

The Berea Baptist Banner

Displaying Biblical truth for twenty-six years in the printed page.

The Curse of Immorality

By Milburn Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)



“The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them” (Prov. 12:26).

From this text I see that a righteous man excels people in general around him. His neighbor may exceed him in worldly possessions and creature comforts, but the righteous man outstrips him in things which are truly valuable in the sight of God. I mean in moral and spiritual things. The righteous man has richer themes of thought, nobler principles of action, and diviner motives of conduct. The godly man is more excellent in character and conduct than his unsaved neighbor.

The wicked is convinced that his way is more excellent, but **“the way of the wicked seduceth them.”** The way of the ungodly is the way of sin. He follows **“the course of this world”** (Eph. 2:2). He is seduced by the Devil. According to holy Scripture, a wicked man is walking in a dangerous pathway. The pleasure of sin, the fascination of the world---its riches, its honors, its company, its amusements, its promises for tomorrow---all seduce and cheat him. **“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death”** (Prov. 14:12). **“The way of the ungodly shall perish”** (Ps. 1:6).

A DEFINITION OF MORALS

A definition of morals is not an easy thing in today’s world. There was a day

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“A Swarm of Bees”

By John R. Gilpin
(1905 - 1974)



“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matt. 5:48).

I remember when I was a boy, that a swarm of bees alighted in a tree in the corner of our tobacco patch, and my father and brother and I undertook to get that swarm of bees out of the tree and into a hive. I remember how many stings I got as a result thereof. From that time on, one thing I have known about bees is that they know how to sting.

As I turn through the Word of God,

I find that there are a number of “Bees” in the Bible, and every one of them has as much of a sting about it as that little fellow that sits down on you and starts drilling with his stinger. I think you will find that every one of these Bible “Bees” carries a stinger

I. BE SOBER

I don’t know of anything that needs to be said to the children of God any more than this. We ought to be sober. I know a lot of Christians that are anything but sober. I know a lot of preachers that are nothing but clowns.

A man said to me sometime ago “Brother Gilpin, I wish I could go to church and hear the Word of God where it was preached without a lot of jokes and jesting that have no connection with the message. My pastor is nothing but a clown.” This man didn’t say it out

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How To “Eat” the Word

By James M. Gray

“Thy words were found and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart” (Jer. 15:16).

There is a great difference between “finding” the Word of God and “eating” it, and it is the man who eats it that gets the benefit out of it. Eating makes digestion and assimilation possible, and when these functions are normal in their working, the result is health and strength, and all the usefulness and joy of living.

But eating comes first, and the eating that counts is that which has taken plenty of time for mastication. You must retain the food in your mouth, and get the full taste of it, and let it mingle with the saliva,

and chew, and chew, and chew, until the least possible amount is left to swallow. The man who does this has learned one of the greatest secrets of his physical being. He has learned how to keep well, and how to eat almost anything he likes without ill results. Keeping the food in the mouth is the key to it all.

Something like this is true in the higher realm. Usefulness and joy in the spiritual life depend on spiritual health and strength. But these in turn depend on the spiritual nourishment one takes---its kind, its quantity, its condition. The only nourishment for man’s soul is the Word of God. **“Desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby,”** is the inspired exhortation (I Pet. 2:2),

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The Ignorance of the Wise

By G. E. Jones
(1886 - 1952)



Scripture Reading: Acts 17:16-34

Texts: “Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you” (Acts 17:23).

“The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

These words were spoken by the Apostle Paul to a group of philosophers and educated men. They were spoken in the city of Athens the seat of the world’s learning in that time. They were spoken to the intelligentsia of that day. They were spoken to those who considered themselves the elite of their day. Yet they were called IGNORANT by the preacher of the gospel. They were in ignorance and did not know it. So many today who consider themselves highly educated, and are deemed as being wise in the eyes of men, are ignorant of the most important thing of all, and that is their relationship toward God. The saddest part about it is that in thinking themselves wise, they are not conscious of the fact that after all they are the most ignorant of men. They are in grave danger.

Moreover these are a great menace to others, because they have the name of being wise, educated and very learned, and carry and take whatever they may say or teach at face value. Many young people in our schools of learning are being misled by these worldly wise.

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**Learn to labor and to wait;
but be careful how you start, lest you learn
to wait so well, you overlook the labor part.**

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

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and time when morals needed little or no definition. But in these times of gross immorality it needs a clear and concise definition. What is a moral action? Francis Wayland, at one time president of Brown's University and professor of Moral Philosophy, answered this question by saying: "It is the voluntary action of an intelligent agent, who is capable of distinguishing between right and wrong, or of distinguishing what he ought, from what he ought not, to do."¹ I doubt that this definition could be improved upon.

There is only one authoritative Book which tells us what is right and wrong in all the world. It is the holy Bible which has been the standard for right and wrong conduct for 3,500 years. The Bible contains what God expects of His creatures in their duty to Him and each other. The code or morality established by God in the Bible cannot be varied any more than physical laws. The results which God has connected with actions will inevitably occur, all created power in the universe to the contrary notwithstanding. The consequences of evil actions can no more be averted than the sequences which follow the law of gravitation. It is absurd to expect that one can violate with impunity the moral law of the Creator set forth in the Bible. Colossians 3:25 says: "**But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.**"

Humanists, evolutionists, psychiatrists, New Agers, politicians, and religious liberals flatter themselves with the idea that they can violate moral law and escape the consequences which God has established. But it is as foolish to believe such as it would be to believe that you could violate the law of physics. In physics the consequences follow often immediately, but in morals the results are frequently delayed. Ecclesiastes 8:11 declares: "**Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.**" But time, long or short, does not have power to change the order established by God. Galatians 6:7 informs us: "**Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**"

In general people today do not care to learn the moral standards of the Creator. The "experts"---the theologians, the educators, the doctors, the psychiatrists, the politicians, and the marriage counsellors---have rebelled against what they call the puritanical moral taboos of the Word of God. They are determined by any means to give us a new morality which is in fact a gross immorality. They are dead-set at all cost to set new

patterns and establish new moral codes in opposition to the Bible. They feel they cannot turn back to the rigid, straight-laced, repressive codes of past centuries.

Back in 1963, J. Robert Moskin, the Senior Editor of *Look* magazine, wrote: "We are witnessing the death of the old morality. . . . Conditions are changing so fast that the established moral guidelines have been yanked from our hands. No single authority rules our conduct. No church lays down the moral law for all. . . . We are heading into danger. We are in the midst of a moral crisis because the great majority of Americans, who want to try to live moral lives, no longer can be certain what is right and wrong. . . . We are groping, painfully and often blindly, for new standards that will enable us to live morally and decently."²

Americans, and most of the rest of the world, are in a moral crisis. Journalists, churchmen, scholars, politicians, educators, philosophers, and law enforcement officers have generally taken note of this, but not all have. What is really going on? What has produced this present state of moral disintegration on an unprecedented scale? Why are our streets and countrysides filled with wild kids? Why are punks, beatniks, pregnant high school girls, dope addicts, vandals, TV addicts, sick readers of books, and watchers of muck in the movies on every hand? I want to try to answer some of these questions in this article.

THE MORAL CRISIS

The rise of crime is spectacular. Since 1960, crime has increased over five times faster than the population. Crime is up 46 percent, while the population is up only 8 percent. A serious crime is committed every 15 seconds in the United States. Some 63 people are murdered daily in our country. A boy born today stands a greater chance of being murdered in America than a World War II soldier faced in combat. American children are more likely to be murdered or incarcerated than children in any other industrialized nation.

Juvenile crime also has increased. During 1953 to 1962, arrests of persons under the age of 18 climbed 115 percent. Between 1950 and 1979 the rate of serious crimes committed by children increased 11,000 percent. About 57 percent of the total arrests today are juveniles. Due to toleration on the part of the judicial system of our country, teenage crime is certain to continue to increase.

Dishonesty is the order of the day among all races and classes of our people. There is cheating on exams, copying term papers, padding expense accounts, ignoring speed laws, fixing traffic tickets, fudging on your income tax, misrepresenting products in advertisements, and stealing from employers and stores, and even robbing the churches of their tithes and offerings. It seems nothing is safe from American

thievery!

The booze business is booming. Approximately eight million Americans are alcoholics. Teenage consumption of alcohol is at an all-time high. Alcoholics are found all the way from a young man in the flower of youth to the old, gray-haired man ready for the grave. The Prophet Isaiah declared: "**Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands**" (Isa. 5:11-12).

Family life is plagued by all sorts of disruptions. Divorce in America is more prevalent now than in the past century. In 1890 there were 55.6 divorces per 1,000 marriages. In 1959 there were 259 divorces per 1,000 marriages. Now more than one couple divorce for every two couples who marry.

Sex has become America's idol god. Our culture has become sex-saturated. Appeals to sex are seen on billboards, magazines, newspapers, television sets, movie screens, fashion shows, store windows, and even in some churches. Lesbians, homosexuals, bunny clubs, nudity, call girls, wife swapping and pornography are in the forefront of the American scene.

The order of the day in the United States is extra-marital and premarital sexual relations. According to the surveys of Kinsey some years ago, 67 percent of college men and 60 percent of college women had sexual intercourse prior to marriage. About 50 percent of all married males and 26 percent of all married females have intercourse with someone other than their mate while they are married.

According to the *Statistical Abstracts of the United States* in 1993, illegitimacy is on the increase. In 1960 the number of children born to unmarried women and girls was only 5 percent. In 1990 it was 30 percent. This has all happened even though in more recent years birth control techniques are widely known and frequently used. This sexual looseness has caused an increase in venereal disease, especially among young people. From 1956 to 1965, syphilis increased 126 percent among those 15 to 19 years old, and 185 percent among those 20 to 24, and 270 among those 25 to 29. The increase continues.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO IMMORALITY

I could simply say that sin is the cause of the barnyard morality of our day, but that would be an over simplification. In truth there are a number of contributing factors. I want to point some of these out.

First, there is the breakdown of the

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home. The statistics I have already given prove this. Fathers have become more effeminate and women more masculine. Men are no longer men, and women are no longer women! They are something in-between! Due to the rise of feminism and greed, most mothers have left the home for public work of some kind. Raising children has been turned over to babysitters and the state. Both of these are poor substitutes for the real thing. The plain truth is that no one is properly taking care of the kids. Stability, morality, and discipline, so desperately needed for a well-ordered society, are not being taught to our children. Hence we have the problem of teenage pregnancies, runaway kids, crime, violence, and illegal use of drugs. Our public schools have been turned into war zones!

Second, the Supreme Court must bear some of the blame for the moral crisis. Consider some of its rulings. In 1947 it ruled on separation of church and state, a decision not supported by the Constitution but supported by the Communist Manifesto. In 1962 the Court ruled against prayer in public schools and in 1963 against Bible reading in schools. In 1977 the Court recognized atheism as a religion. In 1980 the Supreme Court prohibited the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools. In 1986 it recognized secular humanism as a religion. In less than a quarter of a century the Supreme Court has exchanged Christianity for atheism and secular humanism. Morality left the public school when the best Book on morals was banished from the classrooms.

Third, the National Educational Association must share in the blame for moral madness. The N.E.A. has promoted moral relativism, value-free sex education, abortion on demand, homosexuality as an alternative life-style, and the removal of religious references from all history books. Due to their influence national SAT scores dropped from 975 in 1960 to 899 in 1992. The cost for schooling per pupil per year has jumped from \$994 in 1960 to \$5,216 in 1992. In 1993, 700,000 high school graduates could not read their diplomas! Most of this can be traced to immorality in the public schools generated by the radical political and social agenda being foisted upon our children by the N.E.A.

Fourth, some more blame must be laid at the feet of the evolutionists. *The Humanist* magazine some years ago declared: ". . . Darwin's discovery of the principle of evolution sounded the death knell of religious and moral values. It removed the ground from under the feet of traditional religion."³ Evolutionists are determined to do away with every

vestige of the responsibility and moral behavior that distinguishes man from animals. According to them, man is not responsible to God and the Bible. Man must follow his animal appetites. There are no absolutes! Anything goes!

Fifth, science has contributed to our moral woes. Most beneficial developments of science have been misused. Cars have been turned into bedrooms on wheels to harbor unmarried couples in sexual intercourse. Jet planes transport persons from one area where they are known to places where they are not known to ease moral restraints. Contraceptive pills and penicillin have made it some what "safe" to violate sex codes found in the Bible.

Science stimulates materialism and denies the supernatural. As men turn more and more to materialism, their thoughts are less and less spiritual. The moral teaching of the Bible is doubted, and there seems to be less and less need of God. Again and again, science has questioned Christian morality, and in the eyes of the majority of our people, science is the victor.

Sixth, even the churches must bear some of the blame for the growing weakness of our moral muscles. Arminians have filled their churches with unsaved members who are moral morons. In order to retain these hypocrites in their churches, their pulpits have become strangely silent on Bible morality. Sovereign Gracers are no better in some ways. Many of our preachers and churches have gone into antinomianism. Some have exalted sovereign grace until their churches are filled with irresponsible members who blame a sovereign God for their failures. Sovereign grace churches, fearful of exalting works too much, have given their members precious little moral teachings from the Bible. Worse still, many of our preachers are themselves immoral.

Seventh, the American people in general must bear a great deal of the blame for the present barnyard morality. Most Americans care little about moral issues. Moderation and toleration have been so stressed by our leaders as virtues until Bible morality has fallen into disrepute. Liberal politicians and radical educators have brainwashed us with the idea of toleration of others--their religious beliefs, their sexual preference, their moral convictions, and their weaknesses. A little cheating, a little lying, a little stealing, a little extra-marital and premarital sex, etc., are considered normal and acceptable--a mere venting of the animal instinct!

For centuries in America the Christian faith and the Bible served as the basis of our country. In those days our country was the greatest nation in the world. Now politicians, educators, and liberal preachers have labeled Bible morality as irrelevant, outdated, and, in some cases, immoral. Our moral problem is the loss of the old Bible morality and the vain

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search for new standards. We hear such things as: "Right is what works," "Right is what brings me pleasure." American culture is like a ship at sea without a chart or compass. Having rejected Bible morality, we are left with a pagan immorality. America's best days are past. We are ripe for judgment, and God judges nations while they live.

As I look on every hand in this day of gross immorality, I think of the words of Micah, the prophet: "**The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net**" (Micah 7:2).

THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE NEEDED

In these days of barnyard morality it would be easy for Christians to become secluded saints. But this we cannot do. It is not enough for us merely to denounce the immorality which plagues our land. We must be the salt of the earth as Christ commanded us to be (Matt. 5:13-15). We as God's elect must penetrate the world and show the way of sanity. We must proclaim the glad tidings about Jesus Christ to an eternity-bound people who are without moral light. We must tell people how Jesus Christ can bring moral stability to a converted sinner.

Like a voice in the wilderness, Christians must tell people that a return to Bible morality is the answer to man's moral dilemma. Bible morality is a mark of wisdom: "**A man of understanding walketh uprightly**" (Prov. 15:21). To put it plainly, it is stupid to be immoral. The believer who lives a clean moral life is blessed of God: "**Blessings are upon the head of the just**" (Prov. 10:6). "**For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly**" (Ps. 84:11). The undefiled in the way shall dwell in God's presence: "**The upright shall dwell in thy presence**" (Ps. 140:13).

Christianity and the Bible put no premium on immorality. No man has been justified by faith unless faith has made him a just man (Job 1:1; Gen. 6:9; Matt. 1:19; Mark 6:20; II Pet. 2:7). A born-again person should have the highest moral standard in all the world. He not only must have that standard, but he will persevere in it, if he is a true believer. "**If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness**

is born of him" (I John 2:29). "**Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous**" (I John 3:7). The Bible teaches that if there is no holiness, there is no Heaven: "**Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord**" (Heb. 12:14).

The attempt of some preachers to ease the most immoral people in the world into Heaven at their funeral is vain and unscriptural. The Bible says the immoral go to Hell (I Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5-6; Rev. 21:8). The Lord saves His people that they may "**serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness. . . all the days of**" their life (Luke 1:74-75). Only those who persevere in Bible morality can have the assurance of being saved. "**My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart**" (Ps. 7:10). "**Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved**" (Prov. 28:18). "**But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD**" (Ps. 37:39).

CONCLUSION

1. As born-again Christians let us make our own homes islands of stability in a sea of moral storm. Special care should be taken to root our children solidly in Bible morality. The world does not need any more moral morons.

2. In the battle for men's minds let us make certain that the Christian message and Bible morality are clearly and persuasively presented in our community and country. God help us to do what we can to contribute to the moral tone of our state and nation. If our elected officials pass laws which are immoral, throw the bums out and replace them with some men who will create a healthy moral climate. Proverbs 29:2 says: "**When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.**"

3. If you intend to stand up for Christ and the Bible, don't expect the world to roll out a red carpet to you. The world hated Jesus Christ and crucified Him on a Roman cross outside the city wall of Jerusalem. If you live godly in Christ, you will suffer persecution (II Tim. 3:12). "**The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth**" (Ps. 37:12). "**The bloodthirsty hate the upright**" (Prov. 29:10). "**They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly**"

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(Amos 5:10).

4. Have you enough of this moral madness? Do you want to get out of this maze of moral confusion practiced by the ungodly? Then repent of your immorality and trust in Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. Follow His example, for He is the living pattern of what every man and every woman ought to be. **“Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin”** (Ezek. 18:30).

