proposed for this city? Medical and other authorities say frankly that the number of men and women with venereal diseases in this city and county amount to hundreds. Moreover it has been stated in the public press that Florida's soldier population ranks highest in venereal diseases of any state in the union. It is said that 170 out of every 1000 are infected. Florida, surrounded by beaches, is about the nakedest state in the union. I ask, doesn't that have a direct connection with the fact that Florida stands first in venereal diseases? There IS direct connection between nakedness and immorality. I say men and women are breaking the moral laws of God. Why, therefore, should God do anything about the war?

2—Men are breaking GOD'S SPIRITUAL LAWS. Every person has a spirit and a soul as well as a body, and God meant that the spiritual part should be given some attention. This is done, in part, by devoting some time to the worship of God. But today, you can pass by the taverns and the beer joints and see the

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cars parked around them, and see them jammed with people, while at the same time the churches are almost deserted. That means that the people of this country are holding the things of God and religion in contempt. This is a complete violation of God's spiritual laws. And others who don't spend their time dissipating are letting business matters concern them to the shutting out of the worship of God, yet God says here in His Word, **"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."** Ungodly, God-defying human beings say, "Why doesn't God do something?" I ask again, "Why should God do anything?" What claim do people have upon God when they act as they do?

POUR THEIR "HIDES" FULL

3—Men are breaking the PHYSICAL LAWS OF GOD. They are pouring their hides full of that which ruins health. We have never had a time in America when the nation was as drunken as it is right now. People write to me—radio listeners, time and again to ask prayer for loved ones addicted to drink. People come here to church and speak to me about members of their family who are drinking themselves to death. You see women on the streets—young, and who ought to be in the very

bloom of health, but they look like old hags. Hard lines in their faces; eyes puffy; skin like leather. What's the matter? Drink, drunkenness, cigarettes, and debauchery—that's exactly what's the matter. And this fearful drink evil is debauching our army and navy. Time and again people have told me of army and navy recruits going off to camp "soused." Why this nation spends billions on war effort, but lets the liquor evil go on debauching and ruining our army is more than I can understand. Back behind that is great brewing and whiskey interests who want to fatten, even if it costs us our nation to do it. Yes, and back behind it all is the hatred of God and contempt for His laws. But in the midst of our national orgy of drinking and carousing, people say, "Why doesn't God do something?" I ask, Why should God do anything?

And not only is man breaking the laws of God which were established for his good, but he is *treating the Book of God*, which God gave to light up his path, with contempt. This is shown in a number of different ways. It is shown by religious leaders who *undermine its teachings* by playing down its inspiration. It is shown by people *letting the dust accumulate* on the covers of the Bible.

Recently my wife visited in a community where I had my first pastorate, and she went to see some people who came to church regularly when I was pastor there. But they

have grown prosperous, and along with that have lost sight of spiritual things. They almost never go to church anymore, and my wife found a fine copy of a Scofield Bible lying there in the home with the dust on the covers and the leaves showing no sign of wear whatever.

Then, we find contempt of God's Word expressed by many *who almost sneer* when anything is said about the Bible. Listen: I want to stop and ask you, what is YOUR attitude concerning the Bible and the laws of God? Are you increasingly neglectful of these things? Are you joining in with the world around you in a course that is already meaning chaos for this world of ours? I tell you, this is a time to do some thinking, for the very bottom is dropping out of things.

"Why doesn't God do something?" People ask that as if God were obligated to keep men from suffering the consequences of their own sin and folly. That is just as if I should climb to the top of a *skyscraper* and climb out through a window and jump out into space. Then as I fall toward the street, I yell, "Why doesn't God do something?" Listen: when I deliberately violate the law of gravitation, I am going to suffer the consequences. You wouldn't expect a man who broke all the laws of sound and electricity, and who rejected all textbooks to construct a good radio would you? Why then should we expect a man who breaks all of the laws of God and who treats the Bible with contempt to do other than bring ruin upon himself and upon the world in which he lives? And everywhere we see ruin—ruin—ruin—today. And it is the direct result of sin and the violation of the laws of God.

RUNNING PAST THE RED LIGHTS

Now I have pointed out that due to rebellion and willful sinning, the human race has no real right to expect God to do something—to alleviate the misery that it has brought upon itself. A child has no right to stick its head against a *red hot stove*, then *blame the parent for getting burned*. A person has no right to go to a *zoo* and stick their hand in a cage of rattlesnakes, then blame the caretaker for getting bitten. A person has no right to run smack over a *red light* on the street and then blame the city for a collision. Yes, and when men and women disregard God's red light of warning, and go right on into sin, they have no right to blame God for the consequences—they have no right to holler, "Why doesn't God do something?" when they get into the middle of a bad fix. Yet, notwithstanding that God is under no obligation—*notwithstanding that He does not*

owe us a single thing—I want to point out that—

GOD HAS DONE SOMETHING.

Man has made a horrible mess of himself and of the world into which God placed him, but amazingly and almost beyond belief. God loves this rebellious creature. I used to know a man who was a very fine, moral, upright man—a man of high standards and ideals. But the man had a son who wasn't actually worth the powder and lead that it would have taken to kill him. Yet, that father dearly loved that son. What he saw in him to love I could never figure out, but he did. And what God sees in the human race, as bad as it is, to love, I don't know, but He does. That love is set forth in what is perhaps the most wonderful verse in the Bible—John 3:16. **"For God so loved the world—etc."** God has prepared an anti-dote for sin, in order that we might not miserably perish. He sent his Son into the world that he might go to the cross in our behalf and in our stead and might there make a sufficient atonement for our sins.

You can go into an *engine room* and you can't look into a *great boiler* to see how much water it contains, but outside there is a small gauge made of glass, and it registers the height of the water. When the glass tube is half full, the boiler is half full; when the tube is empty the boiler is empty. Listen: the Bible speaks of the "height and depth and length and breadth" of God's love that "passeth knowledge." We cannot know the dimensions of the love of God in full. We cannot look into the mind and heart of the eternal God, but John 3:16 is the gauge that gives us an insight in that love.

BOTH ARMS SHOT OFF

Back before the Civil War broke out there was a young man who was *engaged to be married* to a beautiful young woman. The marriage was postponed on account of the war. Battle after battle raged and the young man was very fortunate in that he escaped without injury. Finally the war neared its close and the young woman counted the days until she should see the young man again. But finally his letters ceased. In anxiety she waited and waited, until finally one day there arrived a letter written in a strange hand. It read something like this: "There has been another terrible battle. I have been unfortunate this time; I have lost both my arms. I cannot write myself, but a comrade of mine is writing these lines for me. I write to tell you that you are as dear to me as ever; but I shall now be dependent upon other people for

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Funnybone

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

An Englishman came to visit the United States for the first time. He came into New York. He thought he would visit different towns and countrysides. While driving down the road he noticed a sign out in front of a church which read: "A direct phone line to Heaven \$1,000 per minute." He inquired of the pastor about this sign. The pastor told him the cost was so great because it was long distance.

He headed South. In West Virginia he saw another sign in front of a church which read: "A direct phone line to Heaven \$20 per minute."

Finally, the Englishman stopped in Possumtrot, Mississippi. There was a sign out in front of the Possumtrot Baptist Church which said: "A direct phone line to Heaven \$.25 per minute." He asked Pastor Brown, who was inside the church, how his rates could be so cheap

compared to other churches in other states. Pastor Brown quickly replied, "Son, you are in the South now. . . the calls are local."

Sadie Smith (96-years-old) was visited by her two sisters, Hattie (92-years-old) and Sue (94-years-old). One night Sadie drew a bath. She put her foot in and paused. Then she yelled down the stairs, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

Sue yelled back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She started up the stairs and paused. Then she yelled, "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

Hattie was sitting at the kitchen table, having tea listening to her sisters. She shook her head and said, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful."

She then knocked on wood for good measure and yelled, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door!"

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the rest of my days, and I send you this letter to release you from your engagement."

The young woman never answered that letter. She went immediately to the place where was located the hospital in which the young man lay. There was the long line of cots of the wounded, and she went along until she found the young man lying pale and wan on his cot. Dropping beside the cot, she threw her arms around him and kissed him. "I will never give you up," she said. "These hands will never give you up. I am able to support you—I will take care of you."

My friends, it takes a strong human love to bring about such a thing as that, but the love of God is greater. He loved us when we did not love him in return. For God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Yes, God *has* done something. He has provided us with a remedy for sin. He has provided us with a salvation. He has made provision for us such that we may have eternal life.

GOD GOING TO DO SOMETHING

And not only has God done something, for us as individuals, but more than this **GOD IS DOING SOMETHING**. He is doing something about the affairs of this world. He is *working out his purpose*. As old Daniel the prophet said, "**He removeth kings and setteth up kings.**" He has a plan of history to be worked out in his own good time. The outline of God's plan and blueprint of history is contained here in the Bible. Over in the second chapter of Daniel—you will find this blueprint. And looking back through the centuries, we find that history has exactly followed this blueprint. Every kingdom foretold by prophecy has arisen, and one after another they have crumbled and fallen. God foretold that after the Roman Empire that there would never be another world empire, except the short empire of anti-Christ. And looking back over history we discover that with the disintegration of the Roman Empire there has never been another world power. Napoleon tried his hand at forming a world empire and failed. The Kaiser tried it and he too failed. Perhaps Hitler is trying his hand at the same thing right now. We can rest assured of one thing, and that is, that no matter who tries, God's Word is not going to be set aside.

This age will run along exactly the line laid down here in the prophetic Word of God. Dictatorships will give

way to the dictatorship of anti-Christ who shall run his short but terrible course, but his doom is foretold and predestinated. That is the only help and consolation that I find in this present day—that God is still on His throne, and that He is bending events to accord with what He has foretold here in His Word. Rest assured that God has not resigned. He hasn't turned things loose. When this war ceases, the boundaries that are formed will be exactly those that God has predetermined. The only hope and salvation for any of us, is to be on God's side. Whose side are YOU on? Is it the right side?

But not only has God done something for us as individuals—providing a Savior for us; not only is He doing something about world affairs, in that He is guiding the course of human history, but it is further true that **GOD IS GOING TO DO SOMETHING**.

God is going to do something—and He is going to do a plenty. He is going to clean up this earth. He is going to clean the devil and his whole gang out; He is going to put a stop to war until "nations shall learn war no more." The Negroes sing two songs that are just as true as anything can ever be. One is entitled, "*God's goin' to move this weeked race.*" And the other is, "*Ain't a gwine to study war no more.*" God **IS** indeed going to move this wicked race. He is going to do something startling and drastic that will compel wicked men to lay down their arms—something that will stop all war immediately. Let me give you the out line of what the Bible teaches just here:

The Bible teaches that the most awful war that this earth shall ever know will be the war of *Armageddon*. And I don't know—but we may be heading close in the direction of it. It teaches that the most stupendous armies of all history will be gathered eventually in Palestine. The most stupendous military array ever known to this earth will be drawn up, when the Lord Jesus Christ shall return from Heaven in almighty power. And when He comes it will be to destroy with one fell swoop all militarism, by destroying at once all of the armed forces of this world. Armageddon will mark the end of all war. That is the battle described here in Revelation as the one in which blood runs as high as the horse's bridles. The prophecy of Zechariah is just full of the description of this. Let me read you a few verses taken from several different chapters. Zechariah 12:2-4, 9:

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against

Judah and against Jerusalem.

