

# 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

## Pleasing All Men That They May Be Saved

By Timothy J. Hille  
of Ashland, Illinois

"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth. Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake: For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness



thereof. -- If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake. But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience

◊ (Continued on page 5)

## The Lord's Day

By Steve Kiser  
of Mantachie, Mississippi

"This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psa. 118:24).

Have you ever considered why we attend worship services on the first day of the week, when the Jewish Sabbath is on the last? Could you defend the position for attending church on what the world calls Sunday? "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect



of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" (Col. 2:16-17). The Seventh Day Adventists claim such to be "Sunday law of the Harlot," said to be a mark of the beast, therefore they worship on the Old Testament Sabbath.

Before the fall of man and long

◊ (Continued on page 2)

## Psalm 106 Part 2

By Jonathan Bailess  
of Edmond, West Virginia

Greetings again in the name of the Lord. In this section of our series we will look at verses 7-15 of our text. The next few sections will involve a good bit of scriptures along with the commentary. I do intend to include all references in the text.

"Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea. Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power



to be known. He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.

And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left. Then believed they his words; they sang his praise. They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

◊ (Continued on page 4)

## The Red Heifer Ordinance Part 5

By Nathaniel Hille  
of Plant City, Florida

"And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke: And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and one shall slay her before his face: And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood



directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times: And one shall burn the heifer in his sight; her skin, and her flesh,

and her blood, with her dung, shall he burn: And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer. Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp, and the priest shall be unclean until the even. And

◊ (Continued on page 7)



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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 strengthen His churches in the most holy faith.
5. To motivate God's children to a closer fellowship around His Word.
6. To inform people of world events in light of Bible prophecy.
7. To condemn and expose error wherever it may rear its ugly head.
8. To stimulate Christian growth in grace.
9. To make the Devil and his demons as mad as possible.

## The Lord's Day

(Continued from page 1) ♦

before the giving of the law, the "Sabbath" was set aside to honor the Creator. This was only six days after the creation. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made" (Gen. 2:1-3). "Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily" (Ex. 16:4-5).

To "remember" the fourth command is to honor God as the Creator of heaven, earth, and sea. It is a "day of rest" which man needs after six days of work for health reasons, and a day of meditation upon the things of God for man's spiritual needs as well. "Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed" (Ex. 23:12). "Refreshed", in the Hebrew means "To breathe 'catch his breath' in other words." "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any

work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it" (Ex. 20:8-11).

In that it reads "Remember the sabbath", does this mean that man had forgotten about God? Perhaps, seeing that they had been in Egypt for some 400 years, and had no doubt learned the pagan customs of the Egyptians, and up to that time, Moses was yet to write the Pentateuch.

For the Jews that came out of Egyptian bondage, this should have been a wonderful day. In Egypt they were slaves 24/7. "And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day" (Deut. 5:15). The sabbath is called a "delight" in Isaiah 58:13-14: "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." Psalm 118:24 also states: "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

♦ (Continued on page 3)

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# 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's Authority

**"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen"** (Matt. 28:18 – 20).

The first thing one must see here is the word "power" and it means – privilege, but it also means authority or a token of control – and most times in the Scriptures the translators use this Greek word "exousia" to mean "authority". Therefore, we must conclude that the definition of the word carries the definition "authority". In this passage Jesus met with the leadership of the first church started by Him, and He gave them this power, or authority. Jesus did not give this authority to the world, secular organizations, or to just anyone who wanted it, He gave it to the local New Testament Church.

I am not going to debate the church's existence, because that is settled doctrine in my heart. The church without question was started in Jerusalem, and Jesus was the founder. Through mission works out of that church other churches were started. Churches are the corner stones of doctrine and truth, therefore if an assembly

is not doctrinally sound they are not a church by definition.

Churches are sovereign independent bodies of born again, baptized believers. Verse 16 tells us **"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them."** Only the eleven apostles that were the leadership of the church were present with Jesus at the time of this giving of commission. This authority or power was given to them on behalf of the church, therefore only the church has this authority to preach the gospel. You will find that only true sovereign grace bodies have the true gospel and the true doctrine to carry out this authority. No other assemblies, not even counterfeit Baptist's carry the true gospel and true doctrine to the world. Just being like, or similar is not being true.

Jesus, Who had all power and authority, gave this power to the local church. **"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations"** is an absolute command. Some say it is not. I guess that is maybe the way the church at Jerusalem was because the Lord scattered them. Then they would go and after they did we then see the explosion of born-again believers and the need for other local churches.

I am a firm believer that a church must, it is not an option but a command, support mission work in the world. I also believe a church should use every tool at her disposal to preach the gospel and doctrine of the Scriptures as

far in the world as they can.

Next the Lord commanded, **"baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."** Again, this authority or power is not given to just anyone but the local church. It also is a command with authority. Baptism is the second most important thing a newborn again believer should do. Baptism is not an option, it is a command both of the church and the born-again Christian. Baptism unifies us with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, but it is also a must to be a unified member of a local church.

**"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"** (Acts 2:41). Look, three thousand souls were born again, baptized, and added to the church at Jerusalem, what a blessed day! The little church Jesus started just began growing into that super church Jesus promised. **"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"** (Matt. 16:18).

Next the Lord commanded, **"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..."** Once they are a believer, been baptized, and part of the church, then as Pastors, Ministers, and Elders in the church we are commanded to teach them to be part of the pillar and ground of truth or the church. Church membership is a blessing from God because He sets the members in the church as it pleased Him. **"For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked"** (I Cor. 12:24). It

should be treated like a blessing and if people cannot consider it a blessing and honor it, they ought to be excluded. The church "must" be in unity. It is the churches duty not to please people, but to teach them.

And Jesus ends with the great promise, **"...and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."** We find that as a church is faithful to Jesus, then He will be faithful to her. This promise is our strength and power to always walk in the truth and keep the church as the pillar and ground of truth, **"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth"** (I Tim. 3:15). The church honors the truth of the Bible and as long as we do, we have nothing to fear.

The world hates the truth, some believers do not stand on the truth, but the church must stand on the truth no matter what. Always know, she is what Jesus has made her. Being worldly will only destroy the church, secularism has never helped a church. Churches belong to Jesus, not us; we are the church that belongs to Jesus, we are what we are by God's grace. God bless the churches and their works!

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



## The Lord's Day

(Continued from page 2) ♦

So, we understand somewhat about the "Sabbath", but what then is the "Lord's Day"? **"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet"** (Rev. 1:10). Not to be confused with the **"day of the**

♦ (Continued on page 6)

## Psalm 106 Part 2

(Continued from page 1) ♦

**And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul” (Psa. 106:7-15).**

There are two separate events for us to look at here: the first being the murmuring and lack of faith at the Red Sea, and the second being despising and murmuring about the manna God provided for His people for food. In both cases, the children of Israel were questioning the power of God and His leadership. How often do we, oh reader, do the same thing? How often is what God has given us or led us to not satisfactory in our eyes?

Verses 7-12 read: **“Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea. Nevertheless he saved them for his name’s sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known. He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness. And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left. Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.”**

These events are recorded for us in Exodus 14, which I recommend you read as to accompany this article. We note that in verse 11 of Exodus 14, the children of Israel asked the question if Moses had led them to the sea because there were no graves in Egypt? They continued to say that it was for this reason they had told Moses to leave them there in captivity.

Dear reader, do you realize the picture that is painted here? Do you realize what is being said by

these people? Do you realize they are saying they were content in Egypt, which is a typification of the world? Here are just verses 11 and 12 of Exodus 14: **And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.**

The children of Israel are here complaining that the Lord had delivered them by a strong and mighty hand out of Egypt but was now unable to complete that deliverance because of the Red Sea. Sound familiar? We live in a society today that teaches of a God that sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for all but is unable to save all. Folks, both the children of Israel and those that teach a universal redemption are terribly wrong.

God delivered His people from the hand of the Egyptians once again by dividing the waters of the Red Sea and allowing Israel to cross on dry land. But towards the end of Exodus 14, we find that the Lord broke off the chariot wheels of the Egyptians and overthrew the armies of Pharaoh in the Red Sea. God had once again delivered His people from the hand of their enemy, and in this case, that enemy was never to be seen again.

It is easy for us that have the whole canon of scripture to point the finger at the children of Israel in this case as we can see how the account unfolded. How would we react though under the same conditions? I promised myself not to bring this up but here we are, how many of

our churches stopped meeting during the COVID-19 scare? If the church was open, how many members chose not to attend due to “personal safety?” We were just as scared and faithless in this as the children of Israel were at the waters of the Red Sea.

However, after all was accomplished, we find in Exodus 15 Moses’ song of praise to the Lord. When the Lord works in an obvious, mighty way, we should offer an obvious mighty song of praise to Him! God had delivered Israel from the Egyptians once again and it was a time of great rejoicing. However, much like us this rejoicing soon gave way to complaining and the mighty works of God were once again forgotten and replaced by physical want.

Verses 13-15: **“They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.”** This account is found in Numbers 11, once again I highly recommend that you read it to accompany this part of the article. I will include parts of the chapter including to begin verses 1-3 **“And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched. And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.”** What I intend to bring out of this reading is that the Lord was angered by the people’s complaining rather

than praise and thanksgiving. This is something we would do well to remember, it is easy to complain, easy to murmur, but difficult to praise and be thankful.