FOOTNOTES

1. Wayland, Francis, *The Elements of Moral Science* (New York, N.Y.: Sheldon and Com., 1865), p. 31.

2. Moskin, Robert J., “Morality USA,” *Look Magazine*, Sept. 24, 1963, p. 74.

3. S. S. Chawla, “A Philosophical Journey to the West,” *The Humanist* (Sept.-Oct., 1964), p. 151.



Is God A Respector of Persons?

By Charles Raymond Nuckles
Colfax, NC

Often in biblical discussions, when the doctrines of grace are being considered, the Arminian will accuse the Calvinist of portraying God as being a respector of persons, because he teaches God has chosen some from among Adam's fallen race to be the recipients of salvation through and by God's free and sovereign grace.

Sometimes the Calvinist will in turn accuse the Arminian also of portraying God as being a respector of persons, because he teaches if man will meet conditions set by God, God will have respect to that which He sees in him and save him.

In Acts 10:34-35, Peter said to Cornelius, a Gentile, **“I perceive that God is no respector of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”**

In Romans 2:11, Paul wrote these words, **“For there is no respect of persons with God.”**

It is clear from the two scriptures above that God is not a respector of persons. So, who is the most correct, the Arminian or the Calvinist? They both can quote the same scriptures following their accusations.

Before we begin looking at the two scriptures to determine their meaning

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and the more you get of it the better, always provided that you can digest and assimilate it.

Here comes the thought of eating again.

Holding the Word in your mind is like holding the food in your mouth. That is how to get the full taste of it. Prayer does in the one case what saliva does in the other. Turning it round and round, thinking of it from this point of view and that, asking questions about it, taking it to your parents, your Sunday School teacher, your pastor, searching its meaning in a commentary, all these things correspond to the chewing that makes a good digestion and assimilation.

Now the only way to hold the Word in your mind is to memorize it. It is not hard to do this, and when you begin to see the benefit of it, it becomes a real pleasure. Make the task as easy as possible by taking a small proportion at a time.

DON'T “BOLT” YOUR FOOD

In other words, while you are a beginner let the passage of Scripture be so small that it may be readily recalled several times during the busy day. And see that you do recall it, that is the point. Master your will in the matter until it obeys you almost automatically and you are able to recall the Scripture without effort. You will be surprised how soon you will be able to do this, and it will mean so much to you. It will be better than counting the bank notes you have been hoarding up somewhere, or conversing with a friend whom you love very much.

The other morning at family prayers I read this verse in Proverbs 18:10: **“The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”** I at once fastened it correctly in my mind, and as I walked to my office, I kept “eating” it, turning it over and over, and getting such a sweet taste out of it, and such a sense of strength and spiritual satisfaction.

WHAT I FOUND IN THE WORD

“**The name of the Lord**” said I, why that means the Lord Himself! He is a ‘strong tower.’ And the strong tower? In olden time, that was a place of defense and protection, like our forts are today.” **“The righteous runneth into it.”** Who can the righteous be, save those who are made righteous thru receiving Christ by faith as their righteousness? **“Runneth,”** there is a thought of haste because of the pursuit of the enemy,” and Paul's words came into my mind, **“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”** **“Runneth into it, and is safe.”** O, the security and peace of the believer who puts his trust in God! And so I kept

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on “masticating” the word and finding something new in it at every bite.

But that was not all. Before the day was over I needed all the strength I got out of it. There were trials that day, the enemy was on my heels, and how glad I was to run and to know the place to run and be safe!

I think this is what the prophet meant when he said: **“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.”** And this is why I urge every Christian to memorize a portion of the Word of God every day. It gives his soul something to feed upon, and the more he feeds upon, and digests and assimilates it, the greater is his spiritual strength, and joy, and power and fruitfulness in the Lord.

Let me illustrate this. The next day after my experience with Proverbs 18:10, I was at a prayer meeting, and being called upon to give a word of exhortation, I had an opportunity to pass on that verse to three or four hundred other people. And to how many more will they pass it on? They were all Bible students preparing for Christian work in the uttermost parts of the earth. Can you compute the number of souls to whom they may pass on in a lifetime, and who, in turn may pass it on, and on, and on while the age lasts! And all because of that one little bite of truth I got that morning, and because I held it long enough to chew it well! Memorize the Bible if you want to be blest and become a blessing. ---Christian Workers' Magazine.



Ignorance of the

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Instead of studying their Bibles to see what is right they listen to Prof. So-and-So. One time I was taking dinner in a home of some people who were members of a church of which I was pastor. A young man in that home was going to the State Teachers College. He made the remark that William Jennings Bryan was making a fool out of himself lecturing against the teaching of the evolutionary origin of man. His mother asked, “Son how do you know?” His reply was that one of the professors in the college where he was attending said so. I said “Yes, you gullible students sit in your seats and

take just anything those college teachers want to ram down your throats. Are you just a sofa-pillow to be stuffed? Are you a little bird in the nest with its mouth open to swallow anything dropped in it? Why don't you read your Bible and do a little thinking for yourself?”

It must have been a blow to the pride of those philosophers to be told that they were ignorant. To them it seemed foolishness to be told that they needed to REPENT. But that is just what they needed, and it is what most of the wise of this world need today. That is what a lot of preachers who are men of high standing before their churches, and the people, need. They need to learn that they are not wise, but fools, and need to repent of their ungodly teachings. Even many seminary professors need to see the folly of their supposed superior learning, and repent.

Only last Sunday, I was listening to the broadcast of a prominent radio preacher, a man sound in judgment and in the Word of God. In the course of his message he stated that a general survey showed that a much larger percent of the preachers were modernistic, rationalistic, and unsound than were laymen. This is an alarming fact, and the sooner the people find this out the better off they will be. Now just why is this? The opinion has largely prevailed that a preacher needed to go to the highest colleges, universities, and seminaries in the land to get the training needed to properly equip him for the ministry. In far too many cases the men are not helped but hindered, if not ruined altogether for the ministry.

I personally know of a young man whose father was one of my best preacher friends. He had a son who was a brilliant young man. His father and mother had great ambitions for the boy. In college here in Arkansas he won out in every oratorical contest he was in. He represented his college in debates all over the country, and won out every time. He surrendered to preach, and for a time he showed great prospects. But it was not enough for his parents that he finish in the college here in Arkansas. He must go to the top, and have a degree from Harvard. I did not agree with his parents. I knew of the danger in him going to some big modernistic school, but they thought it would be all right with him. He went, and was swayed away from the sound Bible teaching, and made a modernistic preacher and stayed up north. His father died broken hearted over the way the son went. If he had not had so much vain ambition for the boy, and had considered the danger in sending him to Harvard University, he would have been spared much grief and disappointment. A lot of high sounding titles and degrees from great colleges and universities do not spell spiritual progress. Too often these are the very men who lead the churches and

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schools off into the greatest departures from the truth.

WHY ARE THE WISE OF THIS WORLD IN IGNORANCE?

First, they are in ignorance in that they do not know that they, like all mankind, are sinners by nature. The Bible says that we are all **"By nature the children of wrath"** (Eph. 2:3). Being depraved in his nature man is naturally inclined to be proud, and to have an exalted opinion of himself. And the more he is trained in this world's wisdom, the prouder and more sophisticated he becomes.

Second, these men have their understanding darkened and are walking in the vanity of their minds. **"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart"** (Eph. 4:17-18).

This natural blindness, ignorance, and vanity of mind, can never be removed by the wisdom of men. No university, college, or even seminary, can educate away that blindness, take away that vanity of mind, or remove his spiritual darkness. This can only be done by the supernatural working of the Spirit of God in the minds and hearts of men. **"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"** (II Cor. 4:6).

Third, the wise of this world are IGNORANT because they do not know the source from which their wisdom comes, neither to what it leads. They are unconscious that they are under the power and sway of the Devil, who is the god of this present world. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:11-12). "We know (positively) that we are of God, and the whole world (around us) is under the power of the evil one" (I John 5:19), Amplified translation. This shows the source from which the wisdom of the wise of this world comes. They are under the power of the evil one and do not know it.

In I Corinthians 2:6 in the Amplified New Testament we read these words:--- "Yet when we are among the full grown. . .spiritually mature Christians who are ripe in understanding. . .we do impart a higher wisdom, (that is the knowledge of the divine plan previously hidden); but

it is indeed not a wisdom of this present age, nor of this world or the leaders and rulers of this age, who are being brought to another and are doomed to pass away." The longer I live the more I realize that the wisdom of this world comes to nothing. It has brought civilization to the brink of chaos and utter destruction. There is but one hope for mankind, and that is in the personal coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. So the wise of this world are ignorant as to where its wisdom leads.

Fourth, the wise of this world are ignorant because God has hidden from them the things of God. **"In that hour Jesus rejoiced in Spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes"** (Luke 10:21). Since God has not revealed the things of the Spirit to the wise of this world, then we cannot expect them to know about the things of the Bible. Therefore when they speak contrary to the Bible it is because they are in IGNORANCE, and know not of what they speak. **"The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?"** (Jer. 8:9).

OF WHAT ARE THEY IGNORANT?

First, they are ignorant of the fact that the Bible is the inspired, infallible word of God. In the eyes of the wise of this world it is just another book, a product of man, a good book in many respects, but one which has many errors, and cannot be relied upon. With them it does not speak with authority. But to the informed child of God the Bible is a divine product, a revelation from God to man, and in its original language it is without error, and is our infallible rule and guide. To us it speaks with the highest authority. Its authority is absolute, final and perfect. There can be no appeal from its authority. What it says is final and always true. The man who speaks contrary to what the Bible teaches is in error. He, not the Bible, is wrong.

But the wise of this world set aside the teachings of God's Word to accept the opinions, suppositions and philosophies of men who are walking in the vanity of their minds, and have their understandings darkened. That is because they are ignorant of the things of God. **"Eye hath not seen, nor (his) ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit"** (I Cor. 2:9-10). What the wise of this world has not known, nor had any conception of, God has revealed and made known to His children by His Spirit.

Second, the wise of this world are ignorant of the fact that one religion is not as good as another, and that there

is a revealed way which God has given whereby we must worship and serve Him if He is pleased with us.

When Paul was in Athens he saw altars erected to every false god of whom they had heard. Then for fear that they would leave out one and offend that god they had erected an altar to the "Unknown god." So Paul as he stood on Mars Hill said "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way---on every hand and with every turn I make---that you are most religious (very reverent to demons). For as I passed along and carefully observed your objects of worship, I came upon an altar with the inscription, To the unknown god. Now what you are already worshipping as unknown, this I set forth unto you" (Acts 17:22-23, Amplified Translation).

Then Paul went on to say, "Such (former) ages of ignorance God, it is true, ignored and allowed to pass unnoticed; but now he charges all people everywhere to repent" (v. 30, Amplified Translation). Thus God calls on men to repent and turn away from the worship of false gods, and all forms of false worship.

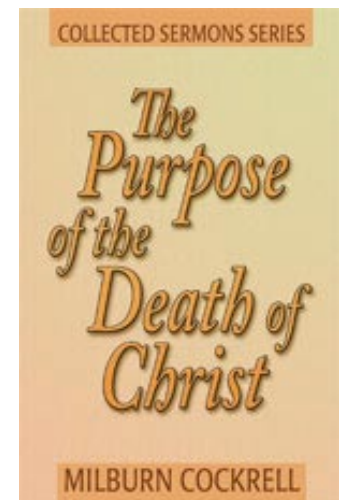
Those Athenians were very religious, but their religions were not acceptable to the God of heaven. The world has too much religion. We often hear it said that religion is the hope of the world. The world has too much religion. Religion is a curse to the world. There is but one true religion and that is the true worship and service of the Lord Jesus Christ. All other is an abomination in the sight of God. Religion has brought about the martyrdom of millions and has stained this earth with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus Christ.

God has revealed a way for men to worship, and if men are pleasing to God they must worship in this revealed way. This revealed way is found in the Bible. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman **"The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth"** (John 4:23). In another place Jesus said, **"In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men"** (Matt. 15:9). The wise of this world are ignorant of this. They are so broadminded that they can take in and commend every form of worship but the TRUE way. Few try to search out from the Word of God the true way and follow that explicitly. That way has never been a popular way. It rules out all man made forms of worship, and the traditions and doctrines of men. It means that the Bible must be the one and the only authority as how to worship, and as what to teach and believe. The world calls this too narrow. But just remember Jesus said **"Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it"** (Matt. 7:14).

Third, the wise of this world are ignorant of the fact that the salvation of men is the result of an inward work of

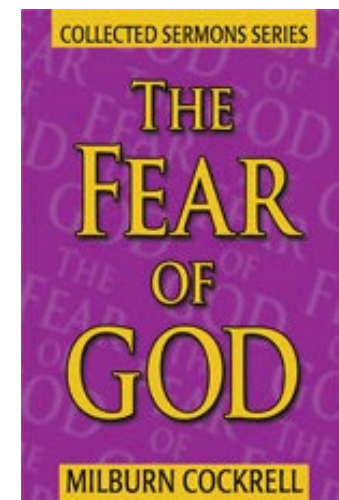
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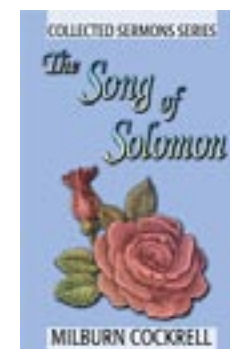
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God in the hearts of those who receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and not the result of any good works man has done or can do. **“By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God”** (Eph. 2:8).

Fourth, the wise are ignorant of the fact that all the plans, efforts and wisdom of men will never solve this world's problems. God's Word teaches that this age will wind up as did the generation in the time of Noah, when God had to destroy men from off the earth with a flood. Jesus said **“As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man”** (Luke 17:26). Then Paul wrote to Timothy **“Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”** And, as a rule, the wise of this world, are deceived, and are deceiving others.

Fifth, the wise of this world are ignorant of the fact that they are helping to prepare the way for the coming of the beast or antichrist. The wise of this world believes in breaking down the barriers of separation morally, religiously, and socially, and all people uniting together to have one world, or one united world government. Well the Bible teaches that this is coming, but that the beast, a man who will be Satan incarnated in human form, will rule over the world government. **“And it was given unto him (the beast of Rev. 13:1-18) to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given unto him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.”** The stage is being set in the world today for this very thing, and the wise of this world cannot see it. That is because their minds have been blinded by the god of this world (II Cor. 4:3-4).

Sixth, the wise of this world are in ignorance of the fact that they are walking according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that works in the children of disobedience (Eph. 2:2).

Seventh, the wise of this world are ignorant of the fact that Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth again. **“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation”** (II Pet. 3:1-4). One of the most unpopular and hated doctrines is that Christ is going to come back to this earth to overthrow the

Gentile world powers and rule and reign on David's throne in Jerusalem for 1000 years.

WARNINGS

God's Word has not left His people without warning concerning being misled by the wisdom of this world, and by the sophistry of the wise of this world. In I Corinthians 1:26-29 we read: **“Ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And the base things of the world, and the things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.”**

In The Amplified New Testament, in Colossians 2:8 we have these words: “See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism, and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition---Men's ideas of the material (rather than the spiritual world). . . just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe, and disregarding (the teachings of) Christ.”

In the Amplified Translation in I Timothy 6:20 Paul wrote: “O Timothy, guard and keep the deposit entrusted (to you). Turn away from the irreverent babble and godless chatter, with vain and empty and worldly phrases, and the subtleties and contradictions in what is FALSELY called KNOWLEDGE and spiritual illumination.”

Every one, college professors, men who profess to have superior learning, who think they know too much to believe in the virgin birth, vicarious suffering of Christ and His bodily resurrection, and in the Genesis account of creation, and the fall of man, need to read and ponder well these dire warnings from the Word of God. Those who believe that the men of God must sit at the feet of the wise of this world to learn things which will better promote the cause of Christ need to think on these things. This is a trick of the Devil in order to make a spoil of some of God's servants. Already we have lost immeasurably by listening to the voice of so-called higher learning. “Is this vile world a friend to grace, to lead me on to Christ?” Remember that John said in I John 5:19 **“The whole world lieth in wickedness** (Gr. The wicked One).” This includes all who discredit Christ and any part of His Word, or put any questions on any part of the word of truth, regardless of how much they may be thought to know, or how many and what degrees or titles they may hold. We are safe only when we hold fast to what God has spoken in His book.



Yea and Hath God Said?

By Raymond Bennett
of Ithaca, New York

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Gen. 3:1).

From the beginning of time Satan, the evil one, has been seeking to destroy man's trust in what God has said. The late J. Vernon McGee once said that the devil couldn't destroy the Bible by banning it, so he translated it. He wasn't actually referring to this particular verse, but he very well could have been because that is exactly what the devil is doing here. It's a sad and dangerous situation that we have a society and culture today which articulates a belief in God and supposedly believes in at least the principles of the Bible, but yet does so much to manipulate, deny or remove the Bible's authority.

That is just what Satan has done in our text! He hasn't, at least at that point, come out and denied that God said what He said. What he has done is create doubt about God's statement. Several years ago we taught a course called “The Gospel According To Genesis”, in which we made the statement that if you did not believe Genesis 1:1 you had no grounds for believing John 3:16. In that study we pointed out that Satan planted doubt in the clear concise statements of God in several ways.

