

The Berea Baptist Banner

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

Hebrews 11:36

By Roy Mason
(1894 - 1978)

Turning now to Hebrews the 11th chapter, I wish to begin reading with verse 36 and I will continue on through the second verse of the 12th chapter. "And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins;



being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should

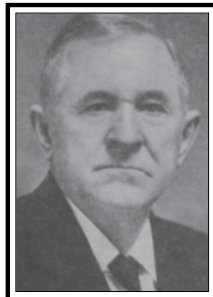
◊ (Continued on page 2)

Not Ashamed

By J. W. Porter
(1863 - 1937)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom. 1:16).

Surely, if any man had a right to be ashamed of the humble beginnings of the Gospel, Paul was that man. Born in a cosmopolitan city, gifted with a great mind, a graduate with honours of the school of Gamaliel,



and a religious aristocrat of the strictest sect of the Pharisees, it was but natural that he should cherish pride and despise a self-abasing

Gospel. And this leads us to say, the one besetting sin of all the centuries has been pride. Indeed, I am not sure but that it is the

◊ (Continued on page 10)

What Happens When Dad Gets Home?

By Matthew Stepp
of Wayne, West Virginia

"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 Peter 3:3-4).

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth? I mean, do you REALLY believe it? I was thinking of an analogy to use to accurately gauge our belief. It is found in Mark 13:34-37,



"For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every

man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say

◊ (Continued on page 6)

The Priesthood of Christ

Milburn Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)

It was determined in the purposes and decrees of God that Christ would be a priest. Jesus Christ was "foreordained to be a propitiation" (Rom. 3:25). Our redemption by His blood was "foreordained before the foundation of the world" (I Pet. 1:18-20). God the Father invested Him with the priestly office in the counsel and covenant of peace: "The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek" (Ps. 110:4).

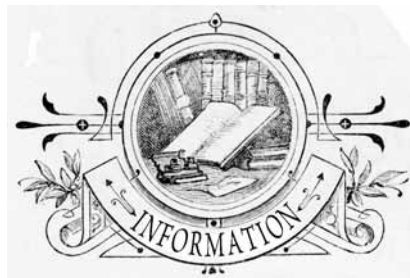


Christ's priesthood was Divinely bestowed in eternity past. He began His priestly work while on earth. His formal

and full high priestly character appeared after His exaltation. He will continue His office during the Millennium. Zechariah 6:13 declares: "He shall be a priest upon his throne."

Hebrews 5:1 informs us that every high priest is "taken from

◊ (Continued on page 19)



October 5, 2019 Volume XXXIX, Number 10

Whole Number 482

Editor: Christopher Cockrell

Staff: Sheron Cockrell, Marsha Kiser, Virginia Cockrell

THE BEREA BAPTIST BANNER (UPS 546470) is published monthly for \$6.00 per year by the authority of the Berea Baptist Church, 3881 Highway 363, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855. Periodical Publication postage paid at Mantachie, Mississippi.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEREA BAPTIST BANNER, P. O. Box 39, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855-0039.

LOCATION OF PUBLISHING CHURCH: Our church is located on state highway 363 about one mile south of Mantachie, Mississippi. Readers are always welcome to visit our services.

CHURCH PHONE: 1-662-282-7794.

PUBLICATION POLICIES: All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts are to be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of BBB and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication.

The publication of an article does not necessarily mean the editor is in complete agreement with the writer, nor does it mean he endorses all this person may have written on other subjects.

COPYING PRIVILEGES: Unless otherwise stated any article published in this paper may be copied by other publications, provided they give proper credit line stating that such was copied from this publication, and the date of publication; provided that such materials are not published for profit. If we are not on an exchange list with the publication

copying, it is requested that a copy of the issue containing the article be sent to our address. All copyrighted materials may not be copied without written consent.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY with paid circulation in most states in the U.S.A. and some foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - U.S.

One year.....\$6.00
Two years.....\$10.00
Five years.....\$24.00

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - FOREIGN One Year \$45

PLANNING TO MOVE? Notify us three weeks in advance. The post office will only forward periodical mail for 90 days. They charge us \$.70 for each "change of address" they have to send us. Please save us this expense and the post office time.

BUNDLES TO ONE ADDRESS: These are sent for \$4 per paper for a year. An example: 10 papers for one year at \$40 or 20 papers for one year at \$80.00.

A PAPER WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION: Some times people write to us and say that they did not subscribe for the BBB. They are receiving our paper because someone else has paid for their subscription.

We trust the BBB will be received as an outstretched hand to you. Take what you find helpful and discard what you cannot use. If you do not want to receive such a gift subscription, please write to us. We are happy to cancel such a subscription. We do not want to go where we are not wanted.

DISCLAIMER: The Editor assumes that the articles submitted for publication in the BBB are written by the person whose name they bear, unless otherwise indicated by a quote from another writer. However, the Editor cannot personally guarantee that this is the case in all articles which appear in the BBB.

The purpose of the Berea Baptist Banner is as follows:

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 strength-en 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.

Hebrews 11:36

(Continued from page 1) ♦

not be made perfect. Wherefore seeing we are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doeth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

The writer of this 11th chapter of Hebrews passes before us an array of illustrious names of heroes of faith. He tells of how the people of God have endured mockings and imprisonment, he tells of how they were afflicted in almost every conceivable way, then he says, **"of whom the world was not worthy."** This world is not worthy of people like those. It is not worthy of any true child of God, and because it is not worthy, God is going to judge this world, and eventually is going to put it under the ruler-ship of His son and the followers of that Son. That is exactly what Paul was talking about when he wrote, "Know ye not that the saints shall judge (or rule) the world?" Let us have patience, our day is coming, Christian. We are in the minority now, we have to put up with the things of the Devil, and sometimes they are almost crammed down our throats, but it is not going to be that way forever. We are going to come into our own one of these days, and after that, the Devil will never get back in the saddle.

But to go on to the heroes of faith, Paul calls the roll of them, then he says, as we find in the first verse of the 12th chapter, **"Wherefore,"** that harks back

to what he has been saying. **"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses."** Who are these witnesses? They are the great men and women of faith of the ages past, who are looking down upon us, seeing us as we run the Christian race here below. I do not see how anyone could deny this, or how they could make this passage mean anything else. And if those great characters of the past see us, then of course all the Christian dead see us also. And if they see us, they certainly know what is going on here.

There are some who deny this, because it does not fit in with their theory of soul sleeping. They go back to the Old Testament, and they find the statement that the dead know not anything. To many people that statement is conclusive, but what is the writer talking about? He is talking about the body---the body knows nothing after death. The body of a sick person may be writhing in pain. When death comes and the body lies still, there is no more pain or sensation of any kind. Why? Because the person who occupied that body has moved out. Paul says to be absent from the body means to be present with the Lord, and that statement by itself, if we had nothing else, would be enough to tell us that when a Christian dies, he goes immediately into the presence of the Lord. I say it is plain that dead people do know what is going on down here on the earth. Not only do we have the language of the text telling us about the great cloud of witnesses who compasseth us about, not only do we have Paul's words that to be absent from the body means to be present with the Lord, we likewise have other Scriptures to indicate the same.

♦ (Continued on page 3)

Tune in to the Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS	
WCNA, Myrtle, MS.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	.....95.9	.....3,000	FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	.....680	.....5,000	AM
WFTA, Tupelo, MS.....	Sunday 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	.....101.9	.....3,000	FM
KARL, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	.....550	.....5,000	AM

WATCHING THE FLIES?



Look at your mailing label on the front page of this month's paper. If you see above your name "Expires 10/2019" then this will be your last issue. So renew now, so you will not miss the next issue, or you will be sitting with Mr. Toad "watching the flies" instead of reading the *Banner*.

Berea Baptist Banner
PO Box 39
Mantachie, Mississippi
38855

(662) 282 - 7794

www.bereabaptistchurch.org

request@bereabaptistchurch.org
bbchurch@nexband.com

Planning a move?

Please let us know your new address. The post office charges us \$.61 for each returned wrong address.

Hebrews 11:36

(Continued from page 2) ♦

For instance, what about Moses and Elijah who appeared there on the mount of transfiguration? They were recognizable, and they knew what was going on down here on the earth, did they not? Else they could not have talked with Jesus about His forthcoming death in Jerusalem. What about the rich man whom we read about in the 16th chapter of Luke? He was conscious, for he said that he was tormented in flames. He knew what was going on here in this earth, for he asked Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his five wicked brothers not to come to this place of torment. How did he know that he had five brothers if he did not know what was going on here? Again we read in the book of the Revelation about the martyrs who in Heaven, cry out to God, "Oh, how long, O Lord, how long before you avenge our blood upon those that dwell upon the earth?" They knew who killed them, and they knew what was going on here and that they were still on the earth. How did they know it unless they knew what was going on here? Of course, the dead know what is going on here on this earth. There is no way of explaining away these Scriptures to which I have just referred.

But here is how people reason. They say, "But how could I be happy in Heaven if I knew that some of my loved ones had died and going on to torment?" Now there are two things to be said right here. First, in Heaven you will see things from God's viewpoint, and that will make a lot of difference, and second, the Scriptures speaking of the wicked say, "Let them be blotted out forever, let them be remembered no more." I believe that we have

indicated there that the memory of our lost friends and loved ones will eventually be blotted out of our minds, out of our memory, until we shall never remember that they have ever even lived at all. In that case, we can not be unhappy over their miserable and lost end, because we will not remember that they ever existed. But let me say here that we have no indication that the lost shall be allowed to forget in this way. To the contrary, the wicked rich man of Luke 15 remembered in torment that he had five wicked brothers on their way to the same place of torment, and he begged that someone should be sent to warn them to turn before they landed in the same place. I believe that one of the tortures of the wicked in the place of the lost will be the knowledge that there are others in torment whom they helped to lead there. But, says someone, how would it be possible for people living in the far-off realm of Heaven to see what is going on down here on this earth? In the light of the scientific developments of this day, no one should be troubled by a question of that kind. Suppose the President announces that he will address the nation on a certain night. You sit in your living room, you see the President, you hear him as he speaks, and yet he is in Washington hundreds of miles away. Men through purely scientific means have enabled us to see things that are happening hundreds and even thousands of miles away. If that be true from the human standpoint, will anyone deny that God, all powerful, cannot enable people in Heaven to see what is happening on this earth? If someone had told me when I was ordained to the ministry years ago that the time would come when I would

preach in homes thousands of miles away, that I would at the same time preach to thousands of people, I would have thought of that as sort of a pipe dream, yet, when I get up in my church and preach from my pulpit on Sunday morning, I preach in homes over a good portion of this state, as a ten thousand watt radio station carries the message far and wide. This is not supernatural, but is the product of man's scientific experimentation. If men can do this, what about God? Has He not the power to listen in to anything that takes place here and has He not the power to enable those in His presence to do the same? What influence, let me ask you, should this realization that the dead see us and know what we are doing have on us? It ought to be one of the most inspiring things that we can even think of.

Several years ago I had an experience that I have often longed for. I had from childhood seen pictures of the Great Pyramids of Egypt, and I had always wished to see them. I flew in to Cairo, and I was taken to the Hotel which stood right on the banks of the Nile. We ate in a dining room located on the roof of a Hotel several stories high. I looked and far out on the desert, I saw the pyramids looming up. The next day I visited them, and I will never forget the thrill of that experience. I remembered that years ago, when Napoleon was waging his Egyptian campaign, he stood with his soldiers in the shadows of the Great Pyramids and made a speech in which he said, "Men, forty centuries are looking down upon you, so do your best." Those men who followed him were inspired to put forth their best efforts, and they swept everything before them. Listen, if those soldiers were inspired to

a greater effort by the fact that forty-centuries-old pyramids were looking down upon them, then should we not be inspired far more by the realization that the saints of the ages, including our own Christian dead, are looking down and beholding us as we run the Christian race?

An evangelist of my acquaintance was holding a meeting in a western state some years ago, and he advertised to speak on "Heaven." An old woman 73 years of age walked a couple of miles to this service to ask the preacher one question. At the close of the service she said, "Do you believe that our loved ones in Heaven see us as we run the Christian race?" The preacher said, "Yes, I do, for the Bible says, 'Seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus.'" "Oh," she said, "I would not want my Mother to know what I have done since she went to Heaven." The preacher said a very sobering thing to that old woman. He said, "If you would not want your Mother to know how you have lived, then what about Jesus? He certainly knows."

There are people who have promised a Mother on her death bed that they would meet her in Heaven, but they have not taken any step even in that direction since they made that promise. Mother knows that you lied to her, and you need not doubt a word of it. If I speak to anybody like that, I tell them it is time that you kept your sacred word to your Mother, and turned and got right with the Lord. Promises made at the death bed of someone you love are not promised to be forgotten, but many a person has tearfully promised certain things

♦ (Continued on page 4)

Hebrews 11:36

(Continued from page 3) ♦

that they did not even try to live up to after that loved one died and was buried. They can not make you to be honest and truthful, but they know it if you are not.

