

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).

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Whole Number 93

A More Excellent Way

By Wayne Bowling
Washington, Illinois

INTRODUCTION

I think that it must have been about 1975, while pastoring in Kenia, Ohio, that I was led to this passage of Scripture now before us. I did a study of this chapter and preached a series of messages for my people. I so needed the things I then learned from this study; and yet stand in need of the same.

Later, I was led into the 12th chapter of the I Corinthian letter; thus, causing Chapter 13 to become more significant and meaningful to me. I arrived at a greater understanding of the "why" of the teaching sandwiched between Chapters 12 and 14.

Almost, wherever I go to preach I want to share what I have received from Chapters 12 and 13. Along with that great, masterful Sermon on the Mount, Chapters 12 and 13 of this letter, I am persuaded, are the



Wayne Bowling

teachings, which when practiced, will transform the lives of God's people and restore power to the churches and their pastors, wherein, once again, their dynamic influence will

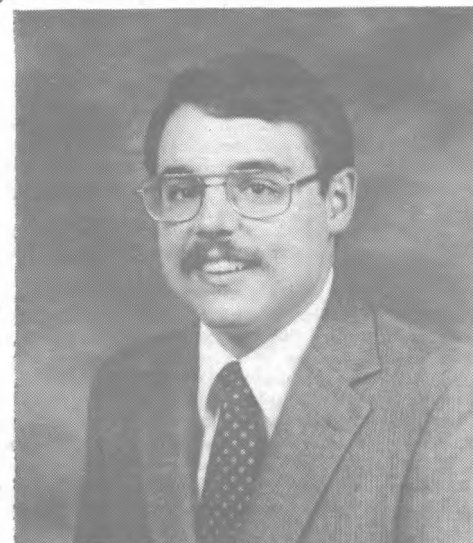
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Godly Music Versus Ungodly Music

By Tom Ross
Xenia, Ohio

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; But 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" (Eph. 5:18-19).

In this passage of holy Scripture we see that music plays a very important part in the believer's life. Music is here associated with the filling of the Spirit and the giving of thanks unto the Lord. From this we see that godly music is to be used for spiritual advancement and praise to God. It is the firm conviction of the writer that the songs we sing and the music we hear in our churches and daily lives ought to be the kind of



Tom Ross

music that is in accordance with scriptural principles. However, it is sad in our day and age where there

(Continued on page two)

An Exposition Of 1 John 2:19

By A. W. Pink
(1886 - 1952)

"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went



A. W. Pink

out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." The opening word of our present verse at once makes it apparent that it is closely related to the preceding

one, for the "they" has its antecedent in the "many antichrists" of verse 18. There John reminded the newly converted that they had heard antichrist should come, and that many of his tribe were even then in

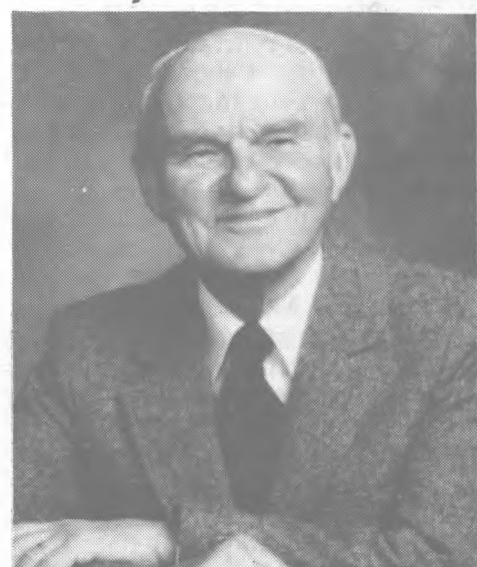
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Guns And Violence In The Cause Of Liberty

By G. Russell Evans
Norfolk, Virginia

The propriety of Christian involvement in guns and violence in the cause of liberty has been questioned. First, a little background:

When Alexis de Tocqueville, the



G. Russell Evans

French statesman, came to the United States in 1831 to study penitentiaries, he made a great discovery: the Anglo-American democracy that was founded upon Christianity. He wrote, "Christianity reigns without obstacles, by universal consent" (*Democracy in America*, 1834).

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The United States In Bible Prophecy

By Milburn Cockrell

(Preached on the Berea Baptist Broadcast July 20, 1986)

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance" (Ps. 33:12).

What does Bible prophecy have to say about the future of the United States? Will she turn against Israel? Will she become a second-rate power? Will she fight with Antichrist against Christ and the saints at His post-trib coming to earth? Will the

United States become a part of the one-world government? What does the Bible really say about the most powerful and influential nation on earth today?

GOD HAS BLESSED AMERICA

It is surely an evident fact to all that an unseen hand has guided this nation from its inception to its summit. God's providential dealings are

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THE BERE A BAPTIST BANNER

Milburn Cockrell, Editor

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MUSIC

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has been a major apostasy in churches concerning the realm of godly, Spirit-filled music. Instead we hear music that excites the flesh, rather than music that honors and exalts our sovereign God.

PURPOSE OF MUSIC

The first and most important facet of music is that it should honor and glorify God. Any study of the Bible will reveal that when men would sing unto the Lord they would exalt Him as the Almighty God who is great in power, majesty, and dominion. After the Egyptians had been drowned in the Red Sea as a result of the judgment of God, Moses sang: "The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation: my father's God and I will exalt him. . . Thy right hand, O Lord is become glorious in power: Thy right hand, O Lord hath dashed in pieces the enemy. . . Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (Ex. 15:2, 6, 11). Moses sang unto the God of sovereignty and greatness, One who is to be feared for His terrible judgments. How different the song of Moses is when compared to the average Arminian invitation song which depicts God helplessly waiting and hoping that depraved, unholy sinners by the power of their free-will will choose Him before it's too

late. Such a view of God is nowhere found in the Bible. Rather David sang in Psalm 110:3: "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth."

The second purpose of music is that it should be used to offer thanksgiving and praise unto the Lord. After the Lord had miraculously answered the prayer of Hannah and gave her a son named Samuel, she burst forth in singing in 1 Samuel 2:1-2: ". . . My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy as the Lord; for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God."

Music was a very important element in the Jewish Temple worship. King David chose the Levites to supply musicians for the Holy Temple. 1 Chronicles 15:16 states: "And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy." Four thousand Levites were thus chosen to sing and play musical instruments in the Temple worship service. I am sure that the songs were carefully selected to offer praise unto the Lord. Do the songs we sing and the music we hear in Baptist churches tend to praise and thank God, or is music just used to fill time in our worship service?

The third purpose of music is to excite the believer to a humble, holy walk with the Lord. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:16: "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." Thus music is to be used to teach and admonish the believer in his daily Christian walk. Christian music should soothe and comfort the heart rather than excite the flesh. I believe that Christians should not be guilty of listening to music that dishonors God and arouses the fleshly carnal emotions as rock and roll, and country-western music do. The Bible clearly qualifies the only kinds of music we are to sing: psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs which means you can throw out most of the music of our modern day!

MORALS AND MUSIC

Godly music and scriptural morals go together. Also, ungodly music and immorality go together. America has become an immoral, corrupt, ungodly nation as a result of the music trends. Henry David Thoreau (an unbeliever) said, "Even music may be intoxicating. Such apparently slight causes destroyed Greece and Rome, and will destroy England and America." Much of the music that America has heard for the last fifty years has served to demoralize the youth of our nation. Rock and Roll music has done more harm by its

lyrics and ungodly beat to destroy the moral fiber of our nation than anything else. Rock and Roll is filled with an emphasis on fornication, drug abuse, suicide, and violence. Is it any wonder then why America has such a high rate of teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, and criminal activity?

The sad part of this is that Christians have compromised and allowed Rock and Roll music to come into their homes and churches! Many professing Christians feel that Gospel Rock and Southern Gospel Rock are acceptable forms of music to listen to. Many will say that this type of music can be used as an alternative way to reach people for Christ. My friend, people are never converted when compromise and unscriptural principle are employed. We do not need worldly gospel concerts to reach people for Christ. What we need are some uncompromising preachers who will preach the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation!

Consider the following blatant hypocrisies of modern so-called gospel music and performers:

1. All that we do ought to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31). Yet how much music is used to bring fame and fortune to singers and groups in our day.

2. It pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe (1 Cor. 1:21). Yet how quickly would the people at the average gospel rock concert leave if a God-called preacher would come and preach a message on man's depravity, the results of sin, and the need of Christ.

3. The Bible states in 1 Corinthians 11:14: "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?" Yet if you look at the average gospel rock group most of the members have long hair!

4. The Bible commands the Christian not to love the world (1 John 2:15). Yet much of the charismatic gospel rock movement promotes worldly dress, behaviour, and conversation.

I believe it is in the best interest of true Baptists to keep worldly, ungodly music out of our worship services. Rather than music that excites the flesh, we ought to select music that exalts the Lord and edifies the believer.

The Lord's churches are to be sanctified, holy, virtuous, and chaste, awaiting the coming Bridegroom. Unholy music produces unholy members who are fleshly and carnal. How we need a return to music that moves our hearts to worship a holy sovereign God!

GUNS

(Continued from page one)

As the nation grew, religious principles gave way to political expediency, and by 1980 sophisticates

considered it taboo to include religious overtones in election campaigns. But not the New Religious Right, and Ronald Reagan benefitted immensely. Modernists such as Norman Lear's People for the American Way (PAW) screamed bigotry, blasphemy, and blindness—and please send us some money.

Conservative Christians were awakening, silent no longer and vowing to restore morality and "to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Rom. 13:4). Moreover, they were rejecting the Laodicean-type expediency: "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:16).

In 1986, a Gallup Poll found "America in the midst of a religious renaissance." The American Election Commission has been formed to boost it along. PAW now admits that candidates "have the right to bring their religious beliefs. . . into the political arena." Magnanimous. Was there ever a valid doubt?

Which brings us to the application of the Scriptures to the issues of the day: Does the Bible justify American intervention in Central America to help freedom fighters? Guns and violence in the name of freedom? Do freedom fighters in Nicaragua and elsewhere do God's will? Is President Reagan justified in calling the USSR an "evil empire"?

The freedom fighters (called contras, or counter-revolutionaries, by the communists, Big Media, and others who would discredit them) are battling for liberty and democracy. These precious commodities were stolen from the people of Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Angola, among others—stolen with guns and violence by militant atheistic communists whose global conquests since 1917 have been phenomenal and whose totalitarianism has enslaved and murdered millions of dissidents—all a matter of record and all engineered by the Soviets in pursuit of world domination. The torture and utter cruelty against the conquered populace, also on the record, make the Soviet Union the evil empire.

Allegations of atrocities by the freedom fighters have been largely discredited as propaganda spread by the Nicaraguan communist Sandinistas whose official policy includes torture and murder of opponents, as documented by Alvaro Baldizon, former chief investigator of abuses, now defected to the West.

Nicaragua has become a second Cuba, exporting communism and terrorism and its revolution "without borders," and vowing to communize the Western Hemisphere. Of course, the UN and OAS Charters are emphatic about self defense for threatened nations. The United States is threatened. The Sandinista's "72-Hour Document," released by the State Department in February 1986, is the blueprint for extinction of liberty in Central America. Lib-

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GUNS

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erty is a God-given right. It cannot co-exist with communism: "... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Cor. 3:17).

The *Communist Manifesto* (International Publishers, 1948) abolishes "eternal truths, such as Freedom, Justice. . . all religion, and all morality" (pp. 29,44). From Lenin to Gorbachev, Soviet dictators have ruthlessly enforced this dogma. They have no choice. Communism, therefore, is in "fundamental opposition" to Christianity.

Throughout the Bible, we are enjoined to love our neighbor, but never to accept slavery and subjugation. Just the opposite. Moses taught the laws of liberty and self defense to the Israelites (Deut. 20:1-12). The Book of Nehemiah is something of a biblical treatise on defense (Neh. 4:7-23). King David defended Israel's liberty for 40 years against the "communists" of his day (I Sam. 20) and remained in God's favor.

Gideon led his 300 in the cause of liberty against the Midianites (Judg. 7:10). In the 6th century B. C., the prophet Daniel warned of the "peace" of the Antichrist, the "communist" of that day, whose "peace shall destroy many" (Dan. 8:25). Earlier, Isaiah cautioned about the peace of the wicked: "Their feet run to evil. . . The way of peace they know not. . ." (Isa. 59:7-8). On and on, the message is the same. In Malachi 3:6, our Lord says, "For I am the Lord, I change not."

Jesus came "to fulfill the law and the prophets" (Matt. 5:17). He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matt. 5:9). Remembering that there is no final and absolute interpretation of Scripture, we ask: Did He mean the peace and liberty sought by the freedom fighters of Nicaragua—or the peace of communism defined as "a peace imposed by violence" to overthrow capitalism (Lenin, *The Proletarian Revolution*, p. 83)? Jesus said, "Think not I am come to send peace. . . but a sword" (Matt. 10:34), i.e., the sword of righteousness.

Christians who reject aid to freedom fighters could perhaps relate to the first century Christians who opposed all violence, believing their primary citizenship to be in Heaven. Nonetheless, Senate Chaplain Frederick Brown Harris wrote in 1967: "Without swords, coerced men are compelled to cry peace when there is no peace and to surrender the most heavenly things to the most hellish forces." We say this is the peace of the wicked (Isa. 59:8), the peace of the Comintern (*Theses*, 1928)—not the peace of obedient courageous Christians (Deut. 20:3; Acts 5:29).



THE U.S.

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written across the pages of American History. No nation on earth has ever demonstrated the sovereignty of God in national affairs any more than this nation. Truly, God has made us a great nation.

Why has America been so blessed of God? Why has an enemy bomb never fallen on our soil? Why have we been called the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave? I believe that the answer is found in my text. A nation is blessed whose God is the Lord.

The founding fathers of our country were open in their profession of the Christian religion. They came to these shores by ships that they might be permitted to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. Faith in God and the Bible is interwoven into the warp and woof of our nation's history.

The Mayflower Compact begins with the words: "In the name of God. . ." When the Pilgrims waded ashore in 1620 "they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of Heaven who had brought them from the perils and miseries." Before the Liberty Bell was hung in Independence Hall in 1752, there was inscribed on it the words of Leviticus 25:10: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." Our coins say: "In God We Trust." We hold an annual Thanksgiving Day to Almighty God each year, observed by no other nation on earth. The Pledge of Allegiance to our flag contains the words: "... one nation under God. . ." Every session of both Senate and the House of the United States is opened by prayer to God. Our national hymn ends with "Great God our King."

God has blessed America over the years because God has been in her thoughts. She has in the main as a nation lived by Bible morality and revered the Divine Being. Our Constitution is based upon the Bible. Many of our federal and state laws are based upon the Bible. This is one of the reasons why God has blessed this republic.

A second reason why God has blessed America is because we have been a great source of Christian testimony to the rest of the world. We have done more to promote missionary causes in terms of money and men than all the other nations on earth. We are but five percent of the world's population, but more than fifty percent of the missionaries and the money spent for missions come from us. The United States publishes more Bibles and Christian books than any other country on earth. With all our faults and follies, the U. S. still has the soundest and largest number of true churches on the face of the earth in this generation. Churches here grow and flourish.

A third reason why God has blessed America is because we have

been good to the Jews. In Genesis 12:3 God promised to bless those who would bless the seed of Abraham. The Jewish people have enjoyed freedom of religion here. They have been permitted to be businessmen, and God has abundantly blessed them materially.

NO CLEAR REFERENCE TO THE U. S.

There is no definite mention of the United States in Bible prophecy, nor any other nation in North or South America. There may be some indirect reference to the U. S. She may be included in such expressions as "the isles afar off" (Jer. 31:10; Zeph. 2:11). But we cannot be sure this is the case. This is only a mere possibility. She may be included in the nations from which the Lord will regather Israel at the end of the tribulation period (Deut. 30:3; Isa. 11:12), but we cannot be sure of this. This is at best a mere assumption without clear evidence from Scripture.

Some believe there is a reference to the United States in Ezekiel 38:13. When Russia, Iran, Ethiopia, Libya, West Germany, Turkey, and other countries invade Israel during the tribulation period, some nations protest this invasion: "Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? has thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" Some scholars contend that this speaks of the nations which came out of the British Empire, whose national symbol is a lion. This may be, but we have no clear proof of this in this verse. It could mean other nations which came out of the British Empire other than the United States. Even if the U. S. is included in this, please notice that they merely protest the invasion. They do not attack Russia and her allies. This would mean that America has become a

second-rate power.

I am convinced that the silence of the Scripture about the United States in the tribulation scene is proof that she has been destroyed by an atomic war, and, therefore, no longer a voice in international affairs. Certainly if America is to continue to be the great nation that she has been she would be mentioned in the end-time scene. I sincerely hope that I am proven wrong on this point for the sake of my church, my children and my country. I do not wish to be a prophet of gloom and doom, but I do seek to be honest with my convictions.

WHY WILL GOD DESTROY THE U. S.?

There is a limit to God's endurance with sin and sinners. In Genesis 15:16 the Lord said: "... for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." From these words we learn that nations have a measure of iniquity to fill up which is known to God. When their measure of iniquity is filled, God will take vengeance on them. This is seen again in Matthew 23:32: "Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers." Once again we see that God has limits and bounds as to how far sin can proceed. The Jewish nation had just about filled up the measure of their sins. In A. D. 70 God allowed the Romans to destroy the Jewish nation and their temple.

This truth is seen again in I Thessalonians 2:16: "... to fill up their sins away: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost." When ever a nation fills up the measure of its sins, then wrath comes "upon them to the uttermost." I believe that America has just about filled up the measure of her sins. God is going to allow the Russian Bear to punish us for our sins against the Lord our God.

SPIRITUAL DECLENSION

Any time that the Lord's people reject God and His laws they always suffer judgment. The Prophet Azariah told Asa, the king of Judah:

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Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTO, Fulton, MS	Sunday 1:00-1:30 p.m.	1330.	5,000 AM
WFTA, Fulton, MS	Sunday 9:30-10:00 a.m.	101.7	3,000 FM
WNDA, Huntsville, AL	Sunday 9:30-10:00 a.m.95	50,000 FM
WANO, Pineville, KY	Sunday 7:30-8:00 a.m.	1230.	1,000 AM
WYWY, Barboursville, KY	Sunday 7:30-8:00 a.m.950.	1,000 AM
WGNT, Huntington, WV	Sunday 8:30-9:00 a.m.930.	5,000 AM
KBMC, Eugene, OR	Sunday 1:00-1:30 p.m.94.5	100,000 FM
WDZ, Decatur, IL	Sunday 8:30-9:00 a.m.	1050.	1,000 AM
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(During Summer: GMT + 3 hours)
GMT + 3 Soviet Union (During Summer: GMT + 4 hours)
GMT + 5 Eastern USA and Canada (During Summer GMT + 6 hours)
GMT + 6 Central USA and Canada (During Summer GMT + 7 hours)

THE U.S.