He used what we now call ‘dynamic equivalency’, that is, he paraphrased the Word of God so that it either said what he thought or wanted it to say or made it so ambiguous that it lost its clarity and authority. Indeed, in Genesis 3:5 he essentially plants the thought in Eve's mind that she can be the final authority, not depending on the absolute authority of God. That's what has happened in today's society – even in some supposedly conservative Baptist churches. They have honored the Word as a ‘good source of moral truth’ but maintained the right to use other sources as well, picking and choosing what they wanted to accept -- rather like Thomas Jefferson is alleged to have done to the Bible, cutting out various verses that he didn't want to believe. They have traded the authority of Genesis for the ever-changing hypotheses of secular science.

Both Ken Hamm, of Answers in Genesis, and Ravi Zacharias frequently refer to Psalm 11:3, which declares, **“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”** This is perhaps the biggest problem in the world today. The authority of God's Word – the foundation of Christianity – has been destroyed. Even many so-called Bible

believing churches have opted for secular science and history, which changes every day, instead of believing the Genesis account.

A striking illustration of this is seen in comparing the Grand Canyon with the results of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Evolutionary science tells us that the geological strata in the Grand Canyon were produced over millions of years of erosion, somehow missing or ignoring the fact that we saw millions of years worth of evolutionary “change” occur in a matter of weeks and months at Mt. St. Helens.

There are marine fossils on top of Mount Everest. How did they get there? The answers to this and many other geological questions are unexplainable in modern science that denies the truth and authority of the Genesis account. But the answer is simple, found in a logical reading of the Genesis account of the flood in Genesis 6-9.

Despite the ever changing and unproven hypotheses of evolution many so-called fundamental churches have rejected the 6-day creation account of Genesis 1 in favor of the ‘eons of time’ hypothesis of evolution. Somehow they fail to see that in so doing they have denied creation by an intelligent personal God, a God Who planned, designed, and controls His creation, intervening in the affairs of men according to His will and plan, and for their good. The God they have created in their minds is a deist God who only made a clock, as it were, wound it up, and left it to unwind at its own pace and suffer whatever consequences may occur.

I often wonder how anyone can confidently pray to a God whose control over the world and circumstances could be so limited.

The ‘days’ of Genesis 1 each have a specific starting and ending time: **“and the evening and the morning were the ___ day.”** Following the order of creation, which, by the way, even the evolutionists recognize in their theory, it is obvious that these time periods could not have been millions of years. The various forms of life were too interdependent and the ‘species’ would have died out long before the alleged evolutionary changes could have taken place.

If one cannot believe the Bible in Genesis, what makes him think he can believe the Bible in John 3:16? If the Bible is robbed of its inerrancy and authority, then when one claims it is a good source of morals, all he is saying is that it agrees with his human morals, and he makes man the final authority. Then who is to say that Hitler wasn't just as right as the Allies were?

Denying the biblical account of

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creation has made man merely a higher animal and developed the concept of animal rights as equal to man's rights, taking away the sanctity of life in favor of the survival of the fittest and accepting abortion and homosexuality as acceptable practices. Man was made differently – he was made from the dust of the earth, which God had already created from nothing, in the image of God, and God breathed life into him, making him a living soul.

Accepting evolution in the place of God's Word destroys the absolute authority of God's Word. Destroying the absolute authority of God's Word destroys the absolute authority of God. This is just what Satan wants us to do, even as he, himself, tried to do. The old adage 'misery likes company' certainly applies to Satan. His eternal end is fixed and he wants to keep as many as he can with him there.

Many churches use one of the more recent confessions of faith, reading, "We believe the Bible to be the supreme authority in matters of faith and practice." Although I doubt they mean to, they subtly reduce the absolute authority of God's Word, recognizing other authorities, even though ranking them a little lower. Berea Baptist Mission holds the Bible to be the only authority in matters of faith and practice.

How has all of this come about?

First, Satan reduced the clear, concise statement of Gen. 2:16-17 in a manner such that Eve would be forced to make that decision on her own. However, **"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"** clearly defined the identity of the one tree forbidden.

Then, Satan implied that perhaps God had not actually said those words but that Eve had misunderstood them. Dynamic equivalency and most modern translations do just that. They, like the old Roman position, say, in effect, that the average reader cannot understand the Bible as it is, so they have to alter it or otherwise clarify it. But more often than not they have made things more difficult to understand or altered the meaning of the original autographs.

Finally, Satan implied that perhaps Adam had communicated God's command to Eve in such a way that it would reserve an extra blessing or position for himself, denying the same to Eve. I suggest that a lot of Christian men still do that today. For example, some have twisted and stretched the scripturally-granted male authority

expressed in I Cor. 14:34: **"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law"** to such illogical, pharisaical, and graceless extremes as to deprive both men and women of the blessings God intended. Some men deprive the women of full fellowship, essentially render them less than full members of the church, and cause them to experience the doubt Satan wanted Eve to feel. In the process, they deprive themselves of, among other blessings, some good insight that men do not possess. Believers need to extend God's grace to us to all brothers and sisters.

We must acknowledge the authority of God and His Word in all matters of faith and practice.



A Swarm of Bees

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of disrespect to his pastor, but he said it because it was true.

I remember one night years ago, I was holding a revival meeting. A preacher friend here in Ashland came into the services one night, and seemingly enjoyed what I had to say. It so happened that Sunday night I preached on the subject, "The Devil and His Work." After the service was over, this preacher jokingly said, "I don't think I ever saw you when you were as full of your subject as you were tonight."

He didn't mean anything particularly bad, but somehow I just didn't appreciate what he had to say, for the simple reason that I don't think the Devil is anything to joke about.

Peter said, **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."** In other words, Peter would tell us that we haven't any business to joke about the Devil. We are to be sober.

I was in a service several years ago, and the preacher said, "I want to preach to you tonight about the Devil. I think he is in a good mood tonight for me to talk to you about him." Everybody smiled and seemed well pleased with what he had to say, but it just didn't set well with me. I don't think we have any business to joke about the Devil. He is our adversary. He is a roaring lion.

Suppose I were to tell you that there was a roaring lion on the outside of the church door and when the service is over, if you want to, you can go out and twist his tail? Suppose I were to tell you to do that? You would think I was crazy.

Beloved, there is a worse lion waiting for you on the outside. The same lion is even here, inside this auditorium. The same lion is right here on the rostrum with me. That lion is the Devil and I have

no business to make any joke about him. If I would not joke with you about an actual lion---a four-footed beast, on the outside of the building. I certainly have no business to joke with you about the Devil, whom the Word of God describes as a lion.

Instead, my text says, **"Be sober."** We have an adversary, and that adversary is the Devil. We need to be sober concerning the Devil particularly.

As I say, I knew a preacher whom one of his laymen said was a clown. I knew another preacher who was even worse. There wasn't a text of Scripture that he ever preached from, but that he would tell a joke about it. Or if he were talking to you in private conversation, he was always telling you a joke about some portion of the Word of God. He made a joke out of every text in the Bible.

I saw that man when he came to die, and there wasn't one thing that you could read to him out of the Word of God that was of any comfort to him. He had made a joke out of the Word of God, and there was nothing but a joke there for him when he came to die. I stood by his bedside and tried to read to him from the Word of God, but that man got no comfort out of what I read, because every verse of Scripture that I read to him, he had made a joke out of it.

I wonder sometimes if we have any business at all to jest concerning the things of the Lord. The Word of God tells us something about jesting---that we are to be cautious about it.

Listen:

"Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient" (Eph. 5:4).

He is implying that there is some jesting that may be of a convenient nature, but generally speaking, we ought to be mighty careful when we come to the pulpit, or when we come into the house of God, or when we come to study the Word of God, that there be no jesting--no joking about God's Word. The Bible says to be sober.

That doesn't mean that God wants you to go around with a look on your face as if you have been eating sauerkraut and drinking lemonade for the last six months. That doesn't mean that God wants you to go around looking like you are the sole owner of a lemon plantation growing on your upper lip. That doesn't mean that God wants you to go around with a look on your face like you could lick oats out of a ten-gallon churn. I don't think you have any business looking like that, or acting like that, but I do say this: "You ought to be a sober-minded individual."

This is my first "be." Did you get stung? I wouldn't be a bit surprised but that this "be" flitted around you a little, for I am satisfied that all of us are sometimes guilty of being flighty. All of us are guilty of a lack of sobriety concerning God, and

God's Word, and the things of the Lord.

II. BE FORGIVING

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

I am wondering how much you and I need this text of Scripture applied to our own lives. I deal with a lot of people, by correspondence particularly, every day, and growing out of my own experience, and in the light of this text, I am wondering if there is very much forgiveness---Scriptural, Biblical forgiveness---manifested in the lives of the majority of God's children.

Has God forgiven you for Christ's sake? Has God forgiven you because that Jesus Christ died for your sins? Then if He has, you ought to be forgiving toward others in the same measure, that God has forgiven you in Jesus Christ. Listen:

"Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but Until seventy times seven" (Matt. 18:21-22).

Here is the law of forgiveness as it was laid down by the Lord Jesus Christ. Simon Peter said, "Lord, if my brother sin against me, should I forgive him?" Jesus said, "Yes, forgive him." Simon said, "Suppose he wrongs me seven times. Should I forgive him?"

To the Jew, the number seven meant completion. I suppose Simon Peter thought, "If I forgive him seven times, that ought to be enough," but the Lord Jesus Christ said unto him, **"I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."** In other words, He is saying "Simon Peter, don't stop forgiving your brother with seven times. If necessary, go to four hundred ninety times." I don't think He would say for us to stop then, but I think He used that tremendously big number just in order that He might be able to say to us that we ought to be forgiving toward our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

Someone says, "Brother Gilpin, I am always in a spirit of forgiveness. I have already forgiven him. He has done me wrong, but I have already forgiven him." Bosh! You can't forgive anybody until the person asks for forgiveness. You might be in a mood to forgive. You might have the spirit of forgiveness about you, but you can't forgive anybody until that individual asks for forgiveness.

Listen:

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4).

When does it say to forgive him? When he turns in repentance and asks

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A Swarm of Bees

(Continued from page 427) ◊

for forgiveness.

I get so disgusted with these individuals who are so sweet, and try to appear to be so exceedingly nice, who say, "Oh, I have already forgiven him in my heart. He did me wrong, but I have already forgiven him."

I say to you, there is not a bit of use lying about it. You haven't done any such thing. Jesus says that you can't forgive anybody until the individual asks for forgiveness. You may be in a spirit to do so, but you certainly can't forgive anybody until that one asks for forgiveness.

We are living in a day when God's children are "scrapping" among themselves, the like of which I never saw in my life. I look back across my ministry and I think in all the years of my ministry (and I have been preaching over forty-five years), I have never seen people "scrapping" in the ministry, and in churches, like they are at the present time. It just looks like that people are so full of themselves, and so selfish, and so fleshly, and so flesh-centered that they just have troubles on top of troubles in churches, and pastors and churches are fussing and splitting. As I said to one man of recent day, "Independent Baptists are entirely too independent."

Brother, sister, we need to be forgiving. I am wondering if we have that forgiving spirit that we ought to have. This little "be" says, "Be forgiving." Did you get stung?

III. BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.

We read:

"Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them" (Josh. 1:6).

This is in the very beginning of the book of Joshua. The book of Deuteronomy is ended, Moses has died, and Joshua is beginning to lead the children of Israel over into the land of Canaan. He is leading them out of the wilderness into the promised land. Moses had been leading them out of the land of Egypt and out through the wilderness for forty years, but now Moses has died, Joshua is taking over, and Joshua is leading them over the Jordan River and into the land of Canaan. As he begins to do so, God says to him, **"Be strong and of a good courage."**

I like to read this text of Scripture. It means a great deal to me, especially being a preacher. I don't say a preacher has any business being wishy-washy about anything that he does. I think a preacher ought to be strong and of good courage, and he ought to take his stand for the things of the Lord.

There are a lot of things, when you

heard them for the first time, you didn't like them. But suppose the preacher hadn't been strong and of good courage. You never would have known the truth you know today. I say that a preacher ought to study this Word of God, get his convictions from the Bible, and then take his stand in regard to it. He ought to be of good courage, and he ought to preach the Word of God. He ought to preach it fully and faithfully and freely, and he ought not hide one single thing.

Years ago, a good friend of mine, who was a layman, Brother Joe Willis, was conducting a Bible study on Thursday evening. One Thursday evening, they studied from the 13th chapter of I Corinthians. After the service was over, he said to the pastor, "Next week we are going to be studying the 14th chapter, and that is the chapter that has to do with the women. How would you suggest handling that?" The pastor said, "If I were you, I would just skip it."

Well, Brother Willis didn't heed the words of the pastor. He didn't skip it. He went ahead, and taught it just as it is in God's Word.

Now, that was a pastor who wasn't strong, and who wasn't of good courage.

This reminds me of a church that was looking for a pastor, and a fellow came to preach for this church on a particular Sunday. Just after he had gotten up to the rostrum, a deacon pulled him by the coat sleeve and said, "That woman that just came in, her husband runs the saloon in this town. Don't say anything about whiskey this morning."

In a few minutes, he pulled him on the sleeve again, and he said, "That man that just came in is a Campbellite. Don't say anything about the Campbellites."

That went on three or four times and finally the preacher turned to the deacon and said, "Who can I talk about?" The deacon looked around and said, "I don't see any Mormons here; give it to them this morning."

There are a lot of people just like that. They look around to see if there are any "Mormons" present, and they give to the crowd that is not present. But the Word of God tells us to be strong and of good courage.

I tell you, I want to stand up for the Word of God, regardless of what it costs. I ought to preach to you the truth as to the church that Jesus built. When I preach it, I say "Jesus built a Missionary Baptist Church when He was here in the days of His flesh." I ought to preach to you the five great doctrines of grace, as held by Baptists. I ought to hold up to you the five cardinal truths of God's grace that Baptists have held through the years. I ought to preach to you all of the Word of God. I ought to be strong to preach to you all of the Word of God. I ought to be strong and of good courage. I ought never to flinch. I ought never to waver, I ought never at any time to

hold back in what I believe that God has taught within His Word. **"Be strong and of a good courage"** was God's message to Joshua.

We had a man preach for us in our Bible Conference a few years ago. I'll not call him by name, although I think perhaps I should. I really think that it would be a good idea to expose him. He preached at our Bible Conference a few years ago a great sermon on the doctrines of grace, and I found out afterwards that that fellow wouldn't preach on the doctrines of grace in his own home church, or if he did, it was as weak as branch water. What was wrong? When he was here where there was a crowd of people that stood for the doctrines of the grace of God, he would stand; he was strong and of good courage. But when he was back home with a crowd of weaklings---with a crowd of sickly Arminians that needed the teachings of the Word of God, he was wishy-washy in regard to what he had to say. He just didn't have courage when he was preaching at his home church.

I say to you, we ought to be strong and of good courage.

IV. BE HUMBLE.

We read:

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Pet. 5:5-6).

Do you know what it means when it says to be humble? Humbleness is not something you can buy in a package in a department store. It doesn't come already packaged. Humility is not something you develop by practicing humility.

A deacon in West Kentucky went to a pastor whom I know and said, "You are not as humble a man as you ought to be." The pastor very wisely admitted that that was true, but that he wished he were more humble than what he was. He said to the deacon, "I take for granted that you are a humble man." "Oh, yes," he said. "I am humble, and I take pains to show it, too."

I am afraid there are a lot of people just like that. They take pains to show their humility. But that is not the meaning of that word "humble." That is not the meaning of humility. You don't become humble by practicing humility. Do you know what makes you humble? Listen:

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Pet. 5:6).

What makes a man humble? You don't become humble by practicing humility, but you become humble automatically when you observe the sovereignty of God---when you realize the mightiness of God Himself---then as this Scripture says, you observe the mighty hand of

God.

I am wondering how much we need this message. I realize my lack of humility, and I am sure you realize yours. I am certain that if there is anything that can make you more humble, it would be to get a greater picture of God in His sovereignty.

Notice again:

"And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no" (Deut. 8:2).

What does this tell us? It says that the Lord led them for forty years in order to humble them. I tell you, there is nothing like a vision of the sovereignty of God and the mightiness and the majesty of Almighty God to produce humility in the life of the child of God.

I don't ask you if you got stung on that one, because I am afraid that there is not enough humility on the part of any of us.

V. BE SPOTLESS AT HIS COMING.

The Word of God tells us to be spotless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen:

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless" (II Pet. 3:14).

If you will read the entire chapter from which this is taken, you will find that Peter is talking about the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. He says relative to His return that we are to be spotless, and blameless, at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Beloved, I am a firm believer in the second coming of the Lord Jesus. I am a Pre-millennialist from the crown of my head to the sole of my feet. I believe in the pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ back to this world. I believe He is coming back some day. He is going to set up His kingdom, and He is going to reign and rule here in this world. I am looking forward with a great deal of anticipation and expectancy to the premillennial reign and rule on the part of Jesus Christ here within this world. Whenever I read this text of Scripture, I say, "Lord, help me to be spotless when you come." In view of His coming, we are to be without spot and blameless.

Would you want the Lord Jesus Christ to come and find you all spotted with the things of the world? Would you want the Lord Jesus Christ to come back to this world and find you completely spotted with the things of this life?