"And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

"In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."

Zechariah 14:1-4; 9:

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

"Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

"And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day there shall be one LORD, and his name

one."

GOING TO DO PLENTY!

Note particularly that last verse read—"**there shall be one Lord: his name one.**" Kings and dictators and rulers of this earth shall van away. War and militarism shall perish. The armies of this earth shall be more, and the Lord Jesus Christ shall be left as King over all this world. we sometimes sing—

*"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun,
Doth his successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more."*

"Why doesn't God do something?" **HE IS** going to do something—a something is to bring about permanent, universal peace on this earth. That something is to bring Satan. That something is to assure the reigns of human government. That something is to restore this earth to the kingdom of God. That something is to reign "**until he has put all enemies under his feet**" And this is not fancy—this is not mere imagination—this is not mere conjecture—this is the outline of even recorded here in the Word of God and as certain to come to pass as it is certain that the sun arose this morning.

I want to ask you the all-important question, **WHERE DO YOU STAND IN RELATION TO ALL THIS?** When the smoke of the last battle has cleared away—when earth's present scenes are but a dim memory—when this present age has come to close, you are going to be living somewhere. I ask you—**WHERE?**

(*Faith and Life*, Tampa, Fla., Oct., 1942).

Mini Edition

By Joseph Harris - Chairman of Biblical Studies, Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi

FOXchase

If you just half way keep up with the news, then you have heard the latest rumblings at CNN, formerly known affectionately by some people as, the Clinton News Network. CNN is "concerned" about their conservative audience and is seeking to redesign programming to capture the attention of those viewers who have begun tuning into the FOX NEWS NETWORK. FOX originated the phrase, "We Report, You Decide", which should be the standard of every news program and network on the air.

Christa Robinson of CNN was quoted today (Aug. 14) in USA Today

as saying the network "is always interested in providing a diversity of on-air voices." Oh yeah? Since when? Since FOX News started clobbering them with their upward surge in ratings, giving them a run for their money, that's when. FOX is a Johnny-come-lately, compared to CNN and the other "big three" and is wrongfully accused of leaning to the right.

Since when is reporting the news accurately, by presenting both sides of an issue, leaning to the right? The liberal, thumb sucking networks have had free reign for too long, reporting their network version of the news, telling listeners what they should

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Mini Edition

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believe. It's hard for them to accept being "usurped" by an upstart like FOX.

The Big Boys will not tolerate the possibility that viewers just might switch channels because they are sick of blatant, liberal bias. How dare the viewer! Here's the truth. Hard working Americans who support this country financially by paying taxes, and morally by living with standards and values of honesty and integrity, are tired of having opposite values through selective reporting rammed down their throats. And that is the truth!

As I was saying, I never thought I would see the day CNN would become so "concerned" about their conservative viewers, they would actually consider signing up Rush Limbaugh, but that is exactly what is happening. They are talking and Rush is listening, according to *USA Today*. Is this a move to become more fair and objective, or is it a disguised attempt to boost ratings by winning back lost conservative viewers? Well, I'm just reporting. You decide. Personal opinion: looks like a FOXchase to me.

IN A GALAXY FAR AWAY. . .

Shades of Carl Sagan! The master storytellers are at it again. But instead of the entertaining "Long, long ago, in a galaxy far away. . .", we hear again the tried old tale of a universe created by a huge explosion about 13 to 14 billion years ago. And it's presented as unchallenged truth. I have always liked science fiction, but, pullleese: Darth Vader and Mr. Spock sound more believable than the big bang THEORY.

A top story for August 7, 2001, is that scientists have found "evidence" of when starlight first penetrated the jet black darkness of the lifeless universe billions of years ago. By looking through their super telescopes, they can see time as it was billions of years ago in light years. Notice how they throw "millions" and "billions" of years around, as if they were talking about minutes. Never mind solid, empirical evidence. You are just supposed to believe their words because their answer to the origin of the universe has GOT to be truth. Case closed.

Science insists on empirical evidence for everything, except when certain scientists want to pick and choose. Empirical means observable,

or in layman's terms, it can be reproduced before the eyes in a laboratory. Sounds like that leaves out the big bang THEORY and the human evolution THEORY, for starters.

Robert Becker was quoted as saying in the *Associated Press*, "It took a long time for gravity to get its act together and start clumping the gas together. . . ." and he was talking about the formation of stars. Notice, he almost personifies gravity with intellect and volition, and the ability to create. If only Robert would go back far enough, he might reach the God of the gravity, and hit pay dirt.

I think the most unanswerable and important question in the big bang THEORY is: *What Exploded?* Logic demands an answer to the unstated question of: "If something exploded, what was it that exploded?" Maybe more importantly, where did it come from? The big bang doesn't answer the question of origin. It simply does, as the book of Genesis, make an emphatic statement of existence. "In the beginning GOD. . .". I am at least honest enough to admit that both the Genesis account and the big bang THEORY require faith, but at least Genesis names GOD as the first cause, whereas the big bang just leaves you hanging.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).

STEM CELL RESEARCH

The real issue about stem cell research has not been fully dealt with properly by most people, from President George Bush on down. The issue is not about finding a cure for diseases and infirmities. The issue is not about whether to use fertilized embryos that will never be implanted in a uterus. The real issue is about *when* life begins and whether anyone other than God has the right to play God.

If life doesn't begin at conception, then when? To some, it may seem radical to believe that a fertilized human egg is more than just a microscopic clump of human tissue or matter (what's radical is to believe that a baby is not a human life until it sees the light of day at birth). It is certain that a fertilized egg one day old, or a cluster of stem cells, at six days, is not a developed, formed human being. But does that mean it is still human life? And if it is life (which it certainly is), doesn't that mean that whoever chooses what happens to it, is playing God? Let me answer. YES!

We have seen Michael J. Fox and Christopher Reeve paraded in front

of the news cameras to pull on the compassion strings of our hearts. A cure for these guys, and others, would be great. But at what price? It is never right to do wrong. If two wrongs don't make a right, then you can bet that 2000 wrongs would be 2000 times less right to do wrong. If two wrongs don't make a right, then you can bet that 2000 wrongs would be 2000 times less likely to make a right. However, a society guided by a philosophy of situational ethics has fine tuned the art of justifying murder and calling it "choice", "freedom", and "research."

So now murder is research for the good of all, at the expense of the helpless, and don't think this technology won't expand to using whoever it needs at whatever age to experiment, given enough time and defusing of the American people. Anytime government begins to legislate in moral matters, and the issue of life is as moral as it gets, God comes up on the short end.

If I one day become confined to a wheelchair for whatever debilitating reason, don't you dare take another person's life for a slim, unknown chance of curing me. One person's life is just as valuable and sacred as another person's life, because we are all made in the image of God. God is the One who gives life and is supposed to be the one to take it. Liberals believe in taking money from the "haves" and giving to the "have nots." We shouldn't be surprised when we see their health redistribution philosophy is consistent with their wealth redistribution philosophy.

• So, here is the answer to stem cell research. Tread lightly and use common sense when dealing with human life. Period. The end never justifies the means. All the potential good that may come from the research does not outweigh violating God's commandment to sanctify human life.

Abrahamic Covenant

Continued from page 181

personal reign of Christ and His saints on the earth, it is not strange that they have practically ignored the Abrahamic covenant in their theological works.

II. A Different Covenant to the Mosaic Covenant.

Moses said to the people of Israel: **"The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The LORD MADE NOT this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day"** (Deut. 5:2, 3). So we see that the law covenant made with Israel at Horeb in the wilderness of Sinai, was

not the covenant made with their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, makes it plain that the Abrahamic and law covenants are two separate covenants. **"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant (Abrahamic covenant), that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, (that is, after the Abrahamic covenant), cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise"** (Gal. 3:16-18).

From this we see that the Abrahamic covenant and the law covenant are two separate covenants. The law covenant was not given until four hundred and thirty years after the Abrahamic covenant. We also see that the law covenant could not disannul the Abrahamic covenant or make it of none effect. Those who try to disprove the future restoration of Israel to the promised land, base all their arguments upon the law covenant. They show that Israel broke the law covenant and that the law has been abolished. All this is so, but Paul tells us that the law cannot disannul the covenant made with Abraham or make the promise made to him of none effect. He also makes it plain that the promise of the inheritance to Abraham and his seed was not through the law, but through Christ. So whatever may be said about the law covenant, the breaking of that covenant by Israel, or the abolishment of that covenant, has nothing to do with the Abrahamic covenant, or the promise contained in that covenant. Let the objectors face the issue and deal with the Abrahamic covenant, not the law covenant. Let them prove that the Abrahamic covenant has been abolished and its promises have become void. This they cannot do, as we shall see.

III. The Land Promise of the Covenant.

"In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates" (Gen. 15:18). This was the land promise made to Abraham and to his seed after him. This is too plain to be misunderstood. It included Canaan land in which Abraham was dwelling and all the adjacent territory, from the river of Egypt to the

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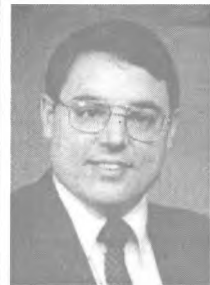
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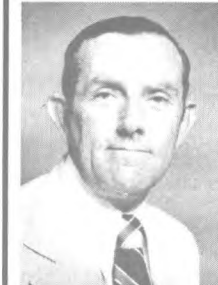
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Does Revelation 12:14 refer to the church in the 1260 years of the Dark Ages? If so, when did this period start and end? -- Kentucky



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"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."

I don't believe that this passage of Scripture has anything whatsoever to do with the Lord's kind of churches. The context relates to the time frame of the Great Tribulation Period. The members of the Lord's kind of churches would have already been taken from off the earth in the Rapture prior to the Seven-Year Tribulation to stand before the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ. So this passage has no reference to the church of the Lord Jesus at all.

The woman who is described as being **"clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars"** (12:1), and who **"brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne"** (12:5) is none other than the nation of Israel. In Romans 9:3-5 we find that Israel is the one **"of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came."** In the Old Testament Israel is set forth as the wife of the Father (Hosea 2:18-23), and as His wife she brought forth the Son by way of a Jewish virgin named Mary (Matt. 1).

The 1260 days mentioned in Revelation 12 refer to the last half of the Seven-Year Tribulation. God will preserve His elect nation by taking her into the wilderness to protect her from the wrath of the devil. At the end of the Great Tribulation God will pour out His Spirit upon elect Israel. Their regeneration by the Spirit will immediately result in their conversion to Christ and will prepare them for their restoration to the land God promised them in the Abrahamic and Palestinian covenants.