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"The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you" (II Chron. 15:2). America is not the God-fearing and Bible-obeying people that they were even fifty years ago. Our departure from God and the Bible has been gradual but certain.

Prayer and Bible reading has been forbidden in our public schools since 1963. Since then our public school system in the main has become anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Bible, anti-family, anti-American, and anti-Constitutional! Secular humanism has become the religion of the United States. It has rooted itself in our educational system and is attacking our nation's most precious resources—our children. Humanism is in direct opposition to the Christian faith. It is a false religion which denies the existence of God and deifies man. It teaches a radical feminism, the right to abortion and suicide, the need for homosexual rights, and situational ethics. Because of its teachings a generation has now grown up who was not taught that God is their Creator and that they are responsible to Him.

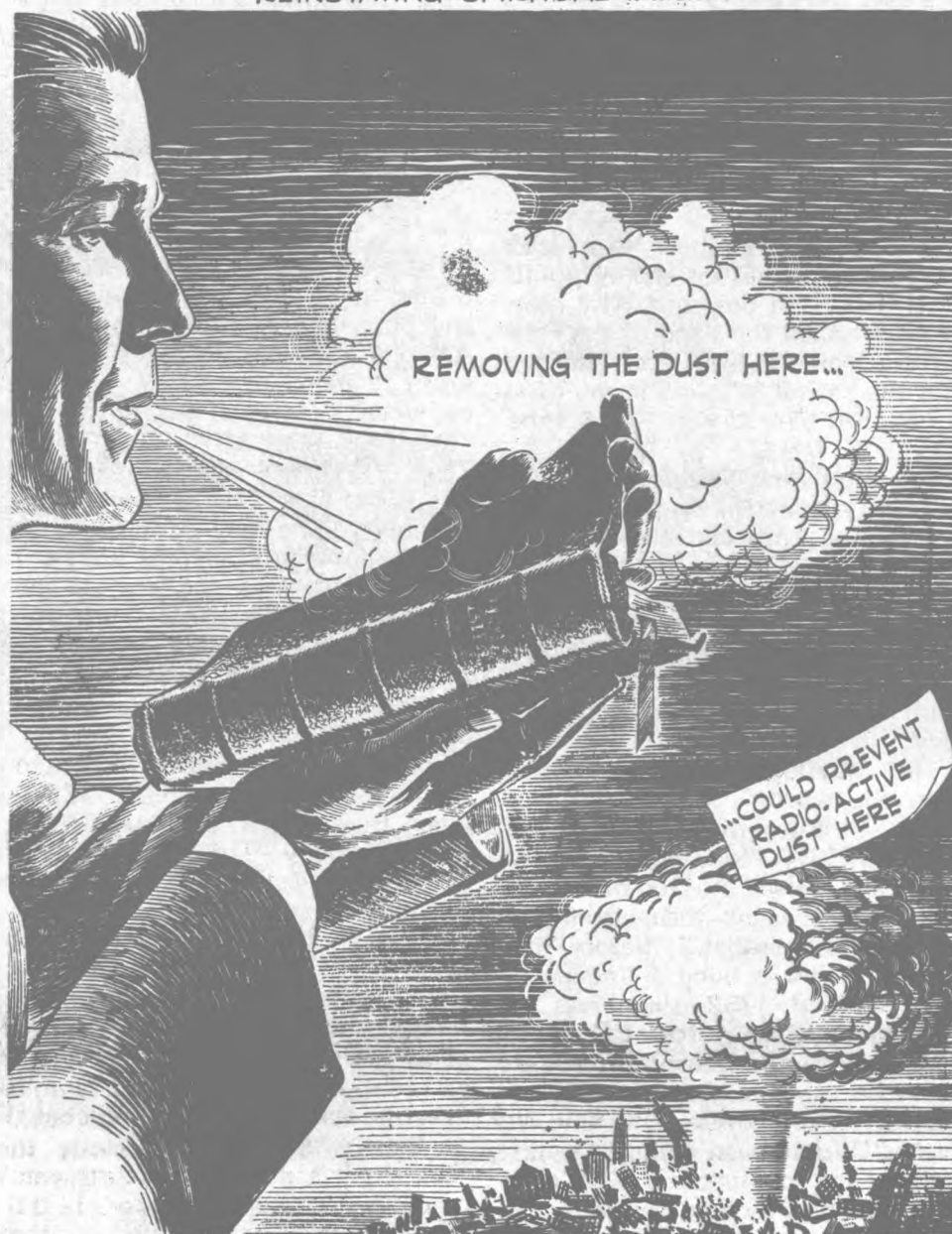
The U. S. has become one, if not the most, immoral nation on the face of the globe. In 1983 there were 1,158,000 divorces (EP Press report, 5-16-86). Americans spend 100 billion a year for drugs and alcohol. We have murdered 12 million babies by abortion since 1973. In our country someone is murdered every 24 minutes, robbed every 55 seconds and gravely assaulted every 49 seconds (*U. S. News & World Report*, July 12, 1982, p. 42). More than 50 percent of violent crimes—rape, robbery and assault—go unreported. The so-called "new morality" has turned out to be a gross old immorality.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has been diagnosed in over 12,000 persons in the U. S. since 1981. This is God's judgment for our acceptance of a homosexual life style in this country. Half of these 12,000 people have already died from the disease. Right now in our country there are 15,403 known cases of Aids (*U. S. News & World Report*, Dec. 23, 1985, p. 8). There are between 500,000 and 1 million outwardly healthy Americans who are currently infected with the AIDS virus (*Wall Street Journal*, 9-20-85).

The United States is pleasure mad. In 1982 we spent 262 billion dollars on entertainment and recreation. This is more than our government spent on national defense. Indeed we are "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (II Tim. 3:4).

Just what are the churches doing to arrest this moral corruption? In all too many cases absolutely nothing. The modern church has a form of godliness but it utterly lacks spiritual power. It has become so worldly that Christ has moved out of it (Rev. 3:14-22). It is closed up to any hope of

REINSTATING SPIRITUAL VALUES



revival. Church members will no longer tolerate a pastor who preaches the whole counsel of God from the Bible. We are like ancient Israel in the days of Jeremiah. He said of his day and time: "A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" (Jer. 5:30-31).

WE ARE SURRENDERING TO THE COMMUNISTS

The American people are almost totally ignorant that Soviet Russia plans to dominate the whole world. We do not understand that communism is a total lie. We do not realize that communism is Satanic. It is anti-God and anti-Christ. It is total world revolution. It is global bloodshed and destruction. The communists want to destroy this republic, if not by infiltration, then by all-out war. There was a time when communism was a dirty word. But our country today has become so infiltrated with communists that we have been led to believe that the communists are the good guys and the capitalists the bad guys. Communistic ideas can be seen in our political structure, our news media, and educational system.

In the last national election over 25,000 people in this country voted for Gus Hall and Angela Davis. These

people were the two nominees of the Communist Party in the United States. This vote alone is enough to prove that we have at least 25,000 communist agents or communist sympathizers who claim to be citizens of this country. My friends, the wolf is at the door and we don't seem to hear his howls yet!

WE ARE BENT ON SELF-DESTRUCTION

We provide aid, trade, technology and finance to our enemies, the communists. While our young men fought communism in Southeast Asia the Johnson Administration made agreements to sell, or give the Soviet Union and her Communist satellites, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of food, electronic computers, chemical plants, oil refinery equipment, airborne radar apparatus, jet aircraft engines, machine tools for an \$800-million auto assembly plant and military rifles. While young Americans died in Vietnam, the Supreme Court of the United States gave Communists the right to teach in America's public schools by declaring a New York State law against communist teachers unconstitutional. Jobs in defense plants were also opened to members of the communist actions groups by Supreme Court decisions.

That we are bent on self-destruction can be seen from a number of more recent things. We frequently

block anti-communist from overthrowing the Communists. In Angola we refused to provide aid to the anti-communist forces and supported the Communists because of Gulf Oil. In Mozambique where the anti-communist have almost broken the backs of the Communist forces, the United States has agreed to give the Marxist government military aid that includes training its officers in the U. S.

We no longer seem to want to stop the spread of the brutes and butchers of world communism. We willingly are allowing the Communists to win in Afghanistan and Latin America, just as we did in Angola, Cuba, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, and most all of Southeast Asia. If our present policies continue, we will give the Communists Canada and Mexico before long. We are in a program of retreat from world communism. As I preach this message our leaders debate as to whether we should help defeat the communists in Latin America.

WHO IS REALLY AHEAD IN THE ARMS RACE?

It is the purpose of the Communists to get our nation to enter into Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties (SALT). These are designed only to harm America's military strength while the Communists gain superiority. In June 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed SALT II with the Soviet dictator Leonid Breshnev. Six months later Breshnev ordered the bloody invasion of Afghanistan. To date the Soviet Communists have violated SALT II on eighteen counts.

How does the United States compare militarily with the U. S. S. R.? The U. S. has 1,700 land and sea-based missiles; the U. S. S. R. has 2,350. The U. S. has 400 bombers including the Backfire, FB-111; the U. S. S. R. has 350. The U. S. has 9,000 nuclear warheads; the Russians 8,000. The U. S. has 4 million pounds of nuclear payload; the U. S. S. R. 11.2 (These figures came from International Institute of Strategic Studies. NATO U. S. Dept. of Defense.)

Having looked at the strategic balance, I wish now to look at the balance at sea. The U. S. has 90 attack and cruise-missile submarines; the U. S. S. R. 259. The U. S. has 190 major surface combat ships; the U. S. S. R. 294 (*U. S. News & World Report*, June 14, 1982, p. 32).

"In the period between 1976 and 1985 the Soviets built and deployed 3,350 ICBMs and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, while the United States produced 700. The Soviets built 112,000 surface-to-air missiles in that period, the U. S. only 1,600; some 7,850 fighter aircraft to America's 3,500; an astounding 5,350 helicopters to our 1,500; and, 24,900 tanks to our 7,400. According to Defense Department figures, the Soviets employ more than 900,000 scientists and engineers in military-related research and development" (*Conservative Digest*, July, 1986, p. 51).

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THE U.S.

(Continued from page four)

Our Minuteman intercontinental ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) carry one to three warheads and cannot burst the Soviet silos which house the U. S. S. R.'s modern SS-18 and SS-19. The Russian ICBMs contain 10 to 6 warheads each, capable of cracking our Minuteman silos.

The Soviet Union would prefer to defeat the U. S. without having to fight a world war in the process. But if this measure fails, they will fight a future world war in wide scope. They plan a nuclear first-strike. They will launch an initial nuclear strike lasting 30 minutes from their nuclear submarines off our coasts. The strike will be targeted at command posts, the communication centers, missile bases, nuclear storage facilities, airfields, anti-aircraft positions, and radar stations. This is to be followed by a massive air attack carried out as a series of waves. During this time of about 90-to-120 minutes the missile launchers will be reloaded and a second nuclear attack will follow. Then troops with conventional weapons will mop-up, preparatory, to accepting the surrender of the United States.

When America was stronger than the Soviet Union, the U. S. S. R. invaded Korea and crushed Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Now that the Soviet Union is ahead of the United States in the arms race, the U. S. S. R. has invaded Latin America. Despite U. S. increases in defense spending, the gap between the U. S. and the U. S. S. R. continues to grow. Who can doubt that the U. S. may be next on the hit list? Defectors to the West tell us that this Russian invasion of the U. S. could be as early as 1988.

CONCLUSION

The cup of our sins has reached up to God's throne in Heaven. America is ripe for judgment for her sins and rejection of God. The "King of the nations" (Jer. 10:7) is going to allow our enemies to destroy us. Every time when Israel departed from the Lord, God allowed their enemies to overrun them as Divine punishment. Only repentance can preserve this nation of ours for a few more years (II Chron. 7:14).

How much do you value your life? the life of your children? the peace and prosperity of your country? It is time for us to repent and turn back to the God of our fathers. Let us not be savourless salt. What will it take to wake us up? A nuclear first-strike? Must we live to see our nation become a sea of blood before we come to our senses? Will it take seeing our children go off to re-education camps, our homes burned, our women raped, and our property confiscated? How much longer will we sleep?

Sinner, the hour is late. The awful fate awaiting this nation is a terrible thing to contemplate! How is it with your soul? Do you know Christ? Have you obeyed God's command to

repent? Do you know the grace of God in truth?

A MORE

(Continued from page one)

be piercing the Kingdom of Darkness, not to speak of the unity that will be experienced in the assemblies and the joys thereof.

I'm a Sovereign Grace preacher, and I think I shall remain one, as these doctrines have been burned upon my conscience, yet I'm convinced that these doctrines are not necessarily the answer to the many problems and needs of the churches today. For every problem, there is a solution—a solution that is found somewhere in the Divine Library of 66 books. It is a book for meeting people's needs. What is your greatest personal, spiritual need as a saint, as a minister of righteousness? I do not know mine, but perhaps it might be just to live that which I already have been instructed by the Spirit of God.

Should you and I go door to door, in our own neighborhoods, with a questionnaire, a questionnaire with a single question, and that being, "What do you believe is the greatest need of our churches today?", what kind and how many answers do you suppose we would receive? No doubt, we would receive many different answers. Perhaps one answer would be, "I believe the greatest need of churches today is to have 'good spokesmanship,' someone who can articulate most eloquently; hold the people spell-bound." And, we would agree, for we do need good speakers.

Perhaps another might answer, "I believe that the greatest need is 'good scholarship,' a pastor who has studied all the best and latest works on theology, one who has his intellect filled with the Bible, the teachings and the writings of others. Indeed! We do agree that a preacher should fill his intellect and be able to understand what has been received into his intellect.

Another may answer, "I believe that our greatest need is for people who have great faith—faith to get things done in our church, faith to heal our sick, to fill our treasuries, even faith to remove the greatest of mountains that impede our progress for Christ." And certainly, we agree that we desire to see a people of great faith—a faith that unlocks Heaven's door to provide for all our needs.

Another might say that our churches need more people who are willing to sacrifice; i.e., willing to give of their substance, of all that they have in order that others might be blessed by our benevolence. Certainly, beloved, all should be charitable. We should open our hearts to the needs of others and the needs of our own churches. To this do we say, "Amen!" Another might answer with these words, "I believe the greatest need of our churches is for people who are willing to lay down

their very lives, people who would be willing to become martyrs, people who would even give their bodies to be burned." Beloved that is the ultimate. What more can you give? I'm reminded of the argument between the cow and the hog as to which made the greatest contribution to the farmer. The cow gave a good defense as she told how that she supplied milk, butter, and cheese, etc., wherein the hog replied that in order for the farmer to have bacon, the hog must give his very own life.

There are some things of which one stands in danger of—not so much the losing of his life in martyrdom, rather one stands in danger of substituting his speaking ability for the power of the Holy Spirit, depending on his spokesmanship; or one is in danger of depending on his deep knowledge of God's Word; i.e., his intellect. He is one who has read and studied so much that he comes to depend on what he has stored up and what he can readily get from books; so he excludes bathing his soul in prayer and real meditation in Holy Scriptures. There is a danger of becoming unbalanced in two ways: love to the exclusion of truth on the one hand, or truth to the exclusion of love on the other hand. I read where Jesus was "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14c); also that, "grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17b).

It appears that the Corinthian people were guilty of misdirected affections. "But covet earnestly the best gifts; and yet show I unto you a more excellent way" (I Cor. 12:31). The word "covet" can be translated both in the present active or in the imperative. It seems that the context would call for present action. To the Corinthians Paul says, "You are selfishly striving after the best, the showy gifts, yet I shall introduce to you a better, a more excellent way." And he does so in verse 4.

Some authors I have consulted in this study are: Jonathan Edwards, Henry Drummond, W. Graham Scroggie, Charles Hodge.

We might note here that Paul, as he introduces charity or love, does not begin to define it—rather to describe it. This love is that which is beautiful. Can beauty be defined? W. Graham Scroggie said, "Beauty defined is beauty destroyed." (*The Love Life*, p. 15) This love, being of the nature that it is, must be described or displayed, so he likens it unto a spectrum. Henry Drummond writes of love as being a compound thing. "It is like light. As you have seen a man of science take a beam of light and pass it through a crystal prism, and you have seen it come out on the other side of the prism broken up into its component colors—red, blue, yellow, violet, orange, and all the colors of the rainbow—so Paul passes this thing, love, through the magnificent prism of his inspired intellect, and it comes out on the other side broken up into its elements." (*The Greatest Thing in the*

World, p. 22)

The Apostle Paul was presenting to this strife-torn church that which is the greatest need of the Lord's churches today, the spectrum of love, broken up into its component ingredients. Let us now notice the first ingredient or the first color that comes through this prism, as Paul describes for us what the *agapa* love is. Perhaps this church had good spokesmanship (v. 1), great scholarship and faith (v. 2), and great givers (v. 3); if so, they still knew not *agapa* love.

I. LOVE IS LONGSUFFERING AND KIND (V. 4)

The first part of this ingredient is passive, and the second part is active. What a power is needed! A power that cannot be found in carnal, self-seeking people. Yet, it is that which is used to minister to the very same kind. After analyzing the problems of this church, seeing there was a lack of love, Paul told them, "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (I Cor. 3:3) The Greek word for strife is *eris*, which means "rivalry, contention, strife, quarrel." (*Bullinger Lexicon*, p. 743) Now, that fellow-worker, spouse, or fellow church member, who is fond of quarreling and bickering is not always easy to get along with; in fact, those are never easy to get along with as long as they are of that disposition. These stand in need of love.

Many church fights, with the quarrelings and strife, could have been prevented from advancing to splits had there been displayed this virtue, longsuffering. Remember, longsuffering is being passive, not active. It is patient. It is enduring. It is forbearing. It waits. Do you know that many homes can also be saved from disintegration by longsuffering? Most of the time, when there is strife in the homes of church members, there will be strife and quarrels in the church; because churches are no more than the families that compose the membership.