I remember, years ago, my first trip up the Big Sandy River. The roads were very poor in those days. About the only way you could go was on a train. In those days, there used to be three or four trains daily go up Big Sandy, and three or four

◊ (Continued on page 432)

The Revelance of the Law to Today's Christian

By David Green
of McDermott, Ohio

In today's world, many will search out to find the answer to this question. Unfortunately, many are misled and deceived into believing the wrong idea about this question.

Before I begin, I want to define a couple of words to try to set forth what people mean when they use these words. The first big word you may hear is *antinomianism*. Antinomianism is the belief that the Gospel frees Christians from required obedience to any law, whether scriptural, civil, or moral. This heresy came from the devil himself, and is not taught in the Scripture.

Another word you may hear being tossed around is *legalistic*. Someone who is legalistic is someone who believes that the law will save you. This doctrine is another idea that came from the devil. The law of God was never intended to save anyone.

If both of these ideas are wrong, we must ask ourselves, "What does the Bible teach?" Please consider each of the references from the Bible that are given and take the time to turn to them. I believe this to be a very important article.

THE LORD'S FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW

When the Lord came to the earth, a few people thought He came to destroy the law. A few people still think that today. However, our Lord answered them by saying, "**Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil**" (Matt. 5:17). He came to fulfill the ceremonial law. Thus, the sacrifices are done away with. . . the veil of the temple was torn in two. He did not destroy the law, but He fulfilled it!

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

There are some who claim that in the Old Testament, men were saved by the keeping of the law and that the law is void in our age of grace because we are not saved by the law. In Romans 3:27-31, we read: "**Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is he the God of the Jews only? Is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.**" The law of God was NEVER intended to save people, but it is the schoolmaster to teach us that we are sinners. (See Gal.

3:24).

BEING FREE FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW

A verse that is often misused when dealing with the law is Romans 6:14, which reads: "**For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**" Men and women run to this verse the second that they realize that God has said something (usually in the Old Testament) that they do not like. Some folks do not understand the Word of God. Others are in pure rebellion. After all, it is easy to break a law if the law is gone. The truth of the matter is, the moral law of God has not disappeared!

Continue reading in Romans 6 and you'll find that in verse 15, the Holy Spirit directed Brother Paul to write, "**What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.**" This passage cannot be used as a ticket to sin!

A careful study on sin will bring to light the fact that there would be no such thing as sin if there were no law. I John 3:4 says, "**Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.**" Romans 4:15 tells us that ". . . where no law is, there is no transgression."

In light of these two passages, we must come to the conclusion that the law he is writing about in Romans 6 is not a matter of having no responsibility to the moral law of God, but it must be something else. We have already seen that sin is the breaking of God's law. Let's look at Romans 6 in that manner: ". . . shall we [break the law] that grace may abound? God forbid." We still have a responsibility to God's law!

For the sake of continuity, let's just go over to Romans 7:1-7: "**Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are**

delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Paul is not preaching the lawlessness that some believe in today. The moral law of God is not gone like some men say it is. We have been freed from the penalty of sin! In that sense, yes we are dead to the law.

In Galatians 3:13 we read: "**Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.**"

Here is it---we have been redeemed from the curse of the law! Not from the law itself, but from the curse of it. The law says, "**The soul that sinneth, it shall die.**" Jesus has brought life! Romans 6:23 says: "**For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**" We broke God's law, and as lawbreakers God still demands punishment (eternity in Hell). Yet, Christ came and paid our penalty for us.

FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN

The Bible does also speak of us being free from the law of sin. Look at how the Holy Spirit defines the difference in Romans 7:14-25: "**For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.**" The Apostle Paul recognized this law of sin. Every child of God has it within his flesh to serve that evil law. Yet, he also had the responsibility to serve and obey the law of God.

Continuing on into Romans 8:1-3, the Word of God brings it together. "**There is therefore now no condemnation to**

them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." There is no condemnation (freedom from the curse of the law) and we are freed from the law of sin and death.

THE LAW FULFILLED IN US

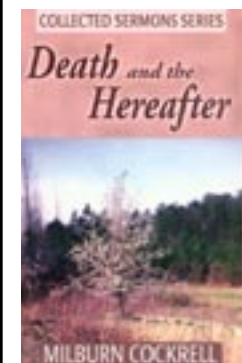
"**That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be**" (Rom. 8:4-8).

Here we read that we fulfill the law. Now, wait a minute---We read that Jesus came to fulfill the law when we read in the book of Matthew earlier. Is there another contradiction in the Bible? Absolutely not! What is the difference? Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial law. We fulfill the moral law of God when we live according to the moral laws of God.

CONCLUSION

"**Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night**" (Ps. 1:1-2).

Is your delight in the law of God? Do you meditate upon it? Or do you try to get away from the law. If God's people looked at the law of God in the correct manner, we would have a moral influence on the world. We need to remember that just because we have been freed from the curse of the law does not mean we have no duty towards it. It is still very relevant to today's Christian.



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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

How can a young Christian tell if they have a good (alignment with Baptist Bible teachings) commentary, study guide, etc., if the author is unfamiliar to them? Can you name a few of your favorite authors or books? – Email

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“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15). A young Christian needs to cut his or her teeth on the Word of God first and foremost. The parents of a young Christian, if you are blessed with one or two that are saved, have a responsibility to feed you with the milk of the Word. The Lord’s Church is the second line of defense against false doctrine and teaches you many things that God has ordained for to be taught by it. The Minister of the Lord’s Churches, if he really is a “Pastor”, cares for your soul and desires nothing more than proper food to feed your soul. **“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”** (1 Tim. 3:15). The young Christian is ultimately responsible for his or herself when dealing with spiritual matters such as growth, conversation, wisdom, understanding, learning how to dress oneself with the armor of God so that it is not uncomfortable to oneself. **“..work out your own salvation with fear and trembling..”** (Phil. 2:12).

The opening verse states that a workman needs not to be ashamed when he divides the word of truth because he has put much effort in studying God’s Holy Word. The flesh hates the study of God’s Word but it must be subdued in order that the Christian may not be ashamed when the workman divides or handles the truth.

I personally began to see a change in the way I saw and understood the Scriptures when I began to pray for wisdom and understanding. I tell everyone this same thing that I am going to tell you. The understanding of what is truth and what is false doctrine comes from only studying God’s Holy inerrant Word. **“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding”** (Prov. 4:7).

A word about commentaries: I sometimes find that commentaries are somewhat useful when I am in a serious loss as to what is being conveyed in the Scriptures. I do not lean on them to fix

my belief, but to jostle my mind into meditation upon what is being said. Following the writers of commentaries for Baptists is treading on thin ice. Most expositors are steeped in reformed theology, unfortunately very few of our Baptist brethren ever authored commentaries of the Bible. Naming a commentary is tough to do. I hesitate every time someone asks me. I suppose a commentary authored by a Baptist named John Broadus would suffice but please use God’s Word to shape your future.

A word about books: There are a multitude of books out there for young Christians to read. Theodosia Ernest by A.C. Dayton concerning baptism and the Lord’s Church; Mable Clement by J.M. Salle, as far as I know it is out of print, although if you have a computer and internet connection you can go to the web site of the Philadelphia Baptist Church in Decatur Alabama and find it there. I myself would love to see that reprinted and made available and the Church here in Springfield would contribute to the work. We don’t have a lot but we would sure chip in. Two more books have impacted my life so much that I hold them in high regard for Baptists, The Sovereignty of God by A.W Pink and the interpretation of Scriptures by the same. I do not want to leave out one more book, A Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine by T.P Simmons.

Dear young Christian, God is able to give you understanding of His Word, He wants you to study. He commands it. Live the life of a Christian. Do not let others study for you...what do you believe. **“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so”** (Acts 17:11).

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I’m reminded of the ole’ boy who said, “It’s amazing how much light the Bible sheds on those commentaries.”

Seriously, I usually stay pretty close to writers like Gill, Matthew Henry, Dagg, Pink, Spurgeon, and Hendriksen. I also use John Lange a lot. Commentaries by

Barnes, Newell, Strauss, and Gaebelien are also usually very good. I have found Candlish very helpful but harder to find. But with *any* commentary you need to keep in mind the anecdote above.

The Bible is the best place to look. I strongly recommend the KJV, but remember that even as good a translation as the KJV is, it is still humanly translated and not always 100% accurate to the original language.

Specially for a young Christian, it is important to be faithful in regular worship and Bible study programs at the local church. If you are not getting fed well there, often a source such as the BBB can refer you to a church near by where you can get spiritually fed.

1 John 4: 5 & 6 speak well to your question. **“They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”**

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This is a difficult question. I’m not sure I could name one book that I don’t have something that I disagree with in it. As a young Christian, I generally bought books that were recommended to me by older Christians. I hesitate to suggest any books to anybody that I don’t know because I don’t know of their ability to cull out the things that are not exactly right. Still yet, I’ll give a couple of suggestions.

As a theology book, T. P. Simmons book is my favorite. As a commentary, I have a few. I use John Gill’s when I have a question on a particular passage or verse, but, it’s too wordy to sit down and read through. I use the Liberty Commentary and the Bible Knowledge Commentary for this purpose, too, because they are much better on Bible prophecy than Gill’s work. Brother Milburn Cockrell turned me on to the “What the Bible Teaches” commentaries a few years back and I have enjoyed them as well. All of these works have problems on some points or another. Some are weak on grace. Some are weak on prophecy. Most are weak on

church truth.

I wish I could refer you to a Sovereign Grace Landmark Baptist commentary, but, there just isn’t one. One was in the very beginning of discussion a few years back but has been forgotten, I suppose, now. I hope this helps.

TODD BRYANT

Is God A Respector

(Continued from page 424) ♦

within their context, we can understand from II Timothy 2:15 that we are instructed to rightly divide the Word of truth.

In rightly dividing the Word of truth, do we consult the Bible and compare scripture with scripture, or do we read the Bible and consult the logic of our carnal minds? We might possibly believe all scripture is logical, but surely no one should believe all logic is scriptural.

Even though we have been born again and enjoy the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and can even say, as in II Timothy 1:7, that God has given to us the spirit of a sound mind, we should not be quick to rely upon the logic of it but should ever be ready to test its reasoning against a “thus saith the word of our God.”

The following are six examples of logic versus scripture:

1. Logic would tell us, every man should have the same advantage, but in scripture we read, **“What advantage then hath the Jew?”** The answer is, **“much every way”** (Rom. 3:1-2).

2. Logic would tell us, if God loves one, He should love all, but in scripture we read, **“..the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil. . .It was said unto her. . .Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated”** (Rom. 9:11-13).

3. Logic would tell us, if God has mercy on one, He should have mercy on all, but in scripture we read, **“Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth”** (Rom. 9:18).

4. Logic would tell us, if Christ laid down His life for one, he should lay down His life for all, but in scripture we read, **“..I lay down my life for the sheep. . .But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep. . .”** (John 10:15, 26).

5. Logic would tell us, if God chose one according to the election of grace, He should do the same for all, but in scripture we read, **“What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded”** (Rom. 11:5-8).

6. Logic would tell us, if God called one He should call all, but in scripture we read, **“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and**

♦ (Continued on page 431)

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

“...and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands...” (Rev. 20:4). *These are the tribulation saints. Since beheading is a form of execution practiced by Muslims on their enemies, as is so much in the news today, does this verse suggest the Antichrist or his false prophet might be Islamic? Or will they just adopt this means of execution?* – Maine

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I doubt it. We understand that the “abomination of desolation” spoken of in Matt. 24:15 and Mark 13:14 is that Antichrist is to offer a swine on the altar. Islam is as much anti swine as Israel, so I doubt this would be a Muslim. I suspect the Antichrist is more than likely a Gentile. The reformers have generally made the Pope to be the Antichrist.

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I have never considered that Islam will be used to slay the saints of God, although it is very plausible. We have to remember that the Catholic Church is definitely Satan’s church and the Pope his vice-regent upon this earth. The Catholic Church is all inclusive as opposed to Christ’s Church that is exclusive. Satan’s church is more in control of this world’s religions than anyone has ever considered since He is the god of this world.

Islam, I am sure, will be used as well as all the other so called “non-Persecuting” churches out there. All of the world’s religion is controlled by Satan and his minions to do as he commands within the bounds of their Sovereign Creator and Judge. Islam is very militant and seems to operate without compunction, such as their spiritual leader, to eradicate all that oppose them. In time I am convinced that Catholicism and Islam will “publicly” join hands someday.

We have to remember not to look at who is doing the killing, but who is being killed and why. Those who adore Jesus Christ, and love Him, and witness about Him, and that will not, I say again, will not, conform nor recant to false religion and the ways of Satan. The Saints of God love not their life so much they will give up what they believe, but will yet consider

it an honor to give their life in exchange for the witness of the way, the truth, and the life, to perhaps be a soul winner, and a witness of Jesus Christ, Lord of Lords and King of Kings. **“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death”** (Rev. 12:11).

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It’s not an easy task to describe the future religion of the Antichrist. It will encompass all religions at first. I do believe, from the study of Babylon in Revelation, that this religion will be headed up in Rome. Still yet, I don’t believe it will be Catholicism as we know it today. Surely, all of her practices will be similar, but, something must be done to “reel in” the Muslims, the Hindus, etc.

Beheading has been the execution of choice by many groups. Throughout the dark ages, Catholicism used it as a means of eradicating (supposedly) Baptists. Obviously, Christ’s promise concerning His churches held true and Rome failed. I hold that the religion of the Antichrist will be primarily Catholic, but, will change enough for all other religions to feel comfortable. This is how Catholicism began and this is how it will work in the beginning of the Tribulation period.

Let me note this. Before the Tribulation period is over, the Antichrist will grow weary of any worship which is not centered on him and he will betray the religion of Babylon. It seems that this may be when the actual beheading comes into play.

TODD BRYANT



Is God A Respector

(Continued from page 430) ♦

Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called” (I Cor. 1:23-24,26).

Is it an unrighteous act on God’s part to grant to some more advantage than others? Love some and hate others? Have mercy on some and harden others? Lay down His life for some and not others? Choose some and pass over others? Call some and not others?

If our logic says, “Yes, it is,” then it is obviously clear our logic has failed the test of scripture. In Romans 9:14, we read, **“Is there unrighteousness with God?”** The answer is given: **“God forbid.”**

When forced to face the issue, our logic cries out, “Why; why; why?” It seems we are implying, “Lord, I can not accept these things as being right and proper, unless You tell me why.” Some even try to justify God, so to speak, with more of their logic. They try to reason out why God does this and that and base their reasoning on God’s foreknowledge. To seek sound and biblical answers is not being condemned, and it is granted, within the scope of God’s foreknowledge, there is much light given, but often we cannot find an answer to many things, because it has not pleased our God to tell us why. Often our only answer is, **“Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Thy sight”** (Matt. 11:26; Luke 10:21). This answer may not be very specific, but it should be enough to restrain us from being tempted to point an accusing finger towards the Almighty.

Perhaps you may have heard some brother try to explain God’s method of choosing, or why He chose one unto salvation and did not choose another. His reasoning usually implies God made a choice of those He knew would repent and believe, which is the same thing as saying, God was a respector of persons when He made His choice, for He saw something in some He did not see in others.

In Romans 9:14-24, Paul seems to have realized the people objected to what he was saying. Did he pause and say, “You have misunderstood me,” or did he try to explain why God did this and that? No, he did not, but he did seem to rebuke them for the thought of their hearts, which obviously was: “If God has done all these things, why doth He yet find fault? For who hath resisted His will?” Paul’s answer was, **“Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?”**

In Acts 10:7-9, we see Cornelius sending messengers to Joppa for a man called Peter. This was in obedience to the

angel of the Lord, which he had seen in a vision.

While the messengers from Cornelius are coming to Peter, the Lord gives Peter the vision of the great sheet. The message for Peter to consider in this vision was, **“what God hath cleansed, that call not thou common”** (verse 15).

As the account continues, we see Peter going to the house of Cornelius. Upon arriving, he finds Cornelius, his kinsmen, and near friends waiting for him (verse 24). Their motive for waiting was to have the blessed good news of the gospel preached to them, which is what Peter did (verses 34-48).

In this passage, we have Peter’s statement, **“I perceive God is no respector of persons, but in every nation (Jew and Gentile) he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”** In our analysis of this blessed story, we see people who are Jews and Gentiles. Also, we see a preacher who was a Jew, giving words to the Gentiles whereby they were to be saved. In verse 45, we are told of the astonishment of those circumcised Jews who had come with Peter. Why were they astonished? Because on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

In Acts 11:1-4, when Peter had returned to the brethren at Jerusalem, it seems they must have also been astonished, for it appears they demanded of Peter a vindication of his ministry or that he give an account of himself for preaching to the Gentiles. It is obvious the Holy Spirit bore witness as Peter vindicated himself, for in verse 18 we read, **“When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”**

In these two chapters (Acts 10 and 11), we see God sending the gospel to the Gentiles, the consequence of which is their salvation, and salvation is by grace (Eph. 2:8).