TOM ROSS

I believe this is speaking of the time referred to by pre-tribulationists as the Tribulation. The woman spoken of here is not the church but the nation of Israel. The key to who the woman is may be found by the identifying marks of the sun, moon, and the stars as seen in verses 1 and 2 with the help of Genesis 37:9-10. The woman is not literal Israel but simply a symbol of Israel as the mother of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

This scripture is speaking of the time when Satan is cast down to the earth and knows his time is short. He hates Israel as does all who hate God because Christ the Saviour came through Israel and one day shall sit upon the throne of David and rule the world with absolute authority.

This is the time of Jacob's Trouble when God shall deliver Israel from the destruction of Satan. I believe the reference to the wings of a great eagle signifies the same kind of deliverance for Israel as God brought about in Exodus 19:4 of Israel from Egypt. God will miraculously deliver Israel from Satan in his final try to destroy the people of God.

I do not believe this scripture has any reference to what is commonly referred to as the Dark Ages. That age was a time for all of the true believers of the Lord, but especially the Lord's true churches. In the period referred to in Revelation 12:14 it is Israel that is being persecuted because the true churches of the Lord will have already been taken up from the earth.

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The great red dragon in Revelation

12:3 is Satan. He is clearly identified in Revelation 20:2 and is said to be the one who seeks to destroy the child in Revelation 12:4.

The man child in Revelation chapter 12 is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one that is to rule with a rod of iron (verse 5). This is seen in Psalm chapter two which clearly identifies Him as the Son of God Who is to rule with a rod of iron (verses 7-9). The statement that He was caught up unto God and to His throne can only be applied to Christ.

The identity of the woman that brought forth this man child is the nation of Israel (Micah 5:1-15). This can not be the church. The church is not found in Revelation chapters four through chapter nineteen. The church did not bring forth Christ but it was Christ that brought forth the church. Revelation chapters eleven to fourteen deal prophetically with the nation of Israel. It is the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7). Satan will try to destroy the people of Israel, but God will intervene and protect her during the Great Tribulation (3 1/2 years). There is to be a remnant of the nation of Israel saved and preserved during the tribulation period. Through out the history of this great nation there has always been a remnant preserved. Paul clearly states in Romans 11:25 that the blindness of Israel is only temporary. He also states that God has a covenant with Israel and that a Deliverer will come out of Sion and turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Rom. 11:26-27).

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I do not believe Revelation 12:14 has any reference to the church undergoing any period of persecution, including the period of time called the Dark Ages.

It would appear that those who believe the woman in Revelation 12 represents the church have a number

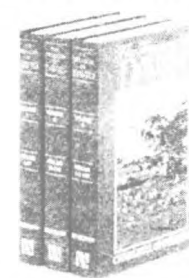
of problems in their interpretation of this chapter. They tell us the woman is the church and the man child she brought forth is Christ. It seems to me that the Bible is very clear in teaching that Christ gave us the church, not the other way around. For one to believe that the church gave us Christ would of necessity be required make the church an O.T. organization brought over to the N. T. To do this Israel must be rejected by God at some point in the O. T. and the church birthed before the incarnation of Christ. The confusion in this interpretation might cause one to call "the man child" the church.

The Catholic Church asks us to believe the woman is Mary. But we have no record of Mary fleeing into the wilderness and being fed by the hand of God for three and a half years. I cannot accept the teaching that Revelation 12:14 refers to the church or to Mary.

eg: **"Before she travailed, she brought forth: before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child, Who hath heard such a thing?"** (Isa. 66:7-8). The woman in this passage was delivered of this man child before she travailed, and it is my firm conviction that this woman is Israel. Christ was of the nation of Israel. He was brought forth some two thousand years ago, but the travail of the woman (Israel) will come during the Great Tribulation.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS

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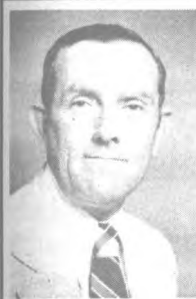
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What does the Bible say about being an organ donor when you die? -- Tennessee



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I must confess that I am ignorant as to any scripture referring to the donation of bodily organs to another whether donated at death or while still alive.

I personally have some reservations about donating all of my bodily organs at death because of the fact of the sovereignty of God in our life and death. I am not saying donating organs is wrong, but that I personally have some reservations about it for myself.

I would not want a heart transplant nor do I believe one will extend a person's life beyond God's appointed time of death for a person.

I would willingly donate a kidney, part of my liver, or even an eye to a dear friend or loved one to give them a better quality of life, still not believing it would prolong their allotted time on earth.

However, I do believe the Bible teaches that respect should be shown the body at death and that it should not be cremated, brutalized, etc., because it was part of the image of man made in the likeness of God by God and also is the temple of the Holy Spirit for all believers (I Cor. 6:19). Cremation and abusing the body are the practice of pagans and heathens not believing in God or His Word.

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I cannot think of any thing in the Bible that would directly relate to being an organ donor when one dies, but I can not see that it would be in contradiction with the Scriptures.

If one were willing to die for

someone, it would seem a small thing to give an organ after death. Jesus said that the greatest love that a man could have for another was to lay down his life for him (John 15:13). It is because He was willing to die for us that we have eternal life (Rom. 5:6 & 8). Paul wrote of those who were willing to expose themselves to great danger, even to risk their own lives, for his sake (Rom. 16:4). There are many, while still alive, that have given an organ to save the life of someone.

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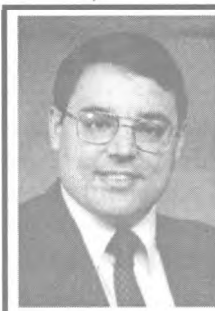
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There are a number of positions taken by men on the human body after it is claimed by death, some biblical and some not. Most Baptist believers recognize the sanctity of life and the human body, as I believe we should. We should be keenly aware of the fact, that for the believer, our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19-20). But it is my position that the Holy Spirit does not dwell in our bodies after our spirit has departed.

Some object to the act of embalming their body when they die, others have no objection to this procedure. Personally, I have no objection whatever to the embalming of the dead body. I do not believe that the removal of organs from a dead body will in any way hinder the resurrection of our bodies.

So far as I know the subject of being an organ donor is never raised in Scripture and I can not give Scripture to support organ donating or the prohibition thereof. But from a personal viewpoint I so no reason for a believer not donating an organ from their body to help another person enjoy a period of life. Would you object to a person donating one of their kidneys to a person on kidney dialysis? If so, why object to an organ from your dead body being used to improve another's life temporarily?

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This is definitely a question I have never really considered before. The technology to transplant organs from one human to another successfully is relatively new so I would expect very little to be written upon the subject in the Scriptures. Since our fleshly bodies go back to the dust in decay there is nothing left anyway so I personally don't have any problem with being an organ donor. In the resurrection of the just or in the Rapture of the saints every child of God will receive a glorified body fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body. Therefore, I do not see where we would need any of our old corrupted organs from our first birth since we are going to receive a completely new body that is incorruptible. I Corinthians 12:42-44 declares: **"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."**

TOM ROSS

Abrahamic Covenant

Continued from page 189

Euphrates River. These rivers are located on this earth and not in Heaven. We read in Hebrews 11:9: **"By faith he (Abraham) sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise."** So the land in which Abraham dwelt with Isaac and Jacob in tabernacles was the land of Canaan, a portion of this earth. This was called the land of promise. Before Abraham and his posterity can be forever deprived of this land the Abrahamic

covenant must be disannulled. We shall see that this is not possible.

IV. The Duration of the Covenant.

The covenant made with Abraham was an everlasting covenant, or one that cannot end. **"And Abraham fell upon his face: and God talked with him, saying, as for me, behold, My covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but they name shall be called Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. -And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, ALL THE LAND OF CANAAN, for an EVERLASTING possession"** (Gen. 17:3-8). Does everlasting mean everlasting in John 3:16, but something that can end in Gen. 17:8? When Baptists argue with an apostasy teacher concerning the security of the believer they say that the believer has everlasting life, and that something that is everlasting cannot end. Then some of them turn around and try to prove that the everlasting possession of Canaan land did come to an end. If the everlasting life of the believer in John 3:16; 3:36 and 5:24 can never end, then how can the everlasting possession of Canaan land come to an end? If the everlasting possession of Canaan land has ended, then it may be that the everlasting life of the believer may end, and also the everlasting punishment of the wicked may end. It is inconsistent to argue that something that is everlasting in one place cannot end, and that something that is everlasting in another place did end.

We have seen that the law could not disannul the Abrahamic covenant, nor make the promise to Abraham of none effect. The law was a system of works. So the Abrahamic covenant was not based upon works, but upon the grace of God. In Genesis 15:6 we read: **"He (Abraham) believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."** Then just below we read: **"In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram"** (Gen. 15:18). So the covenant God made with Abraham was made on the same day that Abraham believed the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness. This was an imputed righteousness. It was the righteousness of Christ imputed to Abraham (Rom. 4:20-25). So the Abrahamic covenant

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Abrahamic Covenant

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is based upon the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, not the works of the law. Only such as believe in Christ become the beneficiaries of the Abrahamic covenant. Only such Israelites as believe in Christ can ever come into the everlasting inheritance of Canaan land according to the Abrahamic covenant. One may as well argue the apostasy of a child of God as to argue that Israel through her disobedience to the law covenant lost an everlasting possession promised under the Abrahamic covenant. God's Word tells us: **"If they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect"** (Rom. 4:14). But we are assured in Galatians 3:18 that the law cannot make the promise of none effect. Why? Because the promise of Canaan as an everlasting possession was not based upon the law, but on God's promise to Abraham. **"For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise"** (Ga. 3:18). **V. The Covenant Was Confirmed With an Oath.**

"When God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee" (Heb. 6:13-14). See also Genesis 22:16-17.

To say that the Abrahamic covenant can be disannulled is to say that God can break His oath. It is as dishonoring to God as the doctrine of the apostasy of a child of God.

VI. A Covenant Once Confirmed Cannot Be Disannulled or Changed.

"Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto" (Ga. 3:15). In Galatians 3:17, just two verses below, Paul tells us the Abrahamic covenant was confirmed of God in Christ 430 years before the law was given.

So the Abrahamic covenant was confirmed with God's oath, and confirmed in Christ. That makes it impossible for it to ever be disannulled or change in any way. This is so because when a covenant is confirmed it cannot be disannulled or anything added to it (Gen. 3:15). Some time ago I was reading a book put out by a man in Missouri who was trying to prove that the pre-millennial doctrine was wrong. In that book he spoke about the Mosaic part of the Abrahamic covenant. That is an

absurdity. If a covenant cannot be added to after being confirmed, and Galatians 3:15 tells us it cannot be added to, then it was impossible for Moses or the law to add anything to the Abrahamic covenant. If it cannot be disannulled or added to, then it can neither be abolished or its conditions in any wise changed. It must forever remain as it was when God made it with Abraham. The conditions of becoming heirs must remain the same as they were in Abraham's day. Then the conditions of salvation are the same as they were in Abraham's day. Baptism was not one of the conditions of becoming an heir in Abraham's day. To make baptism a condition of becoming an heir today would add a condition to the covenant that did not exist in Abraham's day. This would be adding to a covenant already confirmed. According to Galatians 3:15 this cannot be done.