Paul says that love is longsuffering; i.e., it is passive; is an attitude of restraint, and speaks of one "who having power to revenge himself, yet refrains from the exercise of this power." (*Synonyms of the New Testament*, R. C. Trench, p. 183)

Though longsuffering and patience are sister graces, there is a marked distinction. Longsuffering is operative in respect to persons, and patience in respect to things or situations. Love is longsuffering, in so much that the person who possesses it, is so empowered by it to the degree that he can stand, look upon the one who injures him, and not become filled with bitterness; and rather than avenging himself, he becomes filled with pity for this injurious person. Indeed, it is a re-straitive power. Are you, my dear reader, longsuffering? When was the last time you were privileged to

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A MORE

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exemplify this grace, but had not the power to do so? If you failed the test, you had not love. But do take heart, for you shall have another glorious opportunity! You will yet be privileged to have victory over a resentment that now fills your heart.

Love is kind. If longsuffering is the passive quality of love, then kindness is the active quality of it. He who is truly longsuffering with the injurious person will also show kindness to that one. I hear one saying, even now, "I won't try to get even with her; yet I wouldn't turn a hand to help her." Now, that is not love. "To endure only," says W. G. Scroggie, "may be but a triumph of obstinacy, but to endure and be kind is a triumph of grace." (*The Love Life*, p. 38) To have love is to have kindness. One can no more have love without kindness than he can have a beautiful, bloomed rose without having had the bud.

The Apostle Paul told the church at Rome, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." (Rom. 12:10) According to E. W. Bullinger, the word "kind" here means to be good, gentle, benevolent, benign, actively beneficent in spite of ingratitude." (*Lexicon*, p. 431) Do you, my dear reader, find it very easy to be kind to those who are lovely and kind toward you? You answer, "I surely do, because they are most appreciative of me." Luke said concerning God that, "he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil." (Luke 6:35c) Now this is the kindness of which Paul desired to see manifested in the lives of the people of the Corinthian church. Will you be gentle toward, say kindly words to, and do kind deeds for that one who is now treating you with despite and disdain, the one who is so unthoughtful for the unappreciative of you? Please do it. You might save your marriage, prevent division in the family, or keep a member from leaving your congregation. Do remember that *agapa* gives without seeking anything in return. It cares for the unlovable; yes, even those who seek to hurt you.

II. LOVE IS NOT ENVIOUS

Should we have been privileged to visit the Corinthian congregation, we probably would have seen some disturbing things as our eyes beheld the strife among the members. There were those who displayed their various gifts: some their great spokespersonship; others their scholarship; another his knowledge; and still another the use of his tongue in interpretation. Also, we see those who had none of these showy gifts; i.e., gifts to parade before the public eye, and how they desired to see these, with their showy gifts, be divested of them, seeing that they, themselves, could not have them. Surely, the disease of envy must have been in this church body. What is

envy? Someone answers, "It's something akin to jealousy." Maybe they are twin sisters, though not "identical" ones. There is a distinction. "The distinction lies in this," says W. E. Vine, "that envy desires to deprive another of what he has, jealousy desires to have the same or the same sort of thing for itself." (*Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, p. 377)

Concerning the beloved Joseph, the favored son of Jacob, and his brothers, God said that the brothers, "moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt; but God was with him." (Acts 7:9) The brothers of Joseph did not want him to have the beautiful coat of many colors, so they divested him of it. They did not want it for themselves; they just didn't want him to have it. They soaked it in the blood of a slain animal.

Paul says that love is not like that: "Love envieth not." It is not in competition with others. Whenever we attempt a work for Christ in our churches, we will find others who are doing the same, and probably even better. If we have love we will not envy them. What is envy? Henry Drummond says, "Envy is a feeling of ill will to those who are in the same line as ourselves, a spirit of covetousness and detraction." (*The Greatest Thing in the World*, p. 27) Bacon called envy "the vilest affection and the most depraved." (*The Love Life*, W. G. Scroggie, p. 39) Love is happy and rejoices with the one who has a better house, car, clothes, position, or even more gifts or different talents. Maybe you are not envious. Praise the Lord! You might be the object of envy; if so, please love the envious one. Maybe we could envy the soul that envieth not.

III. LOVE IS NOT A BRAGGART

A braggart is one who is boasting. What is in the heart of the person who is always boasting? What is he desiring? Are you acquainted with someone who is evermore boasting? This person is seeking to win the applause and admiration of others. Oh,

how our carnal nature can show its own boastful heart! A synonym for "braggart" is "braggardocio." Some synonyms are: "a blower, a boaster, a gasbag, a puckfist." (*Websters Collegiate Thesaurus*, p. 102) We say, "My, what kind of people can be found in God's kingdom work." I doubt that it would be a misstatement to say that we, in this day, have people who are like the Corinthian members. There are those who boast of what they possess or of what they are.

Love does not fill one with boasting, rather it clothes him with the beautiful garment of humility. Love works and serves with the gifts that have been bestowed, then forgets the good deeds. Love edifies. (1 Cor. 8:1) Boasting does not. There is a boasting that edifies, that is a boasting of our lovely Lord and Savior. May we do that. Did you know that we can serve without the applause and admiration of others?

IV. LOVE IS NOT PUFFED UP

This trait is the root of the braggart. He is full of himself and swollen up. Have you ever seen what is called a pair of bellows? When, as a young lad, in the southeastern mountains of Kentucky, my dad would send me down the creek to visit the blacksmith. The purpose of my visit was to get either horse shoes or mule shoes turned. The metal was heated until it was red hot. Then it was taken out of the fire, placed on the anvil, then hammered by the blacksmith. In order to get the fire red hot, a hand-operated instrument called bellows was used for force or blow air upon the fire. There was nothing but air coming out of it, and it caused the coals to glow brighter.

When Paul said that love is not "puffed up" (*phusse outai*), he was speaking metaphorically and using the Greek word for bellows. He was speaking of being inflated or puffed up with pride. Love is not proud, conceited, or arrogant. He who lacks love will show his arrogance when his will is crossed, when he is proven wrong, and when he is reproved or rebuked. Love submits to rebuking and admits to wrong-doing or wrong-thinking. Love knows no arrogance. What did you do the last time you were reproved or shown to be in the wrong? Did you react or respond? The answer to this question will determine if love is present in your soul. He who responds does so with a sweet and gentle disposition. He who reacts shows how full he is of himself, thinking he himself is a high and lofty one.

V. LOVE DOES NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY

"Love is not disorderly," wrote W. G. Scroggie, "or eccentric, or indecorous, it is never lacking in propriety or politeness." (*The Love Life*, p. 41) This is one way of saying that love is courteous; and courtesy is just love in little things. We may say that this is good Christian etiquette, that only love knows and love practices. One is never ashamed after he has shown Chris-

tian courtesy, because he who does just behaves himself seemly, politely, or in a well-mannered way.

Mr. Webster instructs us that "unseemly" means "improper, indecent, indelicate, rough, ungodly." (*Collegiate Thesaurus*, p. 888) Beloved, when we consider this definition we readily admit that God expects very much of us, for we are commanded to love one another, and that includes not being rough or indecent with one another. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples," shall know that you sat at My feet, were taught by Me and took on the characteristics of Me. This is Christlikeness. I can see the courtesy of our lovely Lord even now; see Him as He steps aside to allow others to go first; see Him at the Pool of Bethesda conversing with, asking questions, and showing courtesy to a crippled man who said, "Another steppeth down before me." (John 5:7c) Jesus looked out for others, was courteous to others, was never impolite. Someone says to Paul, "Where did you get your teaching on the subject of love?" I hear Paul say, "from our lovely Lord."

Do you suppose that if we stopped long enough and gave enough thought that perhaps we might increase our Christian courtesy? I believe we would.

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1 JOHN 2:19

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existence, whereby they might know that the last period of the world's history had already dawned. It must be "the last time," for God has nothing further to reveal, and therefore it is naught but His longsuffering which prolongs this final hour. Since it be the concluding season for mankind, no higher privileges will ever be vouchsafed to those on earth, and no other means of grace appointed by God than those which are now in existence: hence the urgent force of that exhortation, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Heb. 2:3).

It was most needful that the saints should take notice of what the apostle had alluded to. First, to prevent them from being carried away with the error of the wicked, and thereby fall from their own steadfastness. The only safeguard against that was to continue cleaving unto the Lord, and maintain fellowship with Him by walking in separation from the world. It is when the heart departs from its anchorage that it is liable to be "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine." When the soul is not at rest, the mind cannot be: instead, it is ever seeking some fresh object to afford it satisfaction. It is the unstable who are always on the wing after some new opinion. King Saul forsook the Lord before he turned to the witch of Endor, as those mentioned in 1 Timothy 4:1, departed from the Faith ere they gave heed to seducing spirits and

(Continued on page seven)

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1 JOHN 2:19

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doctrines of devils. A tender conscience is slow and cautious in receiving the Truth, and for that reason holds tenaciously to the same when assured it has it. A tender conscience examines carefully and weighs prayerfully whatever is presented to the mind. Not so a conscience which is seared by the world and put to sleep: with such there is no waiting on God for light, but an independence of mind which leans unto its own understanding, and a consequent running after novelties and an espousing of error.

"They went out from us." Those antichrists were not men who had from the beginning been open antagonists to the Truth, but, instead, professing Christians. They were not those who took their rise from among the rejecters of the Gospel, but rather were such as had avowed their belief in the acceptance of the same. Formerly they had walked with the Lord's people, and then had deserted them. The Greek is even more emphatic: **"From among us they went out"**: originally, they were members of Christian assemblies. The word rendered **"us"**: (*hemon*) occurs again in 1:3; 3:16,20 (rendered **"our"**), 21; 4:6; 5:14,15. The statement that they went out signifies more than a local and corporeal departure, namely one in affection and doctrine. It was far more than their forsaking of any particular church for a season, and then walking irregularly: they became leaders of heretical sects contrary to the glory of Christ and the doctrine of His apostles, denying that the Son of God had come in the flesh. They were therefore apostates from the Faith, repudiators of the Gospel, though most of them still claimed to be **"Christians,"** yea, peculiarly enlightened and eminent ones.

Our present verse makes still more evident the propriety of the whole passage being addressed more specifically to the spiritual babes, for though all of God's children need to take the same to heart, the younger ones especially so, since they were the ones most liable to be stumbled by the defection of these apostates. It is always a very disturbing and distressing thing for any of God's people to see some of those whom they regarded as their fellow Christians apostatizing, the more so when such were members of their own local assemblies. Particularly is that the case with the recently converted. In the glow of his first love and newly found joy, his zeal longs to see his unsaved loved ones brought into the fold. But to behold some of those with whom he was in communion forsaking the church is a severe shock to him, and should some of the preachers he had sat under prove to be traitors and set themselves up in opposition to the Truth, that is indeed a shattering blow. Inexperienced as he is, yet un-

acquainted with the fickleness of human nature and the prevalence of hypocrisy, he little expects to find those whom he considered to be quite orthodox suddenly becoming thoroughly heterodox.

By thus going out, those men renounced all subjection to the headship of Christ over His churches. Thereby they proclaimed themselves as hypocrites, devoid of any love to Him and His Word. It was a terrible thing to do: they were guilty of the fatal sin of apostasy. They started up new sects, drew away many disciples after them, and corrupted the worship of God. In so doing they disrupted the unity of the Faith, producing disorder in Christendom. Now, says the apostle (for such was the scope and design of his words here), be not shaken by this sad sight, for, first, you were forewarned that **"antichrist should come,"** and therefore instead of being perplexed and staggered by what you are now witnessing it should strengthen your faith. Second, as I have told you, the appearing of these many antichrists furnishes proof that **"the last time"** has come. Third, it was a word of warning for them to take heed unto themselves, to keep their hearts with all diligence, and to close their ears unto the horrible doctrines which were being propagated by these false prophets. Finally, there was, as he went on to state, a need be why God permitted this tragic occurrence—that the line should be drawn between the genuine and the spurious, the latter being exposed for what they really were.

"They went out from us." There have always been such. Even Moses had to say, **"Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods"** (Deut. 13:13). There were false prophets in Israel as well as true ones, as Jehoshaphat discovered (I Kings 12:6-7). Through Jeremiah the Lord said, **"Hearken not unto the words of the prophets. . . for they. . . prophesy a lie in My name"** (27:14-15). Ezekiel was told to **"prophesy against the prophets of Israel"** and to pronounce a **"woe"** upon them (13:2-3). Zephaniah declared, **"her prophets are light and treacherous"** (3:4). At the beginning of His ministry the Lord Jesus gave warning, **"Beware of false prophets"** (Matt. 7:15). The church at Jerusalem found it necessary to send word to the Gentiles, **"Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain men which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment"** (Acts 15:24). The carnality and unbelief of men's hearts always assure a welcome unto those who speak smooth things in order to win disciples. In his second epistle, Peter announced, **"there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies,"** adding

"and many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2:1-2).

"But they were not of us." John is very definite in repudiating these apostates, careful to point out that they were never anything more than nominal Christians. They had professed faith in the Gospel, had been baptized, received into fellowship with the Lord's people, and been admitted to His table; some of them had, perhaps, been church officers. John first informs us whence these antichrists sprang, and then he disowns them, denying that they were living branches of the Vine. They originated in Christian assemblies, but forsook the same. It was that which made them the more dangerous, for they knew the better how to sow their pernicious errors, and deceive the unwary. They were false-hearted professors who had cast off the sacred privileges of communion with the regenerate, and acknowledged no obligations to them. They pretended to have greater light, calling themselves *Gnostics*, or knowing ones. But the apostle here gives the lie to their proud boast, and then states a reason for and an explanation of their conduct: **"they were not of us"** they were never of one heart and soul with God's people, for such love the Truth above everything on earth, and abhor whatever detracts from it.

"They were not of us." It was very necessary to make this clear, for apparently the Church had produced these vipers and nurtured them in her bosom: John therefore denies that they ever belonged to Christ—"as chaff, though mixed with wheat on the same floor, cannot yet be deemed wheat" (Calvin). They had not obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which had been delivered unto them: so far from being all that they seemed, they were but wolves in sheep's clothing. So it has been ever since. Almost all the heresies which have plagued the churches throughout the centuries originated from persons who were once in good standing in the assemblies. When some old error is revived, it is generally by those who were disaffected to the saints and apostatized from the Truth. Though for a season associated with believers, yet they were never united to them in spirit. As it was in the days of our Lord, **"many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him"** (John 6:66)—they were but nominal **"disciples,"** for verse 64 tells us they were of those **"that believe not."** Paul warned the Ephesian saints, **"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them"** (Acts 20:30); and also lamented, **"Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world"** (II Tim. 4:10).

Strange as it may appear to those who closely examine our present text, it is one of the verses appealed to by those who deny the eternal

security of the regenerate. Arminians quote it in proof of their contention that it is not only possible for those who have been saved by Divine grace to fall away and be lost, but that many such have actually done so. But certainly there is nothing here to support their erroneous theory, but that which directly refutes it. Instead of furnishing an example of real Christians falling from grace, it is evident that the characters which are here in view never had any grace. Though their names had been registered upon an earthly church roll, they were never written in the Lamb's book of life. They may have had much head knowledge and zeal, but they were destitute of true piety. First, the apostle expressly declared **"they were not of us,"** and then he added **"for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us."** Instead of belonging to the company of God's elect, they were reprobates. This is the case with all who repudiate the Truth and become teachers of error—they were never genuinely converted. It is a fundamental article of the Faith that no regenerate soul is ever suffered finally to apostatize: the honour of God is concerned in the preservation of such, the efficacy of Christ's redemption secures it, the sufficiency of the Spirit's indwelling and operations effects it.

A sound expositor always feels himself to be on the safest ground when he is able to interpret Scripture: that is when he can locate another passage which is more or less parallel with the one before him, which uses different language but treats of the same subject. If he knows his Bible, he will naturally turn to Jude, for the distinctive theme of that epistle is *apostasy*, the second half of it describing in detail the character of the false prophets in this **"last time."** Now our present text and the nineteenth verse of Jude are a case in point, for the one throws light upon the other, the latter affirming: **"These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit."** The first clause corresponds with John's **"they went out from us"**: it was not a brief lapse or temporary break in fellowship from the Church which is here in view, but an entire and total forsaking of the same, an unwillingness to be amenable any longer to its doctrine and discipline, and that because of worldly ends and the affectation of vainglory. The second half of the verse amplifies John's **"but they were not of us"**: they were **"sensual"**—the Greek word being rendered **"natural"** in I Corinthians 2:14—unregenerate: **"having not the Spirit"** and therefore without any inward restraint upon their carnality, pride, and avarice—unsaved, abandoned by God.

"For if they had been of us, they would have continued with us": there was no need for the supplementary **"no doubt"** of the translators, in fact it tends to weaken the

(Continued on page eight)

1 JOHN 2:19

(Continued from page seven)

apostle's positive announcement. In those words he was supplying *proof* of his assertion in the foregoing clause. The force of his argument may be stated thus: the regenerate are endowed with a spirit of perseverance and run the race that is set before them, therefore those who quit the race and become apostates could never have been renewed in their hearts. It is the solemn engagement of God's everlasting covenant that He would put His fear into the hearts of His people, promising **"they shall not depart from Me"** (Jer. 32:40)—from faith to infidelity, from Christ to Belial. Thus it is that steadfastness, loyalty and endurance are among the surest marks of the new birth. Said our Lord, **"If ye continue in My word, then are ye (not 'shall become such' because of so doing) My disciples indeed"** (John 8:31, and cf. I Cor. 15:2; Heb. 3:6,14). Those who have been Divinely quickened will most assuredly remain true to the faith and persevere in holiness to the end of their earthly course. Such may indeed experience many a **"fall,"** but they **"shall not be utterly cast down"** (Ps. 37:24).

The new birth is a being made partaker of the Divine nature (II Peter 1:4), and while that is far from signifying that they are deified, it does mean "such moral qualities as may be imparted to the creature" (Manton). That which is received at regeneration is sometimes called **"the life of God"** (Eph. 4:18), because it is a vital principle of action: sometimes the **"image of God"** (Col. 3:10), because they bear a likeness to Him. One of the "moral qualities" which is imparted to the Christian is that of *stability*. We read in the Psalms that **"the goodness of God endureth continually"** (52:1), that **"the glory of the Lord shall endure for ever"** (104:31), **"His righteousness endureth for ever"** (111:3), and that **"His mercy endureth for ever"** (136:1). Likewise we are told, **"His seed shall endure for ever"** (89:36): as Christ declared, **"they shall never perish"** (John 10:28). Such a thing is impossible, for they were **"born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever"** (I Pet. 1:23). Thus it is that constancy characterizes them: **"and now abideth faith, hope, charity"** (I Cor. 13:13). Those graces may indeed wax and wane, but be quenched they shall not. God's children are deeply rooted trees, and not chaff which the wind blows away.