The six examples I have given (logic versus scripture), clearly show God does not consider Himself bound by the logic of the creatures he has created. So, what did Peter mean when he said God is no respector of persons? It seems quite clear he meant God does not show any respect to any man because of anything he can see in him. In the context of Peter’s statement, the subject material is Jews, Gentiles, and the salvation of the Gentiles which proves salvation is not exclusively for the Jews. When God chose some to salvation, He was not influenced to elect some because they were circumcised Jews, or because they had royal blood in their veins, or because they were good, bad, rich, poor, black or white, or because of anything else He might have known about them. All those chosen of God had one thing in common: They were all guilty sinners, and

♦ (Continued on page 439)

CELLBLOCK TO CELLBLOCK

By David G. Hoffman

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

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

The "P" Word

I would like to begin this month by thanking Bro. Cockrell and all who made it possible for the bundle of *Banners* that was sent to the GRAD Program. I saw professing Christians of every stripe and unbelievers both reading them. There is so much of the Arminian junk distributed in here that it was nice to see the truth of God's sovereignty being gobbled up by so many.

The *Banner* is not new to those who attend the chapel service here because I've shared a few of my articles with the group. So everyone here knows I write this column and after the last time I shared an article a number of the guys came up to me and said how great it was, things like: "Man, that article was good!"; "Great article, man, you can really write!"; "I saw your new column, it was really good." Then my chest began to swell and my hat size increased a size or two---which brings me to this month's subject:

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the forward mouth, do I hate" (Prov. 8:13).

Pride and arrogancy. Any time we lose focus on Who gave us the ability to do whatever it is we do we've allowed our pride to rule us. When our pride rules us we're putting the focus on ourselves instead of where it belongs. What right have we to do this? None!

"For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" (I Cor. 4:7).

Instead of an ear to ear grin, puffed up chest, and the radiant glow of my own glory I should've deflected the glory to the One who made those good articles possible. I know in my heart that without the grace of God and the ability He has given me I wouldn't be able to put two words together, let alone write articles and columns that people enjoy and get something out of. But for a moment I let my pride have rule over me.

The moment only lasted for a few seconds and I don't think anyone noticed, if they did they haven't said anything to me, but I noticed and I believe the Lord noticed because I had planned on writing about a different subject this month. But everywhere I turned someone was talking about pride, and finally I said,

"Okay Lord, I get the point."

"When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom" (Prov. 11:2).

Pride has many facets; it's not always basking in your own glory. Have you ever been playing handball and the guy calling line says a ball was out when you clearly saw it was in and you got in his face about it? That, too, is pride, my dear reader, and then you have the shame of looking like a fool in front of everybody there. Let it go, it's only a game.

"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom" (Prov. 13:10).

I have a medical condition and can't play handball or basketball but I go to the recreation yard to watch the other guys play and get some sun and I see more professing Christians than you can shake a stick at nearly coming to blows over a meaningless game. Hello? Who are you representing on the recreation yard, your pride or your Lord?

You guys need to realize the majority of the guys you're playing against are unbelievers and they bring their worldly ways into everything they do. Instead of stooping to a worldly level by arguing over a meaningless game the professing Christian should let his actions reflect his Master and be salt and light unto the lost.

"A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit" (Prov. 29:23).

Being humble is giving glory to the One who deserves it; not having to always be right (even if you are); letting the small stuff go (and it's all small stuff); and keeping your mouth shut (when you really don't want to).

Last week at Bible study the volunteer chaplain told the following story about a Canadian frog who wanted to go south for the winter:

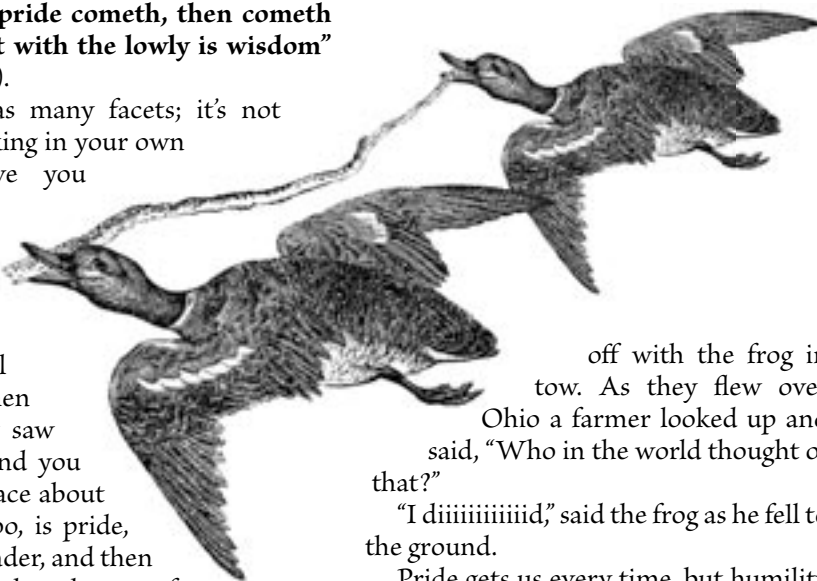
The frog went up to a duck and said, "When you go south for the winter will you please take me with you?"

"How on earth can I do that?" exclaimed the duck.

"Well," said the frog, "I could get a small stick and you could hold one end of it in your beak and another duck could hold the other end in its beak and I could grab it in my mouth in the middle---you could carry me like that."

"That's a great idea," said the duck. "We'll do it."

So when winter came the ducks took



off with the frog in tow. As they flew over Ohio a farmer looked up and said, "Who in the world thought of that?"

"I diiiiiiiiiid," said the frog as he fell to the ground.

Pride gets us every time, but humility puts us in our proper place: on our knees at the Throne of Grace, because we have nothing to boast of ourselves.

I would like to conclude by thanking my Lord for giving me the ability and opportunity to write this column, without Him it wouldn't be possible---may I never lose sight of that, even for a few seconds.

Bro. Jeff, I love you, man. You guys are in my thoughts and prayers daily. Bro. Campbell, I love you too. Keep fighting the good fight and standing strong in the Truth---you are also in my thoughts and prayers daily. And last but not least, Krystal Ruthann, I love you more than words can express and I miss you tremendously---I pray for you constantly, may the Lord bless you abundantly.

A Swarm of Bees

(Continued from page 428) ♦

to come down. The trains were always crowded, and sometimes it was difficult to get a seat. The first time that I ever rode that train there was a girl who lived here in Ashland who was going to Elkhorn City to be married. Her husband-to-be was working at Elkhorn City and she was going there to marry. It happened that day that I got a seat and this girl sat with me. She told me where she was going, and why she was going, and the fact that she was going to get married. Of course, in those days, they didn't have air-conditioned trains, and if you got any air, you had to open a window. By the time we got to the headwaters of the

river, I am sure that I looked like one of the descendants of Ham. I know she did. By the time that we neared Elkhorn City, I know that our faces were exceedingly soot-covered.

She said to me, "Have you been on this train before?" I said, "No, this is my first time." She said, "I wish you would help me. Tell me when we get within ten or fifteen miles of Elkhorn City." I didn't know, but I asked when we were nearing our destination. I told her, and she slipped off to the Ladies' Room and when she came back, she was all washed, and powdered, and looked so pretty. What was she doing? She was getting spotless. She was going to meet a man in a few minutes that was to be her husband, and she wanted to be spotless when she saw him.

When I think about that experience, I remember that I want to meet a Man someday---Jesus Christ. He is coming back to this world, and when He comes, I want to meet Him spotless. This text says, "Be spotless at His coming."

I wonder how much there is about you and me that is anything but spotless? We are so contaminated by the things of the world. We are so given over to the world. We are so mixed up with the things of the world. God help us to try to the best of our ability to be spotless in view of the fact that Jesus is coming, and that He might come even in this hour.

VI. BE OF GOOD CHEER.

We read:

"But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid" (Matt. 14:27).

Are you always of good cheer? Are you always happy regardless of what you are facing? These disciples didn't know what to think. The Lord Jesus Christ was walking on the water and the disciples were fearful. They thought it might perhaps be a ghost. They didn't realize the full import of it, and they were fearful. But Jesus said to them, "**It is I; be not afraid.**"

I tell you beloved, there is no need worrying about the things that come in this life. We have a God Who is on the throne. He is a sovereign God and He isn't going to allow one single thing to take place except that which is according to His will. He is the one who says, "**Be of good cheer.**"

Listen again:

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

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thess. 5:18).

The further I go in life, the more convinced I am that everything that takes place is according to the will of God, and that same God whose will is being done, says, "**Be of good cheer.**"

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A Swarm of Bees

(Continued from page 432) ♦

I grant you sometimes in view of the things that happen in this life, you certainly need for the Lord to tell you to be of good cheer. There are some things which take place, that you can't understand how the Lord can get glory out of it. Lots of problems have come in my life and I wonder about how the Lord is going to work them out--how He is going to get glory out of them. I look back across the years and I have been trying to preach the Word of God and I have often said to myself, "How can God get glory out of many of the things that I have said and done--my speech and my actions? How can God be glorified?" I know one thing: He said to be of good cheer and there isn't anything going to take place in this world, and nothing is going to come into your life, but what He says to you, **"Be of good cheer."**

I say to you, as you face your problems tomorrow, and in the days to come, whatever they may be, be of good cheer. God is on His throne. He knows what is best. He is doing what is best. He is leading you in the best way possible for you. He says, **"Be of good cheer."**

VII. BE PATIENT UNTO HIS COMING.

This is something that you and I need so much. We are so impatient. We do so many things we had not ought to do because of our lack of patience. But God says to be patient. Listen:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7).

I ask you, do you have very much patience? I wouldn't want you to tell me you had, because the majority of us fail greatly in this respect. However, He tells us to be patient. Why? Because the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Ever since I have been in the ministry I have been looking for the coming of Jesus Christ. I can remember forty years ago that I made a statement, that I hoped Jesus came soon, because if He didn't, I didn't see how God's children could go on in a world like this world is. Time has passed by. We have come down through the years, and I say to you, there are more signs relative to the soon-coming of the Lord Jesus Christ than I ever saw before in this world. The things that appear in the newspapers, and the announcements on the radio are but indications how soon the appearing of Jesus Christ is to take place in this world. In view of that soon-appearing, He says, **"Be patient."**

Are you patient in your work in the services of our church, and in your home? Are you very patient? The coming of the Lord is drawing nigh, and He says in view of that, we ought to be patient.

VIII. BE HOLY IN YOUR CONVERSATION

We read:

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Pet. 1:15-16).

We ought to be mighty careful as to what we say, to what we repeat, and in what we talk about. What an unruly member the tongue is! How badly that tongue gets us into trouble! The Word of God says concerning the tongue:

"Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire of hell" (James 3:3-6).

James says that you put a bit in a horse's mouth, and with that little bit you can turn a horse around. He says you can turn a ship with a very small instrument. He says that the tongue is a little member, but it likewise boasts of great things.

Beloved, your tongue is a dangerous thing. There is in the base of your mouth an animal--a wild, vicious, ferocious animal--living, from which you ought to guard yourself every day. Because of it, we are told to be holy in our conversation.

IX. BE PERFECT.

We read:

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48).

This doesn't mean physical perfection. It doesn't mean sinless perfection. It doesn't mean that you are ever going to attain the position that you are sinlessly perfect, but it implies development, growth, and godliness. He says the goal for your life is the perfection of God. Just as God is perfect, we are to seek to be perfect, too. You'll never be as perfect as God the Father. You'll never come to the place that you will have the perfection that the Father has, but that is to be our goal just the same.

CONCLUSION

I have given you a swarm of "Bees." Be sober, be forgiving, be strong and courageous, be humble, be spotless, be of good cheer, be patient unto His coming, be holy in your conversation, and be perfect. All this, I think, grows out of this text which says, **"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."**

I ask you, have any of these "bees" stung you? If you would dare to stand up and say that you haven't been hurt by anything that I have said, and that you haven't felt your littleness and

imperfections in the light of what I have said--if you would say that, I would say that you certainly are some liar. I'll be frank with you. I don't think you or I can read these texts that I have read to you, without getting stung by this swarm of bees several times.

May the Lord bless you as a Christian to let your life be lived in the light of these "bees" that I have given to you.

If you are unsaved, might it please God to give to you His grace to save your soul and to add you to this body.

May God bless you!

(The Baptist Examiner, 12/20/69).



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WAS IT AN ABORTION, A BOTCHED ABORTION, MURDER - OR ALL THREE?

(EP)--Police and prosecutors in Hialeah, Fla., are investigating an abortion clinic incident that has all the markings of murder. On the morning of July 20, an 18-year-old girl walked into the A Gyn Diagnostics Center to abort her baby at 23 weeks. She had received medication to dilate her cervix the night before. By that afternoon, however, the clinic abortionist, Frantz Bazile, had not shown up for work.

The girl delivered her baby, alive, moving, and trying to breathe. Clinic worker Belkis Gonzalez then allegedly cut the umbilical cord, stuffed the wriggling, gasping baby into a biohazard bag, and sealed the bag shut.

That is the story the baby's mother and at least one other witness told investigators, according to Hialeah Deputy Police Chief Mark Overton. The day the baby was born, police received a tip and searched the clinic, but found no body. Nine days later, acting on another tip, police searched A Gyn again. This time they found the infant, still in the biohazard bag, unrefrigerated and badly decomposed.

"This was a live birth. It wasn't an abortion or a botched abortion," Overton said. "We have a hospital within five minutes of that location and [Gonzalez] could have got that baby some help."

There will be charges, Overton said. But Florida authorities are proceeding carefully in deciding what type. They are reinterviewing people who have already given statements, Overton said, and "getting statements from people who lawyered up and refused to give them earlier." Police and prosecutors also are awaiting lab results, he added. "It's not like C.S.I. Miami, where you get the results by the end of the show."

In the view of some pro-life activists, the reported discussion among Florida authorities as to whether the 23-week baby was viable, and whether viability might bear on what kind of charges are filed, is ominous.

The case seems "pretty cut-and-dried to me, especially with the Born Alive Infant Protection Act," said pro-life activist Jill Stanek, the former Christ Hospital nurse in Illinois who blew the whistle over abortions in which living babies are left to die. "No matter the circumstances of its birth, that baby was a legal person entitled to medical care."

About two-thirds of babies born at 23 weeks survive, according to a 2003 study published in the journal Pediatrics. High survival rates aside, the federal Born Alive Infant Protection Act clarified that all babies, regardless of gestational age, are legal persons entitled to medical care; failure to provide it is a crime.

The Hialeah City Council on Aug. 10 stripped A Gyn of its local license. Clinic owner Siomara Senises voluntarily surrendered her operating license to the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. In 2004, Senises turned in her license to operate another clinic in Miramar, Fla., after authorities discovered she had allowed unlicensed workers, including a medical student and a janitor, to perform abortions. The Hialeah incident marks the third time in two years that Florida abortionists have had to surrender their licenses for endangering women's safety, and the second time in just over one year that a born-alive baby has died in a Florida clinic.

The Hialeah incident is likely to revive stricter legislation to regulate abortion clinics. Florida Senate Majority Leader Daniel Webster, a Republican, said courts

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Bible & The Newspaper

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have repeatedly used a privacy provision in the state constitution "as a firewall between the legislature and abortion clinics," as a way to prevent health-care regulators from policing abortion clinics as they do other types of medical facilities.

The Hialeah incident has renewed Webster's resolve to try again to require abortionists at least to carry liability insurance. Such coverage is not currently required, giving abortionists in the state "an open opportunity to create a medical malpractice incident because there is no one to hold them liable," Webster said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Overton said he believes the Hialeah clinic is liable for homicide. "My investigators are adamant about this case. I'm adamant about it and I think it's a tragedy . . . that they have this veil of late term abortion. . . . Once the baby was born alive, that changed the whole complexion. They can slaughter anyone they want according to the statutes before birth, but not after."

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION CASE ON HIGH COURT'S FALL DOCKET

The U.S. Supreme Court plans to hear the much-anticipated challenges to the federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 on Nov. 8.

The law, enacted after justices struck down a Nebraska state ban in the 2000 case of *Stenberg v. Carhart*, attempted to address the deficiencies found by the high court in that high-profile case.

Before the federal ban could take effect, however, abortion advocates challenged its constitutionality in lawsuits brought in New York, Nebraska and California. In all three cases, federal courts struck down the law based on the *Stenberg* case.

The Supreme Court earlier this year announced it would consider the appeals in the Nebraska and California cases -- and today announced those hearings would occur Nov. 8. The New York case has not yet reached the high court, but its ultimate resolution will be dictated by the decision of justices in the other two cases.

Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said pro-life groups are watching the appeals with anticipation.

"Although the 2000 *Stenberg* decision struck down a state ban with many similarities to the federal ban at issue now," he said, "the differences in the statutes, plus the replacement of Sandra Day O'Connor with Samuel Alito, give renewed hope for a different outcome this time."

O'Connor was the swing justice in the 5-4 vote in the 2000 case, Hausknecht said.

"Alito is more deferential to efforts by the legislative branch to regulate abortion than O'Connor was," he said. "Therefore, the decision just might come out 5-4 in favor of upholding the federal act."

"However, no one can be sure whether the Court will address the ultimate question of constitutionality, or whether the cases might be decided on a narrower basis and sent back down for further consideration by the lower courts. That's why there will be so much interest in this case come November 8."