VII. God Swore Never to Break the Abrahamic Covenant.

"And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you" (Judges 2:1). The Abrahamic covenant, which was confirmed with an oath, is under consideration here. The law covenant was not confirmed with an oath. So God swore to the fathers of the Jews that He would never break His covenant. Those who say it has been broken have God swearing a lie. They say God did break the covenant God swore that He would never break it. Now, who was right, God, or some of our modern-day teachers who tell us the Abrahamic covenant has been broken and abolished?

VIII. It Was Confirmed in Christ.

"And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God IN CHRIST, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect" (Gal. 3:17).

Now, let us get these things straight in our minds. The everlasting inheritance of Canaan land to Abraham and his seed must come through Christ. Everlasting life and the better resurrection come only to those who believe in Christ. Abraham did not inherit the land of promise in his lifetime. Hebrews 11:9 tells us that he so-journed in the land of promise, as in a strange land. Hebrews 11:8 tells us that: **"He was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance."** In Hebrews 11:13 we learn that he **"died in faith, not having received the**

promises." This being so, then Abraham, Isaac and Jacob must be resurrected and brought back to Canaan land to receive the inheritance God promised to them. **"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them AFAR OFF, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."** So the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant and God's promise to him of Canaan land for an everlasting inheritance awaits the return of Christ and the resurrection of the saints when Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are raised from the dead. No Israelite will be a beneficiary of the promises of the Abrahamic covenant unless he believes in Christ as Saviour. The covenant was confirmed in Christ and one must be in Christ to inherit the promise God made to Abraham.

Since the Abrahamic covenant was confirmed in Christ all its promises are sure and cannot be cancelled. **a: "For the promise, that he should be heir of the WORLD, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise (that is, the promise that Abraham and his seed should inherit the world) made of none effect: because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed"** (Rom. 4:13-16). **"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen"** (II Cor. 1:20). **"The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable"** (Rom. 11:29, R.V. 1946 edition).

IX. The Covenant Reaffirmed to Isaac and Jacob.

The covenant God made with Abraham He reaffirmed to Isaac and Jacob. **"By faith he (Abraham) sojourned in the land of promise (Canaan), as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the SAME PROMISE"** (Heb. 11:9). **"And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him"** (Gen. 17:19). **"And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and**

law down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land WHEREON THOU LIEST, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed" (Gen. 28:10-13). So we see that God promised the land of Canaan to Isaac and Jacob also as an everlasting inheritance, and to their seed after them. Paul makes it plain that the promise to Abraham and his seed was not through the law. So when the Israelites entered Canaan under the law covenant in the days of Joshua that was not the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham in the Abrahamic covenant. The fulfillment of that promise is yet future.

X. The Covenant Is Immutable.

The covenant made with Abraham is immutable. **"For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the IMMUTABILITY of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath"** (Heb. 6:13-16). So God's covenant with Abraham is an immutable covenant, or one which it is not possible to change or alter.

Notice, God not only said He would bless Abraham, but He also said: **"Multiplying, I will MULTIPLY thee."** This guaranteed the continuation of Abraham's progeny. The continuation of Abraham's natural seed is as certain as the continuation of his spiritual seed. Both a natural seed and a spiritual seed was guaranteed in God's oath to him.

XI. God's Oath Guarantees the Continuation of the Abrahamic Covenant in the Face of the Broken Law.

"Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant (law covenant) of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee" (See Ex. 20:4, 5). **"For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. . . I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall**

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soon perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you. . . But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation and all these things are come upon thee, **EVEN IN THE LATTER DAYS**, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the Lord thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, **NOR FORGET THE COVENANT OF THY FATHERS WHICH HE SWARE UNTO THEM**" (Deut. 4:24-31).

From the above quotation we see that though Israel broke the law and was scattered among the nations, yet God said He would not forsake them, neither destroy them, and He would not forget the covenant of their fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) which He swore unto them. This is positive proof that the breaking of the law by Israel did not affect the Abrahamic covenant.

XII. God's Covenant to Abraham Preserves Israel a Seed in All Her Afflictions.

"Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: for he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a SEED, we had been as Sodoma, and had been made like unto Gomorrah" (Rom. 9:27-29).

Here we see that the Lord has left Israel a SEED in all her afflictions. Now, let us think what a seed is for and we will see what the prophet had in mind. A woman saves flower seed or garden seed that she might sow or plant again and grow more flowers or another garden. A farmer saves planting seed out of his cotton or corn because he expects to plant those seed the following year. So God has preserved Israel a seed in all her wanderings and afflictions because He expects to plant them in their own land again. **"And I will bring again the captivity of my people of**

Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them. . . and I will PLANT them upon their land, and they shall NO MORE be pulled up out of their land which I have given them (in the Abrahamic covenant), saith the LORD thy God" (Amos 9:14-15). Here we see that the Lord will bring back the remnant which He shall save, or the seed of Israel He has preserved for a future purpose, and will PLANT them upon their own land, never to be pulled up again. We have the same thought brought out in Jeremiah 31:27-28: **"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will SOW the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man** (that is, the seed of Israel which he preserves). . . and it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to PLANT, saith the Lord." The building and planting is as sure to come as did the plucking up and the breaking down. The restoration is as certain as the dispersion was certain, and it will be as literally fulfilled as was the dispersion.

XIII. The Prophecies of Israel's Final and Permanent Restoration Are Based Upon the Abrahamic Covenant.

"If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me; and that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled. . . then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the LAND" (Lev. 26:40-42). "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old" (Micah 7:19-20). "Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their

(Israel's) sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your (Gentiles) sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) sakes" (Rom. 11:25-28). **"For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable"** verse 29, R. V. (1946 edit.).

Thus we see that Israel's final salvation and restoration is based upon the gift and promise made to their fathers, and that that gift cannot be revoked. I do not understand this passage to mean that every individual Jew will be saved. I understand the ALL ISRAEL to mean both Judah and Israel or all the twelve tribes are to be saved and restored as tribes. This is for their fathers' sakes, verse 28. God's oath to Abraham demands that Israel be restored as a nation to the land of promise. See also Deut. 4:31; Ezek. 37:15-25.

XIV. God's Oath and Covenant With Abraham Guarantees the Continuance of David's Throne.

"Thus saith the Lord; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them" (Jer. 33:25-26).

To deny the restoration of Israel and of David's throne is to deny that God has appointed the ordinances of Heaven and earth. Israel's return from captivity and the restoration of the Davidic throne are based upon the promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

XV. The Fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant Awaits Israel's Repentance and Belief.

Many misunderstand those who teach the future salvation and restoration of Israel. They think we teach that they will be saved simply because they are the literal descendants of Abraham, whether or not they repent. That is not so. The Israelite who dies in unbelief is lost the same as an unbelieving Gentile. It is through the remnant of Israel who shall repent in the last days that the nation shall be restored and God's promise to Abraham shall be fulfilled. The Scriptures affirm that a remnant shall repent and be saved after the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. See Deut. 4:27-31; Ezek. 36:24-27; 37:21-25; Hosea 3:4, 5; Zech. 13:8, 9; Matt. 23:37-39; Rom. 11:11-28.



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.



GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

Children of divorced parents are four times more likely to get divorced than children from intact families, according to research presented at the American Psychological Association in San Francisco.

In 1950, a middle income family of four paid 2% of its earnings in taxes. Today this family pays 44%. For what? More government, government debt, and government inflation.

More U.S. marriages now end in divorce than in death.

Sign in front of a service station: "Taxes collected here—federal, state, and local. We also sell gasoline" (*Straight Talk* 8-30-01).

HARARE, Zimbabwe—President Robert Mugabe plans to expel all white farmers from Zimbabwe before next year's elections, according to a secret document obtained by the *Sunday Telegraph* of

London. . . Farmers who resist, it says, should face the "Pamire-silencing method, a reference to Chris Pamire, a businessman and former ZANU-PF support who fell out with Mr. Mugabe and was killed in a mysterious road accident" (*Washington Times*, Sept. 3-9, 01). Editor's comment: Be sure the liberal, leftwing press in the U. S. will never call this racism or ethnic cleansing. In the politically correct mind of Western media and politicians, no black man, no matter how murderous, can be guilty of violating the civil rights of white people.

As Democrats savage Republicans for daring to return tax-payer overpayments in the form of tax refunds, evidence of massive government waste continues to come rolling in. Government employees are set to spend \$19 billion using credit cards this year. But those purchases are

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rarely policed, leading to all sorts of scandal. One example: Education Department officials were caught using their cards to buy access to Internet porn. So bad is the misuse problem that the five banks that provide credit cards to federal agencies have written off nearly \$20 million in bad debts by federal employees in 2001. The Associated Press reports that at least 15 agencies have more cards than employees (*Human Events*, 8-27-01).

The August 5th London *Sunday Telegraph* reported that provincial authorities in Guangdong (formerly Canton), China recently ordered 20,000 abortions and sterilizations be performed in the impoverished region of Huaiji before year's end (*The New American*, 9-10-01).

NASHVILLE – A recent survey found more than 900 pastors and other full-time church staff at Southern Baptist churches were terminated in 2000, and only slightly more than half of the pastors returned to church-related jobs (*Western Recorder*, 8-21-01).

In a groundbreaking decision, the General Council of the Assemblies of God narrowly decided, 998-834, to allow men and women who were divorced before their Christian conversion to seek ministerial credentials with the denomination. The resolution approved during the group's biennial meeting earlier this month in Kansas City, Mo. (*ibid.*).

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS) – Born-again Christians are just as likely to get divorced as adults who are not born-again Christians, according to a recent report by Barna Research Group (*Western Recorder*, 8-14-01).

Between 1960-1990 the percentage of children born out of wedlock increased fivefold. Even so, use of condoms increased fivefold.

More than a fourth of American children are born out of wedlock. Remember when they used to be called "bastards?"

Divorce rates went up four hundred percent during that period. Children on welfare, up three hundred percent. Teen suicides have tripled. Scholastic scores have plunged (*Straight Talk*, 8-23-01).

The great issue of our time is not education vs. ignorance. Some of the best "educated people" are the most wicked. You have to be educated to even know how to commit some crimes. It has been acknowledged that one-fourth of Adolph Hitler's concentration camp guards held

doctorate degrees. The great issue of our time is erosion, not of the soil, but of the national morality (Tom Anderson).