"They would have continued with us." Those words were written for the encouragement of believers who feel their own weakness and have no confidence in the flesh; and not to provide a pillow for the presumptuous, nor for slothful fatalists. While they show that no Christian will fall from grace and be lost, yet

they do not ignore his responsibility. They include within their scope not only the faithfulness of God in renewing their inner man day by day, but also the discharge of their duty in the use of means. The same power that made them Christians keeps them yet **"through faith"** (I Pet. 1:5)—through the exercise and cultivation of faith, and of all other graces, and not independently thereof. Remember that it is only by cleaving firmly to the words of God's lips that we can keep ourselves from the paths of the destroyer (Psalm 17:4): then heed the injunction **"prove all things"** (I Thess. 5:21), and give not place to **"itching ears."** It is not sufficient for us to shun the hearing or reading of false teaching: we also need to be constantly on our guard against inward defection, mortifying our lusts, and taking heed to the first decay of our love. It is much cause for thankfulness when we can truly say, **"I have stuck unto Thy testimonies"** (Psalm 119:31).

"But they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." In this clause John states the reason why God had suffered the presence of antichrists, therefore it would probably be more perspicuous to supply **"But (this occurred) that they might be made manifest,"** for the **"they went out"** was already definitely stated. Such characters are raised up by God to disturb the peace of the churches in order that the true may be distinguished from the false. Error serves as a flail to separate the wheat from the chaff. **"For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you"** (I Cor. 11:19). Let some plausible and popular preacher come forward with an old error decked out in new clothes, and empty professors will at once flock to his standard: but not so these who are established in the Truth. Thus, by means of false prophets, God purges His garner, and makes it appear who are the ones who hold the Truth in sincerity. The genuine gold endures every test to which it is subjected. Those who turn away from orthodoxy to heterodoxy must not be regarded as real Christians. Had these men been truly one with God's people in a personal experience of His saving grace, nothing could have induced them to apostatize.

As God Himself raised up these antichrists for His own wise reasons, so He also caused them to forsake the assemblies of the saints—to make it evident that they were but formal members, and of a totally different family from His own children. Previously they had every appearance of being the genuine article, but by their defection and opposition to Christ they were now revealed as counterfeits. He who searches the heart and tries the reins was determined to give definite proof that they were unregenerate men. Let them boast as loudly as they pleased of being among the

Lord's beloved ones, their conduct gave the lie to such a claim: they never had any root in Christ, but were merely external and temporary followers. Those whom God gives up unto strong delusion to believe a lie are such as never truly received His Truth in the love of it, for none of His people are ever suffered to deny the Faith after their conversion. Since they never **"knew the grace of God in truth"** (Col. 1:6), He left them to the pride and corruptions of their hearts and the wiles of Satan,

to be deceived into the espousing and propagating of fatal heresies; and though they drew many professing Christians after them, their divisions served a useful and necessary purpose, inasmuch as they made manifest those who were the friends and those who were the enemies of Christ.

(*Studies in the Scriptures*, May 1952, pp. 98-103).

PRAYER

By Wilbert L. Ellis
Angleton, Texas

For the past few weeks we have been looking at the **"effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man"** and have been trying to show just how far we have departed from prayer today. This departure has led to every kind of program and substitute that the mind can imagine. We have looked at the early church to see that everything they did was preceded by prayer. No doubt, one reason for the lack of real, spiritual power today has been our lack of real, fervent prayer.

First of all, we are to pray for God's ministers. In Ephesians 6:18-19, Paul realized that the power to boldly proclaim the Word of God lay in the prayers of God's people on his behalf. He knew that all of his natural abilities were useless unless the power of God was upon him. So he asked that prayers be made for him. I wonder if God's men today could not have more freedom to preach and to feed the flock of God if the church members would spend more time in prayer for him and less time criticizing. Perhaps one reason for the so called **"dryness"** of the messages today lies in the lack of prayer from the pew and not so much from a lack of power in the pulpit!

In Romans 10:1 we find Paul praying for the salvation of his people who were lost. Today, instead of prayer, we have pressure, sob stories, pledge cards, mourners' benches, and everything else to try and get the lost saved. Since we believe that God does the saving, perhaps we would do better to spend more time in asking God to save sinners.

Matthew 5:44 tells us to pray for our enemies. This is so contrary to the flesh that almost no one does it. We would rather criticize, run down, or get even. If we pray for them, it is that God will strike them down. When someone truly does not like us, we seldom even think about committing the matter to God in prayer and letting Him either change their heart or change ours.

I Timothy 2:1-2 tells us to pray for our government and our leaders of government. In our modern society,

it is so much easier to criticize our leaders—especially if they are of the opposite party than we are members of. If they make a decision or take a course of action that we dislike, it is much easier to judge and condemn them. We never stop to think that part of the problem is us and our failure to pray for them that God will lead and guide them in the right ways.

There are many things that we are instructed to pray for that most Christians today would rather complain for or criticize for. So many problems could probably be handled much easier if we would just take them to the Lord in prayer. We are told to pray for our daily needs in Matthew 6:11. We are told to pray for the sick in James 5:13-14. We can pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to fill our lives in Luke 11:13. Also, we are told to pray for the church in I Thessalonians 3:10-12. If people would pray for their church more and criticize less, I am sure that our churches could do much more for the Lord than we are presently doing.

May God's people wake up before it is too late and realize that we are missing one of the greatest opportunities that we have and that is to take our petitions to God and have Him work them out for us instead of us trying to work them out for ourselves.

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An Exposition Of Matthew 24

By the Editor
Part V

It is regretable that in our last lesson I did not get to discuss the final words in verse 30 which say: "...and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory." The return of Christ to earth does not occur until there has already appeared "the sign of the Son of man" and the mourning of the tribes of earth. This coming of Christ is not the Rapture coming; it is the glorious coming to judge the nations and to establish His righteous rule over the nations on earth. Please consider that when He comes He does not find a converted world ready to welcome Him back as some suppose it will be. Instead, He finds a world of Jews and Gentiles who will mourn at the sight of His return to rule over them.

In verse 30 we are told Christ shall come in "great glory." In Matthew 25:31-32 we are given additional information about this phase of Christ's coming: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats."

The psalmist spoke of this glorious coming of Christ: "So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory" (Ps. 102:15-16).

The Prophet Daniel mentioned this glorious coming: "And I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13-14).

The Prophet Zechariah wrote of this glorious coming: "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle: and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east. . . and

the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. . . And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one" (Zech. 14:1-5,9).

The Apostle Paul connects this glorious coming with the destruction of Antichrist, or the Man of Sin: "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (II Thess. 2:8).

Writing after the fall of Jerusalem, the Apostle John declared: "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe" (Rev. 14:14-15).

Even in greater details he writes in Revelation 19:11-15: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

This coming of Christ is in great glory, to build up Zion, to take to Himself His great power and to reign over the nations, to destroy the invaders of Jerusalem, to destroy the Man of Sin, to reap the harvest of earth, to smite the nations and rule them with a rod of iron. The Rapture Coming is an instantaneous event (I Cor. 15:51-53), but this coming is a majestic event extending over some time. It involves the sign of the Son of man, the mourning of Israel and the nations on earth, and then the coming of the Son of man. At the Rapture we will go up to meet Christ in the air (I Thess. 4:13-18), and then we will go with Him to the Father's house (John 14:1-3). At the Rapture there will be a resurrection of the sleeping saints and a translation of the living believers. No such event is mentioned in Matthew 24. This is why I hold that the second coming of Christ will be in two phases: a pre-tribulation coming

for the saints and then a post-tribulation coming with the saints to set up His kingdom and to regather Israel.

THE ANGELS GATHER THE ELECT

"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (v. 31; cf. Mark 13:27).

Spiritualizers attempt to explain away the plain sense of these words of our Lord. They say the passage means that human messengers gathered Christians into a place of safety, so they would not be destroyed with the Jews in the siege of A. D. 70. Others say it means that the ministers of the gospel gather the elect by sounding the gospel trumpet. Either of these views is an awful perversion of the plain teaching of this text. The gathering of the elect takes place after the coming of the Son of man. How, then, can this gathering of the elect refer to any period previous to the siege, so as to save Christians from suffering that siege, and yet not occur until some time afterward? In A. D. 70 the elect were not gathered together but scattered to the hills of Judea and other places. The gathering in verse 31 is "from one end of heaven to the other." This cannot be a gathering from Jerusalem---a single city, or at the most, from Judea. The subject here is not the sounding of the gospel trumpet but the coming of Christ at which a trumpet will be sounded.

All must agree that these views as held by spiritualizers are very liberal and most accommodating. It amazes me how some can use such methods of interpreting one of the most momentous, definite, systematic, and unfigurative prophecies in the Bible! It is little wonder that infidels and sceptics cavil at a Book which receives such treatment from its professed friends!

Who are "the elect" mentioned in this verse? It would seem that the context tells us that they are the "the elect" who have a Temple with a holy place (v. 15), who are in Judea (v. 16), and who have a Sabbath Day (v. 20). They are the elect in verse 22 for whose "sake those days shall be shortened." They are the elect which were so often mentioned in the Old Testament, and the elect fully understood and known to these Jewish disciples. Thus far in the revelation of God there had been but very little revealed about God having some elect among the Gentiles. These Jewish disciples would have understood by "the elect" the elect in Israel. In Isaiah 45:4 it is written: "For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect. . ."

The Bible makes it plain that God has chosen the descendants of Jacob from all other people, that they might bear His name, and sustain covenant relations with Him such as do not belong to any other people: "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special

people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth" (Deut. 7:6; cf. 10:15). This was not because they were greater in number (Deut. 7:7) nor because they were superior in excellency (Deut. 7:8). The chosen nation might depart from God, but the Lord would not forget His covenant with them: "And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God" (Lev. 26:42-45).

In Jeremiah 31:35-37 the Lord expresses the unchangeableness of His covenant with Israel as a race of people: "Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD." The Israelites are still the chosen, the elect, the covenant people of the unchangeable God: "For I am the LORD, I change not: therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Mal. 3:6).

Time after time the Lord has given the seed of Jacob the most solemn assurances that His covenant would never be forgotten, though they should do wickedly and be wasted with judgments (Isa. 54:4-10; Rom. 11:1-5, 25-29). God still regards the descendants of Israel as His elect people. This is not to say that God does not have some elect among the Gentiles (Eph. 1:4; II Thess. 2:13).

The angels come with Christ and assist Him in gathering the elect of Israel back to their land: "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect. . ." Paul tells us: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels" (II Thess. 1:7). The angels shall assist Christ in setting up the kingdom: "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. . ." (Matt. 13:41-43, 47-50).

These holy angels shall sound the jubilee trumpet for Israel: "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet. . ." Isaiah foretold this time: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the

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Is there such a thing as a just war which a country might declare on its enemy? Does the Bible favor non-resistance? -----Ohio



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In the area of what nations should do in this regard, we have very few Biblical directions other than those Scriptures dealing with Old Testament Israel. In the Bible we find the Lord directing Israel to war against other nations at various times. He led them to drive out the nations that were inhabiting Canaan that they might have a homeland. However, the Canaanites were to be driven out and the land given to Israel because the cup of their iniquity was full. Hence God used Israel's war against them to execute His just judgment upon a people whose cup of iniquity was full. Note Genesis 15:16. We must conclude that this was a just war.

Another instance of God directing Israel to declare war upon, and in fact, utterly destroy a nation is found in I Sam. 15:1-3. The Lord sent word to King Saul to "go and smite Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass" (v. 3). The reason for this is stated in verse 2: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt." This again is God's means of judging a nation for sin. Since it is done by the direct command of the just and holy God, we must say that it is a just war. So regardless of how we look at war in the present age, or whether we can see the justness of it, it is apparent from the teaching of God's Word that He at least permits wars (though He may not command them), for a just purpose. Also, in view of what the Scriptures teach, we must say that there is such a thing as a just war, or else we must accuse God of acting unjustly.

Now to the second part of your question—"Does the Bible favor non-resistance?" I understand the Bible to teach non-resistance to a point. However, it does seem to imply possible limits to non-resistance. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, sets forth a rule that would well fit both personal and national situations. He instructs thusly: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 12:18). This

would seem to imply that there is a point at which it may become necessary, for our own preservation, that of our family, or of our nation, to resist our enemy. I personally do not believe the Bible teaches total pacifism.

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Without now being specific, the questioner might be referred to the covenant people Israel and her relationship to her enemies among the nations. These were times for passive trust in Jehovah God for protection against the national enemies of the covenant people. But so often God ordered His people to fight to preserve His chosen. Also, He not only ordered them to war, but He gave the minutest details as to how the battle would be waged.

Evil is to be resisted and opposed. A nation that will not defend truth and freedom will become slaves to evil captives. If it takes war to defend the nation, then war is just.

A nation is as just in defending itself from tyranny as a man is justified in defending himself and his family from criminals.

God has ordained government to protect its citizenry from its criminal enemies, ie, those who break the government's laws. See Romans 13:1-7. Though this passage has reference primarily to opposition within the nation, another application can be made.

When internal incrimination rises up as any enemy within the nation, such an enemy is not to be passively tolerated. Such practice will lead to the nation's destruction.

If we must defend ourselves from enemy (criminal) destruction from within, how much more must we protect ourselves from other nations who would rob us of our precious national virtue?

Was there not a recent president who said, "We must have peace in the world even if we have to fight for it?"

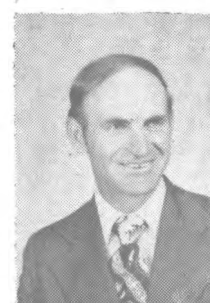
Would the "peas-niks" who favor total disarmament and only passive resistance to our enemies abroad, also favor the same attitude toward criminals who would war against national virtue at home?

Our nation's government, ordained of God, must defend its people from

its impending enemies from within and from without, lest we be consumed and destroyed.

In my judgment, a strong defense is our greatest assurance of peace in our generation. Defenselessness courts the possibility of war.

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Yes, I believe that there is such a thing as a just war which a country might declare upon its enemy. Who would deny that America was not just in declaring war on Japan after Pearl Harbor? Many examples from history can be cited for just actions that have been taken by one country against another. If there should be no just cause for a country taking action against a cowardly act on the part of its enemies we would all too soon be in bondage to those enemies who wish to impose their will upon us.

We are trying to justify all wars, because some countries have declared war upon others without just cause. I personally believe that one case in point is Hitler's Germany. I do not believe they could give any just cause for plunging us into World War II. But I would hate to think of what might have happened should all other nations followed the path of non-resistance.

Anyone who has given any serious study to the Old Testament can find numerous examples of God telling Israel to battle against their enemies. Would any dare charge God of injustice. You might think not, but many modernists and other Bible-believing are quick to call God a "bully" or a "tyrant" when talking about many Old Testament records. Why men even accuse God of being unjust in choosing to save some and passing by others in the matter of salvation.

Certainly we should pray for and desire peaceable lives. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (I Tim. 2:1-2). In Romans 12:18 Paul writes: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." He indicates that there could be times when it is not

possible for an individual to live peaceably with other men. This can apply to countries also.

When there is a just cause for war I do not believe that a country or an individual would be justified in taking the path of non-resistance. Whether just or unjust, wars will continue until the Prince of Peace shall put an end to them. Jesus said, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet" (Matt. 24:6).

There is a glorious day awaiting God's people when all His enemies and ours will be subdued. Alleluia!

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"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation" (Rom. 13:1-2).

We must protect our homes and country by destroying the godless enemies that would remove our freedom and destroy our land. The Mosaic law gives a Biblical principle of freedom by destroying the enemies of Israel in war. Joshua met the captain of the Lord's host. He was instructed to destroy the inhabitants of the land of Canaan (Josh. 5:14-15). The man that appeared unto Joshua was the Son of God. He is the captain of the Lord's host. He instructed Joshua to kill all the people of Jericho. Rahab's family was allowed to live, "and they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword" (Josh. 6:21).

The same Captain of the host armed His disciples with swords to protect themselves as they traveled (Luke 22:36,38). The same Captain of the host permitted David to kill Goliath for he had defied the army of the living God.

The commandment "thou shalt not kill" has no application to military life. Killing of men in lawful war, or in defence of one's self, or the execution of criminals by the order of civil magistrate, are not breaches of this law. God intended for us to do all that we can to live peaceably and preserve the lives of men. We are not to take the life of another through private malice and revenge. But this commandment never prohibited Israel from killing the enemy that God instructed them to destroy. God didn't contradict Himself in His Word.

Warfare will continue until the mil-
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In the light of Ephesians 3:21 we learn that God receives glory through His type of church. We also know that a divorced person married to someone other than the original living spouse is guilty of adultery (Matt. 19:9). Therefore should a church receive into its membership divorced and remarried persons, assuming of course the requirement of salvation and scriptural baptism? If the church does receive such a person, are we as a church guilty of adultery? If we do not receive a person into our church, where is he or she to serve God? -----Illinois



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A casual study of the Scriptures will readily show us that Christ saves all kinds of sinners and forgives all kinds of sin. In fact, only one kind of sin is said to be unpardonable--the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31; Mark 3:29; Luke 12:10). Christ, on more than one occasion during His ministry, dealt with and saved people who were guilty of adultery. Note the Samaritan woman (John 4:7-42) and the woman taken in adultery (John 8:3-12). Since the Lord Jesus saves and forgives the sins of those who have committed adultery, and since the only authorized place for the saved to serve the Saviour is the Lord's churches, it seems that it would be both Scriptural and reasonable to receive such into the membership of the church.

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"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21). Let me suggest a few things here. Ideally, God gets glory through His churches. But in most churches the ideal is not the practice in every respect. Not everything a church does brings glory to Christ. On the other hand, the sovereign God does not restrict Himself to the church to get glory. Surely, there is such a thing as the glory of God beyond the churches. I just know that my personal regeneration by the Holy Spirit was a glory to God before I reached the waters of baptism and entrance into His church. So did the gifts of repentance and faith bring honor and glory to my God before church membership.

"And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry

another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matt. 19:9).

The question is asked by the inquirer if a church can scripturally take into its membership one who has committed adultery. If the person gives positive evidence of salvation and is scripturally baptized, where is the scriptural prohibition to prevent church membership? The man who committed adultery with his father's wife in the Corinthian Church was taken back into church membership after proper discipline and evidence of repentance. The church was not guilty of the immoral act of the person previously accused and found guilty. In due time Paul admonishes the church to "...forgive him, and comfort him, less perhaps such an one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him" (II Cor. 2:7-8).