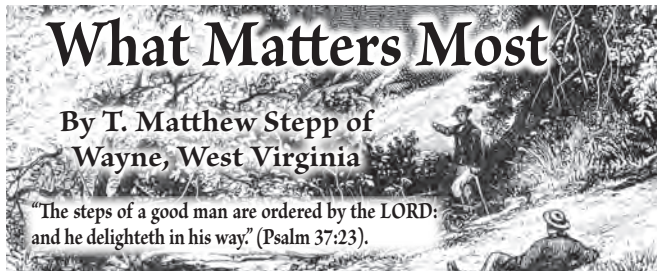
In verses 4 through the end of the chapter we see the account of the mixed multitude lusting and complaining before Moses, Aaron, and the Lord about the manna that God had sent for food. Dear reader, when the Lord provides for us, we ought not to be picky or particular about how He chooses to do so. Moreover, we must not complain about how He has done so. In this account, we see that the children of Israel did both; they wanted flesh, not manna, and despised what God had provided, desiring what Egypt had instead. (Num. 11:5, Num. 21:5) What we see come of this is Moses becomes displeased (verse 10) and cries out to God in his displeasure (verses 11-14) and calls upon the Lord to kill him (verse 15.) The Lord provides 70 men to help Moses with ministering to the people, and then in verse 18 quails are promised. These quails are, on the surface, an answer to the cries of the people, but notice our text brings out that God sent leanness into their souls. This was to be a time of judgment. Numbers 11 verses 19-20 say **“Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?”** In addition verses 31-35 declare: **And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day’s journey on**

♦ (Continued on page 19)

# What Matters Most

By T. Matthew Stepp of  
Wayne, West Virginia

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:  
and he delighteth in his way." (Psalm 37:23).



**"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (I Pet. 3:1-4).**

I remember last year at Vacation Bible School, we had several young visitors that came the first night and really seemed to enjoy the classes and activities. Everyone was very nicely dressed, as you might expect, but still you could tell the difference between the kids from the church and the visitors. Not a big difference, but the girls from the church were wearing dresses and most of the visitors were more casual.

What struck me, though, was the second night. I remember two visiting sisters returned wearing beautiful sun dresses and just really bursting with young, vivacious beauty! On the other hand, it seemed our kids had taken notice the first night also, and came back in exactly the opposite direction! They dressed more casual, wearing shorts, etc. Now, I know that it may have been unconscious decisions on both sides to "fit in more," but I

was really interested in how the third evening would turn out. Since both had tried to fit in with the others, I am sure that some, at least, noticed that the opposite effect was had on the others. What would they do? Selah! Think about it!

Well, as the scientific experiment closed out, it was really a mixed bag. But the overall trend was toward casual, but nice outfits. I guess, most of the time that is going to be the result. Unless we are specifically motivated (as the visitors were the first night), we humans gravitate toward the least common denominator.

So, to be a good witness to those round about us in our day-to-day lives, we have got to take that into account. If the church kids had kept coming each night dressed for the Lord alone, then the visitors would have, also! We have had people visit the church services before while on vacation, or something and come with everyday clothes on- the ladies perhaps in slacks, etc. That is not a problem, or something we even have to address, after all they are just visitors anyway; no real authority over them and they are just there to learn. But the thing is, the Pastor should not have to get a sermon ready to tell people how to dress for church! The sermon preached by each member and their Sunday best is "more" than sufficient already! Selah! Think about it!

Our text above refers to the "conversation" of the chaste wives

being used to "win" over their husbands! How easy is that? God can use our lifestyle, our meek conversation, our adorning of our lives, not with gold or expensive clothes, but a meek and quiet spirit! And that is what our VBS kids did! They did not get in the face of the visitors and tell them to dress better for the Lord the next night! If they (or the pastor or teachers) had done that, we would never have seen those kids again! All they did was set an example! And a lesson taught with such **"...a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price"** is one the visiting children picked up on readily and obediently! Selah! Think about it!

May God help each and every one of us to teach and preach such examples with our conversations and lifestyles! Sometimes we are the only sermon that certain people will ever "hear"- just watching us love our Saviour and trusting in our Sovereign God. Let us paint the best sermon ever! **"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God"** (Ps. 50:23). Selah! Think about it!

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



## Pleasing All Men...

(Continued from page 1) ♦

**sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof: Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience? For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks? Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the**

**Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved" (I Cor. 10:23-33).**

I think if we were to have left off that last part of our sermon's title, we may have gotten into trouble. Many today in churches and pulpits are in the business of "pleasing all men," but not like Paul was, and not like Paul was instructing the Corinthian church to be, **"that they may be saved."** We find our number one and number two primary concerns as a church of the living God mentioned in these verses, our reasons for being, you might say. The first is, **"the glory of God."** That is the first concern and primary reason for being of every church of the living God, wheresoever she may be on the face of the earth. Every member of every church of the living God has this responsibility: **"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."** **"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen"** (Eph. 3:21), is not going to be fulfilled unless the members of each respective church in particular obey this instruction from God: **"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."** The church is God's house, God's building, God's cultivated field, and what goes on in the church, and in the lives of the church members, is to be ruled, governed, and if necessary overruled, by this all-ruling-and-overruling intent and purpose, that all is done **"to the glory of God."** What we used to do before the Lord saved us and added us unto one of His churches was not

♦ (Continued on page 6)

## Pleasing All Men...

(Continued from page 5) ♦

all done **“to the glory of God.”** That should no longer be true, but now we ought to do all things so as to glorify, honor, praise, and exalt our great God and Savior.

The second reason that we have for being, as a church of the living God, and therefore the next thing of importance that is to guide and govern our choices, conduct, and conversations is this: **“Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s wealth”;** and, specifically, **“Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”** We are no longer to be primarily interested in and concerned with ourselves and what we want. We now ought to be interested in and concerned with the spiritual and eternal welfare of others, that they may be saved by the knowledge of Jesus Christ, even as we who have believed. Is not the church charged by Christ with the publishing of the gospel unto all nations? Did He not say, **“...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”** (Mark 16:15,16)? He prayed unto His heavenly Father, **“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word”** (John 17:20). Was He just saying those words to sound nice, or to fill up His “hour of prayer”; or did He mean what He prayed, and is that His desire? I believe He meant it, and He still means it. And I believe we are to mean business for the Lord as a church of the Lord; and our business is **“the profit of many, that they may be saved.”**

Now the direct subject under question when Paul wrote these words to the Corinthian church was the eating of things offered in sacrifice to idols. Some of the Corinthians had reasoned logically that, as worshippers of the true God, and knowing that an idol is really nothing, because there is no god but the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that it was acceptable, therefore, to eat the sacrifices of their heathen and pagan friends and neighbors; because, after all, an idol is nothing. Paul, however, teaches them that this was ignoring two crucial truths and priorities of a church member’s life, **“the glory of God,”** who is possessor of heaven and earth and all that in them is; and, **“the profit of many, that they may be saved.”** We have in our day this same prevailing attitude of, “I can do whatever I want to do, especially since I am saved.” That is about as selfish and ungodly, not to mention unscriptural, of an idea that a person could possibly have. The Holy Spirit of God through Paul says to us, **“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient.”** In other words, just because I can do something and it is not unlawful, does not mean there is any spiritual good or profit whatsoever in me doing that thing. What good would come from you eating the food sacrificed to idols with your heathen, idol-worshipping friends and acquaintances? All your conduct would do is give credence and consent to their idol worshipping. And to do that would deny the fact that, **“...the earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof.”** They are acting as though the earth and what comes of it is due to their idol, which is not a god, but rather is

♦ (Continued on page 16)

## The Lord’s Day

(Continued from page 3) ♦

**LORD”. “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall**

**utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?”** (Joel 2:1-11). Joel spoke prophetically of a coming time (2:28), part of which was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, which incidentally, was on the “eighth day,” or the first day of the week. **“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Acts 2:16-21).

While the righteous observe “The Lord’s day” with reverence, the unrepentant regard it as merely a day off, a time for seeking fun and pleasure, so he forgets about man’s obligation to honor God. **“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work**

♦ (Continued on page 8)



# 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).

## A Symptom of a Nation Without God

You have seen them drive past you. Or you have noticed them walking all alone on the side of the road. People wearing masks, yet completely solitary. I have laughed and shook my head but it is a symptom of a larger condition. A nation that is without God.

Now I am not against you wearing a mask. I am not against you getting a vaccine. It is your choice. But when I see someone all alone wearing a mask it communicates to me something about that individual, they trust that mask like a magic talisman.

You see witchcraft is not dead. Trusting in dead objects and idols is also alive and well. Idolatry is in the heart of man. It is not going away until Christ finally puts away sin completely in that new Heaven and earth.

But what I really want to speak about is this misplaced trust. As a believer in Christ I have a confidence in life and death. I do not trust in a piece of paper on my face but in the Living God. That does not mean I live in a careless manner. I do not go into a Covid ward licking the doorknobs. But I do not have to fear for tomorrow. My tomorrow is in His hands. I can trust that the pestilence (disease, viruses etc.) can not come near me without His allowing it.

"Nor for the pestilence that

walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee" (Psa. 91:6-7).

And yet even if it does infect me. Even if I do suffer. Even if I do die. I can answer as the three Hebrews cast into the fire. Our God is able to deliver us. And even if He does not it is still well with my soul.

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Dan. 3:17-18).

You see, death to the Christian is not fearful. It is graduation day. It is the day I leave behind this mortal frame with all of its suffering, tears, heartaches, and misery and I am transported to the presence of my Savior.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (Phil. 1:21-23).

What are you trusting in today? The better question is who are you trusting in today? Repent of your sins and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Have a sure and certain foundation

that you can truly trust.

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



## The Red Heifer

(Continued from page 1) ♦

he that burneth her shall wash his clothes in water, and bathe his flesh in water, and shall be unclean until the even. And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin. And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: and it shall be unto the children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them, for a statute for ever" (Num. 19:1-10).

Beloved, we continue our study of the ordinance of the red heifer. I pray that you have seen the Lord Jesus Christ as our red heifer, appointed of God, for the purpose of cleansing the conscience of the people of God from dead works. The Lord is to cleanse us from our sinful and disrespectful thoughts. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled" (II Cor. 10:3-6).