The American Medical Association meets this week in Chicago for its annual conference, and there will be plenty of controversial public policy issues on its agenda. But one issue you can bet the AMA won't talk about is what effect the widespread practice of admitting blacks and Hispanics to medical school with lower qualifications than their white and Asian counterparts is having on the medical profession (*Human Events* 6-25-01).

A new booklet published by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) endorses abortion rights and praises socialist systems for providing better health care to their people. GBGM is one of the world's largest missions agencies, with an annual budget approaching \$200 million. It is the official missions agency of the United Methodist Church, which has 8.3 million members in the United States (*ibid.*).

Rep. Walter Jones (R.-N.C.) has introduced a bill to address the "very serious issue of IRS harassment of churches that engage in conservative political activity." The Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act (HR 2357), Jones says will "end political favoritism and government interference with free speech" by allowing churches to engage in political activity. Jones is concerned about what he says is clear bias in IRS auditing: Conservative congregations are closely scrutinized, while the IRS turns a blind eye to such pulpit partisans as Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton (*Human Events* 8-20-01).

Q. How does the number of deaths each year due to medical malpractice compare to deaths from gun accidents?

A. When the American Academy of Pediatrics took off on a campaign against guns in private homes, some pro-Second Amendment groups shot back. For example, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms cited a report by the Institute of Medicine that indicated that "medical mistakes" claim the lives of between 44,000 and 98,000 Americans annually. Said Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the committee: "Compared to the estimated 1,500 accidental firearms deaths reported by the National Safety Council in 1997—the most recent year for which the date is available—it looks like the medical profession needs to clean up its own act" (*The New American*, 8-27-01).

After the Democrats took over the U. S. Senate, God went out of fashion at the Senate Judiciary Committee. New Chairman Patrick Leahy (D.-Vt.) immediately dropped "so help me God"

from the oaths administered to witnesses. That phrase was enshrined as part of the government oath when President George Washington added it, noted Paul Weyrich in his "Free Congress Commentary." At the insistence of Sen. Jeff Sessions (R.-Ala.), however, Leahy restored the phrase, saying he had made a mistake because of his short tenure as chairman of the committee (*ibid.*).

One hymn calls the Almighty "Mother God." Another alludes to the universe as the "womb of life." A third refers to the Holy Spirit as "She (who) Comes Sailing on the Wind." And yet another is a hymn to Mother Earth. The book that contains these chorales is not some New Age tome, but a new Methodist hymnal supplement, "The Faith We Sing" (*The Washington Times*, July 30- Aug. 5, 2001).

Pornography is a major threat to public health and safety. Sex offenders use pornography to excite themselves before they rape and murder women, molest and murder children, and commit other sex crimes. Child molesters soften up their victims by showing them pornography. Pornography addiction is damaging the health of millions. Pornography is an obvious factor in the spread of AIDS, chlamydia, herpes, cancer-causing HPV and other diseases to more than 50 million Americans, including one in every five in the 15-to-20 age group (*Human Events*, 8-6-01).

On a recent radio broadcast, popular Southern Baptist pastor/author Charles Stanley said that God will not send people to Hell if they have never heard the gospel. Following is an extract: "(W)ould God send somebody to Hell because they did not receive Jesus whom they never heard about, never had the privilege of knowing about? And my answer is: No, He would not" (Stanley, In Touch Ministries, "Reconciling God's Love with His Justice," July 31, 2001). Editor's comment: This is the worst sort of heresy. The Bible makes it plain that all men born into the world are lost whether they hear the gospel or not. This is why the gospel must be preached to all nations as Christ commanded His church (Matt. 28:19-20). If God keeps all people out of Hell who do not hear the gospel, verily it would be well to never preach the gospel to any person. If Pastor Stanley believes what he says, then he should cease at once to preach the gospel. According to him, ignorance of the gospel is bliss!

The World summit on HIV/AIDS debated a document calling for the criminalization of criticism of homosexuals. The just-concluded conference discussed a document promoted by the UN bureaucracy called the "UN International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights." The

guidelines demand "penalties" vilification of people who engage in same sex relationships. In some European countries such as the Netherlands, "incitement to discriminate" on the basis of sexual orientation is already illegal. The guidelines also insist on explicit sex education for all children. Not stopping there, the UN establishment also wants an end to all laws against prostitution, adultery, sodomy, and the like—in other words, a new human right to sensual gratification. Opposition from the 60 Muslim UN member states doomed the guidelines which were not adopted as official policy at the World Summit but are likely to be pushed on UN agencies and at future UN conferences (see: *Human Events*, 7-16-01). Editor's comment: Get the US out of the UN and the UN out of the US!

The Presbyterian Church (USA) lost nearly 35,000 members last year, the largest drop in membership since 1990. At the end of last year membership stood at 2,525,330, a decline of 34,871, or nearly 1 percent. The denomination has lost 100 churches. The new membership figure may play a role at next month's General Assembly meeting. Conservatives have long said that the church's liberal bent on human sexuality issues has caused the church to lose members over the years (*Western Recorder*, 6-15-01).

The federal government keeps billions of dollars—much of it taxes collected from the IRS—in bank accounts that draw interest. Banks turn around and invest much of these deposits in US treasury bills, on which the government frequently pays more than 9 percent interest. Incredibly, the government is paying the banks to borrow back its own money (*Spotlight*).

A 23-year-old woman recently became the first person in the country to be convicted by a jury of murdering her unborn baby by smoking crack cocaine, according to a Columbia, S.D. newspaper. The Conway, S. C., jury took only 15 minutes May 15 to convict Regina McKnight of homicide by child abuse. She was sentenced to 12 years in prison. Prosecution of the case was based on a 1997 opinion by the South Carolina Supreme Court, which ruled an unborn child able to live outside the womb is a person with legal rights. McKnight was arrested in 1999 after cocaine was found in the body of her stillborn girl (*Western Recorder*, 5-29-01).

LONDON, England (EP)—Although based in the United States, the Mormon church also known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is the largest foreign landowner in England. Mormons own about 15,000 acres of prime English farmland, an amount that rivals some

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holdings of the British royal family. Officials from the church say crops grown on the land are being sold to third-world nations and the proceeds of the sales support Mormon missionaries in Africa.

LAMAR, Mo. (EP)—The 3-year-old son of a music minister of a Missouri church died Aug. 5 after his parents left him strapped into the family car while preparing for a service. The coroner said Joel T. Kinsey had a body temperature of 08.6, and said parents Kevin and Anita Kinsey "were just so preoccupied in what was going on in the church. They didn't think about the baby. . . They had the key to open the church, and they were in a hurry to get it open."

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (EP)—Reports of domestic violence involving homosexual couples around the U.S. in 2000 increased by 29 percent over the previous year, according to a report released July 31. There were 4,048 reports of domestic violence involving homosexuals in 2000, according to statistics compiled by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, a gay advocacy group.

TAMPA, Fla. (EP)—A Florida minister was sentenced to 27 years in federal prison Aug. 6 for promoting a faith-based pyramid scheme that promised to double the money of investors. Gerald Payne, 65, headed the Tampa-based church that attracted an estimated \$448 million in investments from 18,000 people across the U. S. Only about \$10 million has been recovered. Investigators say Payne ran a classic Ponzi scheme in which early investors were paid off with contributions from people who joined later.

MOSCOW, Russia (EP)—U. S. Missionary Craig Rucin was deported from Russia in July for carrying out religious activities in his spare time. Keston News Service reports that Rucin worked for a cultural exchange company called Slovo in the city of Izhevsk. Slovo used to be a training organization funded in part by a Florida mission agency named Pioneers, but it dropped its religious mission in 1998. In his free time, Rucin taught English to Protestant pastors in the area. On July 17, Rucin was told by the government that his presence was a danger to Russian national security. He was deported just four days later. When contacted by Keston, a Russian official said Rucin was deported for a visa violation in regard to his personal activities. Rucin said the Russian government thought he was involved in espionage. "They think my real aim is to change the hearts and minds of Russians

so that they become more obedient to the U.S.," he told Keston.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Teen birth rates are falling in every state, with the national birth rate down 22 percent between 1991 and 2000. In the year 2000 the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 19 was 48.7 per 1,000 women, according to government data. Pregnancy rates that take abortion into account have also fallen.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Researchers hope that the launch of a new commercial spacecraft will help them search for the remains of Noah's Ark. Porcher Taylor, a University of Richmond, told Space.com that he hopes the launch of the QuickBird2 satellite in October will help solve the mystery of the "Ararat Anomaly." The so-called anomaly drew attention in 1949 when it was discovered in U. S. intelligence photos. According to Taylor, the anomaly is located on the northwestern face of the mountain—an area that has yet to be explored by expeditions. The object is about 600 feet long and has a different texture, shape and color than the surrounding rock. Since the mountain has been closed to exploration by Turkish authorities in 1991, the best way available to investigate the site is through the use of satellites. Satellite photos of the anomaly taken in 1999 and 2000 have not revealed its identity, but Taylor hopes that new images taken by the QuickBird 2 will provide new clues. If successfully launched the satellite, owned and operated by EarthWatch Inc. in Longmont, Colo., will be the world's highest-resolution commercial satellite. From orbit, QuickBird 2 can focus on objects only 20 inches across. EarthWatch has already approved Taylor's request for photographs of the anomaly, but would not say when it would aim the satellite's camera on Ararat.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (EP)—A new study finds that occasional spanking causes no lasting psychological harm to children. Diana Baumrind, a psychologist from the University of California, Berkeley, reported her findings Aug. 24 at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association. She said that while she does not personally support spanking, there is no proof that it is a psychologically damaging practice. "A blanket injunction against disciplinary spanking is not warranted by the evidence," she concluded. Baumrind said only four percent of the 100 families she studied used no form of corporal punishment at any time in childhood.

NORTH FORT MEYERS, Fla. (EP)—Bibles stop bullets. A mother in Florida reportedly shot two of her sons on Sunday, Sept. 2. Her 6-year-old was

killed, but his 16-year-old brother suffered only minor injuries because his Bible absorbed most of the blast from his mother's shotgun. The mother, 39-year-old Leslie Ann Wallace, was later shot and wounded by Sheriff's deputies after she fired at them. Wallace reportedly shot her youngest son as he watched television at home, then drove to New Wine Ministries Church and fired at her son as he stood outside the church building. Most of the close-range blast was absorbed by his Bible. Sheriff's Deputy Larry King said, "The Bible certainly saved his life."

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Uncle Sam is looking for a few good chaplains. A severe shortage of Army chaplains has resulted in a situation where a single chaplain may be responsible for ministering to 4,000 individuals. Priests in the chaplain corps are in even shorter supply with some ministering to as many as 8,000 Catholic soldiers and their families. "We work these guys to death," admits Chaplain John Armitstead, chief of the Chaplain Recruiting Branch. He added that the present shortage "just makes the other chaplains have to work that much harder." The Army is launching an aggressive "Consider the Call" recruiting campaign to deal with the shortage.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The *Washington Blade*, a homosexual publication, reports that President George W. Bush appointed a homosexual to the U. S. Commission on Fine Arts. The appointed is Donald A. Capoccia, a New York real estate developer identified by the *Blade* as a "gay Republican activist." He was one of a dozen homosexual Republican activists who met with Bush last year during the presidential campaign. This is at least the second such appointment for Bush, who months ago named homosexual Scott Evertz to direct the White House National AIDS Policy Office. Allen Wildmon, public relations director for the American Family Association, said, "This smacks of a continuing effort on the part of a conservative White House to troll the political waters for homosexual voters, in an effort to shore up Bush's prospects for re-election in 2004."

