

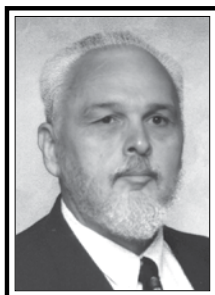
# The Berea Baptist Banner

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

## How Far, America?

By Curtis Pugh  
of Poteau, Oklahoma

In meditating on this article, at first we thought to call it, "Which Way, America?" But the direction in which these United States is heading is obviously the wrong one. Most every thinking person untainted with liberalism is in agreement: that this country is headed in the wrong direction. But let us not be too quick to blame Washington. We, the people, elect tyrants to live high



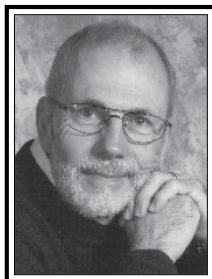
and lord it over us while passing out the bucks. The few who do seem to oppose our liberties being taken from us are like the little Dutch boy trying to stop the leak in the dyke by poking his fingers in the ever growing holes. The liberal-leftist-entitlement-minded citizenry on each of

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## What Manner of Man Is This?

By James L. Reynolds  
of Cornersville, Tennessee

"And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be



fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side. And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will

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## Finishing Your Course with Joy

By Andy Proctor  
of Winston-Salem, North Carolina

### Going Out with a Smile

**"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God"** (Acts 20:24).

Paul is on his way from



Macedonia to give an offering to the Jerusalem church and making his way through Asia Minor, or Turkey as we know it,

and sends a message ahead to the Ephesian elders to meet him at Miletus, about 30 miles from

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## The Redemption of Man Brings Glory to God

By Christmas Evans  
(1766 – 1838)

**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men"** (Luke 2:14).

The only begotten Son of God being anointed to be a prophet, priest and king, had a very important work to accomplish, as the Mediator between God and man. It was necessary that He should humble Himself and assume our degraded nature. Had He appeared in our world in all



the majesty and glory of the Deity, it would have been impossible for the children of men to listen to His doctrine,

and it would have been impossible for Him to offer Himself a sacrifice for sin; but being God manifested in the flesh, Emmanuel, God with us, God in our nature; very justly then, and with the greatest

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**Christ's soldiers fight best on their knees.**

The praying legion is the thundering legion, and chases the enemy before it.

**"Pray without ceasing"** (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

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The purpose of the Berea Baptist Banner is as follows:

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

# What Manner of

(Continued from page 189) ♦

**follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead. And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him" (Matt. 8:14-27)!**

In a previous article I wrote of the question found in verse 27 of the above Scripture text.

**"But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him" (Matt. 8:27)!**

It was also noted in that article that in Mark 4:41 and Luke 8:25 the King James Version reads identical in all three instances with the phrase, **"What manner of man is this?"**

**"And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him" (Mark 4:41)?**

**"And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of**

**man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him" (Luke 8:25).**

It was likewise an observation in that previous article that there are at least two points which are obvious to us from the above Scripture, Matthew 8:27. One point is **"What manner of man is this"** or what type of man is this? And from that question we also get a second point which was the topic for the previous article. In that previous article I submitted unto you for consideration that the Scriptures clearly and forcefully declare that the Lord Jesus is indeed a man, that is, that He had a human nature.

By the enablement of the blessed Holy Spirit I wrote in that article on the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ. There were five Scriptural declarations relative to the humanity of the Lord Jesus noted in that article.

By the direction and the enablement of that same blessed Holy Spirit I will endeavor to write in this article on the question which the disciples asked in Matthew 8:27 concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, **"What manner of man is this?"**

I desire in this brief article to contemplate on that question as we look into the inspired Word of God and seek an answer to that question.

Therefore our topic for consideration will be, **"What manner of man, or what type of man was the Lord Jesus Christ?"**

As always it is my fervent desire that our source of enlightenment is the infallible Word of God. Although I may from time to time submit some comment or reference from the pen of a mortal, that comment is always to be tested for veracity by the unerring Holy Scriptures.