And in this connection, there is something else to consider. Do you remember that Scripture that says, **“There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth”** (Luke 15:10)? We usually quote that to mean that the angels do the rejoicing. I have no doubt that they do rejoice, and as I recall, there is another Scripture which so states, but that is not what this Scripture says. It says that there is joy in the presence of the angels of God. Who are in the presence of the angels? One answer is, the redeemed of this earth who have gone on. I have known of a parent to die, and they had maybe a son or a daughter who was unsaved, and I have had such to say something like this, “I could die in peace if only my boy was saved. I do not want to be separated from him forever.” Then as time passed, I have seen that person about whom they grieved, turn to the Lord, and I have thought, “I bet your old Mother is shouting all over Heaven.” Oh, listen, there are persons right here in this world, people perhaps hearing me, that if you would turn to Christ today, there would be rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over your conversion.

Going back now to our text, you will note that we are given some interesting instructions concerning the Christian race. The writer is urging that since we have such a host of spectators watching us, we ought to do a good job. I remember when I graduated from the Seminary, I

was chosen as the speaker from my class, and I will never forget that occasion as long as I live. The big auditorium was packed to the doors. There on the platform behind me sat the Professors. Out there in front of me sat my class, and worst of all, I was the first speaker. I remember something of how I felt before I came out to speak. I have heard of people who had butterflies in their stomach, and I certainly learned what that meant that night. When I arose to speak, I could feel my knees knock together and I remember hoping that the Professors could not see it. My best was none too good, but I assure you that I did the very best that I was capable of. Why? Because my teachers and my class that had chosen me to represent them were looking on. And that is a very small thing, just a trifling thing, in comparison with this that our Scripture tells us about. As we run our Christian race here below, the hosts of Heaven are looking on. Now if before I delivered my graduation speech, some fine speaker had given me some expert instructions as to how to make a successful speech, I would have appreciated it deeply. In this case as regards to how to successfully run the Christian race, the Holy Spirit gives us instructions. And what are they? Look at them with me. It says, **“laying aside every weight.”** Many of you know that the Grecian runners wore weights on their feet for a day or two before the Olympic games, so that they might feel light-footed when the weights were cut off just before they had to run. What chance would a runner have had if he had tried to run with the weights tied to his feet? His coach would have cried out, “Cut off the weights so you can run.” And that is exactly what the Word of God says, **“lay aside every weight.”**

Weights are not necessarily sins. You can have things that happen to you in your Christian life that are not sinful in themselves. You can be too sensitive, too ready to get hurt, too ready to see slights and insults, too ready to suspect other people. That attitude is a weight to any person. You can be proud and vain, oh, any number of things can be weights to you. What is your weight? You name it yourself. The chances are you know what it is. But notice this Scripture goes further and says, **“and the sin which doth so easily beset us.”** Cut off the weights, sins or not, and go further, cut off the sins that hamper us. What is your besetting sin? Is it a mean temper? God can give you the grace to curb that temper. Is it that tendency to gossip, when you hear something you just itch to tell it until you blab it out. God can give you the grace to hold your tongue. Is it an unforgiving spirit? Is there anybody you are not forgiving? If so, I want you to remember that every time you ask the Lord to forgive you for anything, He says that He will not do it if you do not forgive your brother his trespasses. I do not know what your besetting sin is, but the Word of God says for you to get rid of it so you can run the race.

Now, hurriedly, let us take another look at the text, **“And let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”** I looked that word up, and the Greek word does not mean patience, but rather steadfastness. Let us run steadfastly the race. I do not know of anything that has ever happened in my ministry through the years like lack of steadfastness. People attend church by fits and starts, and something comes up to break their church-going habit, and it takes forever for them to get back. We have had that to

contend with in prayer meeting. Some times people will drop out and they would not get started back for on and on. Lack of steadfastness! If there is anything that I have tried to teach the people of my church by example, it is steadfastness. That is why I do not go off for this or that or the other as I have the opportunity of doing. I feel that I ought to stick right by my church. And let me ask earnestly, how dependable are you? If you show up on Thursday night, if your church has a visitation program, will your service be a temporary one, or will you stick to it week after week? Let us run with steadfastness the race that is set before us.

One thing more, on whom are we to keep our eyes fastened as we run? It says, **“looking unto Jesus,”** that tells the story. Then the writer tells us how Jesus endured all that He did, even the shame of the cross. He endured it because He kept His thoughts on the future. **“Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”** Jesus was occupied with what His shame and death would accomplish. He could foresee the great host of people who would be redeemed from the nations of the earth through His sacrificial death, so He endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus knew that in the briefest time, He would again be in the glories of the eternal world, and that is the thing that should hearten and encourage every one of us among the most trying things of this life, the realization that the things that now are, are but temporary, and that soon we shall be up there where the gates

♦ (Continued on page 5)

Little Hills

By Nathaniel Hille of
Plant City, Florida



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON - BIBLE SURVEY #6 GENESIS

TEXT: Genesis 1:1

DEVOTIONAL READING: John 1:1; Job 38:1-41:34

SUGGESTED HYMN: *Father Abraham*

AIM: An Over-View of the Book of Genesis

INTRODUCTION—The book of Genesis is the “seed-plot” of the Scriptures—by this we mean that every great leading fact and truth, relation & revelation are found in the book of Genesis. The gems of all that is afterward more fully developed are contained in this book. From Creation to redemption, judgment to rewards for faithfulness, how to worship God to the very church of God. The Book of Genesis contains 50 chapters.

I. AUTHOR: We believe that God is the author (I Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21); Moses is the human author of the first five books of the Bible.

II. KEY VERSE: “Beginning(s)”—Gen. 1:1; This is God’s record of what took place. It is interesting to note that what man says contradicts what God says. Are we to believe God or man? God spoke unto Job saying, **“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?...”** (Job 38:4). The reality is that man did not exist when God did all of this. Humanity was the last of God’s creation. Yet, man in his sinfulness, has denied what the heavens declare and the firmament showeth (Ps.14:1).

III. DIVISIONS OF THE BOOK: There are 10 natural divisions. They are separated by the word “Generations”—

- 1) The generations of heaven Gen. 2:4;
- 2) The book of the generations of Adam Gen. 5:1;
- 3) The generations of Noah Gen. 6:9;
- 4) The generations of the sons of Noah Gen. 10:1;
- 5) The generations of Shem Gen. 11:10;
- 6) The generations of Terah Gen. 11:27;
- 7) The generations of Ishmael Gen. 25:12;
- 8) The generations of Isaac Gen. 25:19;
- 9) The generations of Esau Gen. 36:1;
- 10) The generations of Jacob Gen. 37:2.

The word “generations” means “history” or the “birth, to bring forth.” This is God’s record of what took place. It is literally HIS-Story of what took place and it is accurate in every detail.

IV. NAMES OF GOD: In the Book of Genesis more names of God are revealed unto us than any other book of the Bible. God has different names. In the Bible, names are very significant. They have deep meaning. Each of God’s names reveal something concerning Him. For instance, you have a name, but you may have ‘nick-names’ or ‘pet names’. Here are God’s names in Genesis.¹

1. God: “Elohim” (El-oh-heem) (Gen. 1:1) this name has a three-fold

meaning

A. Strength or the strong one. This speaks that God is all-powerful. And certainly He must be since He is the one who created the Heaven and the earth with His word(s).

B. To swear or bind one’s self with an oath. The name itself implies faithfulness.

C. Plural: The name is plural, not singular. This is especially noted in Gen. 1:26, **“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”** Here in the very first verse of the Bible we are confronted with the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

NOTE: God introduces Himself to His creation as the all-powerful, faithful, three-in-one Deity.

2. Jehovah: Gen. 2:4—**“LORD.”** Literally means “He that is who He is, therefore the eternal I AM.” It is the “self-existent one” who reveals Himself. We find that “Jehovah” is used in connection with the Lord’s dealings with man: creation, redemption (Gen. 3:21—it was the LORD God who made the coats of skins, and clothed them).

3. Most High God: Gen. 14:18—here the Lord is called the most High God meaning that He is the possessor of Heaven and earth (Gen. 14:22-23). This causes us to realize that everything belongs to God and we are stewards and debtors to Him and Him alone.

4. Lord: Gen. 15:2--“Lord” in the KJ Bible, if LORD is all capitals it is Jehovah, if it is “Lord” it is “Adonai = master.” Here we find that Abraham calls God his Master. We learn we are to obey God and we are to look to our Master for everything.

5. All-Mighty: Gen. 17:1—More properly rendered “All-Sufficient One.” The Hebrew here is “shad” = “breast.” A child receives all it needs from his/her mother’s breast: comfort, nourishment, love, medicine. So, too, do we receive all we need from the Lord. He is our all in all.

6. Everlasting God: Gen. 21:33—Here we find that God is everlasting and that He is over everlasting things.

7. God will Provide: Gen. 22:8,14—Jehovah-jireh, a compound name of God. Here God provided a substitute for a sacrifice.

We trust this will be a help in studying book of Genesis.

NOTES

1. Thoughts Taken from footnotes of Scofield Study Bible

(Nathaniel Hille is pastor of the Bible Baptist Church of Plant City, Florida.)

Hebrews 11:36

(Continued from page 4) ♦

swing outward never. “Just a few more years with their toil and tears, and the journey will be ended, and I’ll be with Him where the tide of time with eternity is blended, I’ll exchange the cross for a starry crown where the gates swing outward never, at His feet I’ll lay every burden down, and with Jesus reign forever.” The race will be over then, the victory will be won, we shall join that great

crowd of witnesses, God’s people of the ages, to know sorrow and trials and difficulties no more. But you unsaved people hearing me, you do not dare to think of the future, you know you do not, you know I am telling you the truth. If you should begin to think about where you are headed, as a lost, Christ-less sinner, tonight before you retire, you just could not sleep if you thought about it. You would be bound to think, “I am nearer Hell tonight than I have ever been

♦ (Continued on page 6)

Hebrews 11:36

(Continued from page 5) ♦

before in my life, and just as sure as I now live, just that surely I am going to experience the pangs and suffering of Hell. As a Christian, I am just one heartbeat removed from the glories of Heaven. As one who is not a Christian, you are one heart beat removed from torment. There is a lot of difference in those two things. You can drift along and allow yourself to think about eternity and Hell in more or less the same way that you would think of fables and fairy tales. I want to tell you that there is no myth or fable about this serious matter of eternity and human destiny. In less than a hundred years every person hearing me now will be among the saved and amid such happiness that you can not even imagine now, or else you will be amidst the lost amid suffering and horrors indescribable, one or the other. I ask you, where will you be? Since there is only one Savior, and since the only salvation is through faith in Him, the question as to where and how you shall spend eternity hinges on just one thing, what you do with the Lord Jesus Christ. I ask you, what will you do with Jesus, which is called the Christ?

Our Father, we thank Thee that our loved ones who have gone on into the glory world look down upon us and know our situation here, and we thank Thee that we who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are on our way to a greater and more glorious world. And we pray for those that are not on that road, that they today may receive Christ as their Savior, that they, too, may step on that road that leads to everlasting life, for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.



What Happens

(Continued from page 1) ♦

unto you I say unto all, Watch."

"Okay, kids, listen up! I am taking your Mom out to shop and then for dinner. I want you guys to have your chores done by the time we get back. Do not have any of your friends over, either. Be careful and do not do anything goofy and we will be back in a few hours." Sounds like a typical parent/children conversation, does it not? Dad and Mom are going to be gone awhile and the children are left as stewards of the house. They are teenagers now, and they are old enough to know right from wrong. Capable of being not only stewards of the house, but also of themselves.

Now, in this scenario, they know that Dad's coming back. The teens do not know the exact time, but they know they have got a few hours before they have to worry about "judgment day." My question is, "what will you do?" Some kids will immediately get their chores done, then with a clear conscience (regarding Dad's return) can do whatever other things they want to do. However, others might decide to finish the video game they had been interrupted in, and get the chores done later. That is probably okay, because there is plenty of time, right? Yeah, but be careful, because time flies when you are having fun and you might look up again at the clock and realize that the time is fast approaching when Dad will be returning.

You see, everybody knows there is no hurry or rush at 6 p.m. Long way off yet. But what about 9 p.m.? You make the call. Time might be getting a little short, but just depends on how quick you can do the chores. Or how much did Dad really mean about

the whole chore being done. Rationalization begins and things are not quite as clear as they used to be. At 11 p.m., if Dad's still not back yet, would you question whether he is actually coming or not? Funny, because that is the way the world continues to look at the return of Jesus Christ.

Back to our text chapter of II Peter 3:8-11, **"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness."**

OK, so what happens when Dad gets home? If you have done right, you get rewarded, but if you have not, you will get grounded, spanked, hollered at, whatever is the norm at your house.

But what is going to happen when Jesus Christ returns from His long journey? What will happen to you and your friends? I hope you see that this situation is MUCH more serious. The stakes are much higher. Yes, it is true that if you 'love His appearing' as a child of God, you will be rewarded. Eternal life is yours. Heaven will be your home of reward. But what if you have not done right? What if you never knew Jesus Christ? Never

really knew Him as Lord of your life? It is not just a grounding, but a condemnation to Hell. It is not a spanking, but everlasting torments. And it is not a shrieking parent, but **"Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth"** (Matt. 22:13).