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"He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matt. 19:8-9).

Divorce is an awful curse on our society today. It has become an accepted practice among religious and non-religious people. Much time is spent by some church members and preachers to justify divorce and remarriage. Too little is said about the pain, heartache, confusion, anger, and sin connected with divorce and remarriage. Little is said about the mental anguish and hurt experienced by both adults and children during a divorce. Even some preachers have wrested the Scriptures to justify their marriage problems or to find favor with some of their church members. I have some dear friends that are in this situation, and, ac-

cording to the flesh, it is not an easy task to preach to these about their sin. But by God's grace I will continue to preach the truth in a godly manner.

The question is not about divorce and remarriage being scriptural, but whether such a person can be a member of one of the Lord's churches. Any preacher that will take a scriptural stand against divorce and remarriage and then receive these people into their church, they will be highly criticized. Some say that we want them as a number and their money but we make them second class church-members, when we will not let them fill the office of either bishop or deacon. Some have even recommended that they leave the church that the Holy Spirit has led them to and join another. I have pastored five churches and everyone of them have had people that were divorced and remarried. I have also preached in all five churches that there is no scriptural ground for divorce and remarriage. To my knowing none of these people were ever considered second class church members either by themselves or others. Some of them have encouraged me to preach the truth on this subject and to warn the young people of the evils of divorce. But what we allow to happen in our churches does not make it scriptural. The basis for any practice must be the Word of God. Many excuses for divorce and remarriage are made in Baptist churches. Many arguments are given for divorce and remarriage. We will notice only three that are used. First, those who justify divorce by using Matthew 19:9 and Matthew 5:32. The second, is the desertion of an unbelieving husband in I Corinthians 7. Third, some suggest that even an illegal divorce before salvation is a reason for divorce and remarriage.

The Lord Jesus Christ began His church during His personal ministry according to God's design. It pleased Him to give to His church two scriptural offices, the pastor and the deacon. He also gave the scriptural qualifications for these offices. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and gave the qualifications for them in his first letter. They are recorded for us in I Timothy 3:1-13. The two offices are for the Lord's church, this is clearly seen in verse five, "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" This truth is seen in Acts 6:3. The deacons were to be

selected from the male members of the Jerusalem church. The twelve said, "Wherefore brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business" (Acts 6:3). The persons to be chosen to this office were members of the Jerusalem church. According to the qualifications in I Timothy 3:12 they must have only one living wife. There must have been some in the church with more than one living wife. This passage of Scripture is being denied, ignored, and misinterpreted by some. Baptists ignore this Scripture and put women in these offices, others misinterpret this Scripture and say that the one wife means one at a time. A person can be divorced and remarried and be a member of a New Testament Baptist church, but the Scripture will not allow them to be a bishop or deacon.

When God first made man, the original design of marriage was for a man to leave his father and mother and be joined (glued) to his wife, the result of this union, the two become one flesh. No one can improve or disapprove of God's original design. Jesus agreed with the Father's design, He said, "So that no more are they being two but one flesh: what therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder (sever)" (Matt. 19:6). This union can only be severed by death. This is the only reason that a person can marry again and then it must be in the Lord. God's original design for marriage is His only design. God's attitude toward divorce is very clear in Malachi 2:16: "For the Lord God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away." He has not changed His attitude because one of His children has divorced and married another. God designed the law of the husband; He made the woman the legal possession of one man, giving him authority for life to rule over one woman, his wife, by marriage.

I am confident that many saved Baptist church members are in this situation. I pray that these people will not blame God or try to justify their situation by the Scriptures. God is not the author of divorce, He only permitted it. It was not so from the beginning. The original design of marriage was never intended to be broken for any reason. Moses precept was a concession to Israel's hard heartedness, and only granted the putting away on the grounds of premarital unchastity. Jesus re-defined the permission of the law, but later taught His disciples that anyone who put his wife away for any reason and married again was guilty of adultery: or if a wife put her husband away and remarried: she was guilty of adultery. The final conclusion, God does not recognize a divorce in this age for any reason. May the God of grace give us the needed grace for such a time.

HAROLD J. HARVEY

(Continued on page fourteen)

MATTHEW 24

(Continued from page nine)

river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem" (Isa. 27:12-13). Many other Scriptures speak of this event (Isa. 4: 2-3; 11:1-13; 24:17-24; 25:1-10; 26:8-21; 45:8-25; Jer. 30:1-22; 31:1, 6-11, 31-41; 32:14-26; 33:1-8; 36:1-38; 39:22-29; Ezek. 34:1-31; Zech. 7:12-14; 8:1-12; 9:14-16; 10:5-12; Amos 9:8-15).

Moses wrote of a gathering of Israel at the second coming of the Lord: "And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul: That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it. . . ." (Deut. 30:1-5). This gathering is from "the outmost parts of heaven," and Jesus Christ said the gathering at His return would be "from one end of heaven to the other."

There are a number of trumpets to be sounded in connection with the tribulation and the second advent of Christ in its two phases. There is a trumpet sounded at the Rapture to gather the sleeping saints and the living saints (I Thess. 4:13-18). After this there are seven trumpets of judgment in the tribulation (Rev. 8:6-10:7). The seventh trumpet in Revelation 10:7 is the last trumpet for the tribulation, but it is not the last trumpet. After Christ returns to earth a trumpet will be sounded to regather all Israel to their ancient land from all parts of the earth. We must distinguish between these in our study of the Scriptures. John Gill tells us concerning the trumpet in Matthew 24:31: "The Jews say, that in the after-redemption (i.e. by the Messiah) all Israel shall be gathered together by the sound of a trumpet, from the four parts of the world" (Gill's Expositor, Vol. VII, p. 295).

Luke adds to Matthew's account these words: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:

28). This verse gives the death-blow to the figurative interpretation. No one was redeemed at the downfall of the Jewish nation in A. D. 70. Again, according to Luke's account, the Lord had said of this time in verse 24: "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." The second coming of Christ ends the times of the Gentiles and brings redemption to Israel from Gentile overlordship as well as redemption from sin. Paul said that blindness in part had happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in (Rom. 11:25). Then he tells us that Israel shall be redeemed when the Deliverer comes out of Zion (Rom. 11:25-27). This is the blessing promised to come upon Daniel's people at the end of the 490 years (Dan. 9:24).

A number of Old Testament passages deal with the time of Israel's redemption: "My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities" (Ps. 130:6-8; 107:2-7; Isa. 35:8-10; 44:21-28; 51:11).

Isaiah 63:1-4 speaks of the second coming of Christ to destroy Israel's enemies and to redeem them as a people: "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redemption is come." This is the same coming of Christ mentioned in Revelation 14:14-20 and 19:11-21.

When Israel is regathered to her ancient land which was promised to her first fathers as an everlasting possession, it will be their greatest jubilee. This is the antetype of the type of the jubilee year in ancient Israel. You will recall that every 50th year on the day of atonement a trumpet sounded to proclaim "liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Lev. 25:8-12). In that year all land reverted without payment to its original owner (Lev. 25:13, 23-28; Neh. 5:1-13). There was no way the rightful heir could be permanently excluded from his estate (Lev. 25:23, 39-41).

In the Olivet Discourse our Lord said that Israel would "be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem" would be "trodden down of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24). But she would not be for ever excluded from

her land. She will have a great jubilee when Christ comes back, for the angels shall gather the scattered Israelites from "the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt. 24:31). She will be permanently restored to her homeland (Ezek. 37:22, 25; Amos 9:14-15). Then she will for ever be free of Gentile oppression (Isa. 60:9-16). All of this is to happen on Israel's future great Day of Atonement (Dan. 9:24; Zech. 13:1). Oh, glorious day! "And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isa. 35:10).

THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (vv. 32-33, cf. Mark 13:28-29). Luke puts it this way: "And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand" (Luke 21:29-31).

The meaning is that as the fig tree brings forth leaves late in the spring, its budding indicates that summer is near. In comparison, those who see the signs predicted in the tribulation will know that the second coming of Christ is near. The signs are not the rebirth of the nation of Israel as some teach, but the signs in the preceding context.

Many good and great men hold that the fig tree is Israel, and that its budding is the rebirth of the nation of Israel. It is true that there are times when Israel is compared to a

fig tree (Jer. 24:1-6; Mic. 4:4; Zech. 3:10; Luke 13:6-8). But there are other times the fig tree is not Israel (Matt. 21:18-20; Mark 11:12-14, 20-26). I do not believe that the fig tree represents the nation of Israel in Matthew 24:32.

Probably at the moment Christ spoke Matthew 24:32 He looked at some fig trees near them, seeing He was in the same vicinity He had been five days before for an object-lesson (Matt. 21:20). The fig tree was well known in Judea. When it put forth its branches, leaves, and fruit, spring had already come and the winter was past (S. of S. 2:11, 13). The Lord meant to convey no more than just as the fig tree indicates spring is come and that summer is nigh, even so when these signs begin to come to pass they could know that the coming of Christ and the kingdom of God is nigh. Let us not make a figure where there is no need of a figure!

S. B. C. HOUSE ON THE SANDS?

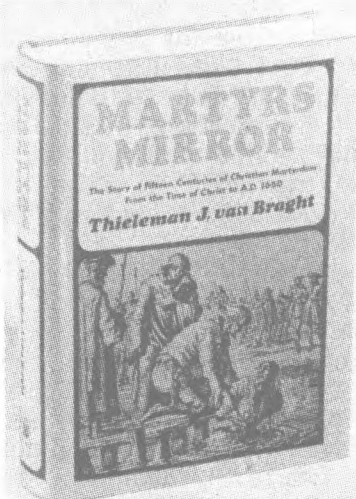
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IT'S A LONELY LIFE

By the Editor

I have been the editor of a national Baptist paper for almost eleven years now. It really does not seem that long. I was five years editor of *The Baptist Examiner* and now nearly six years editor of the *Berea Baptist Banner*. During this time I have had a lot of blessings and burdens. Experience has been a great teacher.

Some days ago I was speaking to a brother about the editorship of a paper. I remarked to him that if I had an enemy that I wanted to get even with I would suggest that he become the editor of a Baptist paper, for I know of nothing that would be more humiliating and grievous on the flesh than this job. I was joking to my friend, but my statement did contain a measure of truth. There is no life so lonely as being the editor of a Sovereign Grace, Landmark, Independent Baptist paper! I often wonder if the headaches and heartaches do not surpass the blessings and burdens.

The work load in getting out a paper each month is tremendous. Articles must be prepared a month to two months in advance. Many of these are late. This makes you have to lay the paper out maybe two or three times, greatly adding to your work load. Good articles are hard to get from our modern-day preachers. Some who could write do not; others who can't seem to want to do so. Some will criticize your articles, but they will submit none to solve the problem. They find it easier to criticize than to write good articles. Some articles are so poorly written that they cannot be printed.

There is the search for good old articles to help take the place of the lack of good articles by contemporary writers. This requires time and money. There is the search for old pictures of these old writers. There is the search for religious news items for "The Bible and the Newspaper." There is the labor of actually putting the paper together, getting it printed, and put into the mail. The springs and shocks are bad on my car from hauling papers from the printer to church and from the church to the post office. There are letters to be answered—about 30 to 40 each week. The U. S. Post Office constantly comes up with new forms, higher prices, and, in some cases, poorer service in delivering papers to readers. There never ceases to be a never-ending stream of new work to do.

Observation has convinced me over the years that those who have never published one paper in their life think that they know more about printing a paper than those who actually do have the responsibility to do so. At least five percent of your readers read the paper each issue to

try to find something to complain about. Most people do not read their papers as they are too busy (no not reading their Bibles) watching TV or going to places of commerce and pleasure. America is becoming a nation of non-readers. They don't read their Bibles, their religious papers, and mostly nothing else.

The editor of a paper must be infallible and omniscient. He must never make a mistake. He must know all the details of every problem between churches and pastors the world over. Churches and pastors are always in an uproar throughout the country. They all want you to take their side even if they are wrong! If you do not they become your enemy. In fact there is no way that any mere mortal man can know all that an editor is supposed to know. There is no way he can keep up with every preacher and church the world over with all of the immorality going on, the doctrinal departure from truth, and countless other things.

It seems that no matter how much money you can receive that it is not enough to make ends meet. Corners must be cut and cheap prices must be found to survive. Very few readers are concerned with the needs and promotion of your paper. If it were not for about fifty churches and some individuals there would be no BBB. Subscriptions do not pay for its publication; the supporting churches and interested individuals keep it in the mail. Many people want to be kept on the mailing list free of charge. Some are quite willing to use the BBB for their advantage who will not contribute one cent to keeping it in the mail.

Living with criticism is the common lot of an editor. Some preachers will absolutely lie on you to do you dirt. Conferences may be held where they have roasted editor for lunch. They will call you the "pope," "the Devil," "a Fullerite," "a Hardshell heretic," "a peddler of hate," "a false prophet," "a woman hater," "a liar," "a thief," and other titles I do not care to print. If they cannot think of any thing bad to say about you, then they will attack your family. These things make it a lonely life!

What really keeps an editor going in these days of discouragement and despondency? First, there must be a true love for the churches and pastors you seek to serve. This will cause you to help them when you can in any way, although they may be out to destroy you and your paper. Second, there must be a great determination to get out the truth regardless of what men may say or think about you and your church. Third, you must feel a very deep calling from God to do this work. This will make you do it out of a deep love for Christ. The Lord appreciates

your work if no one else does.

Another thing that keeps one going is the offerings which come monthly from churches and individuals who really do believe in what you are doing. Then there are those good letters which encourage you until your cup is made to run over with joy. Then there are the letters from young preachers who have been helped, the letters from people who have come to see truth, and even come to know Christ. These will put iron in your blood and make you face a frowning world with a smile. Daily I thank God for all who are truly interested in the work of the BBB. I pray that God may raise up

more that we may do more and reach more before He comes.

Yes, it is a lonely life. But someone must do it. Someone must try to hold back the doctrinal departure from truth with the printed page. Someone must bear the criticism and lies that truth may go forth in these last days. I sit as I write this in the editor's chair. I believe that God has put me there, and I wish to remain in it as long as He wills. When He gives me release I shall go with all the joy of a school boy running home on the last day of school.



Dear Sis. Pack

By Beverly Pack, Chesapeake, Ohio

Send questions in care of this column to:
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Ohio 45680

This is the third and final column devoted to the response to a question concerning the effective use and application of God's Word to our lives as His people. For the benefit of any new readers, I have been sharing seven Scripture portions contained on a list inside the front cover of my Bible. You will find the fifth portion in Lamentations 3:19-20: "Remembering mine affliction. . . my soul. . . is humbled. . ."

How we *need* things in our lives that will humble us! God hates pride. We learn from Proverbs 6:16-17 that pride, if I may say it reverently, is number one on God's hate parade. It unfits us for effective service to God and He will use whatever means are necessary to subdue it in His people (Rom. 8:29).

Verse 33 of this same chapter (Lamentations 3) reminds us that our loving heavenly Father does not afflict us because it brings Him pleasure. Human language falls short of success in expressing the workings of our infinite God, but it's the best we can do. Let me here share something with you that has been of great benefit to me in the study of the Scriptures. Many times in the Bible we have terminology that, at first consideration, seems contradictory. For example, in reading Judges 2:18 it would appear that God felt sorry for Israel and changed His mind about chastising them. Again, in I Sam. 15:11, it sounds as if God told Samuel that He didn't know Saul was going to become disobedient and now He wishes He had never made him king. But we know this is not the case. I Samuel 15 goes on to say (v. 29) that God will not repent, and Malachi 3:6 reminds us that He never changes. This terminology is employed here and in other Scrip-

tures to accommodate our finite minds and is called the Language of Accommodation. God did not repent, but it appeared to man's limited understanding as if He did.

Back to the subject of humility, great joy is to be found in humbling ourselves and serving others. Although we seldom hear it today, some of the marriage ceremonies contain a promise on the part of the wife to serve her husband. Is there anything wrong with pledging ourselves to serve? No, it is Christlike (Matt. 20:28).

In Psalms 103:13-14, God's love is compared to that of an earthly father. However, unlike even the best father, our Lord's chastisement is *always* for our profit (Heb. 12:10). He allows us afflictions to humble us. Observe the humility wrought in King Hezekiah by affliction. He knew what it was to be on the brink of death, but God recovered him (Isa. 38:9). (You might want to read the whole short chapter to familiarize yourself with the story). He was never the same after this (v. 15) and you wouldn't be if God permitted such an experience in your life.

Looking in the mirror recently at my full, healthy head of hair, I thought, "Lord, thank You for my hair. You gave it to me and I know You could take it away." Often when I view my hair in a mirror, I have an overwhelming feeling, not of pride, but of gratitude to God. And do you know why? (Many of you do). Because for many long months, the Lord allowed me to look in the mirror at a bald head. There are many things I could write about this experience, but suffice it to say that the Lord used it to teach me and, I

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Dear

(Continued from page thirteen)

believe, others, many lessons. . . one being to bring home effectually to my heart the truth of Lamentations 3:19-20: "Remembering mine affliction. . . my soul. . . is humbled. . ." What formerly I took for granted, I now am enabled by experience to view as a gift from God.

The sixth reference on my list is from Deuteronomy 33:25: "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." The Bible is its own best commentary. Reading this verse is like underlining Lamentations 3:23, one of the verses discussed in the July column. It is the same wonderful thought clothed in different words. If you'd like the thought in New Testament "clothing," see I Corinthians 10:13, or II Corinthians 12:9.

Thus in many places and many forms we have God's promise to preserve and care for His children. What should be our response? My seventh and final reference (although I have added others since I began to share this list with you) gives Isaiah's response, and I pray that it may ever be mine. . . and yours! "I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song. . ." (Isa. 12:2). How could he be so emphatic? Wouldn't he sometimes be weak? Yes, but even then (especially then) his strength and song would be not in himself, but in the LORD JEHOVAH. This title, the LORD JEHOVAH, had to be more to Isaiah than merely a couple of words. The names of God have a singular significance in Scripture and any Christian would greatly benefit by an in-depth study of the subject. Why is it *God* in Genesis 1:1 and *GOD* (all caps) in Genesis 15:2? Why

is it *LORD* (all caps) in Genesis 2:4 and *Lord* in Genesis 15:2? Ask your pastor.