OAKLAWN, Ill. (EP)—A delivery room nurse who criticized her hospital's abortion policy has been fired. Pro-life activist Jill Stanek lost her job at Christ Hospital and Medical Center. Officials at the hospital insist that the discharge had nothing to do with Stanek's views. Since 1999 Stanek has publicly criticized the hospital's policy allowing the use of labor-induced abortion, in which an abnormal baby is delivered in the second trimester. The procedure can produce fetuses that live for as long as an hour outside the womb before dying of neglect. Hospital spokesman Michael Maggio acknowledged, "She was the main

reason our hospital became the center of attention in the abortion debate," but insisted "that had nothing to do with it."

PALM CITY, Fla. (EP)—A 21-year-old Florida woman reportedly killed her 8-month-old son Aug. 14 to prove her faith in God. Jennifer Cisowski told police that "voices" told her to "throw her child on the stones," so she threw her son down a staircase at her mother's home to prove her faith and to drive demons from her boyfriend. Neighbors describe Cisowski as a devoted mother and lifelong member of The Abiding Word Church in Chaplin, Conn.

NEW YORK, N. Y. (EP)—Television networks once reserved the first hour of prime time as a "family hour," a time in which parents could be assured that programming would be suitable for children. That tradition is long gone, according to a study by the Parents Television Council. The group monitored family hour programs during the week of Aug. 24-30 and found that in this single week the programs contained 1098 scenes containing sexual situations and/or dialogue, 87 violent incidents and 97 uses of foul language.

MIDDLETON, Mass. (EP)—A former youth ministry worker was sentenced to 40-50 years in prison for raping and assaulting boys he befriended. Christopher Reardon, 29, admitted molesting boys he befriended through his work as youth ministry coordinator at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Middleton, Mass., near Boston, and through his involvement as a Boy Scout leader and YMCA swim instructor.

SENATOR INSISTS MARRIAGE MAY BE BAD FOR SOCIETY

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—Support for marriage may mean support for domestic violence, according to Sen. Paul Wellstone. The Minnesota Democrat denounced pro-marriage policies while questioning Dr. Wade Horn, President Bush's nominee for a position in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Speaking of policies which encourage poor people to marry, Wellstone said, "For these women and their children the cost of freedom and safety has been poverty. And marriage is not the solution to their economic insecurity."

Suggesting marriage can actually be bad for society, Wellstone said, "For some of these women, marriage could even mean death."

Amy Desai, a marriage and family analyst for Focus on the Family, says Wellstone has it backwards. "People who are married are far less likely to experience domestic violence than any

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other relationship," she noted.

b: Marriage can be a solution for couples in poverty, Desai said. "It helps poor people climb out of poverty," she explained. "We know that married people earn more, they're healthier, physically and emotionally, they're more sexually satisfied, and they're happier."

Nominee Horn, previous president of the National Fatherhood Initiative, was easily confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Family Support.

"Marriage is honourable in all" (Heb. 13:4).

U. N. RACISM CONFERENCE MARRED BY ANTI-ISRAEL FERVOR AND ACCUSATIONS

DURBAN, South Africa (EP)—The opening days of a UN conference on racism in South Africa were hijacked by attacks against Israel, said observers.

Official deliberations among the delegates during the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which began Sept. 3, quickly deteriorated into accusations and attacks against Israel by pro-Palestinian groups and delegates from Arab states. The collective atmosphere was "poisonous," said one U. S. delegate.

At the center of the controversy was language included in the declaration against racism drafted by conference delegates. In the first version, Israel was the only nation mentioned and condemned in the declaration for promoting racial superiority. The declaration also contained specific language that equated Zionism with racism.

Delegates from Israel and the United States walked out of the conference on Sept. 3 in protest against the declaration. This happened after Arab states and pro-Palestinian representatives verbally attacked Israel.

Members of a coalition of Jews from the United States, Britain and Israel told the *Washington Post* that the conference had been inundated by "Nazi-like" propaganda. The group also claimed that some of their delegates had been physically assaulted by pro-Palestinian delegates.

After the walkout, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer described the incident as a "lost opportunity" for delegates who were truly concerned about racism. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called the conference "a farce" and "a source of hatred."

Palestinians at the conference claimed that their criticism of Israel was not racism. "It is important to emphasize that criticism

of Israel does not signal any kind of anti-Semitism. We firmly maintain all our statements against anti-Semitism," said Marwan Bishara, a Palestinian member of the World Council of Churches delegation.

Attacks on Israel continued after the Israelis left the conference. On Sept. 4, Zouheir Hamdan, foreign ministry director-general of Lebanon, accused Israel of state-sponsored racism against Palestinians and Lebanese dating back to the 1940s.

Delegates from France, Canada and the 15-member European Union also threatened to walk out of the conference if attacks against Israel continued and the meeting's progress did not go forward. Delegates from those nations want anti-Israel language removed from the conference declaration.

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about. . ." (Zech. 12:2).

BUSH ATTENDS SERVICES DURING TEXAS VACATION

Crawford, Tex. (EP)—President George W. Bush attended church services near his ranch Aug. 12, during a working vacation in Texas. The service at First United Methodist Church in the tiny town of Crawford, Tex., featured country-flavored hymn singing and a sermon on Christ's return. First Lady Laura Bush and Tony Garza of the Texas Railroad Commission attended as well.

Pastor Don Elrod made special mention of Bush in prayer, saying, "We pray for the United States of America, we pray for its leaders. We pray for the leaders in all nations, and all nations everywhere. We pray that each one will seek your will in the decisions that they make."

During the sermon, Elrod urged members of his congregation to be "dressed and ready for action" when Christ returned. "Some of us put on a suit and tie," he explained. "Some put on baseball caps and some put on hard hats. . . Jesus isn't asking us to put on any kind of special suit. He is just asking us to be ready when He comes."

". . . for the coming of the Lord drawth nigh" (Jas. 5:8).

SANTA ANA, Calif. (EP)—Catholic leaders in Los Angeles County and Orange County, California, have agreed to pay \$5.2 million to settle a lawsuit involving a priest accused of sexually molesting a teen in 1991. Church leaders also agreed to accept a new code of conduct, to be enforced by a judge, which will provide stricter sanctions for clergy who victimize young people. Monsignor Michael Harris, 56, is accused of molesting Catholic high school student Ryan DiMaria, who is 28 now but was 17 at the time of the alleged molestation. Harris has consistently denied wrongdoing and has not been charged

with a crime. He agreed to leave the priesthood, and has been listed as "inactive" with the church since 1994. As part of the settlement a web site and toll free number will be established for reporting sexual abuse, and educational pamphlets will be distributed in Catholic churches and schools.



JOHN CALVIN WAS PROLIFE

"If men strive, and hurt a woman." This passage at first sight is ambiguous, for if the word death only applies to the pregnant woman, it would not have been a capital crime to put an end to the *foetus*, which would be a great absurdity; for the *foetus*, though enclosed in the womb of its mother, is already a human being, (*homo*), and it is almost a monstrous crime to rob it of the life which it has not yet begun to enjoy. If it seems more horrible to kill a man in his own house than in a field, because a man's house is his place of most secure refuge, it ought surely to be deemed more atrocious to destroy a *foetus* in the womb before it has come to light. On these grounds I am led to conclude, without hesitation, that the words, **"if death should follow,"** must be applied to the *foetus* as well as to the mother. Besides, it would be by no means reasonable that a father should sell for a set sum the life of his son or daughter. Wherefore this, in my opinion, is the meaning of the law, that it would be a crime punishable with death, not only when the mother died from the effects of the abortion, but also if the infant should be killed; whether it should die from the wound abortively, or soon after its birth.

(*Calvin's Com.*, Vol. III, pp. 41-42).

EARLY CHURCH ORGANIZATION IN MISSISSIPPI

The second Baptist Church to be constituted on Mississippi soil was "on the Fork of Bayou Pierre." The Baptists in this community petitioned the Salem for the constitution of a church for their convenience. The old Salem records show that on the first Sunday in August, 1798, "the Bayou Pierre brethren presented a petition requesting the constitution of a church on the Fork of Bayou Pierre. The church thought it expedient, and delegated Benjamin Curtis, Jacob Stampley, Joseph Perkins, and William Thomas to attend at the

home of Thomas Hubbard on Friday before the third Sunday in August. As far as we can gather from the scarce sources a church was organized at the time and place, and was known as "Arm of Cole's Creek on Buffaloe" (*Popular History of the Baptist Mississippi* by Jesse L. Boyd, p. 2 1930 edition).

On page 102 I find the information: "Conflicting interests prevailed among the members, some wishing to organize a new church in order to participate in the Paudlin funds, and others feeling impelled to prolong the feeble life and conserve the cherished name of the First Church. Advice and counsel were sought, and a meeting was called consisting of representatives from the state bodies of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee together with the Corresponding Secretary of the Home Mission Board. This meeting was held in New Orleans in February, 1853. The result was that the Coliseum Place Baptist Church was constituted on July 9, 1853, with nine members who had been granted letters of dismission from the First Church. The new church called W. C. Duncan as pastor, who accepted, resigning the First Church to do so. The First Church was thus left with simply a name to live, only sufficient members remaining to preserve the charter. They met for worship with the Coliseum Place church for some years,—"the mother church being the guest of the daughter"—and shared in the responsibility for its ongoing, both financially and otherwise."

BAPTIZED INTO

I do not know that I understand correctly, the meaning of being "baptized into Christ." Or "into one body of Christ." This body the apostle says, is the church. Does it mean anything beyond the organization into whose fellowship the person is baptized? Please give me some light, in whatever way you think best.