Beloved reader, there is no hope in this world outside the hope that Jesus is coming soon. On that belief hangs the whole world. What will happen to you at that (rapturous) event? And if you are saved (as most people that read this paper are), what about our lost friends? They need to know that Dad is coming home, soon. But who is going to tell them if we do not? Can we dare to leave their future hanging upon a hope that someone else will come along and warn them? Can we take a chance that they will figure it out themselves? Beloved, it is up to you and me.

So what should be our most fervent prayer? Their salvation, right? So how do we bring that about? We can not save them ourselves, but God can. So we have to point them to God, do we not? We have got to make sure they know Him before it is too late. We have got to take upon ourselves the responsibility to be the best witness that we can be for them of the reality of God. Let us look at a couple of examples in the Old Testament of Christian witnesses in ungodly surroundings.

First, let us take Lot for an example. Remember when God told Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? Well, Lot and his family lived in Sodom, so the father of the faithful

♦ (Continued on page 7)

Small Drops

By Joseph M. Sidders of
Temperance, Michigan

"My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God" (Deuteronomy 32:2-3).



THE AMAZING FALLEN-MAN

I grew up being a fan of comic books with Spiderman being my all-time hero of choice. In the books Peter Parker, for most of his life, had been told by his uncle that "with great power comes great responsibility." His uncle was attempting to teach the young man that with the knowledge to do good instead of evil also came the responsibility to act for the good of others rather than evil.

In his origin I saw Peter fail to heed the counsel of uncle time and time again. One day he allowed a petty thief to run by him when he knew that stopping him was the right thing to do. This man had just robbed someone who Peter felt had cheated him so it seemed like the man who had been victimized had it coming. At first Peter felt good about his decision to not stick his neck out or 'get involved' with this situation. Later in the day Peter found out that this same thief had robbed and killed another man on the street...his uncle. Uncle Ben paid the price in this story for Peter's sin which motivated this title character to never miss another opportunity to act responsibly again. Cute story for a young teenager, right?

This story hit me at a time when I, too, was rebellious, figuring that whoever around me got hurt by my actions (or inactions) probably had it coming anyhow. Perhaps you cannot relate to such a time in your own life but for me I was

dishonest, a thief and just plain selfish in everything I did. The very comic book that I read this story in was most likely one that I had swiped on my way home from school from the spinner-rack. What harm could a 12 or 13 year old be to this giant world right?

One day a buddy and I discovered a great source of cash that would make our comic acquisitions a bit more honest. My father's work place had a snack stand in the breakroom that worked on the honor code. People would shove their cash in the box and take the snacks they wanted. We left the snacks and took just a few dollars here and there. In the end the two of us were said to have taken almost \$500 from that little box. I did not care. I remember saying that it was a stupid set up, they had it coming.

My father's boss spoke to me about the situation; talked to me like I was a grown man. He told me about the elderly woman who stocks the snacks; how she lived alone, all her kids were grown and moved away. He told me that most of the time the only people she ever saw were in that workplace. He even told me how hard it was for her to come and make the complaint, how she said that she never would have said a word about it if she did not so desperately need the money. I still cry when I think about the hurt I caused for someone that I had never met face to face. No

doubt I am not perfect and still hurt feelings from time to time, but I look back at this now and remember that we all truly have the power to affect others, and with that power comes great responsibility.

We all love the story of Spiderman and how he is always striving to do well in the memory of the one who was sacrificed by his failures. If you are born again you know that Jesus Christ did just that for you. And according to Romans 8:1 you would suffer no condemnation for any of your past sins for you are now made to "walk in the Spirit" rather than the flesh. Let us always remember this sacrifice as we live out our stories.

(Joseph Sidders is pastor of the Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Temperance, Michigan.)



What Happens

(Continued from page 6) ♦

requested mercy for his nephew. Consequently, God sends two angels to Lot's house and warns him of the impending judgment. **"And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law"** (Gen. 19:12-14).

Oh, what a shameful testimony it is to Lot's life in Sodom. When he really needed to let them know

that Dad is coming home tonight, it was too late. His words had no power, they were founded in no works or actions. **"But he seemed as one that mocked..."** His sons-in-law just laughed at him. They did not believe him. And after the two angels literally dragged out Lot, his wife and two single daughters, the destruction of the morning overcame those laughing family members and friends. **"And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace"** (Gen. 19:27-28).

A Witness. That was what Lot needed to be all his life. A humble witness to the reality and power of God in his life. If only he had lived a life of separation unto his God. If only he had physical evidence in his life of the blessings of his God it might have made a difference to his friends and family. If only they had already seen evidence that when Lot spoke about his God, he was dead serious, then maybe. What we really need is not to tell people that there is a God, but that we have a real God in our lives every day. Selah! Think about it! If only Lot's God had seemed real to his family.

If only... That is Lot's sorry story. He was not a testimony. But I can hear some folks saying that it would not have made any difference anyway. None of the others were of the elect. They were depraved sinners and would not and could not have listened anyway. "Er, excuse me? How do you know?"

Let us jump forward about 400 years to another depraved city that had iniquity oozing out

♦ (Continued on page 8)

What Happens

(Continued from page 7) ♦

its gates. Jericho was about to be judged of God for its iniquity (Gen. 15:16) as Abraham's descendants return to the Land of Canaan in the role as instruments of God's justice. General Joshua sends two spies into the city to search out the land. Upon their betrayal, Rahab the harlot hides them in the flax straw on the rooftop. Before she lets them go, she requests amnesty for herself when the Israelites come back to the city to conquer it. They agree and tell her, **"Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him"** (Josh. 2:18-19).

So, again forewarned of the coming judgment, Rahab, like Lot those four centuries before, goes to her family and testifies unto them of the necessity to be in her house when the enemy is sighted. "Dad is coming Home!" God is Real! You can not save your own house! Your strength is insufficient to stay the battle! Come! You must hide with me in the home of the scarlet thread of redemption!

Surely they will not believe her anymore than Lot's family believed him. Why would God choose to save an idolatrous family hiding in a known harlot's house? Surely God can not save

a country-hick boy from Wayne County, West Virginia? Well, that is really our downfall, is it not? All of us are too smart to really believe that the foolishness of preaching works. None of our friends have an "E" on their forehead so that we would know that they are one of God's elect. We just have to tell them the truth and believe that God can impart His love unto them. **"And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also"** (James 2:23-26).

Simply put, just like Abraham, Rahab believed God and it was counted unto her for righteousness and she was called the friend of God. Sure, she had wasted her life up to this point, but now God had given her saving faith. And folks could see the difference in her. How do I know? Because, unlike Lot, Rahab's family believed her. **"And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword. But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred,**

and left them without the camp of Israel. And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein..." (Josh. 6:21-25).

So let us make some conclusions here. First of all, we have to believe. Is Dad coming home? You bet! Is Jesus Christ really going to break open the eastern sky and reveal Himself to His people and rapture home to glory His elect? Absolutely!

Secondly, we now have to live our lives in such a way that all of our friends know. If we are put on trial for being a Christian, we need desperately (for our friends' sakes) to have enough outward, physical evidence to be found guilty. If for nothing else, than that they would know unto whom to come when their conscience convicts them concerning judgment and righteousness.

The third step is to love Jesus Christ enough to convince the world that He is real. Because that is the biggest problem of Lot's friends, Rahab's family and our 21st Century set of contemporaries: God is not real to them. He has to be real enough to us to make a difference that they can see.

Let us outline a "when push comes to shove" scenario to find out how much we love our Master and Saviour. If a boy is putting pressure on a girl to get more intimate in their relationship, often he will get frustrated if she resists on moral principles. "You don't really love me, do you?" he will ask. "Yes, I do!" she will protest. "Well, then, prove it to me!" he demands. "Love" here is often used by worldly people as a lever to get what they want. (... not really love at all, is it?)

That is in the Bible, too! Turn to Proverbs 7:17-21, **"I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let**

us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him." Dad's not coming home for hours or days, yet. Come on! No one need know and besides, everyone else is doing it!

How real is Dad to you now? When Dad (or the goodman above) is not coming home for a long time, it is easier to convince ourselves of the inconsequentiality of our actions. But would the simple boy of Proverbs 7 have let himself be persuaded into the illicit actions if he heard the "goodman" knocking and beating on the door? As the hour gets closer, Jesus Christ should become more real as we read Scripture and see the signs of the times that say His return is imminent.

One simply must stand up to such bullying tactics and proclaim a belief and trust in the morals of the Bible. It is wrong. I can not do what you want and still respect myself as a Christian. Do not be afraid to say it. That is what killed Simon Peter's testimony around the fireside in Caiaphas' courtyard. He was afraid to stand up and say "I am a Christian. Yes, we Christians look and act differently from the world. If you respect that, you will take me as I am!"

How can we expect anyone to believe us when we say that Dad's coming home, if we do not believe it enough ourselves? If we can shove Jesus Christ onto the back burner and commit sin without barely blinking an eye,

♦ (Continued on page 9)



Narrow Paths

By Doug Newell IV of
Clendenin, West Virginia

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14).

MAYBE I AM WRONG

Years ago, I had a theological debate with a man over a vital doctrine. He pleaded with me to open my mind up to his unorthodox teaching. I told him I would not open my mind, but it would, God willing, remain firmly and finally shut on the matter. He told me I was arrogant because I did not believe I could be wrong, and I should live with the idea that I could be wrong about everything. Granted, I could be wrong about a lot of things, but on this particular matter, I was not, and it would be the height of folly to walk around persuading myself not to believe. It is not humility to convince yourself not to believe any divine truth with all your heart and soul. False teachers always want their people to doubt and to question everything, except their allegiance to their mystic, mushy, pliable uncertainty.

Understanding and true knowledge is a gift of God (Eph. 1:17). One of the purposes of the church and the role of the pastor is to teach and declare the Word with the goal of **"the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God"** (Eph. 4:13). Paul prayed the church in Colossae would be "filled with the knowledge of [God's] will" and increase in the "knowledge of God," (Col. 1:9-10). Paul wanted the people of God to be comforted and **"knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ"** (Col. 2:2). Not only

is knowing the truth possible, the Bible stresses the importance of coming to the knowledge of the truth and provides the way for it to happen.

Yes, it is possible to become proud in what you know. I read an article where the author quoted from Jeremiah 9:23-24, **"Thus said the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might..."** Very powerful and on point. Do not be proud and lifted up with your "doctrine" warned the author. But what was left out of the verse after the ellipses? **"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord..."** This verse was not condemning theological knowledge, but condemning the pride of wisdom of men. Jeremiah tells us to know and understand the Lord.

It is certainly possible to be deceived. It is not only possible, but common for people to deceive themselves, and become proud and hard-hearted refusing to be corrected, insisting they are right when all the evidence points to the contrary. With the Spirit's help, we can know the truth and be settled in what God has given us in His Word. Pray that He would open your heart to the truth, examine your heart and motives for any wrong, any pride, and then cling to His inerrant Word (Psa. 139:23-24).

(Doug Newell IV is pastor of the Buffalo Valley Baptist Church of Clay, West Virginia.)



What Happens

(Continued from page 8) ♦

do not expect to fool anyone else into listening to us. Evidently, we do not really believe He is coming back either, at least not that He is coming today.

So how can we convince them that we really believe? For young folk, church dating must be a priority. It is the simplest, most effective way to witness for your Lord. It is one thing to say "I love my church." It is an entirely different and more powerful witness to actually show up every Sunday and Wednesday. To be going over plans with your friends and they pick a Friday when your church is having special services and you say "Can't go then, I gotta go to church." And no amount of wheedling by your friends will shake you. Respect. That is what you will gain every time. Sure, disgust and incomprehension, as well. But if you are consistent, then they will not even ask you to do anything on Wednesdays anymore. Wow! It does get easier. If it is real.

Then when you start dating someone, they will expect to have to go to church with you. Lord willing, they will even come to think of it as getting to go to church with you. Beloved reader, if they do not care enough about you to do this simple, yet difficult task, consider your future. How much more difficult have you made your life as a Christian to be, if you give in to mediocrity? How can you even conceive of being a faithful Christian, with the carnal weight of such a relationship?

This is where the other young folk in the church you attend can be a help. If you support each other, the more influential guys and gals can be an anchor for the

younger or weaker Christians. Ask them for advice. Use them as someone to point to that is a successful follower of Christ. **"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. ... And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken"** (Eccl. 4:9-10, 12).

Look out for each other. Stand up for each other. It is a lot easier to be cool, if your friends are cool. And it is a lot easier to be a Christian, if your friends are Christians, too. May God bless you as you stand for the reality of Christ and His return.

Hey, it is getting dark outside! How long have we been wasting time? DAD'S COMING HOME! For sure... **"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."** (1 Thess. 4:16-17). **"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be"** (Matt. 24:37-39). Selah! Think about it!

(Matthew Stepp is pastor of the Big Creek Baptist Church of Wayne, West Virginia.)