MT. SOLEDAD CROSS FEDERALIZED

(EP)--President Bush today signed into law a bill that transfers ownership of San Diego's Mt. Soledad War Memorial to the federal government -- theoretically trumping the order of a California judge forcing city officials to remove the historic cross that stands at the center of the memorial.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 349-74 in July to approve legislation sponsored by a San Diego-area congressman, Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter, to shift the land the memorial sits on to the Defense Department to avoid the court-ordered removal of the cross. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., introduced and got passed a nearly identical bill, which was placed on the consent calendar just before lawmakers left for their August recess. Surprisingly, neither of California's liberal Democratic senators tried to stop the bill.

The fate of the cross, meanwhile, hasn't been finally settled. The American Civil Liberties Union, which represents an atheist who objects to the 50-plus year-old symbol, said it plans to challenge the title transfer and continue to seek the cross's removal.

SCHWARZENEGGER VETOES PRO-HOMOSEXUAL BILL

(EP)--Following public outcry, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Sept. 6 vetoed a bill that would have required instruction in public schools not to "reflect adversely" on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons.

As passed by the California legislature, Senate Bill (SB) 1437, authored by lesbian State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, would likely have prohibited support for traditional marriage and families, or even the concept of a mother and a father, in the classroom.

Schwarzenegger explained his decision by saying "this bill attempts to offer vague protection when current law already provides clear protection against discrimination in our schools based on sexual orientation."

Pro-family activists had deluged the governor's office with phone calls and e-mails asking Schwarzenegger to veto the bill. Some news reports said his office had to add new phone lines to handle such calls.

Two other pro-homosexual education bills have passed the legislature, and the Governor has not yet announced whether he will sign or veto them. Assembly Bill (AB) 606 would require schools to adopt a state-mandated anti-discrimination policy, particularly focusing on sexual orientation and gender identity. It would also give the Superintendent of Public Instruction broad authority to yank state funding from school districts which are deemed to be doing too little to combat discrimination.

AB 1056 would allocate \$250,000 in tax money to establish a pilot program in some schools that would redefine the concept of "tolerance," urging school children to not just passively allow, but actively convey respect toward homosexuality and similar behavior.

Randy Thomasson, president of Campaign for Children and Families (CCF), one of California's leading pro-family organizations, is part of a coalition of Christian groups that wants the governor to veto the other two bills, as well. "Parents and grandparents want a consistent governor, not a flip-flopping governor," he said.

"AB 606 requires the California Superintendent of Public Instruction to arbitrarily withhold state funds -- around two-thirds of a school district's budget -- from any district that does not adopt the state's 'model policy' mandating teacher training to promote transsexuality, bisexuality, and homosexuality on campus. AB 606 also permits schools to promote transsexuality, bisexuality, and homosexuality in 'any curriculum, textbook, presentation.'"

STUDY FINDS TEENS ARE LESS SEXUALLY ACTIVE

(EP)--High school students in the U.S. are less likely to engage in sexual activity than they were a decade ago, according to study released Aug. 10 by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to Reuters, the study -- based on surveys done in 2005 -- found that 46.8 percent of students reported they had experienced sexual intercourse; 54.1 percent reported the same in 1991. In 2005, 14.3 percent reported having had multiple partners -- down from the 1991 figure of 18.7 percent.

Abstinence educator Victoria Koloff said that such studies provide strong evidence that abstinence works.

Linda Klepacki, analyst for sexual health at Focus on the Family Action, agreed. She said that most of the improvement is attributable to an increased number of teens remaining sexually abstinent, "We have seen a continual downtrend since 1991 in teen sexual-activity and pregnancy rates," Klepacki said. "This is continuing the good news about teens and their sexual-activity rates."

Abstinence-education curriculum increased in scale in the early 1990s, she said, and the advent of federal funding in the mid-1990s meant abstinence programs began to make a significant impact.

"We continue to see the enormous health benefits," Klepacki said. "The more funding we put behind abstinence education, the more positive health impact we will see in our children."

'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL' TARGETED

(EP)--Gay activists are planning to visit military recruiting centers over the next few months to sign up for active duty, revealing their homosexuality in an effort to challenge the armed services' "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Soulforce, an advocate for special rights for gays, is calling the effort the Right to Serve campaign.

"The campaign is taking place in over thirty cities across America," Soulforce spokesman Jacob Reitan said. "In each city, one to two openly gay or lesbian young adults are seeking the right to serve their country openly in the armed forces."

These people, he added, will certainly be rejected based on the "don't ask, don't tell" policy enacted during the Clinton administration.

Retired Lt. Col. Bob Maginnis said there's a reason homosexuals aren't allowed to openly serve.

"We have known for forever in the military that cohesive teams are built by total trust and confidence," he told Family News in Focus, "When you integrate same-sex relationships into a predominantly single-sex organization, you really create distrust."

While he doesn't question the activists' patriotism, he does question their motives. He said to allow homosexuals would endanger the volunteer nature of the force and undermine the military's mission.

WATCHDOG GROUP RANKS BEST AND WORST ADVERTISERS

(EP)--The Parents Television Council on Aug. 22 released its annual list of "Top Ten Best and Worst Advertisers" that ranks advertisers according to how frequently they sponsor wholesome, family-oriented television shows or those containing sexually graphic, violent or profane material.

"Corporate advertisers share accountability for the tide of graphic and gratuitous sex, violence and profanity on television today. With their advertising dollars, they can choose to underwrite family-friendly television programming or they can elect to sponsor programs filled with raunch. Responsible broadcasting is possible, and this responsibility not only falls on the entertainment industry, but also on the sponsors. And from what we continually hear from most big corporate sponsors is that a responsible advertising practice is good for their business," said L. Brent Bozell, president of the PTC.

The PTC's list of the Top Ten Best and Worst Advertisers is based on each company's prime time network television ad buys between October 2005 and May 2006. Each company listed purchased at least 25 ads on prime time broadcast programs. Companies with the most ads on PTC-rated green lighted shows were ranked the best, and those with the most ads on PTC-rated red lighted shows were ranked the worst.

BEST

1. Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.
2. The Campbell Soup Company
3. The Walt Disney Company
4. Ford Motor Company
5. Cingular Wireless
6. Altria Group [Parent company of Kraft Foods, Post Cereals, Jell-O desserts, Maxwell House coffees, Oscar Mayer foods, Miracle Whip,

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DiGiorno, Stove Top Stuffing, Crystal Light drink mixes, Kool-Aid, Cool Whip, Minute Rice, Shake 'n Bake, Country Time drink mixes, Altoids]

7. DreamWorks

8. Schering-Plough Corp. [Products include: Claritin, Dr. Scholls, Nasonex]

9. Darden Restaurants, Inc. [Parent company of Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Bahama Breeze, Smokey Bones BBQ]

10. Sears Holdings Corp.

WORST

1. General Motors Corp.

2. Toyota Motor Corp.

3. Volkswagen

4. DaimlerChrysler

5. Target Corp.

6. GlaxoSmithKline [Products include: Zyan, Valtrex, Flonase, Imitrex]

7. Nissan Motors

8. American Express Inc.

9. Apple Computers Inc.

10. Circuit City Stores

MARRIAGE EXTENDS LIFE

(EP)--Researchers from two California universities who reviewed data collected from 67,000 U.S. adults found that being married can significantly extend a person's lifespan. Robert Kaplan of the University of California at Los Angeles and Richard Kronick of the University of California at San Diego compiled information between 1989 and 1997 from the U.S. census and from death certificates. The researchers determined that those who had been widowed were 40 percent more likely to die than married people living with their spouses. Divorce and separation increased the likelihood of death by 27 percent. People who had never been married were 58 percent more likely to die, a factor affecting men more than women.

ANOTHER ABORTION CLINIC SHUT DOWN IN ALABAMA

(EP)--The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has suspended the operating license of Reproductive Health Services of Montgomery -- the second abortion clinic shutdown in recent weeks. According to the department, the clinic was shut down because it failed to have "a physician with admitting privileges at a local acute care hospital or a contractual arrangement with a physician at a local acute care hospital or contractual arrangement with a physician who has such admitting privileges." John Giles, president of the Christian Coalition of Alabama, said the action, taken in early August, confirms that the abortion industry is only interested in profits, not the health of women before and after an abortion. "In fact," he said, "women leave abortion facilities all over this state and report the buildings look as if they are furnished from a secondhand store and resemble a Third-World medical facility." Giles and other pro-life leaders recently met with ADPH officials to discuss abortion clinic

regulations, inspections and enforcement. "In our meeting we all conceded that the Summit Clinic closing in Birmingham was a wakeup call about the danger to public health and welfare," Giles said. "I am confident that the ADPH has made the upgrading of regulations, inspections and enforcement standards a priority. I have taken them at their word to work within their statutory authority to protect these vulnerable women who think abortion is their only option."--CitizenLink

TEXAS CAR DEALERS ASK FORD TO STOP GAY ADVERTISING

(EP)--Seventy-eight Texas Ford dealerships have written the Ford Motor Company and asked it to stop advertising in homosexual publications. The letter cited customer complaints and declining car sales, perhaps brought on by a boycott of Ford products by the American Family Association (AFA). "It is vital that Ford Motor Company not offend or alienate the masses in order to placate a minority," the letter, dated June 23, states. Randy Sharp, director of special projects at AFA, said the boycott, which began last year, is aimed at shining a light on Ford's advertising in gay-oriented magazines. His group obtained a copy of the letter by The Texas Ford Dealers Advertising Fund. Ford confirmed the letter's authenticity, but declined to comment on it. Jim Cain, a Ford spokesman, said where his company advertises is simply a matter of business. "We're looking to sell as many cars and trucks as possible to as many people as are interested in our products," he said, "and that requires advertising very broadly."

GIVING BIRTH BETTER FOR TEENS THAN ABORTION

(EP)--Pregnant teens who carry their babies to term do better psychologically than those who choose abortions, according to a study by Bowling Green State University. One fourth of U.S. abortions each year are done on teenagers. Dr. Priscilla Coleman, the lead researcher on the Bowling Green study, found that teens who have abortions are six times more likely to use drugs. "They find ways to cope alone," she said. "My sense is that it's just an effort to survive the pain or dull the pain." The study, published in the Journal of Youth and Adolescence, also found girls who aborted their babies were four times more likely to have sleep disturbances and five times more likely to seek counseling. Sue Turner, director of Alabama Physicians for Life, said, "We've heard it so long and so loud [that abortion is better for teenagers] that everybody just assumes that it's the best thing for them. [Teens are told] they've got their whole lives ahead of them' and they just can't be bogged down by a child because they'll end up on welfare."

TEACHER KICKED OUT OF CLASS AFTER BURNING FLAGS

(EP)--A seventh-grade teacher who burned two American flags during a civics lesson has been reassigned to non-

instructional duties pending an investigation, The Associated Press reported. Social studies teacher Dan Holden burned the flags as part of a lesson on freedom of speech. Students were then assigned to write an opinion paper about the illustration. Upset by the incident, more than 20 parents visited Stuart Middle School Monday to voice their displeasure. Holden, who has been teaching since 1979, will not return to the classroom until the investigation is complete.

CHURCHES WIN LAND-USE CASE

(EP)--The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said a federal law protecting churches in land use and zoning matters is constitutional. The unanimous decision reversed the decision of a district court. "Churches [cannot] be singled out for discrimination by a city's zoning restrictions," said Tim Chandler, litigation counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF). "The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) ensures that churches do not receive unequal treatment in zoning matters. The 9th Circuit was right to ensure these protections remain in place." The case involved Elsinore Christian Center. The city of Lake Elsinore, Calif., denied the church a conditional use permit. The suit argued that the zoning ordinance on which that denial was based violates RLUIPA because it does not provide any zones where a church is a permitted use without the permit.

PARENTS ASK HIGH COURT TO REVIEW SEX-SURVEY CASE

(EP)--Seven California parents have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear a case in which the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled parents do not have the right to control what their children are taught in school. The case started when elementary school children were given a survey containing sexually explicit questions. Kids were asked how often they touch their private parts, how often they think about sex, and how often they think about touching other people's private parts. When parents took the issue to court, the 9th Circuit's Judge Stephen Reinhardt ruled that "schools cannot be expected to accommodate the personal, moral or religious concerns of every parent." After the 9th Circuit denied an appeal, Liberty Counsel filed the petition on behalf of the parents asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

CHURCHES CONSIDERED "UNDESIRABLE" INNER CITY TENANTS

(EP)--Kenley, N.C., is not an economic powerhouse. In fact, it has had trouble getting businesses to move into its downtown area.

So you might think that churches moving in to empty storefronts, paying rent to landlords, would be an economic bonus for the small town in eastern North Carolina.

The town council doesn't think so. Some of the town's leaders believe the storefront churches symbolize urban blight, so the Kenly Town Council adopted a 60-day moratorium

on new churches downtown. They say that in nearby Wilson churches dominate a decayed downtown area, and they want to avoid that fate for Kenley.

"We don't have anything against churches," Beverly Knight, a Town Council member, told Religion News Service (RNS). "We just want downtown to be a place for retail businesses."

Kenley is not the first North Carolina town to take such a move. At least a half-dozen small and mid-sized towns have restricted or forbidden storefront churches over the past decade.

But towns that limit churches might be violating a 2000 federal law that prohibits a town from putting "a religious assembly or institution on less than equal terms with a nonreligious assembly or institution."

PEOPLE IN INDIANA AND KENTUCKY OPPOSE PORN SHOPS

(EP)--People in several Indiana and Kentucky towns are making it known they want to rid their communities of businesses that sell adult material, *The Courier-Journal* reported. In Uniontown, Ind., protesters stood in front of the Lion's Den holding signs that read, "No porn in Uniontown." A lawsuit against the Lion's Den has been filed in Jackson County Superior Court. Similar cases are pending in other Indiana counties as well as in Kentucky. Scott Berghold, an attorney who works with local governments in cases against such businesses, said the key to keeping them out is making sure towns and counties have strong ordinances before any move in. "It really pays to be proactive," he said.

GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES DEEMED UNACCEPTABLE FOR N.C. SCHOOLS

(EP)--A North Carolina school district has successfully implemented a policy banning student clubs based on sexual activity or sexual orientation, the *Salisbury Post* reported. The Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education adopted the policy after students at South Rowan High School formed a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) club last year. At the core of the unanimous decision to ban such clubs was the abstinence-only sex-education policy already in place. Bryce Beard, chairman of the school board, said despite claims by the American Civil Liberties Union that the policy is discriminatory, it was thoroughly reviewed by attorneys. He said he's confident it can withstand a legal challenge.

CHRISTIAN LEADERS ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL "EXIT STRATEGY"

(EP)--As the public school system becomes more hostile toward religion, evangelical Christian leaders are urging parents to strongly consider pulling their kids out of school and finding education alternatives, The Associated Press reported. Roger Moran, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) executive committee, co-sponsored a resolution at the SBC annual convention

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Mini-Edition by Joseph Harris

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Where Is the Fight?

Pacifism rules! Where is the will to fight that which is wrong, sinful and ungodly? What has happened to the fight in the average American? The "rollover and play dead" philosophy abounds, therefore iniquity abounds. The family, church and this nation are under a severe attack by unseen and seen forces and yet we are told to accommodate, open a dialogue, tolerate and understand and accept the enemy. When the average Christian or patriotic American does go on the defensive, they are accused of having no love. Billy Sunday, famous evangelist of yesteryear used to say "I love flowers, but I hate weeds."

Where is the fight against abortion, homosexuality, pornography, pedophilia, and alcohol? Where is the fight for God to remain in the public square, for public prayers at state sponsored events, and where is the fight against ungodly humanism manifested in evolutionary teaching and philosophy? What happened to the fight for Godliness in the church, striving for purity among the membership, establishing standards of dress and conduct that are decent and God honoring?

Concerning this nation, why have the borders not been sealed and a wall built to keep out the invaders? Immigration and naturalization laws mean nothing. Why are lawbreakers allowed to remain in this country and not be deported back to Mexico or their homeland? Liberal politicians, including our own President Bush are leading the way for the downfall of truth, justice and the American way, at a breakneck speed. "Americo" is in the making and the powers that be who could do something are not just asleep at the wheel...they are in a coma. The House and Senate both need purging by "We the People" if it's not already too late. The Jimmy Carter philosophy of cut and run has prevailed. Where is the will to fight for our vanishing liberties as they are challenged by the ACLU and other "freedom loving" entities?

Concerning the church, where are the pastors who used to follow the admonition of Isaiah 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Oh, that was in the Old Testament. Today in the church age, we follow the New Testament, some will say. Does a New Testament pastor have any less responsibility of warning against the danger of sin as an Old Testament

prophet? Use a little common sense and decide. A rattlesnake in the path is a danger to anyone approaching it and whoever does not warn of imminent danger is guilty of neglect, which is criminal. Adultery, the sale and use of alcohol among members, homosexuality and other sins can be found alive and well in the average Baptist church of today. Pastors and parents have chosen the path of least resistance and have sacrificed the future of the church to Satan on the altar of accommodation and tolerance. Preaching the Gospel includes preaching the Bible which includes the bitter and the sweet of the two edged sword. Being instant in season and out of season means some teaching will be in season with the people and sweet to accept. Other teachings will be out of season, but like a bitter medicine, will produce healing and that which is good. So preacher, preach the word!