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# What Manner of

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Therefore having prefaced what will be presented to you, I ask the same question which the apostles asked one another in Matthew 8:27, **"What manner of man"** was the Lord Jesus?

The word translated **"what manner of"** by the King James Translators in Matthew 8:27 is *ποταπος* (potapos) and some of its meanings are: of what kind, of what sort, of what manner.

In inspiring the Greek New Testament Scriptures the Holy Spirit mandated the use of this Greek word *ποταπος* (potapos), or some grammatical form of it, in five other instances.

In seeking to get as much understanding as we are able to on the subject under consideration we would briefly present those Scriptures in which the Holy Spirit inspired this word *ποταπος* (potapos), or some grammatical form of it, to you for meditation.

**"And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here"** (Mark 13:1)!

**"And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be"** (Luke 1:29).

**"Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner"** (Luke 7:39).

**"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness"** (II Peter 3:11).

**"Behold, what manner of love**

**the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not"** (I John 3:1).

If we were to look up the English word "manner" in a thesaurus some of the words given would be: order, type, nature, sort, kind. So then we are doing no disrespect to the Scriptures nor are we in the least wise attempting to change the meaning of them when we say that we desire in this article to consider what kind of man the Lord Jesus was, or what type of man the Lord Jesus was, or what sort of man the Lord Jesus was.

It is somewhat of a synonym to think of character when we contemplate what type or what manner a person is. And in the case of our dear Lord and Saviour His character is flawless!

There are several points we wish to submit unto you for consideration and the order of their submission is not in any way indicative of their significance or of their importance.

Certainly in the brevity of this article we can formulate but a glimpse of the manner of man the Lord Jesus Christ was. Volumes have been written about Him throughout the ages since He took upon Himself the **"form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."** Without question of infinitely greater value than any writings of man are the things concerning Him which are recorded for us by the Holy Spirit in His inspired Word.

Therefore let us proceed in our brief study on the manner of man the Lord Jesus Christ was.

1.) The first thing which we wish to put before you for consideration relative to the manner of the Lord Jesus Christ is that He was a compassionate man.

The 1933 Funk & Wagnalls

dictionary defines compassion as, "Pity for suffering with desire to help or to spare, sympathy with pain or sorrow that prompts one to relieve."

As He walked upon this earth in His fleshly tabernacle the Lord Jesus Christ had compassion on His undeserving creatures.

A man out of whom the Lord had cast a legion of demons wanted to follow the Lord. However, he was told to return to those who knew him and tell them of the One who had shown compassion towards him and Who had freed him from his demonic possession.

**"And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee"** (Mark 5:18-19).

After seeing the grief of a mother who had lost her only son the Lord Jesus Christ had compassion on her and restored her son to life.

**"Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother"** (Luke 7:12-15).

If you will recall that in the definition of compassion which we just noted it stated that one who has compassion has a desire

to help or to spare, that they are prompted to relieve the sufferings of the one for whom they have compassion.

Sometimes people mistakenly believe that God can be motivated by the actions of His creatures. In the strictest sense that is incorrect. God can only be motivated by His own glorious and perfect attributes.

God's attribute of holiness motivates Him to punish sin, either in the person of the one who has committed that sin or in their acceptable substitute.

God's attribute of mercy motivates Him to show favor and kindness, and that everlastingly so, to those who are perfectly righteous in the Lord Jesus Christ.

God has compassion on those whom He chose to have compassion on. **"For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion"** (Rom. 9:15).

Speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit used the exact expression **"moved with compassion"** four times in the New Testament. He graciously gave us those examples of our Lord having compassion and then taking action based on His own great mercy and kindness.

**"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd"** (Matt. 9:36).

**"And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick"** (Matt. 14:14).

**"And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto**

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**him, I will; be thou clean**" (Mark 1:41).