Now, beloved, we concluded the

last sermon, and we saw that the whole red heifer was to be burnt without the camp. Eleazar, the son of the high priest (Aaron), was to take the red heifer upon whom never a yoke came, a spotless, without blemish red heifer, and was to take it without the camp and slay that animal. Eleazar was to take the blood and sprinkle it seven times "directly before the tabernacle of the congregation" (Num. 19:4). Then the rest of that red heifer, including the blood, were to be burned right there. "...her skin, and her flesh, and her blood, with her dung, shall he burn" (Num. 19:5). Now we see here that there were three things that the priest was instructed by the Lord to cast into the midst of the burning red heifer: 1) cedar wood, 2) hyssop, 3) scarlet or scarlet wool (Heb. 9:19). These three things were used at the declaration of the leper being made clean (Lev. 14:1-4). These three items, cedar wood, hyssop, and Scarlet wool were all used for the cleansing of a leper (which was a type of sin or uncleanness) The Lord commanded the priest to take these items that were used for the cleansing of His people to be cast into the burning of the red heifer to signify that they had been cleansed of their sins.

### Cedar

Cedar gives off a fragrance; especially when it is burned. "His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon" (Hosea 14:6-7). "...his smell as Lebanon" is a reference unto the rich fragrance produced by the cedars of Lebanon so often noted in Scriptures (S. of S. 4:11; Psa. 92:12; II Kings 14:9). In Isaiah 40, Isaiah is describing the greatness of God in comparison to man and Isaiah exclaims, "Behold, the

♦ (Continued on page 8)

## The Red Heifer

(Continued from page 7) ♦

**nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt-offering**" (Isa. 40:15,16). Isaiah states that the whole of the cedars of Lebanon are not sufficient to offer to God because of how great He is. If all the cedars of Lebanon were offered to the Lord, they would give off a marvelous sweet smelling savor, yet insufficient to God, for how great He is.

There were certain offerings of the Old Testament, of the Levitical priest offerings, that were to have a sweet smelling savor (Lev. 1:9; 2:2;3:1-5). These three offerings, burnt, meal, peace offerings were called "sweet savor offerings". They picture the Lord Jesus Christ. They show forth to us the perfections of our Lord and Savior; His devotions to the will of the Father. Do you know that it is the will of God for you and me to be perfect (Matt. 5:48)? Do you know it is His will for you and me to be holy (I Pet. 1:15,16)? Do you know it is His will for you and me to not sin (I John 2:1,2)? But we do not have these perfections. The Lord Jesus does! We still offer up unto God sacrifices tainted with sin. Sin is a horrible smell. **"...filthy rags..."** (Isaiah 64:6). My thoughts and intents of my heart come up before the Lord and they are a repugnant smell before the Lord...like rotting flesh (Gen. 6:5,6).

But oh, this cedar, what a fragrance it is before the Lord. It is the perfections of the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, Christ Jesus is still our sweet smelling savor (Eph. 5:1-13). So cedar is burned

with the red heifer.

Cedar also carries with it an antiseptic property. Thus it was commonly employed in the "cleansing of the leper" to show that the putrefaction of the flesh had been cleansed.

### Hyssop

Hyssop is a small bushy plant. One writer referred to it as an insignificant plant. Stalks of hyssop bear numerous, small, white flowers in bunches. Hyssop was thus well-suited for use as a "brush" to dab the lintels of Israelites homes with the blood of the Passover lambs (Ex. 12:22).<sup>1</sup> David makes a reference to hyssop in the well-known Psalm: **"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow"** (Psa. 51:7). This was upon the occasion when David had committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite and then had Uriah murdered to cover up the adultery. Some believe that David was making a reference to the ordinance of the red heifer when he stated this.

The hyssop would also give off a beautiful smell when burned signifying the sweet smelling savor of our Lord Jesus Christ when He was judged by God.

### Scarlet (Wool)

Here again we have a reference to blood in the color scarlet (red) (Heb. 9:19). Typically, the hyssop was bound to the cedar wood with the scarlet wool. It is commonly held that scarlet (red) pictures the blood of our Lord and Savior.

### Closing

The priest would take these items and cast them upon the red heifer while it was burning. Now, remember we said, that fire or burning is a type of judgment.

1 Holman Bible Dictionary, "Hyssop" Copyright 1991

**"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire: and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is"** (I Cor. 3:13). Beloved, the work of Jesus Christ has been tried by the fire of the Lord and it has been found to be well-pleasing (John 8:29). These three items: cedar wood, hyssop, scarlet wool were used in the cleansing of the unclean. That is exactly what you and I are: unclean. We have vexed our souls with the filthiness of this world in seeing and hearing, just like Lot. We have dirtied our feet with our walk in this life and we need our feet to be cleansed (John 13:1-10). How many wicked thoughts have we had just now? Just now in this service today? Just now in the very presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, when we ought to be thinking upon Him and worshiping Him and loving Him with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind (Matt. 22:37).



## The Lord's Day

(Continued from page 6) ♦

**therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings**" (Lev. 23:1-3). Woe to those who tread under foot the things of God. **"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"** (Heb. 10:29).

**"And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn. And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do**

**they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful? And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungered, he, and they that were with him? How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him? And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath"** (Mark 2:23-28). Note that Jesus Christ is Lord of the Sabbath. The Lord did not speak as a Jew to the Jews, but as the Lord speaking to man. Note also that the Lord did not see fit to condemn the actions of His disciples, or even David. Christ's mission was of grace.

Where do we get the right to change the day of worship? **"For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief"** (Heb. 4:8-11). Keep in mind that it did not say to remember the Saturday, but the "Sabbath" and the "rest" which goes with it.

We still set aside one day out of the seven, but is it the correct day? Is it a keeping of a rest? The Hebrew word "Shabbath" means rest. God rested from His work in the creation on the seventh day. Then, on one particular "first day of the week," the sabbath would end. **"In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the**

♦ (Continued on page 9)

## The Lord's Day

(Continued from page 8) ♦

first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre" (Matt. 28:1). Jesus Christ was first worshipped as risen Lord and Savior, Lord over the New Creation. Hebrews 4:10 appears to be teaching that Christ rested from His works of the new creation, as the Father did on His, in the original creation.

What differs between the Sabbath and the Lord's Day? "And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp" (Num. 15:32-35). Breaking the Sabbath was punishable by death. "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he that appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" (Heb. 1:2). But the Lord Jesus Christ grants "grace." "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). Do you prefer justice? If justice was served, we are all offenders. Grace is much better. The fourth commandment is tied in with the law, "which can only condemn." The "Lord's Day" is tied in with Grace. "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Rom. 5:20). Do we make void the law? Nay, "Do we then make void the law

♦ (Continued on page 10)

## Heavenly Hymns

"...Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:18-20). [This hymn was printed with permission from the Olmstead Baptist Church. You may access their free-domain hymnal by going to [www.olmsteadbaptistchurch.org/hymnal.pdf](http://www.olmsteadbaptistchurch.org/hymnal.pdf)]

### ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

3

1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate  
 2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the  
 3. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial  
 4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at His feet may

fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and  
 fall, hail Him who saves you by His grace, and  
 ball, to Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and  
 fall! We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and

crown Him Lord of all; bring forth the roy - al  
 crown Him Lord of all; hail Him who saves you  
 crown Him Lord of all; to Him all maj - es -  
 crown Him Lord of all; we'll join the ev - er -

di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 ty as - cribe, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 last - ing song, and crown Him Lord of all.

# The Lord's Day

(Continued from page 9) ♦

through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law" (Rom. 3:31). "Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression" (Rom. 4:15). The law declares man to be a sinner. Jesus Christ came to save sinners. "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14).

"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight" (Acts 20:7). The Lord's day is to be a time that the congregation assembles together. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:16-17). It is the first day of the week that we gather to give glory and praise unto the Lord, the day that we bring our tithes, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (I Cor. 16:2), the day that we come before Him with singing, "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 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" (Psa. 100: 1-5).

The crowned jewel of the creation is man. (Actually, woman, for she was the last of the creation). The crowned jewel of the "New Creation" is the new man, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature" (Gal. 6:15). "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace" (Eph. 2:15). He is alive in Christ evermore, redeemed, victorious over death, "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples,

behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him" (Matt. 28:1-9). Jesus is living proof of that fact, for the Old Testament name "Joshua" is the same as the New Testament "Jesus."

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18). The Lord's day gives Christ the "preminence" in all things. The Old Testament "Sabbath" being the last day of the week, while the "Lord's" day is the first day of the week. The Father giving the Son preeminence in all things, in that He said, "...I come to do thy will..." (Heb. 10:9).

Consider the first and great commandment, "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God will all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:37). Is this not our present command? Is He not to take first place in our lives?

After the feast of tabernacles there were no more feasts in the year left to observe, there were no more days called out, such as a 9th and 10th etc., only "The 8th day". "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do not servile work therein. These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim

to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD. Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath" (Lev. 23:34-39), which again is typical of "The Lord's Day".

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power" (I Cor. 15:24). What Age will commence when "God" is all in all? This is called by some; The Golden Age, which appears to begin after the judgment of Revelation 20.

"Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face. Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them" (Deut. 7:9-11). Just as the millennium is a thousand years in length, the next age is a thousand generations, the duration of that golden age (Deut. 7:9).

♦ (Continued on page 11)



## Points to Ponder

By Elder Perry Ames

**"God Gave Man A Living Soul"**

**"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7).**

What is the eternal battle about? Man's soul! Humanists/evolutionists deny man possesses a soul. But man does possess a soul, in fact, man is the only one of God's creatures that does. The humanist does not want to acknowledge God as creator and Scripture being true because then man must be subject to the laws of God.

The living soul that God created died when Adam disobeyed God. Because of Adam's disobedience, death came instantly upon Adam's soul and the souls of Adam's future generations. God's Word tells us in Romans 5:12, **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."** And as we observe, all men die physical deaths and that because of one man's sin: that is Adam's sin.

A soul is dead when the Spirit of God is not present. A soul that is not redeemed, that is, purchased by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, will be resurrected at the second resurrection and will spend eternity; **"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"** (Mark 9:44; Rev

20:7-15).

Scripture tells us **"Ye must be born again."** [Words of Jesus in John 3:3, 5, 6 & 7 - Pastor]. The rebirth or redemption of the soul is, **"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost"** (Titus 3:5).

The Philippian jailer learned about mercy and grace when he was about to take his life because he supposed his prisoners had escaped. His full account is found in Acts 16:24-34. The jailer asked in Acts 16:30, **"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"** Paul and Silas replied in the following verse **"... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."**

Ponder this: Are you saved? Are any of your friends saved?