Not Ashamed

(Continued from page 1) ♦

fruitful mother of all other sins. Unfortunately, we have tried to Christianize the word and make pride a laudable possession. In tracing the use of this word we find that it is never used in the Bible to denote anything that is praiseworthy or desirable. In spite of this, it is not uncommon to hear one exhorted to preserve his pride. In visiting the home of one of our members, the lady of the house, who had once been wealthy, remarked, "We are poor, but proud." If she spoke truly, the family possessed a deadly combination and deserved to be pitied. Philip, the father of Alexander the Great, is reputed to have said, "This is the proudest day of my life." Being asked the occasion of his pride, he replied, "On this day my horse won in the Olympian games Parmenio, my General, won a great victory, and on this day Alexander was born." Obviously it was his horse that won the prize, his General that won the victory, and certainly his wife was due a large share of the credit for the birth of Alexander. Cash, clothes and the cemetery seem to constitute the triune basis for modern pride. The fact one has a plethora bank account, or possesses a superior wardrobe, or is the descendant of some illustrious, is supposed to afford sufficient cause for real and lasting pride. A moment's meditation will reveal how scant the ground for glorying.

Paul was not ashamed, after learning the "good news," to preach it to others. It is tragically true that shame keeps many a one from Christ and greatly impairs the usefulness of His followers. Through a sense of pride the young woman has preferred to become a crushed flower rather than be called a "wall flower." The

young man has chosen the path that leads to the penitentiary that he might be able to gratify the demands of pride. It is probably true that Napoleon's destiny was determined the day he discarded Josephine. Prompted by pride, he put away, perhaps, the only woman who ever really loved him that he might gratify a posthumous ambition. The story is told of a medical student at the University of Virginia whose parents denied themselves all but the absolute necessities of life that he might complete his medical education. The day of his graduation being near, his father wrote him that he would come to see him graduate. Being ashamed of his father, who was both humble and poor, he replied that there would be no use in his coming. Not realizing the motive that prompted his son's reply, he wrote no more, thinking he would give his son a pleasant surprise. On the day prior to his son's graduation he met him and two other students on the streets of Charlottesville. "How do you do, my dear boy?" was the affectionate greeting of the poor and aged father. Ashamed of his father in the presence of his fashionable companions, he said, "The old fellow thinks he knows me. Come on, boys, we've got no time to fool with a crazy man." The old man, broken-hearted, turned his steps homeward. In a few days they buried him on the lonely hillside, his grave a monument to the false pride of a sinful son.

Paul was not ashamed to preach this Gospel in the forum of proud imperial Rome. Full well he knew that a Cato, a Caesar, or an Antony never had such a message as he longed to bring to the Romans, even those of Caesar's household. He knew that their Christless civilization would lead to destruction without Christ.

And just here it will be well to bear in mind that a Christless culture is America's greatest menace. Many schools are attempting to substitute their curriculum for the Cross, and learning for righteousness. Our universities are becoming the cradles of a Christless criticism and hotbeds of horrible heresies. Man-made gods dug the national graves of Greece, Rome and Germany, and we may well profit by their example. Christ is the only salvation of nations and the only Saviour of individuals. Though the preaching of Paul was a matter of small moment to the city, which from "her seven hills of beauty ruled the world," the Gospel that he preached is today the greatest factor and power in the universe. The forum of Rome is but a shadowy suggestion of its erstwhile splendor; the Palace of the Caesars only tells the tale of decay and departed grandeur; the Coliseum is rich only in its ruins and a mere echo of bygone glory! Yet the Gospel that Paul declared continues, and will continue conquering and to conquer, till the kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ! Paul was not ashamed of the "power" of the Gospel. It is the only power that can give life to the dead sinner. Christ had saved him, and he knew that the same Christ could save others. Other things may help, but only the Gospel can save. Many things may contribute to our reformation, but only the blessed Holy Spirit can cause our regeneration. Human agencies may whitewash a man, but only Christ can wash him white. Water will cleanse the body, but it requires the blood of Christ to cleanse the soul; for the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. It is not only the power to give life, but also to "preserve" life. Christ is not only mighty to save, but mighty to

keep! With blessed truth we sing, "Jesus saves, Jesus saves," and may sing, "Jesus keeps, Jesus keeps." With bands of steel He binds us to Himself. A Christ that could only save would be an incomplete Christ; but the Christ that saves and keeps is the Saviour that gives a complete salvation. Not only does it give life, and preserve life, but it is the power that triumphs over death, hell, and the grave. Human wisdom makes no reply to death, and speaks no word of consolation at the graveside. It stands dumb in the presence of death, and offers no word of hope for all the eternal years. **"I am the resurrection and the life,"** crowns with glory even the long-forgotten grave. No wonder Paul was not ashamed of the power of such a Gospel. Some day you may see a notice of my death. But say not I am dead, but rather that I have crossed the river of death, on the bridge of faith, leaning on the everlasting arms. The Gospel is the only full and final answer to the question, "If a man die shall he live again?" We are born to die, but we are born again to live forever with the Lord!

*"We are going home, we are going home,
We are going home to die no more."*

Paul was not ashamed of the "scope" of the Gospel. It is to **"every one"** that believeth. To the banker and his bootblack, the Queen and her washerwoman, to the Chinaman and American, to the rich and poor, the wise and foolish, this Gospel brings the same message of hope and life. All human systems are exclusive rather than inclusive. Their glory is not so much what they include as what they exclude. A diamond is deemed precious by its owner not only because he has it, but because others do not have it. If diamonds were as plentiful as brick no one would care for them. Thank God,

♦ (Continued on page 16)

Brief Truths

By Randy Johnson of
Texarkana, Texas

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



THE CHURCH IS TO BE ONE

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ" (I Cor. 12:12).

Unity in a church is not an option it is an absolute must, a command from God and her Head Jesus Christ. God said while a "body" has many members, together they are one, as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are One. It was Jesus who prayed to the Father just before His death for this unity, not only as a church, but also as Christians. **"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me"** (John 17:21).

There is only one way for a church to be one, every member must have much love, humility, grace and mercy for each and every one of the other church members. It takes the power of the Holy Spirit as it does in everything else that is godly, and these fruits are all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Every member must surrender all power and authority to the Lord Jesus Christ and allow that authority to work through the majority of the church's heart and desire. Allowing every vote to be settled as the will of God and holding no thought of opposition. But this goes beyond voting and working of the church, it is extended to the entire working of the church, this takes much love,

it takes the "love of God in your heart." This is submitting to the working of the Holy Spirit and includes Him to assembling the church as He chooses. **"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him"** (I Cor. 12:18). We must understand that every member was set into place by the Holy Spirit and every member is as valuable as another no matter who they are.

A church has many members and we all know that can create division and it is our job as members to overcome that and not allow division. Never, ever allow yourself to devalue a member of the Lord's church, ever! **"And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness"** (I Cor. 12:21-23).

Unity in a church says "oneness" and oneness begins with our love and respect for every member, one for the other no matter what, we are joyful, and sad together for each other. We were all set into the church for our learning and to worship God in that learning. We must all adhere to the Scriptures on this subject and make sure we

are fulfilling them the best that we can.

The pastor is the leader, he is the God-placed teacher and it is from him that you should seek your understanding of the Scriptures. The church is a seminary of biblical studies and your pastor is your instructor in that biblical education. The pastor has his responsibilities to the Lord, the church, and the membership, and a dysfunctional body is not a healthy body. It is the pastor's job to work and keep unity in the church, and while sometimes that is a large work, it is still his work.

No member should ever become a dysfunctional member of the body. One dysfunctional member could affect other members and that could destroy a church. If a member has an issue that cannot be resolved then present it to the pastor, do not become a problem in the body without consulting the Head (Jesus Christ) and His under-shepherd/overseer, the pastor.

The doctrine of the church is important, because doctrine is simply the teachings of the Scripture. Remember, the church is "a seminary of biblical studies," of teachings handed down from Jesus to the twenty-first century. There is a lot of teaching in the world about the Bible, and the vast-majority of it is worldly, not godly. It is not your responsibility to give the others an opportunity that could do great damage to your learning, do not forget Satan appears as an angel of light waiting to devour you.

If we all work together, teaching, learning, loving, caring, and all doing our part, Jesus Christ will always bless the church. If you become an enemy of the church's doctrine, of the church's ways of doing things, it is better to leave than become a problem in the

church.

The church is the most important institution on earth because it is God's assembly, and changing the teaching to worldly teachings will do nothing but destroy the church. We must all stand strong in the Word and in each other.

Elder Oscar Mink wrote the following: "For the edifying of the body of Christ, all work and service rendered should have this end in view, all effort put forth to build up, or promote the individual is spent in vain, the fabric of the church is so interwoven that when one member is weakened, the whole fabric diminishes in strength. Thus when we pray for an ailing member, we pray for him as an individual, and for his improvement, but we should ever have in view as we pray for the individual the overall welfare of the church, knowing that the individual being helped, helps all the members of the body. ...All gifts are of equal importance... for the edifying of the body of Christ, this is the obligation of the membership collectively, and there is not a member which does not have something to contribute toward the up building of the church, your contribution may go unnoticed by the great majority of members, even as the widows mite was overlooked by the prominent members of the synagogue, but Christ took special note of the gift, and there is no gift in the church which gets more attention from Christ than any other gift. Christ says, **"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much..."** (Luke 16:10)."

The church must be one!

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



The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. Should we always offer thanks before we eat or drink anything?

Tom Ross
6339 County Rd. 15
South Point, OH
45680

Pastor
Mt. Pleasant
Baptist Church
6939 County Rd. 15
Chesapeake, OH
45619



"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations" (Ps. 100:4-5).

"Give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people" (Ps. 105:1).

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take eat; this is my body" (Matt. 26:26).

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

The simple and direct answer to the question in light of the above Scriptures and many more that are not listed is yes. Everyone, everywhere, and at all times should live in an attitude of thanksgiving to God for everything. Acts 17:28 states: **"For in him we live, and move, and have our being..."** Life and everything pertaining to it, physically and spiritually comes from God. Therefore we are to constantly have an attitude of gratitude for God our Creator, Provider, Sustainer, and Redeemer. When we consider how great and holy our God is,

and that He has been pleased to grace us with so many spiritual and temporal blessings, our hearts should burst with thanksgiving on a daily basis. As we contemplate the myriad of blessings received from the gracious hand of our loving Lord the offering of thanks should be a most pleasant and profitable duty. Thankfulness may be defined as a response of gratitude from a heart that recognizes the goodness and grace of God in all of life.

We ought to wake up in the morning with the attitude of thanksgiving that should be maintained throughout the day. It should not be a hard thing for us to pray and thank God for our meals. The question may be how big do we make our offering of thanks? Will a silent prayer that simply says, "Thank you Lord" be enough? Or do we need to loudly proclaim our offering of thanks for all to see? When I eat breakfast or lunch with my wife we pray together and I offer thanks out loud. If I eat my breakfast alone, I often pray silently by simply bowing my head, closing my eyes, and thanking the Lord for life and provision. When everyone comes for Sunday dinner after church (usually 13 people) we make it a point to offer thanks to God so as to leave a lasting impression on the children. One of the men is called upon to lead everyone in a prayer of thanksgiving. The children are taught to be quiet, to bow their heads, and listen carefully to the prayer of thanksgiving to God.

The same basic protocol is followed when we are out in public at a restaurant. We do not

make a big show or announce to everyone in the place that we are going to pray. We just do it like we normally do. As a general rule if I eat by myself, I usually say a silent, informal prayer. If we are sharing a communal meal it is always a vocal prayer of thanks.

I think the key to prayer of any kind is an attitude of sincerity, submission, dependence, and thanksgiving whether it is offered silently or vocally. I fear that many people think of prayer as a certain outward form or posture. However, it should be offered by a heart that is set upon God regardless of outward form or posture. I have often thanked God in prayer while driving with my eyes wide open and my hands on the wheel. Other times I have spent time on my hands and knees praying without saying a word out loud, silently communing with God. Sadly, there is little thanksgiving evident in our sin saturated, ungrateful world. Most people have a sense of selfish entitlement and never even think of giving God thanks. They are like hogs under an acorn tree, greedily gobbling up the acorns without ever giving thought where their food comes from. Ingratitude is the mark of a reprobate world in perilous times: **"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, With natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away"** (II Tim. 3:1-5). May God grant us grace

to counter the growing spirit of ingratitude with one of genuine thankfulness on a daily basis.

TOM ROSS

Matthew Stepp
286 Big Creek Road
Wayne, WV 25570

Pastor
Big Creek
Baptist Church
286 Big Creek Road
Wayne, WV 25570



"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High" (Ps. 92:1). **"So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations"** (Ps. 79:13). **"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God"** (I Cor. 10:31).

Five times the preacher in Ecclesiastes links eating and drinking with the acknowledgment of it as God's gift or portion. The receipt of God's gifts require proper thanksgiving and humble prayer. **"Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works"** (Eccl. 9:7), (including prayer!) (Eccl. 2:24; 3:13; 5:18; 8:15; 9:7).