Thos. J. Lane

ANSWER—Language must be understood literally or metaphorically. We must always adopt the literal meaning unless the sense, the context forbids. How, then, must we understand the phrase, "baptized into Christ?" One living being cannot be introduced literally, by any process, into another. The sense not admitting of such a meaning, we must accept the metaphorical. We do say that a person enters into a covenant, an agreement, a contract, and a promise. We do say that the soldier enlisted such a day,

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and was sworn in or into the regular army. Paul tells us that the children of Israel were all baptized into (our version renders it unto,) Moses, i.e. in the cloud and in the sea, and Christ commanded His disciples to baptize those that believed the gospel, into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,—not three times, for there is but one immersion. The Israelites, like soldiers to the rules of the army, were baptized into professed and sole allegiance to Moses. They received him openly as their only lawgiver and leader. So does the Christian, by the act of Christian immersion, profess his union with the sole allegiance to Christ, and takes him as his only lawgiver and leader in all things, when baptized into one body which is His church. Can a person be literally introduced into visible organizations so as to become an organic member of it? Most certainly. The church of Christ was appointed to be so entered, and legally it can be entered in no other way than by the act of Christian immersion. Christ said to Nicodemus that except a man be born of water as well as, or in addition to the birth of the Spirit, he could not enter into the kingdom—His visible church. It was by the act of immersion that the three thousand were added to the church on the day of Pentecost. When it is said that we are baptized into repentance, and into the remission of sins, we know the phrases cannot be understood literally, for we cannot literally enter into repentance, or remission, but as we can declaratively, professedly. It is self evident to every one not blinded by the grossest ritualism, that whatsoever thing we enter must exist before we can be said to enter it. Our action in entering does not create or originate the thing we are said to enter (J. R. Graves in *The Baptist*, June 26, 1875, p. 183).

THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL

It is claimed by American writers that the first Sunday School was established at Ephrata, in Lancaster county, Pa., by one Ludwig Hacker, of the Seventh Day Baptist persuasion. Hacker, it is said, established his school about the year 1745, and it continued to be held until 1777, when it was broken up by the Revolutionary War. It was not until 1782 that Robert Raikes founded his Sabbath school at Gloucester, England. Raikes has all the credit of originating the institution. Whether or not he had heard of

Hacker's school in Pennsylvania we do not know. Probably he had not. (N.Y. *Advocate* via *The Baptist*, Feb. 22, 1886).

"If Ye Ask . . . I Will Do"

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very hard to improve upon this definition of prayer as given by Elder John Bunyan.

First, prayer is worship and adoration of the God of Heaven. Jesus Christ taught: **"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. . ."** (Matt. 6:9-10). The first thing in the example prayer respects God's name, His kingdom, and His will. Let us begin every prayer with praise for God in all His attributes. What we ask for in prayer must be according to His will and for His glory (I Pet. 4:11).

Second, prayer is calling upon God. **"I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised. . ."** (Ps. 18:3). **"The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth"** (Ps. 145:18). It is not calling upon men or Mary; it is not calling upon armies or angels; it is calling upon Almighty God. Prayer is asking for an audience with the sovereign God of Heaven and earth. As Christians, we have constant needs on earth, and this should drive us to constant calling upon God for help.

Third, it is taking hold on God. When Israel was in a backslidden condition the Prophet Isaiah complained: **"And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee. . ."** (Isa. 64:7). Prayer is the wing wherewith the soul flies to Heaven and the hand that lays hold on the arm of Omnipotence. The man who entreats God takes hold of the promises of God's good will toward him and pleads them with Him. It is to take hold of God, as did Jacob, that we may prevail in prayer. Jesus said: **"If ye shall ask. . . I will do it."**

Fourth, it is to make known our requests to God: **"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God"** (Phil. 4:6). **"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him"** (I John 5:14-15). We are to make known our

desires to God, not that He is ignorant of them, for He knows them better than we do (Matt. 6:8). God wants to hear them from us and to see our dependence on Him. It is His revealed will that we ask for what we need.

THE TOPIC OF PRAYER

Mark carefully the words **"anything"** and **"whatsoever ye shall ask."** The topics of prayer are limited only by the needs of the soul. **"Whatever"** and **"anything"** include far more than our spiritual needs. It includes daily forgiveness of sin and daily bread. These words would include all kinds of problems at home, at school, on the job, at play, etc. Little problems and big problems that we have concern God. There is nothing which is a source of doubt or difficulty which He is not only willing to hear, but what He also desires we should tell him. There is no thought, feeling, yearning, or desire, however low or trifling, we may not lay before God and be sure of His sympathy.

"Whatsoever" and **"anything"** must not be pressed to the point of a blank check, for God is not man's servant. But we can ask for anything good and proper, anything we really need in our walk for Christ, anything which is for our good and God's glory. God has reserved to Himself the right of hearing prayers and answering prayers, just like He distributes the gifts of the Spirit, dividing **"to every man severally as he will"** (I Cor. 12:11). As great as the power of prayer is, it is a mistake to suppose that a praying saint will get anything he chooses to ask for. No man knows better than God, or wishes his ignorance may overrule God's wisdom.

Many verses seem to indicate our asking God is unconditional. **"Whatsoever ye shall ask. . ."** (John 14:13). **"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened"** (Matt. 7:7-8). **"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive"** (Matt. 21:22).

But other scriptures set forth some conditions. **"If we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us"** (I John 5:14). In the text Christ said: **"Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name. . ."** (John 14:13). A true supplicant realizes his own limitations, his lack of wisdom, his want of true foresight. Therefore, he comes to God convinced of his unerring wisdom, His absolute knowledge, and His almighty power to bestow the gifts he seeks. He approaches as a rebel his offended Sovereign, mindful that every blessing

he asks for and may receive, is from the free favor of his reconciled King.

PRAYER IN THE NAME OF JESUS

"Whatsoever ye shall ask IN MY NAME" (John 14:13) and **"If ye shall ask any thing in MY NAME. . ."** (John 14:14). **"...that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father IN MY NAME, he may give it you"** (John 15:16). **"Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father IN MY NAME, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing IN MY NAME: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full"** (John 16:23-24). **"At that day ye shall ask IN MY NAME: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you"** (John 16:26).

Some make "in the name of Jesus" to mean "in union with Him." Certainly asking in the name of Jesus presupposes our union with Him. A praying soul should be joined ethically, spiritually, and organically to Christ by faith, but I do not think **"in my name"** has that meaning in John 14:13-14. By examining other Scriptures where this expression occurs (John 14:26; Mark 9:38; 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 4:10), it does not seem to have the meaning of union with Christ.

First, to pray in the name of Jesus means to depend upon Jesus in connection with the thing for which we ask. We approach God conscious of unworthiness in ourselves and relying alone on the grace and mercy of Him to whose throne we come with our entreaties. We must ask for nothing which is not according to His will and the interest of His kingdom. To pray in His name implies self-surrender and involves a request that our prayers only be answered for Jesus' sake. To ask for something contrary to the will of our Savior is not prayer, but rebellion.

Second, to pray in the name of Jesus is to pray to God as the representatives of Jesus Christ, and, in some sort, His mouth. We are His laborers; we are His soldiers. **"We are ambassadors for Christ"** (II Cor. 5:20). Ephesians 5:30 says: **"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."** We are in close and intimate fellowship with our Lord and Master.

Third, it suggests we come before the throne of grace on the basis of Christ's mediation. We must take Christ with us and feel that He presents our feeble petitions to the Father. We must believe the Father will grant our requests because He is glorified by the Son's mediation: **"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the**

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Father may be glorified in the Son (John 14:13). Christ and the Father are one (John 10:30). Whatever is asked in the name of Jesus will be done as by Jesus Himself.

THE ANSWER PROMISED

"I will do it," said our Master. In making this declaration our Lord asserts His own deity, making Himself equal with God, Who alone hears and answers prayer. The very thing we desire Christ promises to give. He tells us that of all who ask of Him, not one shall be denied or turned away. Many and gracious are the promises which God gives to the believer. **"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"** (Matt. 7:11). **"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"** (Mark 11:24).

Presuming that the child of God is asking in Jesus' name and according to His will, the wondrous statement is twice made in the text that, not only as we pray does God give, but that as we pray God works. **"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do."** Think about this promise! The eternal God of the universe stands, and says, "If you, my child, will only pray, I will work. If you will be busy with the asking, I will see to the doing."

When we enter the prayer chamber nothing should so stir us to mighty intercession as to remember that while we pray God is actually doing the things we are asking for. As we pray that the gospel be sent to sin-darkened lands, God baffles the powers of evil and sends missionaries to the regions beyond. As we pray, God moves the hearts of kings and breaks down the barriers to evangelization, loosens the bands of superstition, and opens up the pathway to forbidden lands. As we kneel before the throne of grace, God opens the purse of His children and thrusts forth laborers into the fields, which are white unto harvest.

What a tremendous responsibility is ours! What a unique privilege is given to them that believe. Oh, my brother, all the power of an omnipotent God is ready and waiting to be put into triumphant, irresistible action at the prayer of one of the least of the saints. Oh, the shame of our cowardiceness and faltering in the face of difficulties when God has said: **"If ye shall ask. . . I will do it."**

Who is it that speaks in my text? Who offers to do for us if we will but ask Him? It is no untried apprentice, no bungling worker accustomed to failure, but it is the God of Heaven and earth Himself who makes this wonderful promise. Our sovereign God has unrivaled wisdom, boundless skill, limitless power, infinite resources. This is the God who says: **"If ye shall ask. . . I will do it."**

The God of the Bible, who shrouded the land of Egypt in awful darkness, tells us to pray. The God, who turned Egypt's streams of water into streams of blood and broke the will of her stubborn king, commands us to bring our prayers before the throne of grace. The God, who led Israel out of bondage into liberty and light and divided the Red Sea to allow Israel to pass over dry-shod, tells us to inquire of Him. When the Israelites cried for water He sweetened the bitter wells to quench their thirst, and when they hungered He gave them bread from Heaven. When the Israelites marched in self-helplessness around the walls of Jericho, He leveled its walls by the word of His power. This great God says to us: **"If ye shall ask. . . I will do it."**

Our sovereign Lord, who stilled the tempest, walked on the sea, cast out demons, healed the living, and raised the dead, promises to answer the prayers of the saints. The God, Who holds the sea in His hands and the winds in His fists, has made this sweet promise to His people: **"If ye shall ask. . . I will do."** The mighty God, Who swings this ponderous globe on its orbit, who marshals the stars and guides the planets in their paths with undeviating accuracy, tell us to bring our petitions to Him. The God of Sinai and Horeb says: **"If ye shall ask. . . I will do it."**

God hears and answers the prayers of His believing children. Abraham's servant prays, and Rebekah appears. Jacob wrestles and prays, and he prevails with Christ. Moses prays, and Amalek is discomfited. Joshua prays, and Achan is discovered. Hannah prays, and Samuel is born. David prays, and Ahithophel hangs himself. Isaiah and Hezekiah prays, and 185,000 Assyrians are dead in twelve hours. Daniel prays, and the lions are muzzled and the seventy weeks are revealed. Elijah prays, and there is a three-year drought. He prays again, and the rain comes pouring down. Elisha prays, and Jordan is divided and a child's soul comes back. The early church prays, and Peter is delivered by an angel. Why is all of this so? Because God says: **"If ye shall ask. . . I will do it."**

FAILURE TO PRAY IS A SIN

Some say God has foreordained all

things which come to pass, and it is not possible that our prayers could alter His sovereign purpose. It is said God is too great to be moved—too high to be reached—too firm to be influenced by our poor petitions. Those who reason this way restrain prayer, and they generally sink into prayerlessness. This is a sin. Samuel told Israel: **"God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you. . ."** (I Sam. 12:23). In Isaiah's day the Lord complained: **"But thou has not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou has been weary of me, O Israel"** (Isa. 43:22).