[This writing was printed with Brother Ames permission from his "Points to Ponder or Bits & Bites of Truth because Nothing Else Matters"]



## The Lord's Day

*(Continued from page 10) ♦*

Was the original Sabbath ever repealed or abolished? No! **"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled"** (Matt. 5:18). It is a type of the coming millennial reign of Christ upon earth, in that it will be the 7th millennia.

When Daniel's 70th week commences, "which at present time is on hold", and the Tribulation begins, the Old Testament law will be moved to the forefront. **"But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day..."** (Matt. 24:20). **"And they**

**cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"** (Rev. 6:10). **"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints"** (Rev. 13:10). At which time the reign of Grace (as we presently know it) will be over. During the one thousand year reign of Christ on earth, there will be a return of the Sacrificial Law, at least in some form (Ezek. 43).

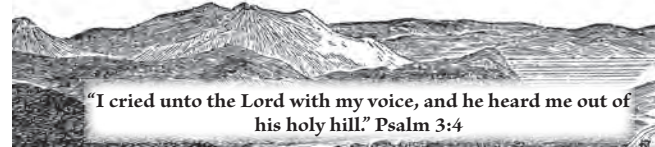
We await the trump of God that will call the Lord's sheep to His judgment seat, at which time "The Lord's day" as we know it,

as well as the reign of Grace, will end. And during the tribulation upon the earth, the saints will seal their faith with their own blood. Their "Double Portion" seems to be taken away, in that Christ will go to His judgment seat, and the Holy Spirit will be taken out with the Church in which He presently resides. That time is drawing nigh; friend, the present command is "Repent", believe the Gospel, lay down your weapons of war against the King of Kings. Woe unto those upon earth during that time. At the Master's return, the Lord's Day will become "The Day of the Lord", the Lamb will become the Lion.



## Selahs

By Tomas Julius G. Salacup  
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## Under No Obligations

**"And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things"** (Mark 11:33).

On twenty-five occasions, Jesus was asked a direct question that required a simple answer. Surprisingly, He only gave a direct response to four of these inquiries. The other twenty-one times, He answered questions with a counter question, such as our verse in this study.

The real issue here is authority. The truth is, these scribes and Pharisees did not want Him to teach in the temple. They wanted to know what He was doing and who it was that gave Him the

authority to do what He was doing. There is actually no problem with them asking Jesus, for it is part of their job, but in reality, they were scared or threatened by what He was doing and teaching.

Christ applied in Proverbs 26:4, **"Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him,"** and He asked them a counter question about John the Baptist. You are likely very familiar with the story, they ended up not telling where John the Baptist's authority was coming from.

Twice Jesus said, "Tell me", which proves and speaks of authority, for He demands an answer. Those statements made them think. But in order to avoid a wrong answer, they said "We cannot tell." ♦ *(Continued on page 24)*

## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

*If a person has Scriptural baptism and belongs to a New Testament church and there came an occasion when the church had to exclude him, what would happen to his baptism in the light of Matthew 16:19, if he was never reconciled to that church?*

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An excluded church member's baptism is still valid, as attested by the fact that whenever they do indeed reconcile, no rebaptism is necessary. Also, if the exclusion was erroneous or questionable, another Baptist church could take the excluded member in by Statement of Faith, again without requiring any form of re-immersion. In other words, church discipline does not affect any scriptural baptism, but affects only their membership status and excludes them from the privileges and responsibilities of church fellowship. **"...but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican"** (Matt. 18:17). **"A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;"** (Tit. 3:10). **"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. ...And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother"** (II Thess. 3:6, 14-15). Selah! Think about it!

As a consequence of the discipline, the child of God has no voting rights; cannot partake of the Lord's supper; or enjoy the sweet and unbroken fellowship with the local body of Christ wherein his membership had been. They would also be relinquishing any chance to be in the new Jerusalem bride of Glory on that awesome wedding day in Heaven. **"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready...and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful"** (Rev. 21:2/19:7/17:14). The Lord will take His bride from those that are saved (called), added to one of His churches (chosen), and remain added members to that body (faithful) by the grace of God! Selah! Think about it!

Actually, the only way a person's baptism would ever be affected or invalidated was if one of the four cardinal prerequisites had been shown to have been absent at the time of the original baptism. 1) If they were not regenerated when the ordinance was performed. Baptism is believer's baptism only and requires a proper candidate. **"...and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he**

**answered and said, I believe..."** (Acts 8:36-37). Evangelized before baptized!

2) If they were only sprinkled. Scriptural baptism is complete immersion that pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection"** (Rom. 6:4-5). An improper mode would invalidate any purported baptism.

3) If they were not baptized with proper (Baptist Church) authority. Any other organization (or man) that tries to Immerse a child of God can only produce alien immersion. **"When they heard this, they were (Re) baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus"** (Acts 19:5). Apollos' dunking of these twelve men did not meet the Apostle Paul's, the First Baptist Church of Antioch, or the scriptural standards of true baptism.

4) The fourth requirement is rarely a cause of baptism invalidation alone, as it will probably be a result of one or more of the first three errors. Baptism is not a sacrament to produce any part of the accomplishment of salvation, but it is the obedient response and submission to a Baptist Church ordinance of God. **"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ"** (I Pet. 3:21). Baptism has no saving power, and any that have that as an improper purpose is not

scripturally baptized and needs to be saved by the sovereign grace of God before being Immersed by an authorized church. Selah! Think about it!

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**"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"** (Acts 2:41).

**"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"** (Acts 2:47).

**"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women"** (Acts 8:12).

**"Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done"** (Acts 8:13).

**"And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God,**

◇ (Continued on page 14)

## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

Does Col. 2:14 refer to the moral law (Ten Commandments) as well as the Jewish ceremonial laws being nailed to the cross? Pink says, "No," and states that man has always been under the Ten Commandments practically for obedience, although not judicially for salvation.

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**"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Col. 2:13-15).**

If you have ever pictured Satan reading off a list of the ordinances and laws that we have broken in our lives, then that is the "paper" that the **"handwriting of ordinances"** is referring to which was personally **"against us"**! It **"was contrary to"** me! But our wondrous, loving Saviour **"took it out of the way"** (of our salvation!) and **"nailed"** it to His cross, openly and triumphantly disallowing any more accusations by the deceiver or anyone else! Eternally, we are now absolved and propitiation is proclaimed. Payment in full!

The Greek word here for handwriting is the root of our English "Chirograph." It is referring to a handwritten (personal) legal document- i.e.

the proclamation of our guilt! Much as Martin Luther took a "nail" and "nailed" his "95 Thesis" to the publicly viewed door of his church for all the citizens to see in 1517 AD, so, too, is the meaning of this precious passage that is proclaiming the victory (Nailed to the cross!) of our Kinsman-Redeemer in both atoning for our sins and also imputing His judicial righteousness unto His reconciled elect children! Selah! Think about it!

**"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1,14).** This is the manner in which the ceremonial law could be said to have been **"Nailed to the cross"**. Jesus Christ came to Fulfill the Ceremonial pictures of the Priestly Rites and Sacrifices. **"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up" (John 3:14).** **"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil" (Matt. 5:17).** Calvary's cross is an open show of our Saviour's substitutionary satisfaction! **"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities" (Isa. 53:11).** **"But God forbid that I**

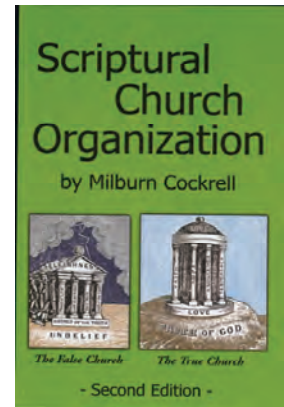
**should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Gal. 6:14).**

But, the moral law was "not" nailed to the cross, as if its work is finished! I agree with A.W. Pink that the moral law, summated in the Ten Commandments, is as eternal as God Himself in that the law lays out His holy nature and denies the possibility of any unrequited unrighteousness. Our unchanging, immutable God has "never" overlooked iniquity, rebellion, or inconstancy, either in Himself ("impossible"!), or in any part of His creation! Sin will "always" merit judgment, condemnation, and damnation. **"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity..." (Hab. 1:13).** **"For the wages of sin is (inescapably) death..." (Rom. 6:23).**

It is inconceivable that God would sacrifice His justice for mercy! **"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).** And how does the mercy come? In righteousness and holiness! With the debt "fully" paid! **"And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness...And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment..." (Isa. 16:5/30:18).** Sovereign grace allows God's mercy to be applied through holy and meted justice, in the cross of Christ! This bitter cup of Deity's death was the "only" way to satisfy the demands of God's holiness and procure a complete absolution of the death debt required of Adam's

◊ (Continued on page 14)

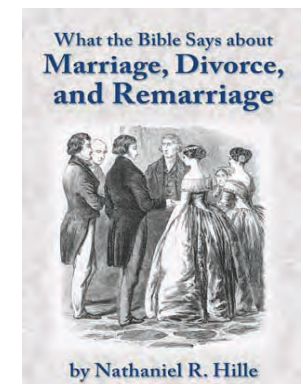
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## Forum Question #1

(Continued from page 12) ♦

**if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me"** (Acts 8:18-24).

So, by the Scriptures I have offered, we can see that the those that believed were added to the church through the waters of baptism. So before one can be baptized, they must make a profession of faith that they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

We know through experience that there are, sad to say, false professions. That means the person was never saved though I believe Simon was. He made a false profession; therefore, his baptism is null and void. Which means he would have to show true repentance and truly profess Christ as his Saviour and be baptized. It is not a second baptism because his baptism was not valid because of his false profession.

Now, if one is truly saved and has come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and gladly received His Word, that person has made a true profession, then he would have received scriptural baptism and added to the church (Acts 2:41).

If that true believer falls into sin and is excluded from the church, there is nothing in Scripture that says that person needs to be rebaptized. They are simply forgiven, if they come before the church and repent. Simon was unwilling to repent (Acts 8:22-24). But again, I do not believe he was saved to begin with, he was

out for his own personal gain.