I remember several times in our busy family's life, when we were hungry, and as we pulled out of the Hardee's drive thru, some of us might go ahead and dive into the burgers and fries, when my son Noah's voice came from a car seat in the back asking, "Dad, did we give thanks yet?" Ah, how my heart smote me! At even such a young age, our children knew that the "right" thing to do, was to close our eyes, bow our heads and acknowledge with thanksgiving and glory the blessings of our

◊ (Continued on page 14)

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. Explain John 20:23?

Roger Reed
20 Ledgewood Dr.
Mansfield, Ohio 44905

Missionary of
West Jefferson
Missionary Baptist
Mission
90 E. Main St.
West Jefferson, Ohio
43162



I have meditated on this question many days and have done substantially reading on this verse. I have come to the conclusion that I can not answer the question any better than A. W. Pink and Bishop Ryle.

So I would like to quote them on what they had to say about John 20:23.

Quote: "Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained" (20:23). Upon this controverted verse we cannot do better than quote from the excellent remarks of the late Bishop Ryle: "In this verse our Lord continues and concludes the commission for the office of ministers, which He now gives to the Apostles after rising from the dead. His work as a public teacher was ended: the Apostles henceforth were to carry it on. The words which formed this commission are very peculiar and demand close attention. The meaning of these words, I believe, may be paraphrased thus: 'I confer on you the power of declaring and pronouncing authoritatively whose sins are forgiven, and whose sins are not forgiven. I bestow on you the office of pronouncing who are pardoned, and who are not, just as the Jewish high priest pronounced

who were clean and who were unclean in cases of leprosy. I believe that nothing more than this authority to declare can be got out of the words, and I entirely repudiate and reject the strange notion maintained by some that our Lord meant to depute to the Apostles, or any others, the power of absolutely pardoning or not pardoning, absolving, or not absolving, anyone's soul.'

"(a) The power of forgiving sins, in Scripture, is always spoken of as the special prerogative of God. The Jews themselves admitted this when they said, 'Who can forgive sins but God only?' (Mark 2:7). It is monstrous to suppose that our Lord meant to overthrow and alter this great principle when He commissioned His disciples.

"(b) The language of the Old Testament shows conclusively that the Prophets were said to do certain things when they declared them to be done. Thus Jeremiah's commission runs in these words, 'I have this day set thee over the nation and over the kingdom, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant' (1:10). This can only mean to declare the rooting out and pulling down, etc. So also Ezekiel says 'I came to destroy the City' (43:3).

"(c) There is not a single instance in the Acts or Epistles of an Apostle taking on himself to absolve, or pardon, anyone. When Peter said to Cornelius, 'Whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins' (Acts 10:43), and when Paul said, 'Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins'

(Acts 13:38), they pointed to Christ alone as the Remitter."

So Calvin: "When Christ enjoins the apostles to forgive sins, He does not convey to them what is peculiar to Himself. It belongs to Him to forgive sins - He only enjoins them, in His name, to proclaim the Forgiveness of sins."

Add to these the fact that Peter and John were sent down to Samaria to inspect and authorize the work done through Philip (Acts 8:14), that Peter said to Simon Magus, "I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:23), and that Paul wrote "To whom ye forgive anything, I also: for if I forgave anything, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ" (II Cor. 2:10), we have clear evidence of the unique authority and power of the apostles.

The question has been asked, Was this ministerial office and commission conferred on the apostles by Christ transferred by them to others? Again we quote Bishop Ryle, "I answer, without hesitation, that in the strictest sense the commission of the apostles was not transmitted, but was confined to them and St. Paul. I challenge anyone to deny that the Apostles possessed certain ministerial qualifications which were quite peculiar to them, and which they could not, and did not, transmit to others. (1) They had the gift of declaring the Gospel without error, and with infallible accuracy, to an extent that no one after them did. (2) They confirmed their teachings by miracles. (3) They had the power of discerning spirits. In the strictest sense there is no such thing as apostolic succession." -End quote.

So we can see that these two men are adamant about apostolic

succession and it is not there as some teach today. I would add, too, that **"But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away"** (I Cor. 13:10), is sure proof of this, at least in my opinion. If you read (vv. 8-9) you will see the things that Paul was telling the church the things that were done in **"part."** We have none of these powers today. The reason is because we have **"that which is perfect has come"** (the completed Word of God). The Holy Scriptures (the Bible) is our proof of what God has done and will continue to do in the person of His dear Son Jesus Christ. We need no special powers, we have great power through the preaching of the Gospel by the leadership of the Holy Spirit. **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"** (Rom. 1:16). The gospel of Christ IS the power of God unto salvation! So that is all we need.

I look at John 20:23 as we have not the power to forgive mankind their sins or any kind or pardon for their iniquity that they have committed against God, but we are commanded to forgive each other for our transgressions we commit against each other. **"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"** (Matt. 6:14-15).

The church has the authority to deal with those who trespass against the church. I will not go into great depths here but what we do as a church is recorded in heaven. **"And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh**

◇ (Continued on page 15)

Forum Question #1

(Continued from page 12) ♦

heavenly Father in supplying our daily provisions. How awful for our thoughts to wander far enough away from our continual communal prayer with our Lord, that we forget to thank Him for the very least of His mercies. Selah! Think about it!

It is even included by our Lord Jesus in the model prayer to instruct His disciples how to pray. **"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen"** (Matt. 6:9-13).

As we look around this world (outside of our extraordinary America's bountiful blessings from God) we see how common famine is and has been throughout the millennia. How marvelous it should therefore be unto us, that we should consider with "carefulness," "astonishment," and "trembling" that the Lord has again "put another potato in the pot" and provided our family's daily nourishment. **"Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Son of man, eat thy bread with quaking, and drink thy water with trembling and with carefulness; And say unto the people of the land, Thus saith the Lord GOD of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and of the land of Israel; They shall eat their bread with carefulness, and drink their water with astonishment, that her land may be desolate from all that is**

therein, because of the violence of all them that dwell therein" (Ezek. 12:17-19).

If we neglect to offer thanks before we eat or drink anything, the Lord will not take it lightly. **"But ye are they that forsake the LORD, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number. Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed: Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit. And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name"** (Isa. 65:11-15).

"Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day" (Dan. 6:13). Surely three times a day, does not have to line up with our meals, here in America, but as surely as Daniel was known to pray regularly (in public, too?), so let us also be known by our fellow citizens as those that give glory and thanksgiving to our God regularly and continually. Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP

Roger Reed
20 Ledgewood Dr.
Mansfield, Ohio 44905

Missionary of
West Jefferson
Missionary Baptist
Mission
90 E. Main St.
West Jefferson, Ohio
43162



"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20).

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

"For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer" (I Tim. 4:4-5).

My answer would be yes! I believe that the statement by Paul in Ephesians 5:20 and I Thessalonians 5:18 sums up the answer, **"Giving thanks always for all things"** and **"In every thing give thanks."** Why would we not we want to give thanks for our food and drink? Even though I might not pray each time before I drink a glass of water (although I am thankful to God for the water I drink) I do thank Him before I eat, whether at home, or at a restaurant.

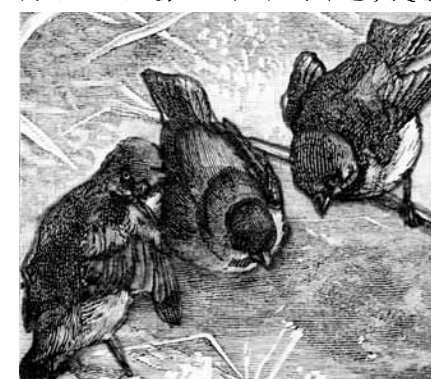
John Gill put it best concerning I Timothy 4:5: "For it is sanctified, Or set apart for use, and may be lawfully used at all times: by the word of God; which declares that there is nothing in itself common, or unclean, or unfit for use, and that nothing that goes into a man defiles him; so that by virtue of this word of God, every creature may be made use of, that is fit for food: or else this designs the word of God, which gives a blessing to what is eaten; for it is not by bread or meat only,

but through the word of God commanding a blessing on what is eaten, that man lives (Matt. 4:4), and therefore this blessing upon our food should be asked for: wherefore it follows, and prayer; this being used before eating for a blessing on the food, and after it, in a way of thanksgiving for it, sanctifies every creature of God, or gives men a free use of any, or all of them. So the Israelites, when they had eaten, and were full, were to bless the Lord (Deut. 8:10). And thus our Lord Jesus Christ, at meals, used to take the food, and bless it or ask a blessing on it (Matt. 14:19)."

In Matthew 14:19 Jesus blessed **"the five loaves, and the two fishes."** So I believe we should follow the Saviour's example in all things, and asking a blessing and thanking God for all we consume is very fitting. Personally, I do not think it should be a question, but something we just do because without Him we have nothing and are nothing. It would be like me asking my wife every Saturday night, "Are we going to church tomorrow?" I do not have to ask, because come Sunday morning I am up and ready to head to the house of God.

Again let me ask the question, "Why would we not want to always offer thanks before we eat and drink anything?" God Bless!

ROGER REED



Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 13) ♦

and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matt. 16:17-19).

Peter was a member of the First New Testament Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptist Church...He was not the first pope as some believe! So that brings us to what Christ taught us in Matthew 18:15-18, **"Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"** (v. 8).

I am saddened, because some today do not believe in church discipline. They are very wrong in their thinking because that is exactly what Paul was teaching in I Corinthians 5.

The late Elder Oscar B. Mink (my first pastor) used to say, "If you were to join any other organization, The Moose, The Goose, or anything else that's loose, you would have to abide by their rules or you would be excluded from their membership, so why would the Lord's church be any different?" I belong to a gun club and a conservation league, do you think for one minute if I did not obey the rules that they would not void my membership? They would do it in a heartbeat. Now I know the Lord's church is not just any old club, but it has a set of rules to live by, and to be honest

Baptist people are just as sinful as Israel was/is and they will try to get by if not kept in check. And all should be done in love and care for each other. We should all reread the book of James to remind us of some of these things.

The point I am trying to make here is we then see that Paul admonishes the Corinthian church (II Corinthians chapter 2) for not forgiving this man that committed fornication in I Corinthians 5. The church is to forgive the Lord's elect in the church their trespasses if they come and ask forgiveness as this man apparently did. Again we can not pardon mankind's sins against God, but we can forgive and must forgive our brothers and sisters their trespasses against us and the church when they come and repent. And again, "there is no such thing as apostolic succession." God Bless!

ROGER REED



John 20:21-23: **"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."**

I have to painfully admit that verses like these are very difficult for me to fully understand. I believe the disciples were already born of the Spirit and as a result had the Spirit of Christ in them

as Romans 8:9 declares: **"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. NOW IF ANY MAN HAVE NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, HE IS NONE OF HIS"** (Emphasis mine, TWR). I take this to mean that everyone who has ever been born again by the Spirit also has the Spirit dwelling in them. Nor do I believe that there are dispensational changes in salvation, which would include the Spirit's work of regeneration wherein He quickens the dead sinner (the new birth) and gives them grace to repent and believe (conversion). Ezekiel 36:26-28 clearly has reference to Israel's future regeneration and restoration, but it also vividly describes the Spirit's work of regeneration performed in the elect: **"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God."** Therefore I must conclude that the giving of the Spirit in John 20:23 had nothing to do with regeneration or the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. I believe as God's children, the disciples already had experienced the Spirit's work in them.

I have no doubt that there are external differences as to how the Spirit of God worked in the Old Testament in comparison to how He works in the New Testament. In the passage under consideration the Lord tells the disciples that He had given them

peace, and was sending them out in the same manner that the Father had sent Him. Thus, they were being sent as lights into a darkened world to declare the glory of God in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They already possessed the grace of the Spirit in regeneration. Now the Lord Jesus was symbolically breathing the gifts of the Spirit upon them to fit them for the work that was ahead of them. This would be more fully manifested on the day of Pentecost when the Lord Jesus baptized the first New Testament church with the Holy Spirit, empowering them for service and validating His work through them.

I may not fully understand the meaning of verse 23 but I am certain it does not mean that the disciples were given the ability to forgive sins, like the Roman Catholic church teaches. They blasphemously assert that popes and priests have the power to do what only God can do, namely forgive sin. This power does not rest in the power of depraved men.

So in what sense are they said to remit or retain sins? I believe it is in the public declaration of the Gospel message. Anyone who proclaims the Gospel can confidently state upon the authority of the Scripture that if you repent and believe the Gospel your sins will be remitted and forgiven. In fact, this is precisely what the Lord commissioned His church to do in Luke 24:47-48: **"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things."** Every time we share the Gospel we can affirm the truth of Acts 10:43 with our hearers:

♦ (Continued on page 16)

Forum #2

(Continued from page 15) ♦

"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." On the flip side, those who fail to believe the message of the Gospel will retain their sins for all eternity. We can publicly state without apology that if sinners do not believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ they will be damned for their sins for all eternity. It is in this sense that those who witness to the lost are a saviour of life or death as II Corinthians 2:14-16 states: **"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and taketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?"**

TOM ROSS

Matthew Stepp
286 Big Creek Road
Wayne, WV 25570

Pastor
Big Creek
Baptist Church
286 Big Creek Road
Wayne, WV 25570



"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained" (John 20:21-23). **"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto**

the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matt. 18:17-18). **"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"** (Matt. 16:18-19).