Failure to pray is a sin because God commanded us to pray: **"Pray without ceasing"** (I Thess. 5:17). The moment a person begins to discuss the possibilities of prayer, that moment he does not feel his deep needs as he should. All the objections to prayer are upset by the words of Christ when He said: **"If ye shall ask. . . I will do it."**

We are to pray as an act of obedience to God's commandment. While our feeble cries do not change God's all-wise decrees, our prayers do make a change in us. Prayer is not for God's information, but for man's submission. We pray to get God's permission. God's decrees do not exclude the duty of prayer and the work of second causes. **"Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them. . ."** (Ezek. 36:37). **"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you"** (Jer. 29:11-12). Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold on His highest willingness.

James declared: **" . . . ye have not, because ye ask not"** (Jas. 4:2). **"Ask"** is in the present tense and points to our repeated failure to ask. Jesus promised to give us our needs by earnest prayer: **"If ye shall ask. . . I will do it."** Most Christians to some extent shrink from prayer for material necessities. We do often carry our spiritual needs to the throne of grace, but our carefully devised plans to obtain worldly things we seldom lay before God. How strange we depend on God for our everlasting life and not for the cares of this life! The reason we all lack many worldly things is because we do not ask God for them, or we engage in a pseudo-asking for selfish reasons (Jas. 4:3), which evokes no reply from Heaven. Instead of wrestling with God in prayer, we had rather wrangle bitterly with men (Jas.

4:1-2).

CONCLUSION

1. A Christian cannot always read the Bible, or always be witnessing for Christ, but he may pray continually. No place, no company, no circumstances, can deprive a believer of the privilege of prayer. If he is on the housetop with Peter, he may pray. If he is in the bottom of the ocean with Jonah, he may pray. If he is walking with Isaac in the field, he may pray when no eye sees him. If he is waiting on the king's table with Nehemiah, he may pray when no ear hears him. If he is in the mountain like his Lord, he may pray. If he is in jail like Paul and Peter, he may pray. Wherever he is, he may pray for grace and mercy to help in time of need. Every house is a house of prayer, and every place an altar where he may offer the sacrifice of prayer.

2. Adoniram Judson (1788-1850) said: "I never was deeply interested in any subject, I never prayed sincerely for any thing, but it came. At some time, no matter at how distant a day, some how, in some shape—probably the last I should devise—it came."

3. True prayer is not a plaintive cry to an empty echo, that can send back nothing but another echo. Prayer is a living heart that speaks in the ear of the living God. Our God says: **"If ye shall ask. . . I will do it."**

4. Prayer is an untapped source of spiritual power. It sets omnipotency to work. It can loosen iron chains (Acts 16:25-26), and it can open iron gates (Acts 12:5, 10). The prayers of a righteous man can open the windows of Heaven (I Kings 18:41) and break the bars of death (John 11:40-43). Satan cannot stand before prayer. When a praying saint takes hold on almighty God by intercession Satan runs away like a coward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Gethsemane Baptist Church, Marengo, Ohio, is seeking a pastor. Interested elders must complete a questionnaire and some other things. Please contact Gethsemane Baptist Church, 4000 County Road 217, Marengo, OH 43334 or call (419) 253-3671 or e-mail gbc@bright.net.

The New Testament Baptist Church, 2001 Hopkins Ave., Norwood, Ohio 45212 and Pastor Joe Gadd have reprinted a tract, "Why We Are Baptists" by Elder W. K. Wood. For more information contact Pastor Joseph Gadd, 6517 Persimmon Ct., Independence, KY 41051-9222 or call (859) 356-1348.

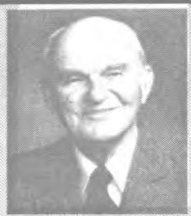
BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST	
Financial Report	
7-31-2001 to 8-31-2001	
Beginning Balance	\$49.11
RECEIPTS	
Berea B. C., West Point, TN	297.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	200.00
Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR	25.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	800.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	150.00
Anonymous	10.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1,482.00
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	997.00
Postage	7.63
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,004.63
.....	\$526.40
Bank Charges	-10.00
BALANCE	\$516.40
CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT	
Beginning Balance	\$933.33
RECEIPTS	
Total	933.33
EXPENDITURES:	
WCTT (Apr)	200.00
Total Expenditures	200.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$733.33



WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

*When the Chickens Come Home to Roost
They Could Mess Up Henry Kissinger*



Henry Kissinger is turning out to be a big booster of the proposed International Criminal Court (ICC), but, it now appears, he himself could turn out to be a victim of foreign courts that he seems to think are so grand.

That would be like the chickens coming home to roost and really messing up Henry Kissinger. Kissinger in the dock would be ironic, but, of course, that's not likely to happen to the man known as "the embodiment of the amoral globalist power elite."

Indeed, as a globalist extraordinaire, Kissinger and fellow members of the power elite can expect immunity from prosecution and imprisonment. Their role is to tell the rest of us how to do things.

COURTS WANT KISSINGER

The former secretary of state and advisor to presidents has a new book—*Does America Need A Foreign Policy? Toward a Diplomacy for the 21st Century* (Simon & Schuster, 2001)—whose very title suggests amalgamation of the international concerns of all nations into a grand New World Order for peace and prosperity forever.

Meanwhile, however, Dr. Kissinger is wanted for questioning by at least three foreign courts—not exactly an ICC, but it's the same idea:

* Chile's Supreme Court wants Kissinger to come down to Santiago to answer questions about his role in the assassination of American journalist Charles Horman during the 1973 coup by Gen. Augusto Pinochet. Judge Juan Guzman is considering obstruction of justice charges against Kissinger for failing to press for release of Horman, arrested by Pinochet troops and later killed.

* In June, while visiting Paris, Kissinger was handed a French court summons to answer questions about his role in the disappearance of French citizens in Chile, also at the time of Pinochet's coup.

* In a third case, an Argentina court has asked Kissinger to testify in a human rights trial in that country to explain his role in a 1973 scheme to kidnap left-wing critics of South American governments.

WHITE HOUSE FURIOUS

The Bush White House furiously rejected Chile's request: "It is unjust and ridiculous that a distinguished servant of this country should be harassed by foreign courts this way."

Let us pray that even undistinguished Americans would earn White House fury if ever arrested for trial in an ICC.

No word about White House fury on the French and Argentina requests. Even so, all got White House attention and highlighted the increasing unease about an International Criminal Court: "The danger of the ICC is that, one day, U. S. citizens might face arrest abroad and prosecution as a result of such politically motivated antics."

KISSINGER LIKES ICC

Ever the suave diplomat and master of double-speak, Kissinger likes the idea of the ICC "as an alternative to national courts for a supranational concept of justice"—or, he did before being served with the above three summonses. No word since.

A further proof of his specialty in "ambiguous statements and uncertain trumpet calls," Kissinger added: "To the extent that the ICC replaces the claim of national judges to universal jurisdiction, it greatly improves the state of international law (and) we can negotiate to make the ICC more compatible with American constitutional practices."

LAWYER-TALK

Kissinger is smoothing the way to deceive the public and U. S. senators whose "Advice and Consent" to the ICC Treaty is needed. Half-truths and misstatements are Kissinger trade marks. For example, he also smoothed the way for unconstitutional Panama Canal Treaties in 1974 when he incorrectly called the Canal Zone "Panamanian

territory" and refused to correct himself. The die was cast and senators were fooled.

So, why should we trust him about an international court—a court with power to seize and prosecute Americans on trumped up charges, throw them in foreign jails and try them before foreign judges, some hate-American judges?

Kissinger forgot to tell us in his eloquent endorsement of the ICC that victims would have no right to jury trial, no right to face accusers, no right to bail, no right to appeal, no right to a speedy trial and no protection of the U. S. Constitution. Why didn't he?

Nor did he tell us that U. S. soldiers and civilians overseas could be seized and prosecuted on trumped up or political charges.

BIDEN LIKES ICC TOO

Just a few years ago, President Clinton praised the UN "Millennium Summit" call for a UN standing army, a global tax and UN regulation of world firearms.

New Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Joe Biden (D-Del.) also likes the ICC concept and plans to hold hearings. He refuses to co-sponsor the American Servicemembers Protection Act to save U. S. military and civilian officials from the ICC.

Strobe Talbot, former Deputy secretary of state, warns: "Nationhood as we know it, will soon be obsolete; all states will recognize a single, global authority."

Not the United States of America though, Mr. Talbot. It is inconceivable that descendants of our Founding Fathers who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, would ever consider such an absurdity as an International Criminal Court that would wipe out their precious sovereignty and liberties, fought for and revered since the Revolutionary War.

And, I predict, will forcefully say so to the president and their members of the Congress. It is our duty to speak up.

No, I didn't interview Dr. Kissinger personally. No need to. His record is in the public domain. Besides, last time I asked, his fee was \$25,000 for 30 minutes. Not having the correct change for that interview, I declined. Besides, no need to. His record is spread over the public domain.

I say, beware of Henry Kissinger, German-born and perhaps never quite imbued with America's precious treasures of sovereignty and freedoms. Even so, his boost of the International Criminal Court is hazardous to our health—and may be to his, considering his summonses to those foreign courts.

Chickens do have a way of coming home to roost—especially the messy ones.

(Captain Evans is author of *The Church and the Sword* (St. Thomas Press, 1982)).

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 7-31-2001 to 8-31-2001

Beginning Balance	\$893.72
RECEIPTS:	
B.C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	28.68
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	200.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	50.00
Berea M. B.C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX	20.00
Bible B. C., Sullivan, IL	70.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	125.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL	50.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL	20.00
Faith B. C., Seffner, FL	50.00
Faith M. B. C., Clarksville, TN	100.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Grace B. C., Georgetown, KY	35.00
Grace M. B. Mission, Marion, IL	25.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK	45.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
John Otis, Agra, KS	100.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	150.00
Letson Farrell, Long Beach, MS	235.00
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM	300.00
Mt Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN	10.00
New Testament B. C., Dover, TN	100.00
Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA	40.00
Philadelphia B. C., Aztec, NM	25.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	50.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR	50.00
Solid Rock B. M., Kenedy, TX	20.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Fulton, MS	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Galena, OH	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX	30.00
The Lord's Church, Summerville, SC	50.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	100.00
Subscriptions	159.00
Anonymous	200.00
Dividing checks	225.00
Sub Total	\$3,822.68
TOTAL	\$4,716.40

EXPENDITURES:

Wages	2,375.00
Printing	543.55
Postage	776.79
FICA taxes	197.00
Dividing Checks	225.00
Total Expenditures	4,117.34
.....	599.06
Bank charge	18.06
ENDING BALANCE	\$581.00



Coming in the next issue . . .

Barren by Gene Flynn
The Revival at the Water Gate by Milburn Cockrell
The Seventh Commandment by Milburn Cockrell

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