The story that is told in I Corinthians 5:1-5 is a good illustration of one who was saved and a member of the Corinthian church. He sinned and was excluded after Paul had rebuked them for doing nothing.

Then we see Paul has to admonish the Corinthian church for not restoring this man back into the fellowship of the church (II Cor. 2:1-8). They were to forgive and comfort this same man (v. 7). But as you can see, to answer this question, Paul never once mentioned that this man needed to be baptized, or rebaptized as some would say.

If you say a person needs to be rebaptized you are using the wrong wording. There is only one baptism **"One Lord, one faith, one baptism,"** (Eph. 4:5) no one ever is rebaptized. We can say a person never had proper baptism, so they need proper baptism, but they are not being rebaptized.

Even if a person, after many years as a member of the church, realizes they were not saved and now are, they surely need to be baptized, but not rebaptized because, if they were not saved even though the authority was there to baptize, there was no proper candidate, so the baptism was null and void, but now hopefully (only God knows who are truly saved) we have a proper candidate to be properly baptized, not rebaptized. God Bless!

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As far as I can tell church discipline does not abolish an individual's scriptural baptism.

The exception to that rule is if the individual who was disciplined confessed that he/she was unsaved which would mean the baptism would be invalid to start with. The action taken by the church would simply be the exclusion of the unsaved member.

In reference to the binding and loosing of Matthew 16:19, I think it would be a stretch for a church to declare that they have loosed the validity of scriptural baptism regarding a disciplined member. A church can vote to do anything it wants as an independent, autonomous body of Christ. However, that does not necessarily mean that other churches will recognize an action like abolishing the baptism of disciplined members.

If an excluded member is never reconciled to the church, they were disciplined from it means that a letter of transfer cannot be granted until they are restored to the body. There would be no need to revoke their baptism unless it is proven that they are indeed unsaved.

## Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 13) ♦

fallen race. **"...O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done"** (Matt. 26:42). Selah! Think about it!

By nailing Himself to the cross, our Lord and Saviour triumphantly accomplished the transaction of sovereign grace, mercy and justice! John **"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost"** (John 19:30). It is finished! It is perfected! It is accomplished! Hallelujah! Praise our infinitely wise and powerful God! Selah! Think about it!

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Colossians 2:14 states:  
**"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross..."**

In context this verse is expanding upon the completeness of our salvation in Christ as alluded to in Colossians 2:9-10: **"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."** Christ alone is the fulfillment of all the types and shadows displayed in the Old Covenant. Every aspect of the law, whether moral or ceremonial, was designed to show each and every sinner that they were morally unclean and unacceptable to God except they come by way of an acceptable sacrifice. Every sinner is a debtor to the law and its penalty and they have no way to pay the debt due to their moral inability. God looks at even the best sinner has to offer as mere filthy rags of self righteousness that could never meet the demands of the law. Isaiah 64:6 states: **"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we do all fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind have taken us away."** The fact that the Old Covenant sacrifices had to be offered over and over again to cover sin typically proves that they could never completely take away the fullness that the

♦ (Continued on page 15)

## Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 14) ♦

penalty of the law required. God allowed it until the Lamb of God came to take away the sins of the world (elect Jews and Gentiles all over the world). Only Jesus Christ is qualified and able to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself due to the fact that as God manifest in the flesh He alone was capable and morally fit to render complete obedience to the law inwardly and outwardly. Christ's merits, obedience, precious blood, and absolute righteousness were offered on the cross where He satisfied all the penalty of the law on behalf of His elect. Hebrews 9:12 reveals: **"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."** God was completely satisfied with the sacrifice of His righteous Servant and eternally begotten Son. Isaiah 53:11-12 declares: **"He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."** Thus, on account of Christ's perfect sacrifice the elect's sins were put away, the penalty of the law satisfied, the righteousness of Christ imputed to them at the moment of saving faith, perfecting them for all eternity. Hebrews 10:14 states this truth beautifully: **"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."**

The language used in Colossians 2:14 signified the custom of debtors acknowledging their indebtedness in handwriting, often listing the debts they owed. All men are debtors to God and His laws. They have absolutely no ability to pay in full the debt they incurred. Even when they die in their sins they will spend an eternity in the Lake of Fire to infinitely pay on their own sin debt, without ever cancelling that debt. Only Christ can fully pay the indebtedness of sinners through His perfect sacrifice. The language suggests that all the debts incurred by the elect were symbolically nailed to the cross where Christ, through His precious blood and perfect sacrifice, blotted out the handwriting of the ordinances i.e. the penalty of the law we owed. Christ blotted out and put away the penalty of the law for His people and in turn imputes His spotless righteousness to them in justification through the gift of saving faith. Nailing it to His cross signifies that we are forgiven and accepted in the beloved through His redeeming blood and perfect sacrifice!

Christ's sacrifice put away the condemnation of the law and brought forgiveness to unworthy, filthy, ungodly sinners. Salvation changes the believer's relationship to the law. Prior to salvation we despised and rebelled against God's law as it condemned us. The law showed us just how guilty and undone we really were. The law was never intended to save anyone or keep anyone saved! All it can do is confirm the wickedness of lost sinners who fail to keep it daily. However, when the Holy Spirit called us out of darkness into the marvelous light of Christ and His salvation our entire relationship to God and His law changed. Ezekiel

36:26-27 describes this change in regeneration: **"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."** We are no longer under the condemnation and penalty of the law. The love of God was shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. God gave us the grace to trust that Jesus Christ had fulfilled all the law and paid its penalty on our behalf. A new man was created in righteousness and true holiness. For the first time in our lives we were liberated from the penalty of sin and free to bring forth fruit unto God. **"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness... But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life"** (Rom. 6:18, 22). In response to this miraculous change Paul wrote: **"For I delight in the law of God after the inward man"** (Rom. 7:22). For the first time in our lives we are truly able to love and delight in what the Lord Jesus Christ loves and delights in as the Spirit conforms us to His image. We can echo the spiritual sentiment of the sweet Psalmist of Israel: **"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments"**

(Ps. 119:1-6). Thus we are freed in a twofold sense. Freed from the condemnation of the law through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We are also now free to love God and His law as we are being conformed into the image of the Lord Jesus who loved and magnified the law!

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I will make this answer very simple; I agree with A. W. Pink. Let me ask a few questions. Are you free to commit adultery? Are you free to go into the store and steal merchandise or steal from your neighbor? Or the one I like to use, if the speed limit sign says 70, are you free to go 90? If you answered no to any of these questions, then you have your answer, which should be a sounding "no"!

Why? Because it is the law, it is not the ceremonial law observed by the Jew, but the moral law, the law of the land, that has been from the beginning. And one may be sarcastic and say who says so? My reply would be, Jesus said so **"Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother"** (Mark 10:19). God Bless!



END

# Baptist History



## THE LAST BAPTIST MARTYR IN ENGLAND

Psalms 56:7-11 **"Shall they escape by iniquity? in thine anger cast down the people, O God. Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book? When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me. In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word. In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me."**

The last execution for "heresy" in England took place by the burning alive at Lichfield of a dissenter who was guilty of the wicked doctrines of "Ebion, Cerinthus, Valentinus, Arius, Macedonius, Simon Magus, of Manes, Photinus, of the Anabaptists, and other arch-heretics."<sup>1</sup> The martyr in the flames was Edward Wightman, the date was April 11, 1612, and the English King upon the throne was none other than King James I, just a year after his "Authorized Version" of the Scriptures became public!

Was Wightman guilty of the charges? Probably not! Dr. Cramp points out that Bishop Neile of Lichfield and his coadjutors, who acted as Royal Commissioners

1 J. M. Cramp, *Baptist History* (London: Elliott Stock, 1870), p. 258.

Taken from *This Day in Baptist History*  
Written by E. Wayne Thompson and David L Cummins

on the occasion, were manifestly "forgers of lies." And Thomas Crosby mentions that "many of the heresies they charge upon him are as foolish and inconsistent, that it very much discredits what they say." What was the real cause of his martyrdom? "Among other charges brought against him were these: 'That the baptizing of infants is an abominable custom; that the Lord's supper and baptism are not to be celebrated as they are now practiced in the church of England; and that Christianity is not wholly professed and preached in the church of England; but only in part.'"<sup>2</sup>

That was the crux of the matter, but the general English public was becoming weary of the martyr fires against the dissenters, and it was needful to make the victim look as hideous and dangerous as possible so that the death penalty would seem the only option available! After mentioning that "one of the counts in the indictment was that he declared 'the use of baptism to be administered in water only to converts of sufficient age and understanding,'" Carlile opines as follows: "They found him guilty of many heresies, some of which were probably unknown to him, even by name."<sup>3</sup>

2 J. Newton Brown, *Memorials of Baptist Martyrs* (Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1854), p. 240.

3 John C. Carlile, *The Story of the English Baptists* (London:

What kind of man was Edward Wightman? I am sure that the answer to that question would be given by his progeny. If you had asked the Baptists in Connecticut in the early days of America, they could have told you, for Valentine Wightman (1681-1747) was a descendant of the English martyr, and it was Valentine who formed the first Baptist church in the colony of Connecticut under the terms of the Toleration Act of 1689. Valentine was probably a great-grandson of Edward Wightman, and he was a Baptist. Valentine and his wife established the First Baptist Church of Groton in 1705. When Valentine passed away, the Groton Church was pastored by his son, Timothy Wightman, and when the Lord called Timothy home, the church was pastored by his son, John Gano Wightman. We shall examine these men in greater detail later in this volume; however, it is clear that the last English martyr to surrender his life in the flames was a Baptist by conviction.

We do well to bear in mind that though we treasure the King James Version of the Scriptures, the king was no friend of Baptists! Thank the Lord for the memory of Edward Wightman, who sealed his testimony for Christ, even with his death. May our offspring be as faithful and fruitful as his!

James Clarke and Col., 1905), p. 80.