It would be amusing, if it were not so sad, when one reads the Protestant commentaries on these three passages. Almost as one, they denounce the Catholic papacy for using these passages in "church capacity" to elevate poor Peter to a pope, with the authority that is so clearly evident in "binding, loosing, remitting and retaining"... Selah! Think about it! So, where do they go? Since they only really believe in a useless "universal, invisible" church, what do they do with this Biblically-evidenced authority? Almost without exception, these commentators go to the gospel. They apply this remitting of sins (or binding?) to the release that the gospel gives, as delivered by Peter and the church universal. But obviously, they hasten to say, only God can forgive sins. The authority of remitting sins, is therefore not in Peter, or the church's power, but merely pictured in this loosing, remitting and binding. How foolish and strained these passages become, simply because so few of these commentators even know what a New Testament church

is. Beloved, it is a local, visible landmark assembly, known in this day and age, as a Baptist church.

And that is whom the Lord is talking to, imparting the Holy Spirit unto, and giving this awesome authority unto. His Baptist "ekklesia" (Greek word for church- meaning local, visible assembly- Acts 19:32, 39, 41). **".. as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you"** (John 20:21). **"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven..."** (Matt. 16:19). Delegated authority rings in these passages.

Certainly, the passage in Matthew 18 is the clearest demonstration of church discipline. As we pass from person-to-person reconciliation to **"tell it unto the church"** (Matt. 18:17), there is authority here to "loose" this man from proper membership and fellowship. He becomes as a heathen or publican. In the language of John 20, their sins are **"retained."** The only way for this disciplined member to restore the sweet fellowship of the Lord's church is to come seeking forgiveness and restitution. The Lord gives also this authority of restoration to His body, and they can "bind" their beloved member back into full right hand of fellowship, or again, as John the Beloved puts it: **"Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them ..."** (John 20:23). Sin debt paid for? Naw! Not by us! Just forgiven (for Christ's sake) and put aside (Eph. 4:32).

In the proper context of church authority (and discipline), these verses harmonize and make perfect sense. No strained application of the Gospel and salvation are necessary. Of course, no man (or church) has the authority or ability to save or forgive sins unto salvation. So why try to twist the passage thusly

toward a gospel application? It is not talking about authority to save. It is clearly, however, giving this "august body" a whole realm of staggering authority. Beloved reader, there is no higher authority in the United States of America, than the local Baptist church in Wayne, WV or the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Culver, Indiana.

The body of Christ is no mitigating, invisible, helpless force, as the Protestants teach. Neither is the body of Christ subject to some puffed-up charade of papacy, where popes overreach with usurped authority to elevate or excommunicate earthly kings. It is in the little country Baptist assembly, or the suburban Baptist congregation that meets together with a simple, "I make a motion that we call the church to order for business," followed by a "I second that motion," then the pastor/moderator says: "The church is now in order for business. What does the church desire to remit or retain? What has the Lord led us to loose or to bind?" Praise God, that happens every month, as the Lord works through His sovereign bodies scattered throughout this world, at the pleasure of the supreme Sovereign, the Lord Jesus Christ. Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP



Not Ashamed

(Continued from page 10) ♦

salvation is offered free to all for the asking. No man, or set of men, can get a corner on grace, or secure a monopoly of the Gospel. Of all trusts, the ecclesiastical trust is most to be dreaded. The Gospel is to **"every creature."** It was sufficient for those who crucified Him. To the man who placed the

♦ (Continued on page 17)



Light Contemplations

By Luke Austin
of Cadillac, Michigan

"Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD" (Psalm 107:43).

MAN'S EVIL HEART

So much credit today is given to inanimate objects. Recent shootings have stirred up the same old hornet's nest. Again we have to endure the knee jerk commentaries pointing fingers at "things." I wrote recently about the corruption of both sides in this country, and I am convinced, once again, they are both wrong. The "left" points at the gun and wants to take it out of mankind's hand, and in their utopia this solves the problem. The "right" laughs at such a diluted position and mocks the very idea of a gun committing an act of violence without a finger. Then go on to blame an object of their own "violent video games." If you have the desire to blame someone, find a mirror, stand squarely in front of it, and look the problem dead in the face. We live in a post Christian society. We have begun long ago, and continue with increasing ferocity, to cast off the bands and restraints of God. **"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us"** (Ps. 2:1-3). Do you want to know why men and women commit such wicked acts? Because men love darkness rather than light (John 3:19).

When our society still operated within the restraints of God we prospered. One of the

greatest delusions of our day is man is inherently good. When Americans operated within the biblical teaching that they are inherently evil because of sin, and were responsible before God, this had the effect of keeping evil in check. But now this "positive thinking" garbage is the prevalent realm of thought, and it is bearing fruit. Look around and tell me man is inherently good. Wickedness is born in the heart of man. When Cain rose up and slew his brother Abel the intent to murder was born in Cain's heart before it was acted upon. It is no different today. You may be tempted to think, "I am no murderer, I would never do such a thing." What is the difference between someone who wants to kill but refrains from the act and someone who wants to and does so? Only the acting upon. That must make me better before God right?

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). This verse speaks of when God flooded the earth. Why did He do it? Because the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually. Why do you suppose one can only think of doing evil? And the other does it? Is it the goodness of the man? No. It is the goodness of God that He does not allow man to do every wicked thing that crosses through his mind. **"Surely**

the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" (Ps. 76:10).

If God did not restrain the evil of mankind's heart we would tear this world apart in a matter of days. If you could only get a taste of how wicked you are without the restraint of God, you would be on your knees begging the mercy of God through the crucifixion of His Son Jesus Christ. Repent of your sins and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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



Not Ashamed

(Continued from page 16) ♦

crown of thorns upon His brow; to the man who drove the nails in His hands, and to the man who plunged the spear in His side.

*"Was it for crimes that I have done,
He groaned upon the tree;
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree."*

The mother whose daughter had been lured from her home and into a life of shame vainly sought her daughter. At the suggestion of a well-known detective, the mother gave him one of her pictures. He told her that her picture would be placed in some of the lowest dives, with the hope of the daughter seeing it. Underneath the picture were the words "Come home." One night, in a city many miles from the old home, the picture was placed in a public dancehall. A girl entered the dancehall, and seeing the picture, fell fainting to the floor. The same night a train bore the girl and the detective towards the home of her youth and innocence. In palaces and huts, in churches and in dens of vice, the Son of man has placed His likeness with extended hands, pleading with us to come to Him and be saved with

an everlasting salvation.

Paul was not ashamed of the simplicity of the Gospel. To every one that believeth. It is at the very simplicity of the Gospel that many are mystified and misled. Like Naaman, had we been told to do some difficult thing to get eternal life, we would, perhaps, have readily attempted it. The Gospel of Christ is not the power of God unto salvation to every one that worketh, or that feels good, or does good, but to every one that believeth. This plan of salvation may seem easy, and it is, but it was hard enough for Him who made it easy for us. Salvation, being conditioned on faith, is made possible to all. Had it been made possible by money or knowledge, however little the quantity of either, many would have been excluded, but every accountable person can believe. In this, as in all things, God has manifested His infinite wisdom and goodness. Some one may say, "If I could only see my way clear, I would gladly accept Him." We are not saved by "seeing our way clear," but by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ; for **"by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."**

The engineer, speeding through the midnight darkness, at best can see but little of the way. As the engine advances the shadows lift and light falls upon the way. Moment by moment and step by step God will show us the way.

Is it because you are ashamed of the Gospel that you will not come to Him now?

"Ashamed of Jesus, can it be

That mortal man's ashamed of Thee?"

With broken will and humbled heart, throw yourself prostrate at His feet. The Saviour is not ashamed of you; why should you be ashamed of Him?



THE BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

Readers of the BBB are urged to submit religious news items which they may read in their local paper or some other publication. In sending these please give the name of the publication as well as the date it was printed. We will not be able to print all which are submitted, but we welcome any item you may feel we should read.

Send them to The Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855-0039.

CALIFORNIA SENATE PASSES RESOLUTION CALLING ALL CALIFORNIANS TO EMBRACE LGBTQ LIFESTYLES

(CH)--The California Senate passed a resolution calling upon all Californians—despite religious beliefs—to embrace LGBTQ lifestyles. Assembly Concurrent Resolution 99 (ACR99), introduced by Evan Low (D-San Jose), first made its rounds in the Assembly, where it also passed. According to the Blade, the resolution does not require the state's Governor's signature but does not have the force of a law. The resolution calls upon "all Californians to embrace the individual and social benefits of family and community acceptance, upon religious leaders to counsel on LGBTQ matters from a place of love, compassion, and knowledge of the psychological and other harms of conversion therapy..." The bill also called out "therapists and religious groups" for creating "disproportionately high rates of suicide, attempted suicide, depression, rejection, and isolation amongst LGBTQ and questioning individuals." Though the bill intended to target "conversion therapy," many religious leaders fear that the language in the resolution could infringe on their freedom of religion.

2,246 REMAINS OF UNBORN BABIES FOUND ON ABORTION DOCTOR'S PROPERTY

(CH)--Pro-life leaders are calling for more regulation of abortion

clinics after 2,200 fetal remains were discovered on the property of an Indiana abortion doctor after he died. Ulrich "George" Klopfer performed abortions in South Bend, Fort Wayne and Gary, Ind., over several decades and was considered one of the state's most prolific abortion doctors, according to the South Bend Tribune. But after his death Sept. 3, family members found 2,246 medically preserved remains of unborn babies on his property just across the border in Will County, Ill. The coroner now has possession of the remains, the newspaper said. Klopfer was 75 and conducted abortions for 43 years, according to the newspaper. Law enforcement is investigating the matter.

TWO TEXAS CITIES OUTLAW ABORTION AND BECOME 'SANCTUARY FOR THE UNBORN'

In two tiny Texas towns, abortion is now illegal. The cities of Omaha and Naples, both with populations hovering around 1,000 people, joined the ranks as the second and third cities in the Lone Star State to pass ordinances making it a criminal offense to abort babies at any stage in pregnancy. "Because of the Omaha/Naples Ordinance, no abortion clinic will ever be able to move into these cities in the great State of Texas," Mark Lee Dickson, Director of Right to Life of East Texas, said, according to Faithwire. "Everyone voted in favor of the ordinance with the exception of one." The ordinance is the strictest possible law, not granting

any exceptions in the case of rape or incest. Emergency contraception, such as Plan B, are also illegal. The cities are calling themselves "sanctuary cities for the unborn." Waskom, Texas, became the first sanctuary city for the unborn earlier this year. Dickson started his pro-life campaign after becoming frustrated with Austin elected officials not passing any "meaningful legislation that protects unborn life."

STEMEXPRESS CEO ADMITS TO TRAFFICKING BABY BODY PARTS, INCLUDING INTACT HEADS, BEATING HEARTS

(CH)--During several days of hearings, StemExpress CEO admitted to harvesting fetal brains in heads that may still be attached to the body after being pulled from the womb and selling baby's beating hearts to researchers.

The discovery came when the CEO, named Doe 12 for privacy, was questioned during hearings for undercover investigators David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt. The duo journalists, who represent the Center for Medical Progress, recorded conversations with top executives and clinicians from Planned Parenthood about selling aborted baby parts four years ago. StemExpress was one of the alleged brokers.

Peter Breen of the Thomas More Society, which is representing Daleiden at the hearing, told Life Site News, "If you have a fetus with an intact head and an intact body, and intact extremities, that is something that would indicate that child was born alive, and then had their organs cut out of them, or that their child was the victim of an illegal partial-birth abortion. That is an especially gruesome admission, but it begs the question: how did they get these fully intact human children?"

Doe 12 also admitted on the

stand that the company sold beating fetal hearts to Stanford University. Researchers studied the hearts using the Langendorff perfusion, a technique that requires a beating heart.

"One thing we have observed throughout these proceedings is that these witnesses were much more candid when they spoke to David and Sandra on the undercover video than they are on the stand," Breen said.

45 PERCENT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS WANT 'IN GOD WE TRUST' REMOVED FROM CURRENCY

(CH)--Nearly half of college students believe the national motto, "In God We Trust," should be removed from U.S. currency, according to a new survey. The poll of 1,001 college students found that 45 percent believe it should be removed and 53 percent say it should remain. The survey was conducted for The College Fix by College Pulse, a survey and analytics company.

The Supreme Court this year rejected a challenge to "In God We Trust" on currency and upheld a ruling by the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. In that earlier decision, the Eighth Circuit ruled the motto "does not compel citizens to engage in a religious observance. Placing the motto on money is rationally related to the Government's legitimate goal of honoring religion's role in American life and in the protection of fundamental rights." Further, the Eighth Circuit said, "The Supreme Court has long recognized the 'unbroken history of official acknowledgment by all three branches of government of the role of religion in American life from at least 1789.'" The decision noted that the "[t]he First Congress made it an early item of business to appoint and pay official chaplains, and both the

◊ (Continued on page 19)

Bible & the Newspaper

(Continued from page 18) ♦

House and Senate have maintained the office virtually uninterrupted since that time.” But many college students nevertheless want the motto removed.