Concerning the home, most parents have delegated the instruction of their children totally to the government schools and their churches. Home education and good Christian schools are available for readin' writin' and 'rithmetic, taught from a Biblical world view. Primary instruction in Scripture should come from the home, then be strengthened by the church. Don't give up and give in to the world's philosophy that will indoctrinate children in anti-God thinking. Where is the fight for the minds and souls of today's children?

My stepfather once made a statement after hearing a young preacher's sermon: "He's got some preach in him." Preachers need "preach" in them, but all Christians need some fight in them. It's high time we got a dose of reality and realized the seriousness of the hour and the importance of standing for right against wrong. After all, things are still either right or wrong.

The Rantings
and
Ravings
of
Brother
Ritechus
N.
Dignation



Reminiscin'

I'm fired up! I have a love/hate relationship with modern progress and technology. I love the convenience and time saving (?) devices of today, but also realize the fast pace at which most folks live. Since we can do more with modern inventions, we usually do, and therefore get too many irons in the fire. Most folks now days are going through life faster than a greased pig on a cattle chute. Old Brother Vance Havner used

to say that we would have to live twice as long and three times as deep as our forefathers, to have the quality of life they had.

The older you get, the more you think about the "good old days," at least that's true with me. We have forgotten to "**Be still and know that**" He is God (Psalm 46:10). We just need to be still and remember that there is a God....Period.

Now don't get me wrong. I like the modern conveniences and refuse to give up my refrigerated air machine (that's air conditioner to you city folks), automated leaf organizer (blower), and other fine gadgets. It's just that we use things that save us time, but then never have all that extra time in the end. Even though I'm not as old as dirt, I can still remember simpler times, so pardon me while I think back a few years.

I remember dinner on the grounds at church and fannin' the flies off the fried chicken that was settin' on the homemade tables nailed between oak trees. I loved squirrel huntin', driving on dirt roads and ridin' in the back of a pickup. Headlightin' rabbits (whoops) at night was hard to beat. The only thing better was eatin' the rabbit, southern fried. Runnin' trot lines for catfish and swimmin' in the creek (thats "crik" if you're shore enough backwoods) was hard to beat in the summer. I did not like but endured haulin' hay and working in chicken houses to earn money for the fair that came to town every October.

I remember 'mater gravy and biscuits, sweet 'tater pie, and butter beans picked, shelled and cooked by lunch time. I loved going to Grandma's house and singin' school at church with Stamps Baxter books and shape notes. I miss kids who say Ma'am and Sir, chasing cows and gettin' chased by bulls, and firecrackers at Fourth of July and New Years. I liked decent country music (not the honky tonk, barroom, cheatin' blues), playin' Monopoly and Old Maid with my brothers and sisters and cornbread dressin' and grits.

I recall usin' an outhouse a few times and drawin' water from a well. I remember being sick and having a rag tied around my neck with Vick Salve on it, taking Black Draught (same effect as Castor oil) and having my tonsils mopped with mineral water. I also recollect visiting the old timers in our community, both men and women, who dipped Garret snuff and spit in the fireplace, if the spittoon was not handy. I remember Mother cooking Sunday roast with her apron on and Daddy with a cane pole in the water. I also remember old fashioned singin' in a country church and Daddy baptizin' with one arm, cause that's all he had.

Oh, for the good ole days. Now what do you remember?

Brother Ritechus N Dignation.



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asking the denomination to endorse a public-school pullout. Though the measure failed, the topic has not died, in part because several high profile leaders in the denomination support the idea. In the Presbyterian Church in America, talk of an exit from the public schools is strong. D. James Kennedy, pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, said he's encouraging his denomination to form an exit strategy from public schools. But Finn Laursen, head of the Christian Educators Association International, said not everyone has the option to teach their children at home or to place them in Christian school. "One size does not fit all," he said. "Don't just hammer public schools -- go in there and take them back."

HOUSE VOTE NEARS ON PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF RELIGION ACT

(EP)--Pro-family groups are calling on Congress to vote soon on legislation to protect the public expression of religion.

PERA would remove the ability of judges to award taxpayer dollars and attorneys' fees to organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in religious-liberty cases where they attack such things as religious symbols, veterans' memorials -- even the Boy Scouts of America.

"This legislation repairs unintended consequences of a decades-old law," Banks said. "The majority of Americans don't have a problem with a Ten Commandments monument, for instance, being on display. But the ACLU continues to abuse the law to collect taxpayer dollars on Ten Commandments lawsuits."

The American Legion, a national veteran's group which has been around since World War I, is throwing its support behind the bill.

National spokesman Joe March said the organization is calling on all Americans to contact their members of Congress to make sure the bill gets a vote right away.

"The Constitution gives us freedom of religion, not freedom from religion," March said. "It appears that every effort is being made by a number of organizations to remove every vestige of our religious heritage from public places -- including veterans' memorials."

The Legion is "extremely concerned" with the fact that there are hundreds of thousands of crosses and Stars of David at veteran's cemeteries, he added.

"Indeed, the ground at Normandy Beach has thousands of crosses marking the resting place of our fallen heroes, and that land is considered U.S. government property," March said.

ROSIE O'DONNELL COMPARES CHRISTIANS TO TERRORISTS

(EP)--Rosie O'Donnell shocked viewers of ABC's "The View" on Sept. 12 by equating

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conservative Christians to the 9/11 terrorists. Co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck, who leans conservative, had noted that militant Islam is a continuing threat to America. "Radical Christianity is just as threatening as radical Islam," O'Donnell retorted, "in a country like America where we have separation of church and state." Hasselbeck and co-host Joy Behar were both taken aback. "There's a difference," Behar said. "This group is threatening to kill us." Hasselbeck noted, "We are not bombing ourselves here in this country." But O'Donnell refused to back down. "Iraq and Afghanistan never threatened to kill us," she said.

DEMOCRATS HAVE LESS FAVORABLE VIEW OF FAITH, POLL SHOWS

(EP)—An August Gallup survey found that Republicans are much more tolerant of religious differences than Democrats. Approximately 50 percent of Democrats and "Democratic leaners" hold positive opinions of Jews, Methodists, Baptists and Catholics, while nearly 70 percent of Republicans said they felt sympathetic toward the same groups. While 63 percent of Republicans reported having positive opinions of evangelical Christians, just 31 percent of Democrats reported the same feelings. Members of the two political parties were about equal in their feelings toward Muslims. Just 27 percent of both Republicans and Democrats reported positive opinions.

FOX NEWS GIVES MONEY TO HOMOSEXUAL GROUP

(EP)—A news organization that up until now has been called "conservative" by even many pro-family activists has given \$10,000 to the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. Fox News made the contribution to help sponsor the group's annual conference. Americans for Truth, an organization formed "to monitor and expose elements of the homosexual agenda," said if Fox did make the contribution, it owes its conservative audience an explanation. Though the contribution from Fox news is listed on the homosexual group's web-site, Fox News has so far not confirmed that it made the donation.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY WELCOMES ATHEISTS

(EP)—The Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., is permitting cadets to start an atheist group on campus. After-class, student-led ministries have been part of life at the academy for years. Gary Betchan with the Freethinkers of Colorado Springs said he's pleased his group is now included. "We want to try to introduce ideas about church-state separation," he said, "the rational nature of modern society, some religious criticism and comparative religion kinds of stuff." AFA Cadet Wing Chaplain Phil Guin said several cadets requested the group's presence on

campus and allowing it protects the right of religious groups to have a presence. About 80 religious groups have a presence on the Air Force Academy campus.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS HEAD OF ANGLICAN COMMUNION SAYS HOMOSEXUALITY CONTRARY TO SCRIPTURE

(EP)—The Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, said he has backed a resolution that says homosexuality is incompatible with the Bible. After the Episcopal Church USA ordained openly gay bishop Gene Robinson in 2003, the Worldwide Anglican Communion has been in a much-divided state over the issue of homosexuality. Williams said while homosexuals should be welcomed into church, the practice should not be seen as normal. "I don't believe inclusion is a value in itself. Welcome is," he said. "We don't say, 'Come in, and we ask no question.' "I do believe conversion means conversion of habits, behaviors, ideas (and) emotions."



The Nameless Moral Young Man

By George C. Baldwin
(1817 - 189?)

(Continued from last issue.)

2. Consider, what Christ here teaches to be the condition of eternal life.

Bear in mind whom He is addressing. It is not a penitent sinner, it is a representative of that class of men who pride themselves upon their own goodness, morality and general integrity, and flatter themselves that they have "kept the commandments," and think that, on that account, they are not sinners, and need no change of heart. But amid their protestations, it is evident that selfishness reigns within them, not in its course, gross forms, perhaps, but in forms which exclude the supreme love of God from their souls, and lead them to live for themselves and the few they love; selfishness, which fosters the pride of their hearts and makes them satisfied with themselves, feel no duty to repent, no need of regeneration, and reject totally and firmly the Lord Jesus Christ, turn away from His invitations, and dare to risk their immortality upon their self-righteousness. Such a man, as if to make assurance doubly sure, did come to Christ, in the case before us, and accordingly the Saviour made a revelation to him and to the world of the fact, that selfishness



in the form of inordinate attachment to wealth reigned supreme in his breast, and led him to seek his own interests without regard to the will of God or the good of others; and yet he seemed to be unaware that such was the case, for he said, "What lack I yet?"

In the answer which Christ gave to him, "Sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me," was a *literal obedience expected?* I answer, suppose that such was the case, what then? Was that too much to ask? Had not he done much more than that? Did not "he who was rich yet for our sakes become poor; that we through his poverty might be rich?" If, therefore, He intended its literal acceptance, He only said to the young man virtually, "You are rich, so was I; nay, infinitely richer than you. You occupy a high station, so did I, one infinitely higher than yours; and I have sacrificed all this for the glory of God and the good of men. Go thou and do likewise. I only ask you to do what I have done. I am bearing the cross, do you bear it also." Was this unreasonable? Again; *suppose he had literally performed the requirements of the Saviour*—sold his possessions and gave to the poor; filled a thousand destitute houses with comfort; made a thousand widowed hearts to sing; clothed, and fed, and educated a thousand poor children, and then taken up the cross and followed Jesus in the pathway of benevolence, tell me, would he not have been a greater, happier, nobler man than he was after he had refused compliance with the requisitions of Jesus, and determined to live for himself? Would not his example have been a brilliant beacon through all subsequent ages? Would not his name have been blessed and loved, by the Christian heart so long as the Bible shall endure?

Look now at the *historical circumstances* of that period. In less than thirty years the Romans took Jerusalem, desolated Judea, impoverished the more opulent classes, and so persecuted them in the Holy City that they were cut off by millions. Those in Judea who had followed Christ took the warning early, and fled to Pella, in the mountains of Galilee, and were thus not only saved from a fearful death, but retained a competency to subsist on. As this young man was a ruler, and very rich, he could not, if living, have escaped the Roman scourge: all his property, and probably his life, was sacrificed. So you see that, even if Jesus intended his test to be complied with literally, it was best for this man to have accepted it; for he would have lost nothing valuable: it would have been a good investment to have laid up his treasure in heaven, for there no thieves, national or individual, can break through and steal.

But whether He meant this literally or not, it is certain that at least His meaning

was, "You ask 'What lack I yet?' I answer, 'One thing; thou lackest my spirit, that spirit which will prompt you to sacrifice your selfishness for God's glory and man's good; that spirit which will lead you to follow Me, bear my cross, and live for the interests of my cause. This is what, with all your virtues, you need—the great central element of holy self-sacrificing benevolence. This one thing you lack; if you possessed it, your character would be faultless, but without it you are beggared for all eternity.'" This was too much for the young ruler; he would not accept such terms; he turned away from Jesus, and in doing so set his face directly toward the gates of eternal woe. He clung to his selfishness; and methinks that as he left, Shame, with downcast face, Sorrow, with tearful eyes, Remorse, all haggard and wild. Despair, calm and cold, went with him, and haunted him ever afterwards. Sure I am that when he came to death, they formed a horrid circle around him, and with their black, loathsome wings shut out from his sight all glimpses of joy, and hope, and heaven; and that he must then, if never before, have felt how foolish he had been in not obeying Christ.

And today, Christianity demands substantially the same thing of us, as our duty and as the condition of the eternal life, which is promises. Ah! How many there are, kind, amiable, honest in all their earthly relations, to whom Christianity says, "One thing thou lackest." They can not feel guilty of sins which some others commit, for they have not committed them. They know that they would not do, what they see many professors of Christianity doing; they feel that they are above many of them in general character. And they really are. No man can say to them, "You have lied to me or about me; you have cheated me out of a cent; you have been guilty of low, mean conduct you have failed to meet your engagements; you have been guilty of immorality." Such men are often abused by preachers. They feel that they are misunderstood and not appreciated. They are just where this young man was. Jesus treated him kindly; He loved him; He did not charge him with crimes he had never committed; but admitted all that he claimed. And yet He said, "One thing thou lackest." And you see that he was destitute of it. O! friends, this is just what you lack. Do you not know that you lack supreme love to God; that if you have not been outwardly wicked, you have not loved God with all your heart, and mind, and strength; you have not served Him, nor lived for His glory? You have, alas! lived for yourselves, your own gratification; you have called yourselves and all you have your own; the "God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified." You have not repented of heart sins, of which you know you are

♦ (Continued on page 438)

Nameless Moral

(Continued from page 437) ♦

guilty; you have not received Christ as your Saviour; you have not taken up your cross and followed Him; you have treated the dear, suffering, loving, pleading Jesus with utter neglect, and acted as if He had no claim on you and you no need of Him. Tell me, is it not true that each of you have made yourself your own saviour and turned your back on him? See you not that, granting you all you claim, as Christ did this young man, you lack this one thing, and, lacking it, you are, like him, destitute of a well-grounded hope of eternal life?

Behold then the requisitions:

1. Such love to our God as will lead us to consider ourselves, and all we have as His.

2. To be willing to do with ourselves, and our possessions whatever God requires.

He does not ask a man to literally sell all that he has, but *to be willing* to do so; to resign absolute ownership, and acknowledge Him as owner, and himself a steward of the Lord's property.

3. To deny ourselves of whatever is inconsistent with duty to God, and take up the cross, and follow Christ in the path of duty which He exemplified.

Do you say, "This is too much to ask--the task is too great. I can not do it?" But ought you not to love God supremely? What of life, talent, health, property have you that you have not received from Him? Do you not need a Saviour? Is the cross of self-denial, good doing, and Christian duty, that Jesus bore, unworthy of you? Is the creature so great that the example of his Creator deserves not to be followed by him? But, brother, sister, however it may impress you, such are the irreversible conditions of obtaining eternal life. They may make you sad and sorrowful, as they did this young man, but I can not help it; they are the words of my Master and not mine. He spoke them when on earth, that they might peal through all the ages which He was about to construct in the future; and today you hear their trumpet sound, as He intended you should, and while your soul blanches as the solemn notes strike it, O! remember from Whose lips they have come, and pay respect to their import for the sake of the Author!

No one can be so happy as he who has "both the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come;" who is an heir of the promise of an hundred fold of all that is really good on this earth, and after that eternal life; who can look around on all the excellence of this beautiful world with holier feelings than the emotion of genius, and say, "My Father made it all; it belongs to Him, and so do I." Whose heart, when the ear, taught by faith, construes the music of

the wind into organ-tones chanting the anthem, "**The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof;**" now in the wild crash and roar of its full might, and anon in the gentle breathings of summer zephyrs, and echoes back from all its sensibilities. Amen and amen.

Who can have such just cause for joy, as he who has in Jesus a friend to console him in hours of sorrow, support him in hours of misfortune, guide him in hours of perplexity, go with him through the valley of the shadow of death, and give him a starry crown, a victor's palm, an imperishable inheritance in heaven?

Does the love of riches, the ambition to amass wealth hold you back? Christ says, "**Thou shalt have treasure in heaven.**" That treasure is greater than earth can give. With a moment's reflection you would not restrict the term "treasure" to money; you know that a mind at ease, a sense of innocence, freedom and power are regarded by you as in the highest degree valuable, whenever you obtain a clear perception of their worth; and of such treasure is heaven the storehouse. More abundant and more enduring, are the riches amassed there than those which time encloses. And, what is certainly deserving of consideration, wealth invested in heaven is secure from contingencies bearing ruin, which is so much dreaded here. Who, then, is the richer man of the two, a true Christian or a sinner? And also remember, that however much you may selfishly cling to property or pleasure now, the time will come when all must be given up, must be surrendered, and you do nothing but die; that, therefore, how strongly soever you may retain them now, your grasp will yet be broken. Ah! Will it not enhance the agony of the death hour to have this double separation, your spirit torn from its home in the body, and your heart's idol snatched away from the embrace of the spirit?

But do you not see, that if by grace you give them up in your hearts now, consecrate yourself to God and follow Christ now, death will lose its sting?