## Pleasing All Men...

(Continued from page 6) ♦

actually the work of the devil and the influence of evil, seducing spirits. Now, if you want to behave selfishly, and seek your own welfare and short-sighted profit in life, then you can go ahead and eat

with them in honor of their idols. But if you want them to be saved and know the truth, you will not knowingly do so.

Now we do not often get invited to eat where food has been sacrificed to idols, I do not suspect – but it can still happen, as there are still people who do worship idols. Nonetheless, there is a greater principle at stake and in play. Paul summarizes by saying, **"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."** First of all, you cannot compromise on giving God the glory, thanks, and praise, because that would be to deny your profession of faith in Him and His Son Jesus Christ. Secondly, you want to make sure that nothing you do places a hindrance, stumbling block, or impediment in the way (called in our Bible translations an "offence") of any that would cause the truth to be compromised, or ineffectual, where they are concerned.

You have all heard the expression, "Do not do as I do, do as I say." And I trust that you all know what a foolish, worthless, lazy, and selfish expression that it is. Many parents have failed in the upbringing of their children who expressed such a weak and unprofitable sentiment either in word or in conduct. They set a poor example, even if they taught a wise precept with their lips. Paul is saying that we need to do what is good for others with this end in mind, that they may not be hindered in coming to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Paul

♦ (Continued on page 17)

## Pleasing All Men...

(Continued from page 16) ♦

says that he set himself aside. He was not living for his own will, his own desires, or his own profit. He was living for this aim, for this purpose, that others might be saved; and so he put all things that he said and did under that aim and purpose. He would not allow selfish interests on his part, if he could help it, to cause others to be offended as far as knowing that Christ died for sinners and that through faith in His name they may have the full and free forgiveness of sins, and the gift of God, eternal life.

First of all, this is to be an all-encompassing object or goal. **"Whatsoever ye do"** is to fall under this goal, this purpose. It is to govern your conduct toward **"all men in all things."** Now, I am quite sure that most of the time in our daily lives, we have failed at this. We are busy about the things of this vain, fleeting, vexed and vexing earthly life, running hither and thither, and there is hardly a thought in our mind, let alone a heart-felt, hearty intention, to bring the saving message of Jesus Christ unto lost and dying people. We are concerned with thoughts such as, "I hope I do not have to wait in line too long. I have places to be and things to do. I hope the traffic is not too bad. I hope the store has what I want. I hope I can get what I want to eat for lunch." And on and on our thoughts run. That is all very much seeking our own. Did we even set out with the prayerful intention to listen to the still small voice of the Spirit and take opportunity to preach the gospel to someone? Did we focus on our frustration about some fleshly thing that displeased us, or on the will of God?

Now Paul calls specific

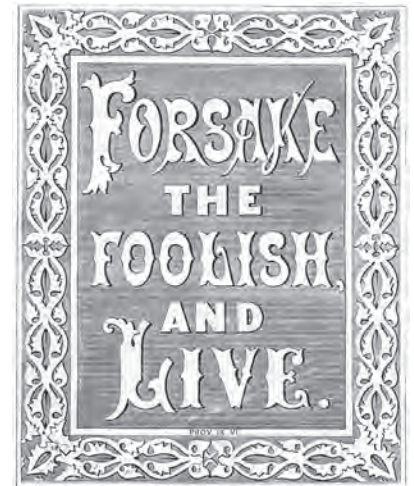
attention to not giving offence, to not placing a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. Do you know what this is saying? I am reminded of how we take extra precautions and extra preparations for things such as barrier free access to sidewalks and buildings. We want to make sure that people who have weaknesses, disabilities, injuries, or other impediments are not hindered in making their way up the sidewalk and into the door, whether of a doctor's office, or a grocery store, or even a church building. Why do we do that? They are already prone to having trouble getting there, and we want to make sure we have done everything on our part to remove any additional hindrances. Is that not true with regard to spiritual things, the things of God, and salvation? Are not all people already in themselves disabled and impeded by their own sinfulness, their own spiritual blindness, their own inability to come to God; and are we not charged with the responsibility to ensure that we have removed anything in our thinking, speaking, and behaving that would interfere with them being brought to the Savior and life in Him? What could be more important? What is greater than this, that the way be made barrier free between the sinner and the Savior, as far as our part is concerned? Do you know what our problem is? We have excused ourselves from having a part in the salvation of sinners. We have denied our responsibility. God gave us the responsibility, we cannot deny it or be discharged from it! We are going to give account of ourselves at the judgment seat! Yes, it demands our time. Yes, it demands our talents. Yes, it demands our substance and our money. Yes,

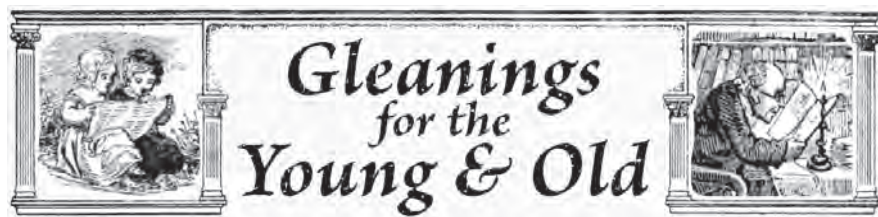
it demands our energy. Yes, it demands our all!

So, when Paul says that he pleased all men, he is saying that he did that which most benefited all men. He was not seeking to please himself, or profit himself, or get his own way, or do his own will. He was seeking to ensure that by what he said and did, all men might be benefited with the gospel to the greatest possible degree. He, following the example of Christ, was willing that instead of enriching himself, others might be made wealthy by his self-denying, cross-bearing, gospel-befitting life. Such a life is filled with choices, intentional choices, purposeful choices, prayerful choices, born out of a desire to **"do all to the glory of God,"** and **"please all men in all things ... that they might be saved."**

If we, like some have done and are doing, set about to please men's carnal appetites and intellects, will that result in their being saved? That denies the plain teaching of scripture that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, and that the flesh profiteth nothing. No, beloved, it must be what God says it must be, true gospel preaching and witnessing, coupled with true godly living that is unrebukable. Whatever you have in your personality that is not pleasing to God, you must leave it dead at the foot of the cross of Jesus. **"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of**

**God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another"** (Gal. 5:19-26). The things that please God will not always be what people approve. But if they do not approve, they will still ultimately have to give God the glory. So says the Word of God. And is that not our primary desire and purpose, that God be glorified? And if it glorifies God, it is serviceable to the salvation of all people. Nothing that dishonors God is useful to the salvation of anyone. I know that people like to say, "God did this in spite of." The Bible does not teach that. The Bible teaches, "God does this and that because of." What is in your life that cannot be said to be the cause of someone else being brought to the salvation of their souls through Jesus Christ, and God being glorified? Whatever it is, remove it, by the help of God. You will never remove those hindrances, those offences, without His help.





## Halloween And The Occult

Elder Roger Reed

**“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil” (I Thess. 5:21-22).**

First, let me ask, do you believe in Satan, demons, witches and do you believe in life on other planets?

Some people find the negative in everything! Bible preachers of the past have warned people of Hollywood's excesses and its conveyance of immoral values. Prognosticators of doom warned of a New World Order, a global economy, and a New Age religion. Alarmists saw danger lurking around every corner and doom on every horizon. They saw the Devil in everything they considered disagreeable. They were able to outshine Chicken Little hands down.

This enlightened generation now rests perfectly safe in the knowledge the sky is not about to fall. But all those other disturbing predictions are bearing fruit. We have been warned not to trifle with the occult. We have heard frightful stories about Ouija boards, tarot cards, and altered states of consciousness. Nevertheless, each October 31 we dabble with the occult and the satanic. Even worse, adults annually pass off this filtration with evil upon their children. And although thousands of young people become entrapped each year by Satanism, cults, the drug culture, spiritism, necromancy, and other forms of divination

and occult practices, parents continue to ridicule those who insist that trifling with the occult is unhealthy, unwise and ungodly. Divination means; prediction using spirits: the practice of attempting to communicate with the spirits of the dead in order to predict or influence the future. Witchcraft: witchcraft or sorcery in general (literary).

The word occult means “hidden.” Included in a catalog of occult practices are the following: divination, astrology, spiritualism, numerology, yoga, demonology, divining with rod or pendulum, and numerous others, related practices. They are occult because they are hidden; they are hidden because they thrive on their “mystery” nature. In addition, they are forbidden by Scripture, and for centuries the church has limited them to secret practices.

So let us look into the past to see where our modern-day practices of this ancient pagan worship of Harvest or Autumn Equinox and as we know it today, Halloween originated. Let us see if it came from God or the Devil! And let us look at the Scriptures to see whether it is okay to practice or not.

### Halloween the Festival of Death

Let me take you back three thousand years ago, the time of the Celtic civilization before the birth of Jesus. It is late Autumn, Harvest, or Autumn Equinox south of Britain. The Autumn Equinox. This is the day (or period of days) in the Autumn when days and nights are of approximately the same length. This is generally

a time of celebrating harvest; the dying of nature and the emphasis is on death. There are pagans worshipping many gods and are ruled in a sense by kings; but the real power is in the hands of the Druids, a secret priestly society which rules by terror and by sorcery. Even the kings fear the mysterious, ever-present Druids; and when the king becomes too old to lead in battle or to father children, they sacrifice him to the gods, cutting his body cavity open while he is still alive and using his internal organs for divination and other magic. The Druids are very wicked and evil people. This is a day that the people dread the most, choking fear is at its highest level, for it is the day they dread all year long. It is October 31<sup>st</sup>, the festival of Samhain, the Festival of Death.

### Samhain is their god of death and most powerful god

Every year on this day, they believe the old year dies and the new year begins. It is the Celtic New Year as well as the Festival of Samhain, the Festival of Death. The Druids have come dressed in their robes; each one has a hollowed-out turnip with an oil lamp burning inside. Carved into the side of the hollow turnip is a hideous face, the likeness of the demon spirit that dwells inside. On the hilltops are raging fires, and as the midnight approaches, the madness increases; human sacrifices are ripped open, hearts torn out still beating. There are things done, too hideous to describe. The sacrifices are thrown into the fires, there is dancing and screaming around them in drunken, demonized fits. By daylight the exhausted people begin cautiously to stir. On the hilltops, fires have died down, nothing remaining but ashes and the bones of the sacrifices. The

people called them “bonfires,” and avoid going too near, for the smell of the dead and the presence of evil hang heavily there still. But it is over.