ATHEISTS CAN BE BANNED FROM DELIVERING INVOCATION PRAYERS, APPEALS COURT RULES

(CH)--A federal appeals court pointed to precedent and the Founding Fathers in ruling Friday that atheists can be barred from delivering official invocations. The U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 decision, upheld the policy of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, which requires that the person who prays must be “a member of a regularly established church or religious organization.” The policy further says the prayer’s purpose is “to seek divine intervention” in the work and lives of House members. It was the second such decision this year by an appeals court. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in April ruled the chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives could bar atheists from praying.

GEORGIA: ‘KILLING A LIVING UNBORN CHILD IS NOT HEALTH CARE’

(CH)--In the ongoing fight for life in Georgia, lawmakers have asked a federal judge to maintain the state’s abortion ban, set to take effect on Jan. 1, arguing that abortion is not healthcare, the Associated Press reports. “It is well-settled that ‘a fetus is a living organism within the womb, whether or not it is viable outside the womb,’” Republican Attorney General Chris Carr argued in his motion. “Accordingly, a State may properly recognize that an unborn child is alive even before ‘viability’ and—consistent with its

power to protect unborn life—may prohibit the killing of that child by restricting certain types of pre-viability abortions.” The ban restricts abortions after a heartbeat is detected, which is usually around six weeks of pregnancy. It was signed into law by Governor Brian Kemp earlier this year and has since faced several lawsuits from organizations such as Planned Parenthood and the ACLU. Abortion activists believe the law is in direct conflict to Roe v. Wade and women have the constitutional right to an abortion.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS BRITISH SCHOOLCHILDREN ARE TAUGHT THERE ARE 100-PLUS GENDERS IN NEW VIDEO SERIES

(CH)--A new BBC video resource produced for schools and geared toward British children ages 9-12 teaches that there are more than 100 gender identities and that people who are critical of transgender ideology “just do not know any better yet.”

The nine-video “Big Talk” series shows children ages 9-12 asking adults about a range of topics, including puberty, sex, different-looking families and gender.

The English-based Christian Institute was among the first groups to report on the series.

Asked what the different gender identities are, a teacher in the “Identity” video says, “So we know we have got male and female, but there are over 100, if not more, gender identities now.”

She adds, “You’ve got some people who might call themselves genderqueer, who are just like ‘I don’t really want to be anything in particular, I’m just going to be me.’”

An accompanying teacher’s guide includes suggested questions to ask children. Among them: “What’s the difference between sex and gender?”; “What are the different gender identities?”; “What do you think

transgender means?”; “When do people feel like they want to change gender?”; “What does stereotypes mean?”

The teacher’s guide also suggests a “descriptive writing” project for students in which they will imagine what it would feel like to have a different gender from their family and friends.

In the “Respecting Myself and Others” video, an adult tells the children that those who are critical of transgender ideology “just do not know any better yet.”

In another video, a teacher tells children that “people can go to prison if it’s shown they’re disrespecting or being hateful to people because of a difference that person perceives.”

The BBC says the videos “deal with sensitive subjects in an age-appropriate, open and honest way.” Teachers can use them to complement nationwide education requirements, the website says.

CHINA: CHILDREN CANNOT BECOME CHRISTIANS UNTIL THEY ARE 18

(CH)--China’s recent crackdown on Christianity has led to intensified enforcement of a law already on the books: children and youth cannot convert to the faith until they are 18. Churches across China are canceling Sunday School classes for children in light of the new clampdown, according to Mission Network News.

“One of the rules that have always been in their law is that you cannot proselytize or you cannot convert somebody under the age of 18,” Erik Burklin of China Partner told Mission Network News. Previously, he said, parents “were having their children come to church and many churches started what we would call Sunday School classes. They would use that time to teach children Bible verses and teach them Christian songs and so forth.” Now, though, many churches “have been notified

by China’s “Religious Affairs Bureau” that “you can no longer conduct Sunday School classes in your churches,” he said. “They even put signage up in the entrance of some churches to indicate that,” Burklin said.



Priesthood of

(Continued from page 1) ♦

among men.” In order to be our great high priest, it was necessary for Christ to become a man. Hebrews 2:16-17 states: **“For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”**

Christ did not become an angel. Angels have no priests, no savior, and no salvation. He became a man that He might have something to offer for men, namely a human body and soul. Christ became man so as to be capable of suffering death. Divine satisfaction must be made in that nature that sinned, that those who have such a nature might reap the benefits of the atonement.

A high priest under the Old Dispensation was to be holy in character. Jesus Christ is a superior priest to all earthly high priests. He is **“holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens”** (Heb. 7:26). The **“High Priest of our profession”** (Heb. 3:1) is free from original sin and actual transgressions. He offered Himself **“without spot to God”** (Heb. 9:14), for He is **“Jesus Christ the righteous”** (I John 2:1).

♦ (Continued on page 20)

Priesthood of

(Continued from page 19) ♦

MELCHISEDEC AND CHRIST

The high priesthood of Christ as a person, order and duration is like the priesthood of Melchizedek. **"For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually"** (Heb. 7:1-3).

Melchisedek was a king-priest; Christ is also (Zech. 6:13). Melchisedek had no predecessor or successor. He was a priest continually. Even so Christ has eternal priesthood. As a man Christ had no father; as God He had no mother. Melchisedek received tithes under a dispensation of grace and faith, even so does the Lord Jesus Christ. Melchisedek was not of the tribe of Levi; neither was the Lord Jesus Christ. **"For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, Who is made, not after the law of carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life"** (Heb. 7:14-16).

DIVINELY NEEDED

As a Divine person He could make infinite satisfaction for the sins of the elect. He could render an acceptable sacrifice to God.

He could put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. He as God could impart virtue and efficacy to His blood so as to cause it to cleanse from all sin. As Divine He could make His intercession and mediation for His people always prevalent with God.

HIS PRIESTLY WORK LIKE AARON

The high priesthood of Christ as to His work is like the Aaronic priests. The design of the Old Testament priesthood was threefold. First, the priest was to offer a sacrifice before the people. Second, he went within the veil to make intercession for the people. Third, he came out from the veil to bless the people. Let us notice Christ in this threefold office.

OFFERING A SACRIFICE

The first work of the priest was to offer a sacrifice for sin. Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2 declares: **"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."** Hebrews 9:28 says: **"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many."** I John 3:5 reads: **"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."** In a prophecy about Christ's sacrifice. Isaiah said of Him: **"Thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin"** (Isa. 53:10). II Corinthians 5:21 declares: **"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin. . ."** Jesus Christ is the altar, sacrifice, and priest to His people.

Jesus Christ did not offer slain beasts, as did the sons of Aaron, as sacrifice. He offered His own flesh and blood. Hebrews 10:5 says: **"Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me."** Peter says of Christ: **"Who**

his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Pet. 2:24). It was His body which was offered up. It was His soul that was made an offering for sin. It was through "the eternal Spirit He offered Himself" (Heb. 9:14).

The great High Priest of our profession offered Himself as a sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2 distinctly says **"a sacrifice to God"**, and Hebrews 9:14 also says that He **"offered himself without spot to God."** Sin had been committed against God. It was His justice that must be satisfied. Christ was appointed to be a propitiation for sin to declare God's righteousness. Romans 3:25 says of Christ: **"Whom God set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."**

Our Lord did not die for Himself, for He was not a sinner. He did not die for the angels, for the elect angels never sinned and the fallen angels who sinned have no redemption. Jesus Christ offered His sacrifice for His people. **"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many"** (Heb. 9:28). Matthew 20:28 tells us Christ came **"to give his life a ransom for many."** Many is a great multitude, but it does not mean all men without exception. As the high priest under the Old Dispensation offered a sacrifice for God's chosen people, Israel, even so Jesus Christ offered Himself for God's chosen people, God's covenant people.

Who are the many for whom Christ shed His blood for the

remission of sins (Matt. 26:28)? They are the many brethren of Romans 8:29. The many sons He engaged to bring to glory in Hebrews 2:10. They are the many that He justifies in Isaiah 53:11.

NATURE OF HIS SACRIFICE

Christ's sacrifice was adequate to atone for the sins of His chosen people. It is a perfect sacrifice. It was complete and offered only once. Hebrews 7:27 declares: **"Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself."** Hebrews 9:12 says: **"... but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place."** Hebrews 9:28 declares: **"Christ was once offered."** Hebrews 10:10 speaks of **"the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."** Verse 12 of this same chapter informs us: **"But this man, after he had offered once sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."** Romans 6:10 discloses: **"For in that he died, he died unto sin once."** I Peter 3:18 states: **"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins."**

His sacrifice was of such sufficiency that it atoned for all the sins of the elect for ever. Jesus Christ does not die again for each individual or each successive generation. His one offering endures continuously. He satisfied Divine Justice for ever and is a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedek.

Our Lord's sacrifice was free and voluntary. He declared in John 10:17-18: **"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This**

♦ (Continued on page 21)

Priesthood of

(Continued from page 20) ♦

commandment have I received of my Father.” Isaiah foresaw this truth and said: **“He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter”** (Isa. 53:7).

Our great High Priest offered an unblemished sacrifice. I Peter 1:18-19 says: **“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”** Jesus Christ was free from original sin and actual sin. The Father made Christ to be sin for us, but Christ Himself knew no sin. He **“offered himself without spot to God”** (Heb. 9:14).

The purpose of Christ's sacrifice was the eternal redemption of the covenant people. **“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us”** (Heb. 9:11-12). His sacrifice made a full expiation of sin: **“...he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself”** (Heb. 9:26). Those He died for are perfected for ever: **“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified”** (Heb. 10:14). Christ redeemed those He died for **“from all iniquity”** (Titus 2:14). Full pardon of sin is procured. Romans 5:10 declares: **“We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.”** Christ being made perfect through His sufferings, He became the author of eternal salvation to His people (Heb. 5:8-

10).

MAKING INTERCESSION

The second branch of Christ's priestly work is His intercession. Christ made intercession for His people in the counsel hall of eternity. He asked His Father to give Him the elect as His portion and inheritance: **“Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession”** (Ps. 2:8). Upon asking, they were given to Him. Psalms 21:2 says: **“Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips.”** This accounts for all the blessings and comforts given to the elect in Christ before the world began (II Tim. 1:9). This asking is an early instance of Christ making **“intercession for the transgressors”** (Isa. 53:12).

Christ made intercession for His people in Old Testament times. A remarkable example of this is found in Zechariah 3:1-4. Joshua is brought to view as a man defiled with sin. Then Satan is presented as the accuser of Joshua. Christ, as the angel of the Covenant, rebukes Satan by pleading electing love and calling grace in favor of the original. With a view to His then future sacrifice to be offered, Christ ordered Joshua to have his filthy clothing removed and the robe of imputed righteousness put upon him.

Jesus Christ interceded for Peter during His personal ministry. Christ told Peter: **“I have prayed for thee”** (Luke 22:32). In John 17:20 He prayed for all those who believed and should later believe in Him: **“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.”** On the cross He prayed for His enemies: **“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”** (Luke 23:34).

The great High Priest of our profession is now gone into Heaven to make intercession for His people. Hebrews 8:1-2 says: **“Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.”** Hebrews 9:24 also says: **“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”**

FOR WHAT HE INTERCEDES

First, Christ intercedes for the children of grace who are yet in a state of nature. He prays for their conversion. In John 17:20 Christ said: **“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.”**

The expression, not **“these alone,”** refers to the eleven, the seventy, and other disciples who already believed on Him. Those who **“shall believe”** are those who were unborn and would later be brought to believe through His Word. Thus all believers, all who shall become believers, have an interest in the mediation of Christ. He prays for the chosen remnant yet unborn, the other sheep which must be brought.

Does Christ ever pray for someone who does not ever believe, a graceless person? No, for His prayer is always answered. In John 11:41-42 Christ said: **“Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always. . .”** Those that Christ asked salvation for are always given it without any exception whatever.

Our Lord prays for His sinning children. He did for Peter. He asked that they may have free discoveries and applications of pardoning grace. **“And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”** (I John 2:1). We not only have an atonement applied unto us when we first experience grace, but we also have an Advocate in Heaven to procure our continual forgiveness.

Christ intercedes for His people to have strength under temptation. In John 17:15 He said: **“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.”** Christ prays for us as He did Peter that our faith fail not (Luke 22:32).

The High Priest of our profession intercedes for our glorification. John 17:24 reveals Christ as saying: **“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”** When we see Him as He is we shall be made like Him (I John 3:1-2).

FOR WHOM DOES HE INTERCEDE?

Our Great High Priest intercedes for all the elect, those who believe and shall believe on Him, the children of God that are scattered abroad in the world. In John 17:9 Christ said: **“I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.”** In the Old Testament the high priest bore upon his heart, in the breastplate of judgment, only the names of the children of Israel (Ex. 28:29-30). He appeared before God for Israel. Even so Jesus Christ makes intercession for spiritual Israel

♦ (Continued on page 22)

Priesthood of

(Continued from page 21) ♦

whom He died for and whose names He bears upon His heart.