Two facts may impress these remarks upon your mind. They have occurred under my own observation. Near the field of my ministry lived a man of the highest moral character, respected as a citizen and loved as a friend. But he discovered that, with all his morality, he lacked one thing. He saw that he had failed to love God supremely, and that he had violated all the claims which his duty to Him had presented; that while he prided himself in his morality, he was rejecting Christ, and in reality full of selfishness. With a full consciousness of these facts, he was led by the Holy Spirit to repent of his sins and receive Jesus as his Saviour. He consecrated his all to his Lord, and took up his cross and followed cheerfully in His footsteps, those prints

which the feet of our Redeemer have planted in the soil of humanity, which lead through the wretched hamlets of poverty, over the desert plains of self-denial, up the rocky ascents of toil and sorrows, and even to the agony-crowned summit of the cliff of death. But he was not required to traverse the whole of this trying pilgrimage. A sad accident checked him immediately after a happy marriage, when life seemed to promise all a joy his sanguine expectations demanded. He was bitten by a rabid animal, and received the terrible curse of hydrophobia. Terror seized his young wife and his relatives. But when the horrid spasms ended, he said to his friends, "If it is God's will, I want to live; do what you can for me, but if he has otherwise decided, I am ready to die. I am his, all I have is his, let him do what he will." The physician told him that he must die. He received the intelligence calmly, repeating his willingness that the will of the Lord should be done, and his assurance that he was in the hands of a faithful Creator. After making all the arrangements necessary in regard to his worldly affairs, he bade adieu to his weeping wife, his aged mother, and a circle of sorrow-stricken friends, who "stood in awe the while," as they marked the light of heaven growing brighter on his face, and his eyes burning with unearthly fire as the radiance of celestial things kindled them, and heard his last tones forming themselves into silvery syllables of love to Jesus, and exhortations to those around him to love him also, and

*"Then saw in death his eyelids close
Calmly, as to a night's repose,
Like flowers at set of sun."*

This is an instance of one, who complied with Christ's conditions and consecrated his all to Him. And do you not see how easy dying became? If he had selfishly clung to earthly things, he would have been torn away from them at last, and how much better it was for him to have given them up when he did, and receive the spirit of Christ, the hope of the gospel, and a title to an inheritance that passeth not away, than to have retained those transitory things, and been shut out from eternal joy in heaven above!

I have known another man. Respected as a citizen equally with the one I have just mentioned, and beloved by his family, he also, "**lacked one thing**"--- he would not love God supremely, he would not recognize himself as a steward in the Lord's employ; he claimed his property, loved and used it as though it was absolutely his own. He, too, came to the full vigor of manhood to---where you and I will also be found some time---a death-bed. One day he asked, "What do people say of me?" He was told, "They say you must die." At this announcement of doom awful grief and fear were depicted on his face. He flung up his thin arms wildly, and exclaimed, "O God! O God! I am not ready to die!" But Justice alone

was looking at him from the heaven he addressed, and sternly confronted him with no pity in His eye and no weakness in His arm. He became delirious, and death closed up his mortal career before he had an opportunity of seeking salvation.

O man, my brother, O woman, my sister, I declare to you that the conditions named by the gospel are as easy as they can be, consistent with our own good. Our selfishness ought and must be sacrificed, for if not it will be our ruin. It contracts now our noblest powers, narrows now the sphere of our usefulness, and will yet add the sharp, inextinguishable agony of the spirit to the pain of the body, when the deathbed receives us, and robs us of eternal life, if it is not crushed in the bud. Christianity supplies the great lack of our souls, for its great object is to kill this terrible evil. It places us in our true relations to God and our fellowmen, and enables us to fulfill high destinies in the life which we spend on earth. True, it takes away our self-righteousness, but it gives us instead the righteousness of Christ; true, it offers us a cross, but with it a given grace to bear the cross, and beyond a crown of richest glory; it humbles us, but only to lift us up for ever; it demands that we give ourselves and all we have to God, but it gives us in return ourselves and all we have for the highest purposes; more than that, it gives God Himself to be our father, Christ to be our Saviour, and the Holy Ghost to be our regenerator and sanctifier; it gives victory over sin, death and hell; it gives us immortal wealth, pleasure and ever-increasing glory. What say you? I come in Jesus' name and ask, whom will you serve? It is a case of life and death. Let that mysterious jury, which your Maker has impaneled within your own mind, sit in solemn deliberation upon this question.



GLEANINGS



THE PROBLEM OF THE EMPTY PULPIT

By James A. Maxwell

It is a serious thing for any church to face an empty pulpit. Wisely to choose a spiritual leader is a task for prayerful, careful people. If the recommendation of a successor to the retiring pastor is committed to a committee that group should be composed of the most sane, most spiritual, most level-headed members

♦ (Continued on page 439)

Gleanings

(Continued from page 438) ♦

of the church. Theirs is a responsibility that requires calm deliberation and clear judgment. Haste, rashness, sentimentality or self-confidence can work havoc here. Connection must be made with the work of the previous pastor. Sometimes this connection has in it correction, because few men have all the powers needed for a full, symmetrical development of a church. One's successor should supplement his work. One man is strong in organizing, edifying, solidifying a church, but while he has been pastor a harvest of unsaved has gathered in the Bible school and congregation. He is not strong evangelistically. Evangelism should be a prime consideration in the choice of a successor. A man is needed to supplement, not to supplant him. Strength is to be fitted into weakness. The extraordinary is to follow the ordinary. Qualities and inequalities must be evened up.

It does not follow because a retiring pastor is greatly loved that the church must have a man just like him to follow. The whole need of the church must be considered. Nor does it follow that the desirable man is the man available, at least on first sight. Desirability comes before availability. Churches must not be tempted by the fact that a man is easily available. Ability to carry on the work and supplement the retiring pastor is a thing for first consideration.

To discover the right man the church needs to take wisdom. It does not take much wisdom to discover a man who will accept the call, but to know the man who meets the needs, that calls for inquiry, care and judgment. That also takes time. Haste in choosing a spiritual leader may be disastrous. It takes time to find out where the man is who is doing the kind of work that the pastorless church needs to have done.

The securing of a stated supply, an interim pastor, one who has no designs upon the pulpit, has much to commend it in our present situation. It gives time for the making of inquiry concerning the men from whom the church can make wise selection. It is a superior plan. But running men through the pulpit Sunday after Sunday, then choosing the one who has made the best impression for a day--- that is inferior, shamefully inferior, and in many instances disastrously inferior. It is a very poor man who cannot preach two good sermons and be desirable for a day. This plan has not one thing to commend it, but has many things to condemn it. Many divided and wrecked churches bear witness against it.

To choose from a bundle of letters one whose recommendations seem to be the strongest has perils also attending it. This may mean that a man has marshaled his

friends to write the church in his behalf. It may mean the effort of friends to locate one who wants to move. A church is bigger than a man. The interest of the smallest church comes before the interest of the largest man. A church's need of a man comes before a man's need of a church. The locating of men, who wish a change, very often results in serious misfits. Would that all of us could work into our convictions that our strongest recommendation is the work we are doing where we are, work that we ourselves do not need to prove. It must, however, be admitted that men are doing excellent work in obscure places, without receiving much notice. There is justification for some men to seek the recommendation of others. But after this has been admitted the recommendation business is overdone. Churches are bewildered by the flood of letters that pours in upon them when they are pastorless. Some are even puffed up from the sense of their church's importance, which the many letters seem to prove. They lose their opinion that ministers are scarce. All this is confusing and misleading.

Responsibility rests upon those whose positions of acquaintance with and knowledge of churches and pastors enables them to direct churches to the men they need. In our policy this is essential. But helping pastorless churches to choose suitable men is more than the locating of pastors who wish to move on. Though we are in a restless period, yet every one of us should prove his ministry right where he is. We must make ourselves desirable just where we are. We chase the rainbow when we look to other places in which more easily to prove our worth. Difficulties are as many and as stubborn there as here. There are few peculiar fields. Human nature is full of sameness.

(The Watchman Examiner via. The Baptist Pillar, July/Aug./Sept. 2006).



BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 8-1-2006 to 8-31-2006

Beginning Balance	\$7,273.89
RECEIPTS:	
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	75.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	225.00
Berea M. B. C., West Point, TN	50.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
TOTAL	7,723.89
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	360.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	360.00
.....	\$7,363.89
Interest	+1.77
.....	\$7,365.66
Less Corbin, KY des.	-411.52
ENDING BALANCE	\$6,954.14

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$571.52
RECEIPTS:	
TOTAL	571.52
EXPENDITURES:	
WCTT	160.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$411.52

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER

Financial Report

8-1-2006 to 8-31-2006

Beginning Balance	\$7,610.41
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RECEIPTS:

B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	31.50
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	458.36
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Berea M. B. C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
Berea M. B. C., Westpoint, TN	150.00
Bethel M. B. C., Pasadena, TX	100.00
Bible Believers B. C., Naples, ID	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	125.00
Buffalo Valley B. C., Clay, WV	50.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL	25.00
Cedar Grove B. C., Millport, AL	50.00
Faith B. C., Seffner, FL	25.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR	50.00
Fred Roberts, Johnson City, TN	5.00
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME	20.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL	25.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK	35.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
Joe Jurzec, Richmond, IL	25.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	100.00
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM	500.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN	10.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00
Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA	40.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	100.00
South Park B. C., Seattle, WA	25.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Wake Forest, NC	100.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	25.00
Wayne Hufman, McNeil, AR	80.00
Wayne Mowris, Ft. Smith, NWT	26.00
Subscriptions	191.00
Anon	225.00
Dividing Checks	125.00
Sub Total	\$3,831.86
TOTAL	\$11,442.27

EXPENDITURES:

Postage	1,179.73
Wages	2,480.00
FICA	189.73
Dividing Checks	125.00
Supplies	261.32
Total Expenditures	4,235.78
.....	7,206.49
Mistake on Check #1050	-1.96
ENDING BALANCE	\$7,204.53



Is God A Respector

(Continued from page 431) ♦

God had no respect of persons!

Some may say: But the verse also says he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted with him. Is this not considered something God has respect to? If so, we should remember these characteristics are the products of grace and not the products of the natural unregenerated man.

In Romans 2:11, Paul's statement is very much the same as Peter's: "For, there is no respect of persons with God," but the context is different. Peter's statement was connected with grace, the gospel, and

salvation. Paul's statement is connected to law, judgment, and condemnation.

The meaning of Paul's statement is the same as Peter's: God will not have any respect to any person or be influenced to give less than a just sentence because of anything He can see in him, such as, his being a circumcised Jew, etc., but will "render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6).

I want to consider one more thought: Who is the most correct, the Arminian or the Calvinist, when they accuse each other of teaching doctrines which portray God as being a respecter of persons?

I must cast my vote for the Calvinist as being the most correct, because the Arminian teaches what we may call common grace. In this common grace theory, it is alleged that God has made a provision for the salvation of every man who has lived, or will ever live. Their other related doctrines, such as millions in Hell for whom this provision was made, clearly indicate this provision does not necessarily save anyone but only clears the way and makes salvation possible. Whether or not the sinner is ever saved depends upon what the sinner does. If the sinner does that which God can have respect to, namely, comes in repentance and faith, then God will save him. If he does not, then God's provision for his salvation will avail him nothing.

Someone reading this article may think the above statement is designed to view repentance and faith as being "nonessential" in the salvation experience. To believe such may please some hardshells, but Calvinism and hardshellism are not one and the same!

In the above statement, we have considered fallen, depraved man in his natural state. Being in this state of nature, if we view man within the framework of his "responsibility" we find he will not come to Christ in repentance and faith (John 5:40), and if we view him within the framework of his "capability," we find he cannot, on his own, come to Christ in repentance and faith. He has to be effectively drawn (John 6:44).

So we should see, there is no salvation to be had in this common grace theory, if it depends on God finding something in man He can have respect to.

The Bible is clear, God is no respecter of persons! Salvation is of grace, and through grace. It is by free and sovereign grace! This free and sovereign grace is based not on man doing something that God can have respect to but on God's particular and efficacious provision which was made to save a chosen people. As I have tried to stress already, faith and repentance are not the cause of salvation but are the God given means through which we become partakers of God's salvation.

The very foundation of the common grace theory is based on the false principle that God is a respecter of persons.





WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

Bring Back School Prayer A Time for Recycling



The spectacle of the US Congress ringing the praises of our Lord on the Capitol steps right after the September 11th assault on our sovereignty and freedom may, in the short term, be enough to shame it into common sense and elementary brainpower in returning voluntary prayer to our schools.

Like the Hypocrites. There they were, like the hypocrites many of them are, singing "God Bless America" and calling on the Almighty for protection and guidance in our hour of peril. In the front row, we saw Reps. Barney Frank, Massachusetts Democrat, Sheila Lee Jackson, Texas Democrat, and Cynthia McKinney, California Democrat, singing their hearts out and looking ever so holy.

The President could, so could Congress, judges of all our courts, mayors, city councilmen, sheriffs and dog-catchers--but not school children, the ones most needing prayer and, most deserving by far.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently affirmed its right to open daily sessions with prayer and to keep a chaplain on the payroll, thereby asserting its supremacy in these matters "Beyond any court's right of interference." Unfortunately, however, for the past forty years our youngsters have been denied simple non-sectarian voluntary prayer in public schools. The Warren Supreme Court ruling, in part, that the first amendment "Never meant a majority could use the Machinery of the State to practice its beliefs." (My emphasis).

What "Machinery of the State"? The same one that acknowledges God on our coins, in the prayers opening the Supreme Court sessions, and in witnesses' oaths? Indeed, what "Majority" did the Supreme Court have in mind? Columnist William F. Buckley, Jr. suggests that the only way for the majority "To acquire any rights... is to become a minority," and the Jews, Catholics, Protestants, and Zoroastrians should declare themselves *Minorities* and demand the right of voluntary prayer in schools. He added, "A respect for the rights of minorities begins with respect for the rights of majorities."

President's Constitutional Amendment. They have before them the President's Constitutional Amendment for voluntary prayer which reads: "Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools, or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or any state to participate in prayer. "By no stretch of the imagination could the writers of the constitution have objected to this amendment, except possibly on

the grounds of redundancy. But then, neither could have foreseen the establishment of the religion of secular humanism as a state religion--which it is!

Indeed, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, although somewhat skeptical of religious overtones, revered religion as an undergirding for government. Franklin advised the Constitutional Convention of the need for "Daily prayers. . .for divine protection": and Jefferson noted later that the "Religious exercises should be left as the Constitution found them" (second inaugural address).

Hypocrites and Radicals. The hypocrites and radicals were quiet right after the September 11 massacre of innocents, but are now coming alive. The arrogant ACLU radicals are attacking President Bush for calling a "National Day of Prayer and Mourning." Our President operates as a Christian. He told schoolchildren, although they were not permitted to pray in school, "There are prayers that can last through the day, and endure the night."

Admiral Tom Moorer, one of our nation's most respected leaders, had a word for Washington, "The liberal democrats, who are now on TV strutting their patriotism, were the same ones who defended Bill Clinton's destruction of our country last year."

Religious Intrusion. American Atheist director, Stanley M. Elam, calls it "Religious intrusion" into government, ignoring the fact that most U.S.

laws are based on Biblical morality, e.g., The Ten Commandments. Thomas L. Bacon wants his children saved from school prayer so their little minds may be "Free of prejudice, selfishness, and superstition.

This is Mr. Bacon's prerogative, of course, but what about ours? And what about letting our very own Congressmen and Senators know we also would like freedom and privilege of voluntary prayer--just as the members of the House unanimously voted for themselves. Arguments about forced prayers and separation of church and state are ludicrous, timeworn, and boring. It is election year; how can candidates vote against prayer, especially when the public wants it? No more stalling and pussy footing.

Where are the ACLU? Where are the ACLU, Barry Lynn and buddies? Always in the forefront for the anti-Christian bigotry? Imagine the thunder and lightning if public schools taught the birth of Jesus, His Sermons on the Mount, and used a cross in a school play. It is time to demand fair play for schools. And for the Christian faith, the foundation of America.

(Excerpts are from previous writings of Capt. Evans.)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, Kansas is pleased to announce that they will be having their annual Bible Conference December 1st thru 3rd.

The church would like to extend an invitation to all.

The services will be held at Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, 400 N Main St., Caldwell, KS on December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd (Friday night through Sunday evening). The Conference will begin with a fellowship dinner prior to the services at approximately 5:30 p.m. on December 1st at the Church's Fellowship Hall located at 603 N Osage St. in Caldwell, KS.

Guest Speakers include Elders Arthur Blevins, Roger Dohrer, Timothy B. Hille, Timothy John Hille, Bill McDaniel, David O'Neal, and Larry Wilson. If you have any questions regarding the conference (directions, lodging, etc.) contact Pastor Nathaniel R. Hille by email:nhille@gmail.com, or phone, (620) 845-3624 or (620) 845-2432.

The Providence Baptist Church of Valley Station, KY (Louisville area) will be hosting a Bible Conference October 21st -22nd.

Services will begin at 9:30 a.m. each day.

All are invited to attend.

For more information contact Pastor Kenneth Long at (812) 967-1321.

Bro. Cletus and Sister Mary Ann Snyder just returned in July from spending six days with Bro. Curtis Pugh, his dear wife Janet, and the mission's helpers (Bro. Raul and Bro. Aurel).

They would like to tell the readers of the Banner, "We still are not out of the clouds from the trip and seeing the great and sound work there. Meeting the dear brothers and sisters in Christ who meet both at Bosca and in Filasa was a great blessing.

We recommend this work to all churches. If your church cannot support with gifts, please pray for Bro. Pugh and all the dear ones there and for other lost sheep there."

The work in Romania is sponsored by the Grace Bible Baptist Church of Denham Springs, LA. For more information about the work contact Pastor Jerry Dodson at (225) 664-3223 or email: jerrydodsonsr@wmconnect.com.



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