The Hebrew word translated *Jehovah* means, *self-existent One*. One Who exists of His own power, always has and always will, is He not worthy of our trust, and strong enough to make *us* strong? And is not the realization of this wonderful truth, enough to keep a song in our hearts?



Forum

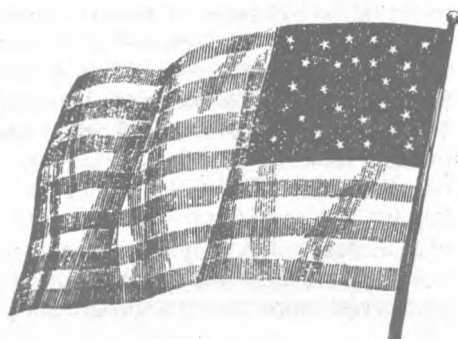
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lennium, for Jesus said, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet" (Matt. 24:6). Warfare is necessary for the freedom of any nation. It is not only ethical but scriptural that our nation be prepared for war. The Mosaic law required military training for all men twenty-years-old and up. They were numbered for war. The Levites were the only ones exempt. Abraham had three hundred and eighteen trained servants. They helped kill the allied armies of Chedorlaomer to rescue Lot and his family. The divine law of military provides our freedom.

Today young men hide under the guise of being a conscientious objector and a God-fearing citizen. They will not register for the draft nor enter the armed forces of our great nation. They are either a coward, or confused, or both, and they disobey the Word of God in their ignorance. A person is to obey every law of the land, except those that are contrary to the Word of God. To kill in war is not violating the Scripture but fulfilling a divine plan and divine principle. There is an emotional revolt of a godless society that uses the Word of God to justify their lawlessness.

Divine judgment against a nation includes military defeat. The conscientious objector and the peace movements of this country will sing a different song if God brings divine judgment of military defeat upon our nation. Israel is the only nation on earth today that knows how to fight a war. The United States will not permit them to complete any that they have been forced into. We will give an account to God as a nation for this action. The Christian does have a Biblical right to kill in time of war. And our nation has a right to declare war on its enemies.

HAROLD J. HARVEY



Forum

(Continued from page eleven)



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Fulton, MS 38843

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21).

From the above statement made by the apostle Paul in his epistle to the saints in Ephesus there is no room to doubt that God gets glory in His type of church. This fact is made plain in many scriptures. However, we would, in my estimation, be going far afield in saying that the only glory God gets must come through His churches. Some seem to miss the part of the verse which says, "by Christ Jesus." The glory He receives from His churches comes through the perfect Christ, not through imperfect saints apart from His work within them. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).

Matthew 19:9 says, "...Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery. . ." It is my understanding from this statement of Christ that every remarried person would not be guilty of committing adultery. Therefore, if fornication was the cause of one putting away a spouse we could not charge that person with adultery if he or she remarried.

If a person has been saved by our sovereign Savior and has been scripturally baptized would the sin of adultery be cause for not receiving that person into a church? If so, what of other sins that one may be guilty of? Is there any one among us who can say that we are not guilty of committing sin? "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8).

If one member of a church tells a lie this would not make the entire body a liar. If one member is covetous it would not mean that the whole church could be charged with this sin. Likewise we could not charge a church with adultery even though some of its members may be guilty.

Should a person who is guilty of this sin, and has confessed it to God (I John 1:9) and has given evidence of true repentance, be denied fellowship in the church when others who are guilty of lesser sins (in our eyes) are restored? If this be the case then neither David or the woman at the well (John chapter 4) could be members of a church today.

The Scriptures do teach that a per-

son who is guilty of this sin is limited in the places where they may serve in the church, but to say that we should deny them membership in the church even though Christ died for them and even though they have received scriptural baptism would, in my estimation, be something we would have to give answer to Christ at His Bema Seat.

Lest there be those who may accuse this preacher of being soft on divorce I would point out that I preach against this sin or any sin against our sovereign God that is committed by any individual. We cannot pick out one sin while bypassing others. Divorce is a terrible scourge in our world today, and all servants of God must cry out against it. We must warn people of the awful consequences of this dark plague which is growing like a cancer in our society today, but we must remember that it is not an unforgivable sin and that Jesus has and will continue to forgive His elect of all sin.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST FINANCIAL REPORT July - 1986

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,494.61
RECEIPTS:	
Trust Fund, Corbin, KY	182.22
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	60.00
Living Stone B. C., Barboursville, WV	517.70
Sov. Grace B. C., Orange, TX	50.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	50.00
Rollynsburg B. C., Talcott, WV	50.00
Estill Frazier, Colfax, NC	250.00
Berea B. C., South Point, OH	320.75
Anonymous	25.00
Dividing Checks	182.22
Sub Total	1,687.89
TOTAL	3,182.50

EXPENDITURES:	
WFTO - WFTA	100.00
WYWY	100.00
WANO	76.00
WGNT	415.00
WRNO (Foreign)	726.00
Dividing Checks	89.62
David Douglas Corp.	
(Recorder repair)	52.87
Total	1,559.49

Bank Service Charge	4.00
Ending Balance 7-31-86	\$ 1,619.01*
*(Corbin, Kentucky Fund has a designated balance of \$2,069.12 so we are still \$450.11 in the red as of 7-31-86).	

CORBIN, KENTUCKY FUND

Beginning Balance	2,124.01
RECEIPTS:	
Trust Fund, Corbin, KY	91.11
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	30.00
Sub Total	121.11
TOTAL	2,245.12

EXPENDITURES:	
WYWY - July	100.00
WANO - July	76.00
Total	176.00
Ending Balance 7-31-86	\$2,069.12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Classes will begin at the Baptist Voice College, 2873 St. Rt. 68 South, Wilmington, Ohio, Sept. 22-23. They have singing groups and young preachers who will be glad to come to your church and present the school. For more information write the Baptist Voice College, P. O. Box 245, Wilmington, Ohio 45177, or call 513-382-3576 or 382-8012.

A BAPTIST CLASSIC!

ROBINSON CRUSOE

By Daniel Defoe

\$2.25

Defoe (1659-1731) was an English Baptist writer with remarkable ability. Little known to most modern Baptists is the fact that the book they usually read in the library some place is a chopped-up edition of the original book. The liberals have taken out the part about Crusoe's Christian experience. The book that we offer is the original. It has been edited only in the sense that the spelling of words have been changed to make it more readable. It is 299 pages. It was one of the first examples of English prose fiction, and it still ranks among the greatest adventure stories in literature. Please include \$1.00 for postage and handling. Ohio residents add 6% state sales tax.

— Order from —

Berea Baptist Bookstore

P. O. Box 552

SOUTH POINT, OHIO 45680

THE BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

Readers of the BBB are urged to submit religious news items which they may read in their local paper or some other publication. In sending these please give the name of the publication as well as the date it was printed. We will not be able to print all which are submitted, but we welcome any item you may feel we should read. Send to Berea Baptist Banner, P. O. Box 552, South Point, Ohio 45680.

MOSLEM-COMMUNIST CONNIVANCE

Strangely, the fanatical Moslem fury is not targeted against Soviet Communism, which slaughters their Moslem neighbors in Afghanistan.

Nor do they fight against Communist Bulgaria. There, mosques are turned into warehouses or destroyed altogether, and 400 Moslems were killed in January-February of 1985 alone. In the village of Egriera 80 Moslems who resisted were massacred. Their own clergymen, among them Mullah Yesein Kobov, are in jail.

The Moslems fight against Christians.

In Egypt, recently, four were arrested for having accepted the Savior. Converted Moslems risk death under terror. Annually 1,000 Christians become Moslems.

Abbu Nidal, the chief PLO terrorists, conferred with the Irish, Belgian, French, Spanish and German terrorists.

Qudaffi is Gorbachev's right hand. Communism and fanatical Islam are the enemies of Christianity today (*Christian Missions to the Communist World*, 6-86).

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake" (Matt. 24:9).

SBC ORDAIN ANOTHER WOMAN

Natalie K. Nicholas was ordained by Forsyth First Church. Miss Nicholas is interim minister of education and youth at Clairmont Hills church in Decatur. She has been campus minister intern at Tift College. A native of Marietta, Miss Nicholas is a graduate of Shorter College and attends Southern Seminary.

Joe Graham brought the charge to the candidate, Dan Whitaker brought the charge to the church and Larry T. Burgess preached the ordination sermon. Students from the Tift College Baptist Student Union participated in the services (*The Christian Index*, July 17, 1986).

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil..." (Isa. 5:20).

TWO BAPTIST WOMEN SUFFER IN RUSSIA

Two Baptist women were pulled off a train in Mineralnye Vody (Soviet Union), and taken to a local jail for questioning in June. Margaret Gottman, 29, a pastor's daughter, and Zinaida Vilchinskaya, 55, a pastor's wife, are still being held in police custody.

The actual charges are not yet known, but are believed to be related to the fact that both women are relatives of Christian prisoners.

Margaret Gottman is the daughter of Leongard Gottman, a Baptist pastor from Davlekanovo, who is now serving his fourth prison term for Christian activities.

Zinaida Vilchinskaya is the mother of Galina Vilchinskaya, a young girl who served five years imprisonment for teaching at a children's summer Bible camp, and the wife of Vladimir Vilchinsky, pastor of a Baptist congregation in Brest which has been subjected to police raids and exorbitant fines during the past year.



Zinaida Vilchinskaya

(Photo courtesy of Prisoner Bulletin, Georgi Vins.)

Mrs. Vilchinskaya is also known to be an active member of the Council of Prisoners' Relatives (CPR), a support group organized in 1964 by wives and mothers of imprisoned Baptist leaders. Their regular publication, *Bulletin*, documents incidents of arrests, trials, beatings, fines, confiscation of property, house searches, deprivation of parental rights, and internment in psychiatric hospitals. The CPR *Bulletin*, circulated among the independent Evangelical Baptist churches in the Soviet Union, is widely recognized as the most reliable source of information regarding persecution of Baptists.

(News release of Georgi Vins, P. O. Box 1188, Elkhart, Ind. 46515, 7-17-86).

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12).

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GROWS NEARLY ONE PERCENT

NEW YORK, N. Y. (EP)—Churches in the U. S. registered an overall growth in membership figures

have kept pace with population growth, according to statistics in the newly published Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches in 1986.

A large religious body reporting significant membership increase was the Assemblies of God, with a net increase of 2.19 percent, to a total membership of 2,628,133. The Southern Baptist Convention, with a net increase of 1.16 percent, reached a total membership of 14,341,821, remaining the largest Protestant denomination in the U. S.

Mainline churches showed only small membership losses compared to past years. The United Methodist Church reported a 1.16 percent decline from 1982 to 1983, the most recent year for which they have statistics available, and other large mainline bodies reported losses of under one percent from 1983 to 1984.

Leading the smaller church bodies in membership growth was the Presbyterian Church in America, with a 7.85 percent increase to 168,239. Jehovah's Witnesses showed a 7.38 percent increase to 697,660, and the Christian Reformed Church grew 5.2 percent to 224,764.

Other smaller bodies showing gains that exceeded general population growth were the Christian and Missionary Alliance (3.37 percent to 223,141), Seventh Day Adventists (2.46 percent to 638,929), Church of God-Cleveland, Tenn. (2.4 percent to 505,775), Church of God-Anderson, Ind. (1.76 percent to 185,404), Church of the Nazarene (1.66 percent to 516,020), Wesleyan Church (1.36 percent to 109,140) and Baptist General Conference (0.99 percent to 130,193).

One smaller body showing a significant membership decline was the Mennonite Church with an 18.09 percent decline to a total membership of 90,347.

Collective U. S. Church membership grew by 0.96 percent in 1984, the most recent year for which membership figures are available from most of the 224 U. S. religious bodies listed in the 1986 Yearbook. With a net growth of 1,355,753 new members, those churches' total U. S. membership came to 142,172,138. U. S. population growth was estimated at 0.9 percent in 1984.

The Yearbook also indicated an upturn in the value of new construction of religious buildings that began in 1983 and continues in 1984. In 1984, the value of new construction reached \$2,132 billion, compared with \$1.78 billion in 1983.

Overall seminary enrollments declined in 1985 for the first time since the data was published in 1969, with U. S. schools recording a 0.6 percent drop from 1984 figures.

"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

AMULETS BEARING OLDEST-KNOWN BIBLICAL INSCRIPTIONS FOUND

JERUSALEM, Israel (EP)—The oldest biblical inscriptions ever found have been deciphered by Israeli archaeologists. The inscriptions are on 2,600-year-old silver "charms" unearthed seven years ago, according to the Israeli Museum.

According to archaeologist Gabriel Barkay, the inscriptions he discovered in a Jerusalem burial cave predate the Dead Sea Scrolls by about 400 years. The Dead Sea Scrolls had been the oldest known biblical texts. The silver charms date from the 7th century B. C., when descendants of King David ruled the Jerusalem area.

The texts are scratched on two pieces of silver that were rolled like scrolls and probably worn as amulets. They bear the priestly blessing found in the Book of Numbers (6:24-25). One charm has a full 15-word version, while a smaller piece has a 10 word abridged version that combined two verses.

The writing on the amulets is a form that disappeared after Jews were expelled from Jerusalem in 586 B. C. by the Babylonians.

"Remember the days of old..." (Deut. 32:7).

ABORTION AND ERA

A state judge ruled that the Connecticut Equal Rights Amendment requires state funding of abortions, and the attorney general of Connecticut has decided not to appeal.

The court's opinion means that the state will fund abortion on demand under its Medicaid program and that the taxpayers of Connecticut will be paying for at least 2,400 elective abortions each year.

Superior Court Judge Robert Berdon ruled that the state's previous policy of paying for abortion only to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest was "sex oriented discrimination" and therefore violated the ERA, which Connecticut added to its state constitution in 1972.

For some time now, pro-ERA and pro-abortion groups have claimed that there is no connection between a proposed federal ERA and abortion. However, Connecticut is the fourth state in which ACLU state affiliates have urged the state courts to rule that their state ERA requires funding of abortion. Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania are the other three states (*Concerned Women For America*, July 1986, p. 11).

"An unjust man is an abomination to the Just..." (Prov. 29:27).

PORNOGRAPHY BEING REMOVED

It has been estimated that more than 20,000 stores have removed pornography from their shelves since 1983. Brad Curl, president of the National Christian Association, says that 7-Eleven accounted for as much as 10 percent of Playboy's sales. This translates into a potential loss of sales of 410,000 issues a month. He

(Continued on page sixteen)

News

(Continued from page fifteen)

went on to say that "Playboy was hurting financially even before the Southland decision. In the past seven years Playboy has lost 40 percent of its circulation, 40 percent of its ad pages, 95 percent of its profits, all of its lucrative gambling casinos, and most of its Playboy clubs" (*Concerned Women For America*, July 1986, p. 13).

"A false witness shall not be unpunished..." (Prov. 19:9).

GLEANINGS FROM HERE AND THERE

NEW YORK, N. Y. (EP)--Enrollment in the nation's 9,245 Catholic schools fell nearly three percent to 2.8 million, while 80 Roman Catholic elementary schools and 15 secondary schools were closed during the last year, according to a report by a parochial school association. The enrollment drop and number of closings were the steepest since the late 1970s.

CAIRO (EP)--According to a recent release from Missionary News Service, six more Christians have been arrested in Cairo, bringing the total to 10 since the first of the year. Four which were arrested last January are still being held, pending the outcome of a second hearing.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (EP)--*Onward Christian Soldiers* and *Battle Hymn of the Republic* will remain in the United Methodist hymnal after all. The church this week reversed an earlier decision by a hymnal committee to delete the hymns because of their military references.

More than 8000 cards, letters and petitions poured into the church's Nashville headquarters denouncing the panel as anti-American and "soft-headed." Church officials said only 40 people wrote to support the change.

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (EP)--The 43rd Annual Fellowship of Conservative Baptists met in conference at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, from June 29 to July 3, 1986. Over 1,000 messengers representing more than 1,100 Conservative Baptist churches registered their attendance. An attendance high of about 2,000 was registered on the opening evening when international evangelist Luis Palau addressed the conference.

The Association received 23 new churches during the business sessions, bringing membership in the Conservative Baptist Association to 1,158 churches. The Association endorsed four new military chaplains, bringing the total number of active-duty chaplains to 29, and appointed 22 career missionaries and 84 short-term workers for overseas ministries, bringing the total foreign missions force to 746. The Home

Mission Society appointed 12 new missionaries and reappointed eight, making a total of 248 ministers serving in North and Central America, the West Indies, and U. S. sessions.

KNOW YOUR PREACHER

The following item is taken from a letter to the editor in the *Herald-Dispatch*, Huntington, W. Va., June 6, 1986. It is a good example of the instability and the gullibility of people in this day and time.

"I want to tell you a good one. There came a man from Wayne County. He brought another man's wife with him and said he was a preacher. He did get up in the pulpit and make a lot of noise but there was nothing behind it. He got in a church in West Huntington and they gave him license to preach. In about three months, they found out he was living in adultery. They took his license from him and what do you think? Twenty-two members walked out with him--following an adultery preacher. They say he is coming over in Ohio now.

"...by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Rom. 16:18).

COMMUNISM IN THE PHILIPPINES

The new president of the Philippines has installed the wrong kind of people in her cabinet. These people are leftists and sympathizers to, if not soft against communists. They have advised her to call for ceasefire against the rebels who in turn are ambushing and killing the soldiers mercilessly. The soldiers are under command not to return the fight and are even recalled to their barracks. The minister of National Defense and Armed Forces Chief of Staff who are avowed anti-communists are not heeded by the lady president and are being put under pressure from her other cabinet ministers who are trying to sow discord so they will be fired from their offices. If these leftists in her cabinet succeed only God knows what will happen in the Philippines.

The New People's Army (communist guerillas) are sending a liquidation squad to Metro Manila from different places. Their mission order is to assassinate military men and anti-communist leaders.

"The wicked worketh a deceitful work..." (Prov. 11:18).

TUTU DAMNS THE WEST

Bishop Tutu of South Africa said in an interview with Britain Independent Television News broadcast in London: "The West, as represented by President Reagan, can go to hell as far as I'm concerned."

Tutu, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner, professes to be a man of God whose main purpose should be to keep people out of Hell. But the bishop wishes that millions of people in the West would go to Hell. Those of us who live in the West are very glad that our eternal destiny is not in

the hands of this bishop who declared himself a socialist at the 1983 meeting of the World Council of Churches in Vancouver.

Pastor Jerry Falwell was correct in calling the bishop a "phony."

"...there shall be false teachers among you... whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not" (II Pet. 2:1,3).