Our High Priest intercedes for those for whom He died. I read in Romans 8:33-34 these words: **"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."** Christ not only died and rose for a people, but He also answered to and removes all charges brought against these same people. Paul calls those for whom Christ died and now intercedes **"God's elect."**

NATURE OF HIS INTERCEDING

Christ's intercession is always heard. His mediation is always acceptable. It is ever successful. The Father always hears the prayer of Christ (John 11:42). He fills His office freely and cheerfully. He is always ready to offer up the prayers of the saints. **"And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand"** (Rev. 8:3-4). Christ's intercession is perpetual: **"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them"** (Heb. 7:25).

BLESSING HIS PEOPLE

Aaron and his sons were appointed to bless the people of Israel in the name of the Lord

(Num. 6:23-26; Deut. 21:5). They could not confer a blessing. They could only pray for one. Christ not only intercedes for blessings for His people, but He actually confers them upon His people.

This branch of Christ's priestly work was prophesied unto Abraham. Genesis 12:3 declares: **"...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."** Galatians 3:16 explains Genesis 12:3 by saying: **"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."** By all nations in Genesis 12:3 I understand the chosen vessels, the redeemed of the Lamb, those who believe on Him in all nations. Acts 3:25-26 speaks of Christ blessing His people: **"Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities."**

Christ as an eternal high priest is ever blessing His seed. He blessed them under the Old Dispensation: Jacob said: **"The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads. . ."** (Gen. 48:16). The Angel in this verse is our Great High Priest. He is the Angel of the covenant, an uncreated angel, a pre-incarnate appearance of the Word.

Christ, having offered a sacrifice for the people, now blesses His people. He blessed them before His ascension to the Father. Luke 24:50-51 says: **"And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted**

from them, and carried up into heaven."

Jesus Christ is **"over all, God blessed for ever"** (Rom. 9:5). God has made Him **"most blessed for ever"** (Ps. 21:6). All the blessings of the Covenant of Grace are in our great High Priest. Ephesians 1:3 declares: **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."** To all of those whom the Father chose in Him before the foundation of the world, the great High Priest will one day say: **"...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"** (Matt. 25:34).

FALSE THEORIES ABOUT PRIESTHOOD

The priesthood of Christ is the one and only fundamental priesthood in our dispensation. While believers are priests in a sense, there are aspects of our Lord's priesthood which are unique and incommunicable. The only priesthood on earth is the inward and spiritual priesthood of all Christians. According to the Scriptures there is no outward ordained priesthood on earth. To ascribe priesthood to an outward religious order of men who wear special clothes is to go beyond what is written. To speak of the clergy and laity is to reveal a misunderstanding of the Holy Writ, for the New Testament teaches the priesthood of all believers.

In the third century after Christ, the Roman lawyer Cyprian, promulgated a new interpretation of the priesthood. He conceived a special priesthood and a special sacrifice to offer. The universal priesthood of all believers gave place to a high priestly class, and the spiritual sacrifices gave place

to an actual sacrifice offered to God in the Eucharist. Cyprian's revolutionary views were influenced by Greek and Jewish religious ideas and by Roman political organization.

Cyprian's doctrine caused the bishop to become the representative of Christ and the priest of God. This was a denial of the priesthood of all believers. Thus the concept of the universal priesthood of all believers all but vanished at the Council of Carthage and was not greatly revived until the times of Martin Luther. This doctrine suffered eclipse but not extinction. It survived in spite of Cyprianic teaching among the Waldenses, the Cathari, the Lollards, and others. These ever protested against the Roman hierarchy. Their protests were sporadic and localized, although by no means ineffectual.

ATTACK UPON CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

The greatest insult to the sacrifice of Christ was contained in the doctrine of Cyprian which introduced the abominable mass. Cyprian called the Lord's Supper the sacrament of the sacrifice of the Lord. The power to offer the sacrifice resided in the bishop. The Roman church still holds to this doctrine today. She holds that each Mass is a true sacrifice, in which the risen Christ becomes bodily present on the altar as a victim who is offered anew by the church of God to the Father as expiation for the sins of men. In other words, the human priest crucifies Christ afresh in each mass.

This ridiculous view is held in spite of the plain teaching of the Bible about the perfection of Christ's one sacrifice. Hebrews 10:12 says: **"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins**

♦ (Continued on page 23)

Priesthood of

(Continued from page 22) ♦

for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.” The Bible teaches the efficacy of Christ’s one sacrifice endures forever. It is the one and only oblation for ever; no other will supersede it or ever be needed. Hence the mass is needless and vain.

The mass, which professes to be the frequent repetition of one and the same sacrifice, is seen to be unscriptural. Not only is Christ’s body one, but also His offering is one and His suffering is one. A repetition would imply that the former once-for-all offering of the one sacrifice was imperfect. We surely cannot imagine that any man can add to the sacrifice of Christ.

PRIESTHOOD OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Of recent day a new idea has reared its head among sovereign grace Baptists. Some of my brethren are beginning to preach the priesthood of the Baptist church.



G
L
E
A
N
I
N
G
S



On Affliction in the Lord’s Family

By Alfred Hewlett
(1804 - 1855)

1. There is no subject more perplexing to the human mind, than that of the many afflictions of the righteous. In conversation with believers and in occasional

correspondence with tried Christians, I often find them inquiring respecting their afflictions; why they are sent, and what they are to accomplish; and not seldom do I find some arguing from their afflicted state, that they do not belong to the Lord Jesus.

2. There is no fact better established in the Word of God than this, that **“man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward”** (Job 5:7); that through much tribulation we must enter the kingdom of God, and that all the children of God who are mentioned, or alluded to in the Bible, are described as being partakers thereof.

3. We are moreover informed in the sacred Scriptures that these afflictions are sent as fatherly chastisements; that they are good for the believer, who before he **“was afflicted, ...went astray”** (Ps. 119:67), but, hath now kept the Lord’s commandments; and that now blessed Master and Covenant Head was made perfect through suffering; and we are: moreover assured that we shall be glorified with Him, if so be we suffer together with Him.

4. But the difficulty does not appear to be so much as to afflictions generally, as to the afflictions of particular believers; wherefore Job was more grievously afflicted than Solomon, or Paul than James, or any one of my afflicted readers, more than his brother or sister who seems to walk in a smoother path. Is it on account of some grievous, but concealed sin? Is it for some open, notorious transgression that any child of God is shut up in the sick chamber; kept from the house of God, and from the assemblies of His people, bedridden, helpless,

and a trouble to those about him or her?

5. No! While we are sure that every sin, whether open or concealed, has its attendant sorrow, every transgression from God’s Word, hath its chastising stripes; we must admit that we have met with many whose life and conversation have been irreproachable, and whose whole spirit and demeanor have adorned the doctrine of God our Saviour, who have been suffering bodily affliction, domestic calamity, and pecuniary difficulty for years; while we are also acquainted with others whose conduct and character have been inconsistent with their holy profession, and who seem to have comparatively no trouble in their persons or circumstances.

6. We must therefore conclude that our all-wise God, Who watches over and cares for the spiritual interests of His family, and pitieth His people **“as a father pitieth his children”** (Ps. 103:13), deals with each and every one as He knows will be best for the individual and for His elect body generally. Thus we see in the case of Job, who was **“a perfect man and upright, one that feared God and eschewed evil”** (Job 1:8); Job himself was benefited by his severe trial, for his knowledge of himself was increased, and his knowledge of Jehovah so much enlarged, that he compares his former knowledge of God to be as much inferior to his later acquaintance with Him, as the **“hearing of the ear”** (Job 42:5) is to the seeing of the eye. Job’s friends were instructed and taught not to judge of the sincerity of a man’s profession by his outward condition; they were also, from

♦ (Continued on page 24)

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER

Financial Report

8-1-2019 to 8-31-2019

Beginning Balance \$8,815.83

RECEIPTS:

Amazing Grace B. M., Wellborn, FL 15.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS 300.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL 60.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX 50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV 200.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY 300.00
Citrus M. B. C. Inverness, FL 25.00
Emmanuel B. C., Oldtown, KY 100.00
Faith B. C., Lynn, AR 12.50
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME 20.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 100.00
Grace B. C., Rural Hall, NC 50.00
Grace Missionary B. C. Tulsa, OK 50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV 100.00
The Lord’s Church, Goose Creek, SC 50.00
Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY 35.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH 100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN 50.00
Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR 100.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL 100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR 50.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS 25.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX 30.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA 25.00
Subscriptions 74.00
Anonymous 210.00
Dividing checks 300.00
Sub Total \$2,531.50
TOTAL \$11,347.33

EXPENDITURES:

Printing 490.00
Postage 530.74
Wages 2,300.00
FICA 175.96
Dividing checks 300.00
Check order 142.90
Total Expenditures \$3,939.60
ENDING BALANCE \$7,407.73



BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST

Financial Report

8-1-2019 to 8-31-2019

Beginning Balance \$2,133.58

RECEIPTS:

Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS 225.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY 200.00
Calvary Ind. B. C., Sumas, WA 200.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 100.00
TOTAL 725.00
TOTAL 2,858.58

EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time 363.98
Program production 0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 363.98
..... 2,494.60
Interest 0.03
ENDING BALANCE \$2,494.63

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Berea Baptist Church of Mantachie, MS will be having a fellowship meeting Saturday, October 19th. Scheduled speakers are Elders Timothy Works and George Kelley. Service time is 10:00 a.m. All are invited to attend.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Cortland, Ohio, is in need of a pastor. The Church believes and teaches the doctrines of grace and local church truth.

If any man is interested please contact Brother Bill Davis at 330-770-1610 or Wayne Waddell at 330-979-8828 or Sean Fellows at 330 638-0269 for additional information. Please remember this church in your prayers.

The Grace Bible Baptist Church of Denham Springs is in search of a pastor.

For a statement of faith you can visit the church website at <http://GraceBibleBaptist.webhop.org> or <http://gracebbc.dyndns.org:81/>.

You may contact any of the following for more information: Keith Laurence (225) 664-3557, Lucien LeSage (225) 803-9710, or Charlie Andrews (225) 200-1171.

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

The Stephens Branch Baptist Church of Martin, Kentucky is in need of a pastor. They are an Independent, Sovereign Grace, Landmark, Missionary Baptist church holding to the doctrines

of grace and the King James Bible. If you are interested in being considered or would like more information on the church you can call Brother Lonnie Edwards at (859) 629-1413 or write the church at: Stephens Branch Baptist Church, 1025 Stephens Branch Road, Martin, Kentucky 41649.

The Berea Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact (662) 282-7794 or Email: request@bereabaptistchurch.org.

The Lord's Baptist Church in Tacoma Washington is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact Gaylen Russell at 360-879-5565 (home) or 253-495-4567 (cell) or by Email: gaylenr@rainierconnect.com.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, KS is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact the church in writing at SGBBC, 400 N. Main St., Caldwell, KS 67022, or by phone Brother Darin Wiley 620-863-2431.

The Victory Baptist Church of Chehalis, Washington is in



need of a pastor. Any interested brother may call Gerry Greisen at (360) 985-7975, or Mark Fenison at (360) 751-2929.



Gleanings

(Continued from page 23) ♦

Job's confession of faith, and arguments in favour of the divine sovereignty, instructed on these points, and the patience of Job is left on record for our example and encouragement.

7. Let the afflicted Christian remember that sovereign love and wisdom have concurred in preparing for him the cup, which, though for the present it be not joyous but grievous, must afterwards yield him “**peaceable**

fruit” (Heb. 12:11). Let his prayer be, that his affliction may be like David's, for his advantage; that it may accomplish that, either in himself or in others through him, which the Lord hath designed. Let his earnest desire be, that he may be as clay in the hands of the potter.

8. Moreover, brethren, be careful of thinking that all real afflictions are external. I know many of God's dear children, who are possessed of good health, earthly possessions—their friends and their families being also possessed of needful outward blessings; but who are deeply exercised in their souls by temptations, and opposition from within; the flesh raging vehemently against the Spirit and the Word. Are not these afflictions? Yes, they are the instruments whereby our God accomplishes His own purposes; corrects His children, refines His gold, disgusts them with themselves, and draws them into close communion with Himself. A little while, and we shall see that He “doeth all things well;” and meanwhile may we be enabled to say, that,

*“With his saints it stands confessed,
That what he does is always best.”*



ARTICLE INDEX

Announcements	p. 24
The Bible and the Newspaper	p. 18
Brief Truths by Randy Johnson	p. 11
Forum	pp. 12-13
Hebrews 11:36 by Roy Mason	p. 1
Gleanings	p. 23
Light Contemplations by Luke Austin	p. 17
Little Hills by Nathaniel Hille	p. 5
The Priesthood of Christ by Milburn Cockrell	p. 1
Small Drops by Joseph Sidders	p. 7
Narrow Paths by Doug Newell IV	p. 9
Not Ashamed by J. W. Porter	p. 1
What Happens When Dad Gets Home? by Matthew Stepp	p. 1