### Roman Domination

Rome has pretty much dominated the holidays of our time; their hand is in every aspect of what is being celebrated in our day and time, under the guise of Christianity.

The Pope strutted back in an attempt to get the people to abandon the festival and all its occult, idolatrous practices, and established All Saints Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. In the British Isles, All Saints Day came to be called “All Hallowed” since it was a day to honor all the “hallowed ones,” the Christian dead. Since Samhain occurred the evening before All Hallowed, it came to be called “All Hallowed Evening” or just “Hallowed E’en.” From this it evolved to “Hallows E’en” and, finally, to “Halloween” as we know it today.

### The New World

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there came a flood of Celtic immigrants to the New World, mostly from the British Isles, and they brought with them their folk beliefs and pagan superstitions; they brought with them Samhain, the Festival of Death. Among the English-speaking Celts the hollowed turnip or pumpkin was known as “Jock (or jack) of the Lantern,” referring to the spirit guide (Jock or Jack) who lived in the lantern,” then to “Jack o’ lantern” and finally to “Jacko-lantern” as we know it today. These popular, but pagan practices were increasingly accepted by the general populace and gradually became an established part of American life. The few small Christian voices

◊ (Continued on page 19)

# Gleanings...

(Continued from page 18) ♡

raised against this invasion of paganism were shouted down and swallowed up in the rising tide of popular acceptance. Except for the substitution of pumpkins for turnips, the old practices continued very much the same as they had been in the British Isles and in Western Europe.

## Accoutrements of Halloween

Associated with witches on holiday cards, decorations, and the accoutrements of Halloween are owls, bats, cats and toads. Their significance must not be overlooked. They are an important link between Halloween and the occult. They are known as “the witch’s familiars. A divining familiar was a species of animal whose shape the “Devil” would take to help the witch in divining the future. A witch trying to find out the length of a person’s life or of an illness would watch the familiar closely. The speed or slowness of the animal’s movements, the direction in which it moved and the kinds of sounds it made—all these were considered clues. Other familiars listed included hens, geese, small dogs, rats, or even butterflies, wasps, crickets, and snails. These creatures were considered demon controlled and the manifestation (expression) of what the Bible terms a “familiar spirit.” Paul, the apostle, confronted a girl bewitched by such a spirit on the streets of Philippi (Acts 16:16-18).

## What Saith the Scriptures?

For all these reasons, Halloween is not an acceptable holiday for Christians to celebrate. However, there is still more. In their book *Halloween and Satanism*, Phil Phillips and Joan Hake Robie

list “Twelve Forbidden Practices” taken directly from the Bible. I am going to list them here to emphasize their connections to Halloween. The Lord warns us very specifically about divination, spiritism, enchantment, sorcery, witchcraft and all the other activities dear to Halloween observance and says that **“all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD.”** What could be plainer?

*Enchantment.* The act of influencing by charms and incantations the practice of magical arts (Deut. 18:9-12).

*Witchcraft.* The Practice of dealing with evil spirits, the use of sorcery or magic (Gal. 5:19-20).

*Sorcery.* The use of power gained from assistance or control of evil spirits, especially for divining (Rev. 21:8).

*Divination.* Fortune telling. (Jer. 29:8-9).

*Wizardry.* The art of practices of a wizard; sorcery.

*Wizard.* One skilled in magic; male witch; sorcerer (Lev. 19:31).

*Necromancy.* Communication with the dead. Conjuring up of the spirits of the dead for the purposes of magically revealing the future or influencing the course of events (Isa. 8:19).

*Charm.* To put a spell on someone; to affect by magic (Isa. 19:3).

*Stargazing\astrology.* The divination of the supposed influence of the stars upon human affairs and terrestrial events by their positions and aspects (Jer. 10:2).

*Soothsaying.* The act of foretelling events; prophesying by a spirit other than the Holy Spirit (Micah 5:12).

*Prognostication.* To foretell from signs or symptoms; prophesying without the Holy Spirit; soothsaying (Isa. 47:12-15).

*Observing times.* Astrology (II Kings 21:6).

*Magic.* Witchcraft (Deut. 18:10).

At the risk of seeming negative and gloomy, I feel it best to warn you that Halloween is a point of contact with evil of every sort. Many of its roots lie in those evils specifically prohibited by the Bible. Its celebration is an insult to the faith once delivered to the saints. Halloween and Christianity are totally incompatible. To embrace the one is to frustrate the other. This brings us to an important point. Have you ever placed your faith and trust in Jesus? His purpose in coming to earth has something to do with Halloween.

**“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”** (Heb. 2:14-15).

1. References used: “The Holy Bible”
2. “Holidays and Holy Days” by Tom C. McKenney
3. “Pagan Traditions” by David Ingraham



# Psalm 106 Part 2

(Continued from page 4) ♡

**this side, and as it were a day’s journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp. And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague. And he called the name of that place Kibroth-hattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted. And the people journeyed from Kibroth-hattaavah unto Hazeroth; and abode at Hazeroth. The Lord did not specify how many died here, therefore, we must conclude the number was not important, however, the judgment of God was executed. God is a God of mercy, but His mercy never replaced His justice; they work hand in hand.**

Dear reader, I hope you have been blessed by this article so far, we intend to work through the entire 106<sup>th</sup> Psalm. My prayer is that each of us will look back to verse 6 which we closed the previous article with, **“We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.”** Also, in looking back to this verse, I pray we will cry out to God that He deal with us in mercy, not judgment, and will put a spirit of repentance into the hearts of His people.





## From the Pen of a Country Preacher

Milburn R. Cockrell  
(1941 - 2002)



### The Cry of Creation

(Preached on the Independent Baptist Hour March 23, 1980)

**“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now”** (Rom. 8:19-22).

Very few sermons have ever been preached from these verses. Interpreters have been puzzled by their meaning. The writer speaks of a subject here which is seldom mentioned in other Scripture. Paul speaks of the transcendent glory for which all creation is looking and longing. Ever since man sinned a curse has rested upon this planet. From Adam's fall the whole frame of nature has had an interest in man's redemption. It was for man's sake the earth was cursed. Therefore it should come as no surprise that the earth is to share in man's recovery. Today all creation sympathizes with man's misery and expects its own emancipation from its present sin-blighted condition. What a beautiful thought!

A great deal of confusion exists as to the meaning of the word

“creature” used in our KJV. The word in the original, which is translated in verses 19, 20, and 21 “creature,” is translated in verse 22 “creation.” The creation or the creature cannot refer to the children of God, for they are expressly distinguished from the creation of which Paul speaks. Neither can it refer to wicked men, for they have no wish for the manifestation of the sons of God. Infidels, skeptics, and atheists do not believe in any such possibility as the manifestation of the sons of God. The unsaved masses are not looking for any advent of spiritual bliss. It cannot be said in any sense the unconverted world is subject to sin not willingly. The whole of unconverted mankind shall never be introduced into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. Such would imply that all mankind would be saved - a thing everywhere refuted by the Bible.

I understand by the word creation in Romans 8 all animate and inanimate nature as distinguished from mankind. The Greek word (KTISIS) occurs in the New Testament 19 times. In our KJV it is translated “creature” 11 times, “creation” 6 times (Mark 10:6; 13:19; Rom. 1:20; 8:22; II Peter 3:4; Rev. 3:14), and once it is translated “building” (Heb. 9:11) and once “ordinance” (I Pet. 2:13). The usual meaning of the word in the New Testament is creation, not necessarily extended beyond this world and not

excluding mankind. However, the context in Romans 8:19-22 limits the meaning to inanimate and irrational creation so far as relates to this planet. It has this meaning throughout the 8th chapter of Romans (v. 39).

#### The Creation Subjected to Vanity

When God created the beings destitute of intelligence and the world void of self-conscious life, He pronounced it **“very good”** (Gen. 1:31). There was nothing but good in all creation. There was no imbalance or lack of harmony, no disorder, disease, or death. All that God made was well-made and free of defect. Not only was every part good, but it was all together **“very good.”**

Man's primal innocence was surrounded by nature in her primal beauty. But man sinned, and in consequence of sin, he dragged nature into decay and death. The fall of creation paralleled the fall of man. All creation was cursed and the serpent was cursed above all other creatures of the field (Gen. 3:14). The ground was cursed to bring forth thorns and thistles because of Adam's sin (Gen. 3:17). The entire planet became **“subject to vanity”** and experienced **“the bondage of corruption.”**

Adam was in Eden with the beasts, the lion, the tiger, and the lamb. The instant that he sinned, each animal was seized with a new instinct and raged against him. Since the fall there has existed the enmity of one creature to another. The brute creation is now subject to tornadoes and tempests just like man is. Animals are cruelly treated by evil men and made food for man's lusts. Man makes some animals serve him by pulling the plow in order to grow food to eat from the ground which is cursed.

The curse of the creation's

subjection to vanity is not from their original tendencies, or any fault in the being themselves. It was all because of man's sin that they suffer as they do. How great an evil sin brought upon the whole world! It has polluted the heavens and earth. It has compelled the entire creation to witness the dishonor done to the Creator. When man ceased his allegiance to God the brute creatures and nature rebelled against man.

Just what did Paul mean by “being subject to vanity”? It means all things in nature, instead of being applied to their holy and legitimate end, are employed in promoting sinful and criminal ends. The sun shines on the thief who steals. The stars guide the course of ships of war. Wood and stone are used to build houses of iniquity. The bowels of the earth supply gold and silver to satisfy men's avarice. The rain waters the crops of God-hating men, inferior creatures are often used as instruments of sin. This was not meant to be. Much of creation is being used in a manner God never intended.

This old earth is in the restless bondage of corruption. The very air we breathe is dust from the carcasses of dead men, animals, and plants. The grain reaped from the fields and the flowers which bloom grow forth from the fatness of the grave of corruption. **“The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away”** (I Pet. 1:24). The psalmist wrote: **“Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shall endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed”** (Ps. 102:25-26).