KIDS FOR SALE

Across America, there are tens of thousands of children--boys and girls--working as prostitutes. You can find them in New York City, loitering on the street corners of Times Square and the lower West Side. Or in suburban middle-class areas like the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, where--until a recent raid by the Van Nays police--you could order up a 12-year-old girl from an out-call massage service. Or in placid little towns like Waterville, Maine (population 18,000), where 15-year-old girls occasionally hustle outside bars on Temple and Water Streets.

Kids are for sale everywhere, part of the continuing national tragedy of America's runaway and throw-away child population...

The population of runaways--between a million and 1.3 million Americans under 18 leave home each year--has remained about the same, but social workers are seeing more children in the 12-14 age bracket. The kids are staying away from home longer, resulting in a growing hard-core street population...

Just how many juvenile prostitutes work the streets isn't known, but Drs. Daniel Campagna and Donald Poffenberger, using data provided by 595 police departments in 50 states, estimates there are between 100,000 and 200,000 adolescent prostitutes with a median age of 15. (*Parade*

Magazine, July 20, 1986, p. 4).

"...have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink" (Joel 3:3).

(Continued on page twenty)

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER FINANCIAL REPORT July - 1986

Beginning Deficit	-298.74
RECEIPTS:	
Berea B. C., South Point, OH	174.50
Landmark B. C., Elida, OH	100.00
Julien B. C., Gracey, KY	25.00
Berea B. C., Bloomfield, NM	75.00
Dean Waller, Lexington, KY	8.50
Mrs. June Holt, Williamsburg, KY	15.00
Mrs. Nellie Creech, New Port Richey, FL	10.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	30.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC	100.00
Milner Victory B. C., McNeil, AR	250.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	50.00
John H. Otis, Agra, KS	95.00
John Lenegar, Delaware, OH	5.00
Sov. Grace B. C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
Ruth Shores, Cannelton, IN	5.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV	100.00
Rollynsburg B. C., Talcott, WV	50.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL	25.00
Dempsey Henderson, Mayfield, KY	25.00
Sov. Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC	20.00
Sov. Grace B. C., Orange, TX	50.00
Mrs. O. C. Whitaker, Cushing, TX	15.00
Mrs. Mildred Logan, Avon Park, FL	48.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
Faith B. C., Lawtey, FL	25.00
Morris Street B. C., Hobbs, NM	50.00
George Crawford, Summerlee, WV	20.00
Sov. Grace B. C., Fulton, MS	50.00
Berea Bapt. Bookstore, South Point, OH	200.00
Bernice Shuck, South Point, OH	20.00
John B. Wild, Breaks, VA	20.00
Trust Fund, Corbin, KY	67.22
Philadelphia B. C., Birmingham, AL	100.00
Jack Crawford, Summerlee, WV	30.00
Elmo Woodson, Sheridan, AR	20.00
Fred Ensign, North Pole, AK	46.04
Johnstown B. C., Rock Camp, OH	10.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	100.00
Trinity B. C., Chiefland, FL	20.00
Subscriptions	173.00
Dividing Checks	75.00
Anonymous	190.00
Sub Total	2,642.26
TOTAL	2,343.52
EXPENDITURES:	
Printing	516.92
Postage	24.70
Supplies	38.00
Dividing Checks	75.00
Wages	1,403.65
FICA (taxes)	288.40
Composer payment	216.50
Total	2,563.17
Borrowed \$300.00 for postage	-219.65
Ending Deficit 7-31-86	\$ -519.65

THE ANTI-INVICTUS

We are able to combat fire with fire, or so I hear;
So I will attempt to fight poetry with poetry here.
Doesn't the Bible repeatedly in many places tell,
Where the humanists shall for an eternity dwell?
Isn't it with Satan in the deep recesses of Hell?
'Tis with a bold frankness that I shall in all honesty state,
I once hoped to be captain of my soul and master of my fate;
But 'twas not to be so, since such God did not predestinate.
Wasn't it with a humanistic view that Henley wrote?
A subtle humanism does not his "Invictus" emote?
Henley gave thanks to "whatever gods may be,"
For the sovereign God he was unable to see.
In his poem, you will find what he did extol:
'Tis not God, but his own unconquerable soul.
He was captain of his soul and master of his fate
according to his proud claim.
This same principle Nehru did more recently restate,
saying others should be the same.
Now, 'tis not with any malice that I frankly declare,
That if we could stop and look into the Satanic lair,
I feel both Nehru and Henley would be dwelling there.
Henley was permitted to persist as mater of his fate;
While God Himself became Captain of my soul.
Henley would've had salvation if God did so predestinate:
'Tis God's will the saved-one is to extol.
God is Master of my will, and I believe 'tis great.

Gene Darwin Abbott
Athen, Alabama

Missionary News



MISSIONARY
DEMPSEY HENDERSON
July - 1986

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country" (Prov. 25:25). Oh, how true that is! How wonderful it is to receive good news from our mission work. The report we received was that the Faith Baptist Church had a wonderful anniversary service. They had a very large attendance and a wonderful service with several speakers before and during the service. Our report tells us that there have been souls saved and baptized in the work in Brazil and for this we praise and thank our sovereign Lord.

Here in the States we have had a number of opportunities to preach in various churches in this area, and we thank each pastor and church for the opportunity, and for the offerings. We have preached every Monday night in the county jail here in Mayfield. We enjoy it, and the inmates seem to, also. They give good attention, and some of them show interest and ask for counsel and prayer. Also, I have preached every Saturday afternoon from 12:30 to 12:45 on radio station WYMC here in Mayfield, 1430 on the dial. I also made some visits in the hospital, and did personal evangelism in various places. Most of my time, though, was spent with Dorothy, doing whatever I could to help her and her mother.

The first part of July, Dorothy began to feel much better, and we went back to her doctor July 17. He was so pleased with the results of her blood test that he decided to give her another treatment and wait 3 more weeks to do the C. A. T. scan. She still felt good for a few more days after the treatment--she didn't even get sick--but then she began to feel worse again, and she hasn't felt good since. We go back to the doctor August 7, and he will do the C. A. T. scan. We pray to God that we will get a good report. I am feeling fine, now, thank the Lord. I am over the fever and pneumonia and have my strength back. God is so good. I pray

constantly that He will keep me in good health, that I may be able to take care of Dorothy. Her mother is also feeling much better, now, thank the Lord.

I will close for now. I hope and pray that I will have good news for you next month, both of Dorothy and of the work in Brazil. We want to thank you one and all for your love, cards and letters, and offerings. God is so good to us, and we are so undeserving. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Yours in the Master's service,
Dempsey & Dorothy Henderson

FINANCIAL REPORT
July - 1986

Maranatha Mis. B. C., Louisville, OH	\$ 53.24
Zoar B. C., Cunningham, KY	49.46
Bryan Station B. C., Lexington, KY	200.00
Faith B. C., Sacramento, KY	35.00
Richland B. C., Livermore, KY	66.83
North Ballard B. C., Wickliffe, KY	175.71
Sunnyview B. C., Clarksville, TN	15.00
Shady Grove B. C., Wickliffe, KY	72.83
Beech Grove B. C., Lancaster, KY	60.00
Beech Grove B. C., Bardwell, KY	50.69
Olmstead B. C., Olmstead, KY	30.00
Calvary B. C., Ashland, KY	30.00
Grace B. C., Toledo, OH	25.00
Fellowship B. C., Mt. Sterling, KY	20.00
Faith Mis. B. C., Streamwood, IL	31.25
James H. Sims, Hattisburg, MS	45.00
Calvary B. C., Cannel City, KY	12.00
Grinter Heights B. C., Kansas City, KS	31.00
Hopewell B. C., Mayfield, KY	107.26
Julien B. C., Gracey, KY	97.00
Fellowship B. C., Lexington, KY	27.70
Trinity Mis. B. C., Richmond, KY	50.00
Bible B. C., Clarksville, TN	30.00
Berea B. C., Clarksville, TN	10.00
Berea B. C., South Point, OH	10.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL	10.00
Grace B. C., New Port Richey, FL	65.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV	100.00
Liberty Mis. B. C., Burton, MI	128.36
Central B. C., Marion, KY	50.00
Bible B. C., Harrisburg, IL	32.55
Sovereign Grace B. C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
Covenant B. C., Troy, MI	99.00
Citrus Mis. B. C., Inverness, FL	10.00
Bryantsville Mis. B. C., Lancaster, KY	75.00
Faith Mis. B. C., Paducah, KY	150.00
Calvary B. C., Arlington, KY	18.07
Stephens Branch B. C., Manton, KY	100.00
Meadowthorpe B. C., Lexington, KY	189.37
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	325.00
Grace Mis. B. C., Wyandotte, MI	30.00
Muddy Ford B. C., Georgetown, KY	10.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS	37.47
Ashland Avenue B. C., Lexington, KY	58.00
First B. C., Alexandria, KY	25.00
TOTAL	2,860.09
Balance Brought Forward	999.06
EXPENSES	2,592.80
BALANCE 7-31-86	1,266.35

Sponsoring Church:
Julien Baptist Church
Route 1
Gracey, Kentucky 42232

Home Address:
At present contact:
Elder Garner Smith
3115 Gracey-Herndon Road
Gracey, Kentucky 42232
(502) 235-5056

MISSIONARY
MIKE CHANNELL
July - 1986

Dear Brethren,
We hope our Lord's blessings are upon you all as we face another month. Our Lord has been very good



MISSIONARY
KENNETH LONG
July - 1986

to us here by giving the Mission a nice used carpet and a piano. We have laid the carpeting and are really enjoying the finished appearances. The Lord has given us grace to use what we have. We are truly thankful for the way He provides.

Our Mission was also blessed this month with one visitor. The Lord has given us a good spirit in our services. Even though our numbers may be low, our spirits are high, as we see our Lord moving and working in lives.

Our Pastor, Bro. Hall, has started a new mission point in Murray, Kentucky. It has been our privilege to attend some of these services and supply as he has been called away.

Brethren, we want to encourage you to keep contending for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. We see in our day that there are many falling and departing. But His Word says that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against His church. His Word also says, when we have done all--stand,--all by His grace.

We pray His grace will be multiplied unto us all. Thank you all for your prayers and support for our labors here in western Tennessee. May His abundant blessings be on you all.

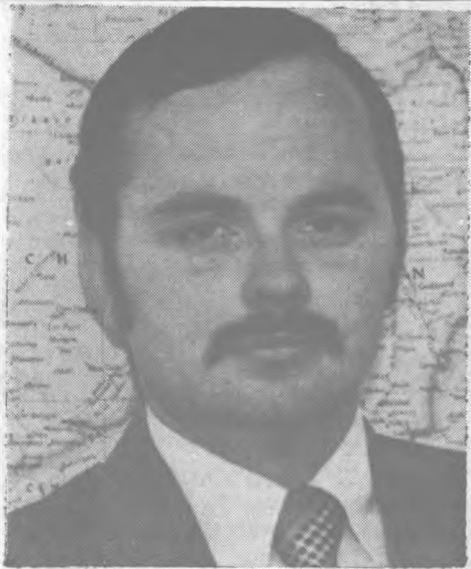
By His Grace,
Mike Channell

FINANCIAL REPORT

Faith B. C., Sacramento, KY	\$ 35.00
Grace B. C., Cairo, IL	150.00
New Hope B. C., Oblong, IL	40.00
Faith B. C., Lynn, AR	65.00
Bryan Station B. C., Lexington, KY	50.00
First B. C., Frankfort, MI	20.00
Berea B. C., South Point, OH	10.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Craigsville, WV	25.00
Faith B. C., Sacramento, KY (love off.)	35.00
Friend (Love offering for eye glasses for son)	100.00
TOTAL	530.00

Sponsoring Church:
Grace Baptist Church
1902 Poplar Street
Cario, Illinois 62914

Home Address:
Mike Channell
Rt. 1, Box 259
Mansfield, Tennessee 38236



To the Churches of our Lord,
Grace and peace to you from the God of all peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord made it possible for us to present the works in Nigeria and preach His Word at the following churches: the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church of Chesapeake, Ohio; the Philadelphia Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama; the Philadelphia Baptist Church of Decatur, Alabama; and the Vashti Baptist Church of Taylorsville, North Carolina. We thank God for this opportunity.

We have not heard from the Calvary Baptist Church of Calabar, Nigeria. We desire your prayers. We know that our God has not become idle. He is working here in the States and over in Nigeria. We may not be able to see what He is doing, but faith tells us that He is accomplishing His will. Pray for us that God will give us grace to trust Him and to wait upon Him for we do greatly desire to do His will.

Please remember to pray for the brethren and efforts in Nigeria. May God richly bless you.

Yours in Christ,
Kenneth M. Long

FINANCIAL REPORT

Beverly Manor B. C., Washington, IL	\$ 1,200.00
Berea B. C., South Point, OH	10.00
Berean B. C., Batesville, IN	30.00
Bethel B. C., Lawton, OK	40.00
Cedar Creek B. C., Cedarville, WV	79.75
Grace B. C., Bradenton, FL	50.00
Graphic B. C., Mountainburg, AR	25.00
Mem. East Corbin, B. C., Corbin, KY	22.41
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	75.00
Naborton B. C., Mansfield, LA	75.00
Philadelphia B. C., Birmingham, AL	50.00
Salem B. C., Washington, IL	50.00
Sov. Grace B. C., Duncan, OK	20.00
Sov. Grace B. C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
The Lord's C., Goose Creek, SC	25.00
Vashti B. C., Taylorsville, NC	150.00
Windsor B. C., Windsor, IL	25.00
Total	1,977.16

Love Offerings:	
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	150.00
Midland B. C., Franklin Furnace, OH	25.00
Beverly Manor B. C., Washington, IL	220.00
Total	395.00
Total income for July	2,372.16
Balance carried forward	784.16
	3,156.32
Less Expenses	2,150.00
BALANCE 7-31-86	1,006.32

EXPENSES:
Living Expenses 1,327.28
(Continued on page eighteen)

Missionary

(Continued from page seventeen)

Utilities	92.69
Telephone	50.51
Supplies & Postage	128.08
(overseas mailing - \$73.96)	
Gas & Auto	16.20
Travel Expense	135.24
Summer School	120.00
Contributions	280.00
Total	2,150.00
Passage Fund:	
Balance Carried Forward	1,524.92
Faith B. C., St. Joseph, IL	35.00
Dessie B. C., Clem, WV	50.00
Unity B. C., Glendon, WV	25.00
Memorial Heights B. C., Perry, GA	100.00
Total	1,734.92

Sponsoring Church:
Beverly Manor Baptist Church
209 Vohland
Washington, Illinois 61571

Home Address:
Kenneth Long
214 Vohland Street
Washington, Illinois 61571
(309) 745-3093



MISSIONARY
ROBERT FISHER
July - 1986

Dear Brethren in Christ,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the "... Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" (1 Pet. 2:25). We trust that you may be enjoying the blessings of the Lord as described in II John 3-4, "Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth as we have received a commandment from the Father." In this day when so few know and walk in the truth, we pray that the grace of the Lord will enable you to walk in the truth and thank Him for the blessings of His grace.

The people in Oregon continue their exodus to the rivers, lakes, beaches and mountains as our warm Oregon summer weather continues. It is even harder to do mission work here in the summer as it is hard to find people at home while on visitation and those that are at home are usually busy or have no interest in spiritual things. In spite of this, the Lord brings us into contact with several people each month and opens

up good opportunities for us to witness to them about the gospel of the grace of God. We plan to continue our door to door visitation, but I also want to explore other ways of getting the truth to the people. In our time here there has been little response from visitation. Our visitors have heard about us usually through our newspaper ads or the radio program. We thank the Lord for the many good visits we have had on visitation, and for the seeds that have been planted, but wonder if there might be better ways to get our message out. This we will look into. If you have any ideas, suggestions or questions about our work, please write and let us know. As always, please continue to pray for us and for the establishment of new churches in the Pacific Northwest. Your continued spiritual and financial support are a great blessing and invaluable asset to this ministry. In spite of all the trials, our burden continues to be the establishing of new works in our spiritually barren area.

We are still meeting in our home and looking for a public meeting place. We have S. S. and then in the morning worship service I preach as the Lord leads on Sunday morning. Sunday nights finds us in a verse by verse study of the book of Romans. In our mid-week service on Thursday night, we are studying a variety of topics under the general heading of "Things that affect us". So far we are looking at the history and role of government and a study of humanism. We have been especially interested in humanism and the way humanists propagate their false message. We also plan to study the family and the effects of public education in America.

As I mentioned last month, I am looking forward to being in Seattle, WA. from July 24-27 for a weekend meeting with the South Park Missionary Baptist Church and with my home church from August 27-September 4 to attend the Bible conference at the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church from August 29-31. Please continue to pray for our family and for the ministry here in Eugene.

By His Grace,
Robert Fisher

FINANCIAL REPORT 6-16-86 to 7-15-86

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,921.26
RECEIPTS:	
Grace Mis. B. C., Holly, MI	30.00
Faith Mis. B. C., Madison Heights, MI	100.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	50.00
I-20 B. C., Darlington, SC	25.00
Sov. Grace B. C., Craigsville, WV	25.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	30.00
Trust Fund, Corbin, KY	46.30
Independence B. C., Foristell, MO	20.00
Covenant B. C., Troy, MI	20.00
The Bible B. C., Plant City, FL	50.00
Living Stone B. C., Barboursville, WV	94.25
Berea B. C., South Point, OH	100.00
Midland Mis. B. C., Franklin Furnace, OH	15.00
Bryan Station B. C., Lexington, KY	70.00
Memorial Heights B. C., Perry, GA	100.00
Beverly Manor B. C., Washington, IL	30.00
Temple B. C., Ocala, FL	50.00
Claude Creech, New Port Richey, FL	10.00
Nellie Creech, New Port Richey, FL	10.00
Oakvale B. C., Danes, WV	100.00
Faith Mis. B. C., Madison Heights, MI	100.00

Grace Memorial B. C., Memphis, TN	200.00
Olmstead B. C., Olmstead, KY	30.00
Covenant B. C., Troy, MI	30.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC	25.00
Faith B. C., Seffner, FL	100.00
Bethel B. C., Phillipsburg, KS	600.00
Grinter Heights B. C., Kansas City, KS	31.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL	10.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV	100.00
The Bible B. C., Plant City, FL	50.00
West Milton B. C., West Milton, OH	30.00
Concord B. C., Leesville, SC	25.00
Sov. Grace B. C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
First B. C., of Ojus, N. Miami Beach, FL	25.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	50.00
Mrs. O. C. Whitaker, Cushing, TX	10.00
Central B. C., Marion, KY	50.00
Mission Offerings	325.00
Subtotal	2,816.55
TOTAL	5,737.81

EXPENDITURES:	
Salary	1,000.00
Housing allowance:	
House payment	388.63
Utilities	171.60
Repairs, Misc.	14.58
Auto. Expenses	159.69
Insurance	130.48
Office supply/postage	75.91
Radio program	160.00
Advertising	39.63
Bank service charges	1.00
TOTAL	2,141.52
ENDING BALANCE 7-15-86	3,596.29

BUILDING FUND:	
Beginning Balance	3,937.04
RECEIPTS:	
Interest	16.57
Subtotal	3,953.61
TOTAL	3,953.61

Sponsoring Church:
Berea Baptist Church
P. O. Box 552
South Point, Ohio 45680

Home Address:
Robert Fisher
3225 Wood Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97402

MISSIONARY TOM ROSS July - 1986

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We greet you in the name of our sovereign King, the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other monarch who is so powerful and yet so benevolent to his subjects as our Lord.