◊ (Continued on page 21)

# Country Preacher

(Continued from page 20) ♦

The earth is weary of being a place for graves. The sun is tired of shining upon desolate fields of barren deserts. The air was not created to be breathed by slaves. The fire that warms us was not designed to burn martyrs. The stones of the fields were not intended to build prisons. Music was not meant to drive people wild like modern music does. Trees were not originally made to hang men upon. Precious metals were not to be used to make idol gods and heathen temples. All of this perversion of nature demonstrates how it has been made subject to bondage.

## Creation Groans

The present creation is not moving upward in the evolutionary process. Instead, it groans and cries out for relief from the bondage of corruption. Every crushed ocean shell, every rotten log, every bubbling brook is the earth "groaning" and "travailing" in pain. Every bark of a dog, every moo of a cow, every neigh of a horse, every quack of a duck, every hiss of a serpent, every croak of a frog, every meow of a cat, every crow of a rooster, every gobble of a turkey, and every minor key of millions of birds are but cries for deliverance from the bondage of corruption. The whistling of the wind, the sound of thunder, the flash of lightning, the roar of a mighty earthquake are but nature's voices crying to God in sympathy with man's condition.

The Bible often mentions the groans of all creation. Jeremiah wrote: **"How long shall the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein? the beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He**

**shall not see our last end"** (Jer. 12:4).

The prophet Joel spoke in this manner: **"The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth...The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men...How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate...The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness"** (Joel 1:10, 12, 18, 20).

Isaiah penned these words: **"The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left"** (Isa. 24:4-7).

Sin is such a burden to the whole creation. The world of animals and inanimate nature cry out against this awful curse upon earth. The Bible says that the stones cry out of the walls (Hab. 2:11) and the land cries out (Job 31:38). The voice of nature cries out in the heat of burning deserts and the waving grass of the endless plains. Every thing in nature from weeds to worms is groaning and sighing for relief. In their own peculiar way they

are saying, "Oh, come day of joy and gladness when the sons of God shall be manifest to man and angels!"

Creation is conscious of the great load lying upon it because of man's wickedness. Nature is not as it should be. It cries out for a better day. Look at the wild rose in the field and the rose in your flower bed which grows under ideal soil conditions. By the aid of man, one is rich and beautiful while sin has made the other poor and insignificant. See in all this the evidence of hidden possibilities. Here is nature's revelation of her greater abilities. When the curse is lifted all the hidden virtues that cannot now develop shall show their grandeur as we have never dreamed it possible.

Even the brute creatures seem to sense their suffering because of man's rebellion against God. Have you ever watched a horse or a dog die? Is there not a look in the poor creature's eye, as it looks upon its master so pitifully, which says it longs for deliverance? The Apostle Paul said these lower creatures groan to be liberated, and these groans are neither final nor fatal. One day they all shall **"...be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."**

## Creation Restored

Just as the fall of nature paralleled the fall of man, even so the restoration of nature shall be contemporaneous with the restoration of man. This restitution of all things awaits the return of Christ and the unveiling of the sons of God. The whole earth is going to be renewed. There is to be glory conferred upon all creatures suitable to the glory conferred upon the children of God.

When creation is liberated the words of the psalmist will come

to pass. In Psalm 96:11-13 he wrote: **"Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein; then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth."** In verses 7 and 8 of the 98th Psalm he wrote: **"Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together."**

These passages can mean nothing less than the seas, the rivers, the hills, the plains, the fish of the sea, the fowls of the air, the beasts of the field, and every living creature shall in some manner express joy at the setting up of the Messiah's kingdom on earth. All creation shall own its returning Lord and join in a tribute of praise to Him. In Revelation 5:13 John foretold this coming day: **"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."**

Spiritualizers of the Scripture are quick to assert this is highly figurative language of which the meaning is uncertain. I disagree. Call me literally a literalist if you will. I had rather be literally a literalist than little if ever a literalist. I believe the God who made all creation is capable of giving all things the ability to express themselves. In Eden the serpent conversed with Eve in a language, suggesting animals may

♦ (Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21) ♦

The very instant the sons of God are manifest, creation shall experience a new and glorious genesis. Its groans shall be transposed into songs, its sufferings into joy and praise, its restlessness into perpetual peace. The desert shall bloom as the rose, briars and weeds will vanish, the earth shall cease its shivers, the red throat of the flaming volcano shall be mute, and all the shame and tragedy of a sin-smitten and Devil-hurt world shall be for

♦ (Continued on page 23)

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PS Form 3526, July 2014

## Country Preacher

(Continued from page 22) ♦

ever terminated! All creation, freed from its prison bonds, shall sing and echo with unending harmonies the glory of their Creator. Every atom of earth shall be full of His love and redolent with His praise.

### Conclusion

The world today is intensifying its cry for relief. Earthquakes, hurricanes, tidal waves, and tornadoes are on the increase (Matt. 24:7). There is soon to appear **"...signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars..."** (Luke 21:25; Rev. 6:12-13). The very **"powers of heaven shall be shaken"** (Luke 21:26). The stars of heaven shall fall unto the earth. The heavens are to depart as a scroll when it is rolled together. Every mountain and island will be moved out of their places (Rev. 6:13-14). The awful physical catastrophes of the tribulation period are the last and loudest cry

of nature for relief from the curse.

Consider again verse 19 of the text: **"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God."** The term **"earnest expectation"** means "a waiting with the head raised and the eye fixed on the point of the horizon from which the expected object is to come." Lost souls on earth are not looking for the manifestation of God's sons. Even some Christians are not looking for the Lord to come. But such is not the case with all creation. The second coming of Christ is nature's **"earnest expectation."** Animate and inanimate creation looks away from themselves, eagerly expecting and welcoming the revealing of the sons of God.

Dear friend, where is your deepest interest? Are you looking for the return of Christ? Can you say from the heart, **"Abba, Father?"** Are you among those

♦ (Continued on page 24)



# Country Preacher

(Continued from page 23) ♦

of whom the apostle says: **“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God?”** Can you pray, **“Our Father, which art in heaven?”** A child can repeat it, a Romanist can mutter it upon his beads, a parrot might be taught to say it, but only a heart that has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit can pray it.



# Under No Obligations

(Continued from page 11) ♦

Their statements made them look like unofficial religious leaders and uncertain in their own authority. It is not that they did not know the answer, but just did not want to recognize His authority. The response from Christ blew their minds, for Christ told them, “If you cannot tell me whose authority John has, why ask me about my authority? In that case, you are not the authority, therefore, I am not obliged to tell you of mine.

**“Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD”** (Jer. 23:32).



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Baptist Church of Gladwin Michigan is seeking to start a mission work in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We are also seeking a sound preacher to go there. If you are interested and feel led of the Lord please contact Pastor Sam Wilson at

989-701-5564. You may also contact Brother Tom Coffee, who is currently working in the area at 843-254-3018.

This ministry currently has a blog written by Bro Coffee that can be read online at <https://thefaithfulofgod.com/blog/>

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The Maranatha Missionary Baptist Church located at 14460 Ravenna Avenue, Alliance, OH, 44601, is seeking a pastor. The church was organized in 1981 and currently has seven members that are grounded in sound Baptist doctrine. Any interested elder can contact Brother Denny Morgan at [dennymatco@gmail.com](mailto:dennymatco@gmail.com) or call (330) 324-3038.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, KS is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact the church in writing at SGBC, 400 N. Main St., Caldwell,

KS 67022, or by phone Brother Darin Wiley 620-863-2431.

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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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](mailto:gaylenr@rainierconnect.com).

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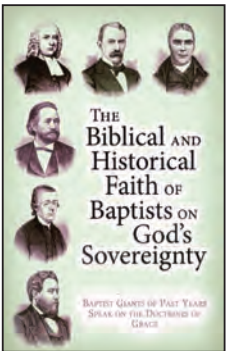
Bethel Baptist Church, which is located at 2603 Penfield Pasadena TX 77506, is in need of a pastor. Any interested Elders should call Brother Risinger at 832-564-6350 which is his cell phone or you can call him at home at 281-476-5099.

\*\*\*\*\*

Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma is in need of a pastor. This calling has a parsonage located right next to the church building. Interested persons are to contact Brothers Charlie Hodges at 918-633-2713 or David Thorne at 918-373-6057.

# MEETINGS

Beauty Mountain Baptist Church of Edmond, WV is having a Bible Conference beginning Friday evening with dinner at 5PM 11/4-11/6. Services will begin at 7PM. If you are interested in coming to this fellowship please contact Eld. Jon Bailess at 304-663-8894 or by email at [beautymountainbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:beautymountainbaptist@gmail.com). Preachers for this meeting include: Joe Collins, Justin Meier, Roger Reed, Tom Ross, Clint Keith, Matthew Stepp, Mike Cissna and Joe Sidders.



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# ARTICLE INDEX

<b>Pleasing All Men That They Might Be Saved</b> by T. J. Hille .....	p. 1
<b>Psalms 106 Part 2</b> by Jonathan Bailess .....	p. 1
<b>The Lord’s Day</b> by Steve Kiser .....	p. 1
<b>The Ordinance of the Red Heifer Pt 3</b> by Nathaniel Hille .....	p. 1
Brief Truths by Randy Johnson .....	p. 3
What Matters Most by T. Matthew Stepp .....	p. 5
Light Contemplations by Luke Austin .....	p. 7
Heavenly Hymns .....	p. 9
Points to Ponder by Perry Ames.....	p. 11
Selahs by Julius Salacup .....	p. 11
Forum .....	pp. 12-15
Baptist History .....	p. 16
Gleanings: Halloween by Roger Reed.....	p. 18
Country Preacher by Milburn Cockrell .....	p. 20

# The Three Sons of Noah

by William J. Stang

We are pleased to announce that *The Three Sons of Noah* by William J. Stang is available. An excellent book dealing with what became of the lineage of Noah’s sons. This book will be sent free to any prisoner that requests it.