The month of July was a good month for us here in Xenia. Our attendance has been growing steadily. We had an average of 19 with a high of 26 and a low of 13, our average offering was \$176 per week. Our Sunday night attendance has been much more steady also. We have had the privilege to preach the gospel to thousands as we go door to door since we have been here. We are praying about having a three day old fashioned tent meeting in the latter part of September.

The people have been receiving the truths of the Word of God. We have people coming from various backgrounds so we must unteach a lot of heresy. We are currently teaching through the attributes of God in Sunday School, the book of Daniel on Sunday night, and a study of the cults on Wednesday night. Please continue to keep us in your daily prayers. It is our desire to establish a New Testament Baptist Church here in Xenia for the glory of God. We thank you for your continued support. We love you in the Lord.

A sinner saved by grace,
Tom Ross

FINANCIAL REPORT

New Providence B. C., Paris, KY	\$ 50.00
First Baptist, Independence, KY	50.00
Zion B. C., Taylor, MI	100.00
Twelve Ryan B. C., Warren, MI	25.00
West Milton B. C., West Milton, OH	60.00
Emmanuel B. C., Centerville, OH	125.00
First Baptist, Harrison, OH	40.00
Bryan Station B. C., Lexington, KY	500.00
LaRue Robinson S. S. Class	435.00
Grace B. C., Georgetown, KY	113.00
Twinbrook Hills B. C., Hamilton, OH	50.00
Landmark B. C., Collinsville, IL	50.00
Grace B. C., Frankfort, KY	25.00
Berea B. C., South Point, OH	15.00
Beverly Manor B. C., Washington, IL	50.00
First Baptist, Alexandria, KY	25.00
Berea B. C., Bloomfield, NM	25.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,738.00

EXPENSES:	
Salary	775.00
Rent	800.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,575.00

Sponsoring Church:
Wilmington Baptist Temple
P. O. Box 245
Wilmington, Ohio 45177

Home Address:
Tom Ross
476 W. Market Street
Xenia, Ohio 45385
(513) 376-5552

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The local Fellowship Meeting will be with the Midland Baptist Church, Franklin Furnace, Ohio, and Pastor Harry Balmer, Sept. 27 at 7:00 p.m. The local Men's Meeting will be with the same church and pastor on Sept. 5 at 7:00 p.m.

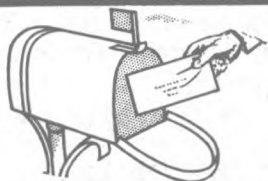
Classes have already started at the Illinois Missionary Baptist Institute and Seminary, 200 Vohland, Washington, Ill. 61571. Registration was August 1 and classes started August 26 (evening classes on the 25th). The cost is \$30 for enrollment (\$15 evening and \$12 per semester hour). For more information contact the school by writing them or call 309-745-9229.

THANK YOU NOTE

Sister Carolyn Walls and the three girls would like to thank each one for the offerings sent to help them out since Bro. Walls left them. He returned to them for 3 weeks and then left again.

Below is a list and the amount of each contribution. If you sent money and your name is not on this list please contact our church immediately.

Berea B. C., South Point, OH	\$ 500.00
Berea B. M., Stonington, IL	500.00
Ruth Shores, Cannelton, IN	5.00
Harold Freese, Wake Village, TX	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Townsend, Walden, NY	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Hurst, South Point, OH	25.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	500.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fisher, Eugene, OR	10.00
Philadelphia B. C., Aztec, NM	110.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV	829.19
Storms Creek B. C., Ironton, OH	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. John Massie, Wayne, WV	35.00
Mrs. Therna Glanville, Ironton, OH	20.00
Sylvia Whaley, Dothan, AL	50.00
Bryan Station B. C., Lexington, KY	437.03
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	500.00
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Balmer	
Franklin Furnace, OH	40.00
Johnstown B. C., Rock Camp, OH	250.00



Letters to the Editor

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

We always enjoy the Berea Baptist Broadcast every Sunday morning on WNDA. I would encourage all churches that could to put this professional gospel program on the air in their location.

---Alabama

Dear Brother,

I have been receiving the Banner for three months now and reading it is very comforting at times, especially the quotes from the Bible. Unfortunately reception of your radio broadcasts has been very difficult on Sunday morning. I like listening to Bible programs and often I hear preachers say that the USA is the New Jerusalem and that the USA stands for the land of Christ and Christianity. I also read in the Banner an article approving American intervention (direct or indirect) in South America to help freedom fighters. Is there any Biblical justification for using violence and guns in the name of freedom? Do those freedom fighters in Nicaragua or else where do God's will? Is there any justification for President Reagan's calling the Soviet Union the "evil empire"?

I lived in the United States for some time and I don't think that your columnist who wrote the ABC news is pro-communist ever listened to Paul Harvey's News and comments, just tell Paul Harvey he is a communist!

Well, I hope you'll be kind enough to answer my questions. Thanking you in advance.

---France

Editor's Note: For our response to this letter please read the article in this issue by Bro. Evans.

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Please find enclosed cheque for \$30.00 for which please send us your paper for five years, if there is enough money. Our Canadian money does not seem very good anymore.

Times are hard up here but people can still find money to spend on Satan's pleasure, etc.

Thank you for the time and effort you put in on this very good paper. Only the Lord knows how much is put in on each edition of it.

---Canada

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

We enjoy each issue of BBB and look forward each time we receive it. It always contains very good messages that are a source of spiritual growth for us.

Enclosed is a check for five dollars. Please renew the subscriptions of ones listed below.

Thanks --- May God continue his richest of blessings upon your ministry.

---Alabama

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

The paper is a blessing to me and my wife, as I told you when we talked. I think that it is well balanced and certainly an instrument of glory to God and an instructor of men.

---Ohio

Dear Brother in Christ,

Greetings from Cicero, Illinois!

Just recently I have been receiving the Baptist Banner. I have been enjoying some of the articles. I assume that you folks believe in God's Word, the "KJV-1611" as I do. However, in your July 15, 1986 issue I noticed a couple of locations where other translations are being used or referred to: on page 2 in the cartoon by Jack Hamm, and in Beverly Pack's article on page 14. Perhaps this was an oversight. I just felt impressed to bring it to your attention.

---Illinois

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Its time again to renew my subscription to the paper as I would not miss it for anything. I'm sending \$20.00 for the next year. Please use what is left as you see fit.

May the Lord bless you and the church.

---Kentucky

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

While we attended the Bible Conference at the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Mansfield (on Saturday June 14th) we picked up one of your free copies of The Berea Baptist Banner. After bringing it home and reading thru its pages we've decided we'd like to have our name added to your mailing list.

Speaking of the Conference once again---we surely enjoyed listening to Mrs. Cockrell play the piano; it added so very much to the services and we know it was greatly appreciated by the song leader.

In closing---we'd like to subscribe to the Berea Baptist Banner for two years; we've enclosed a check for the amount of five dollars.

Thank you very kindly.

---Ohio

Dear Brother-in-Christ,

I am praising the Lord Jesus Christ for anointing your heart and mind ---I was turning my short wave radio God gifted to me. I was so blessed. It is 1:00 here in Springfield WRNO Worldwide was what I understood. The sound faded or else there was another station trying to come on the air waves. I was blessed---you were on a subject I enjoy. I love Israel---I pray for Israel---I certainly am going to put you and your congregation on my daily prayer list. I ask to be put on your prayer list.

---Illinois

Dear Pastor Cockrell,

I am sending a \$5.00 check to renew my subscription to the Berea Baptist Banner for another two years. I read each issue of the Banner faithfully and some times go back and read back issues a second and third time.

---Arizona

Dear Bro. Milburn,

The tapes are good, the one on Depravity of the Heart was the most informative and I really got a lot out of it. I have listened to it 5 or 6 times. They are all good and the ones on the Blood are good ones to.

---North Carolina

Dear Sir:

Think your sermons of Matthew 24 (part 2) could be sooner than we think.

---California

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

I would like to know if you have any tapes or books on closed communion.

Our church is a small Sovereign Grace Baptist and we are in need of help on this subject.

Please send tape or books and I'll send check at once or let me know the cost and I'll send check first.

---Texas

BOOK REVIEWS

The following books are all from Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Order from our bookstore.

PRACTICAL TRUTHS FROM FIRST THESSALONIANS by F. E. Marsh (1858-1931); 271 pages (hardcover); \$12.95.

This book is what it claims to be. It will help you to see that Paul was a very practical preacher. It will be a good help in building sermons from this epistle.

MARK'S SUPERB GOSPEL by Ivor Powell; 432 pages (hardcover); \$16.95.

This is another book from the pen of the one I call "the Master Outliner." His verse-by-verse expository notes give a unique insight into the Bible times and the truth of God's Word. A good book for your library.

THE HOLY SPIRIT by W. H. Griffith Thomas (1861-1924); 303 pages (paperback); \$6.95.

I am pleased to see this old work back in print. This is a comprehensive book on this subject. It even includes the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the history of Christendom. A must on the Holy Spirit.

STUDIES IN COLOSSIANS AND

PHILEMON by W. H. Griffith Thomas; 190 pages (paperback); \$6.95.

This co-founder of Dallas Theological Seminary has done an excellent job outlining these books. He is an expositor well worth reading. A good book for your library.

PORTRAITS OF BIBLE WOMEN by George Matheson (1842-1906); 264 pages (paperback); \$7.95.

The moral insights and spiritual beauty of these short studies are remarkable and refreshing. If you want to study Bible characters, then by all means you must have this book.

PROTRAITS OF BIBLE MEN by George Matheson; 379 pages (paperback); \$8.95.

You will be blessed as you read such chapters as "Enoch the Immortal," "Samuel the Seer," "Job the Patient," etc. With a little work a sermon could be built upon each of these characters which number sixteen in the book.

SERMONS AND MEMOIRS OF CHRISTMAS EVANS; translated from the Welsh by Joseph Cross; 303 pages (paperback); \$12.95.

Christmas Evans was the Whitefield of the Baptists. He was known as "the one-eyed man from Anglesea that is a prophet from God." You have never heard good preaching until you have read these sermons by the greatest preacher which Wales ever produced. He was a remarkable example of untutored eloquence. This book has been out-of-print since 1856. Buy, beg, borrow, but obtain this book. You will never be the same after you read it!

A TRUE REVIVAL

True revival is more than a passing emotional experience. True revival is a deep consciousness of eternity. We must live every moment in view of eternity; we must do every deed in view of eternity; we must pray every prayer in view of eternity; we must prepare every sermon in view of eternity; we must witness to every sinner in view of eternity; we must become eternity-conscious.

---Glen Green

BAPTIST SUCCESSION

By D. B. Ray

\$22.00

This is one of the most important books ever written on this subject. It was published when this truth was under heavy attack from the liberals. The 1641 theory of Baptist origins is completely refuted. Include \$1.50 for postage and handling. Ohio residents add 6% state sales tax.

BEREA BAPTIST BOOKSTORE
P. O. Box 552
SOUTH POINT, OHIO 45680

News

(Continued from page sixteen)

GLEANINGS FROM HERE AND THERE

In Nicaragua, Salvador Alvarado of Sta. Marta, pastor of the Miskito tribe, had his church transformed by the government into a house of prostitution. The Christian brother Chilo Talavera in Los Laureles was beheaded by the Communists in the presence of his children. . . .

When Mao came to power there were no more than three million Christians in China. Today the Protestants alone are said to number 50 million (*Christian Mission to the communist world*, 8-86).

William F. Buckley, Jr., says there has been a rise in illegitimate children by a factor of 600 percent during the past 20 years (*Concerned Women for America*, July 1986).

HONG KONG (EP)—China's Public Security Bureau has forced a controversial Western cult out of China. According to a report by the Chinese Church Research Center, 119 cult members, many of them working as English teachers, have been uncovered in China. They allegedly attracted people with pornographic pictures and literature. According to reports from other countries, sexual intercourse has also been used as a recruiting device.

JERUSALEM, Israel (EP)—Housing in ancient Jerusalem apparently featured indoor plumbing. In houses dating back 55 centuries—a full 2,500 years before King David conquered the city—Yigal Shiloh and an excavating team seem to have discovered ancient bathrooms. One structure has a small room, about four-and-a-half feet square, with a thick plaster floor. A stone structure with a hole, resembling a modern toilet seat, was found in a pit eight feet below the floor.

TUPELO, Miss. (EP)—The National Federation for Decency (NFD) has named Holiday Inns as their Pornographer of the Month for August. The NFD monthly award goes to companies which support pornography with advertising or distribution.

According to Donald E. Wildmon, head of the NFD, Holiday Inn was selected because of their recent decision to begin carrying "adult" movies in their motel rooms nationwide.

"Holiday Inn is now one of the largest porno cable operators in the nation," said Wildmon. "To our knowledge, only the Playboy Channel shows more porno movies than Holiday Inn. The Playboy Channel will go out of business, probably before January, and that will leave Holiday Inn as the leading porno cable service in the nation."

MCINTIRE PROTESTS AT GRAHAM CONFERENCE

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (EP)—Fundamentalist Carl McIntire, president of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICC) and a perennial critic of evangelist Billy Graham, made his customary appearance outside the RAI convention Center to protest against the participant in the International Conference of Itinerant Evangelists (ICIE) of some 100 church men from the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries.

"These men are here as agents under the direction and control of the Soviet government—they couldn't get out of the country otherwise," McIntire contended, "Dr. Graham is giving them credibility and is making all the other participating evangelists from all over the world think that these men from Moscow are all right."

McIntire claimed "the real Christians in Moscow are underground, in the unregistered churches."

"Beware of false prophets. . ." (Matt. 7:15).

JOURNALIST EXPECTS NO CHANGE IN ALBANIA'S ATHEIST POLICY

TIRANA, Albania (EP)—No radical change in Albania's attitude toward religion will follow last year's death of Enver Hoxha, according to a British journalist who just visited the country. Dan Wooding, chief correspondent for the California-based Open Doors News Service, spent nearly two weeks in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, which declared itself to be "the world's first atheistic state" in 1967.

"Even though Enver Hoxha, the iron-fisted leader of the country since 1944, died last year, I was told by people in authority in Albania that there will be no change in their path of atheism," said Wooding. "At present, all churches and mosques are closed, no one is allowed to own a Bible, or even name their newborn with a religious name. None of this will change."

Wooding said he had heard reports that Albania's new leader, Ramiz Alia, has declared that people should not be imprisoned or punished for praying at home. "If this information is correct," he

noted, "it will be an extremely significant development since Albania was officially declared atheistic in 1967, and has severely punished religious worship in private homes in the past."

While the present leader, Alia, was the man behind the rewriting of the national constitution to produce the official atheistic stance, Wooding says change is possible. "Albania could follow the same path that China did after the death of Mao," he concludes. "There is evidence that many people are disillusioned with the current system and are searching for another truth. We hope that, as in China, Albanians will also find the whole truth, the real truth."

"... haters of God. . ." (Rom. 1:30).



IT COST ME THE WORLD

Said a worldly Christian to a Spirit-filled Christian, "I would give the world for your life of blessedness and moment-by-moment victory in Christ."

Replied the radiant Christian: "That is just what it cost me—the world!"

---Copied



ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be special services at the Bethel Baptist Church, Phillipsburg, Kas., Sept. 15-21. The Editor is the speaker.

The song books are at the printers. I have made the final examination on the copy to be printed. Except for four songs which I felt needed to have the words and music reset, the books are ready to print. I am not sure how long before they will have the books printed and in our hands. I would hope within about six weeks, but I cannot be sure of any time as I have no control over their publishing house.

If all goes according to plans, I plan to visit my daughter in New Mexico the latter part of Sept. and the first part of Oct. During this time I have been asked to speak at the fol-

lowing churches: Portland Baptist Church, Plumerville, Ark., Pastor Earl Smith; Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Duncan, Okla., Pastor Jarrel Huffman; and Berea Baptist Church, Bloomfield, N. Mex., Pastor Richard Eckstein. Final details incomplete at this time.

We now have ready for free distribution 2,000 copies of the tract "The Drug Bug," which deals with the drug problem in our society that continues to increase. If you are interested in some of these, write for them. Postage appreciated.

There will be homecoming services at the Big Creek Baptist Church, Wayne, W. Va., Sept. 14th. Special speakers are Elders John Massie, Steve Cornett, and Bobby Lakes. Lunch will be served.

The Johnstown Baptist Church, Rock Camp, Ohio, and Pastor George Sherman will have homecoming services Sept. 21st. Lunch will be served.



STORIES THE PREACHERS TELL

A young man walked up to an old man in the grocery store and began to witness to him. "Sir, have you ever given any thought as to the hereafter?" The old man replied, "Yes, I have. As a matter of fact I am standing here right now trying to remember what I'm up here after."

A young convert asked his pastor if Abraham was the first Jew. The pastor told him that he was. The young convert said, "I thought he was. I was reading in Genesis 18 the other day, and I noticed he tried to strike a bargain with God. He went from fifty righteous down to ten."

One day a pastor was standing in his front door looking out in the yard. He saw a couple drive up. A large woman got out of the car almost dragging a little old man. They came up to the door and the large woman shook the little old man and said, "Tell him what we want." The little old man said, "Sir, Sir, Sir, we . . . we want to get married." When the ceremony was over the big woman in a rough voice said, "Pay the man." With his arms shaking and his knees knocking, he gave the pastor \$10. As the big woman almost dragged the little old man down the walkway to the car, he looked back and said to the pastor, "Preacher, pray for me."

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