**"And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things"** (Mark 6:34).

It is obvious from the Scriptures that true compassion is not a lifeless and inert sentiment but that it is an active force as it seeks to relieve the suffering of the one who it is directed towards.

As finite and impotent creatures we are powerless to offer any real and lasting relief for anyone's suffering, be that suffering mental, physical, or spiritual. However, we know the One Who has infinite and limitless power to relieve all suffering, both in this life and in the life to come.

If we would emulate our dear Lord in His compassion we need to pray that the Holy Spirit will lead and direct us to do everything we can, everything He would have us to do, in offering our feeble relief to those in need, but more importantly in pointing them towards the One Who has everlasting **"healing in his wings."**

Before we move to our next point we would like to make one very brief comment on the compassion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sadly there are those who equate compassion with weakness. Our society promotes the malformed concept that strong men are without feelings of compassion or pity. However, like much of the world's beliefs this false one is also in direct opposition to the Word of God. In reality it is the weak man, weak spiritually and weak emotionally, who lacks true

compassion.

Blasphemous pictures which are supposed to be of the Lord Jesus have led multitudes to form a mental image of one who is an effeminate looking weakling. Is it any wonder that in their concept of this being he is unable to bring to pass his desires for his own people's well being unless they augment his efforts and assist him in them?

**"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls"** (Matt. 11:29).

Some who claim to be His own people have attempted to twist the Lord's words in the above Scripture and would have us to believe that **"meek and lowly"** is synonymous with timid and weak. That is not so in reference to our sovereign and omnipotent Lord and Saviour!

Beloved, the Lord Jesus while walking upon this earth was not an effeminate and timid weakling. He drove the money changers and merchants out of the temple. He stood up to the religious and powerful Jews and declared that they were hypocritical sinners and bound for Hell. Eight times He addressed the scribes and Pharisees as hypocrites.

**"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness"** (Matt 23:27).

The Lord Jesus Christ never sugar coated His words nor was He ever intimidated by any man or group of men.

As the spotless Lamb of God He is the perfect example of a man. He was neither weak nor frail in body, mind, or spirit.

The Lord Jesus Christ was a

compassionate man.

2.) The second thing which we wish to put before you for consideration relative to the manner of the Lord Jesus Christ is that He was an impartial or unbiased man.

In this age and society in which we now live true impartiality by those in positions of power and authority is rare indeed. Mankind in general is so concerned with how they can use each other for their own gain that those of a lower economic or social strata are often lightly esteemed and are given no consideration of value because they are deemed to be of no worth in assisting that one who is "climbing to the top."

People will often look upon an accomplished sports or entertainment figure as if those temporal and secular achievements make them of more intrinsic value than another human.

We see this same biased idolization in the political arena also. We are commanded to pray **"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. 2:2), but we must never lose sight of the fact that they are but depraved and sinful humans just like us.

And in the area of religion and so called Christianity how often do we see people who act as if it is some merit to them to be associated with a famous name religious figure? When the pope John Paul II died in 2005 I was sickened by the accolades and ill deserved honors which the world poured upon him. The many who addressed him as "holy father" will one day regret that sin, either in this life or in the life to come. Likewise I am disgusted with how people "idolize" the current pope,

with even our president calling him "the holy father."

Nashville's number one priest is retiring and the television reporters have been falling over themselves to interview him as they flatter him with ill deserved words of admiration.

Some denominations take unto themselves flowery names and titles in an effort to elevate themselves above the rest of the people. For any man to take to themselves the title "Reverend" is a sinful attempt to steal a title that belongs only to God. Some have gone beyond that and added "right reverend" or "most right reverend." God only is to be addressed as reverend.

**"He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name"** (Ps. 111:9).

Likewise the titles Father and Rabbi are divinely forbidden to be used in reference to any mortal in a religious sense.

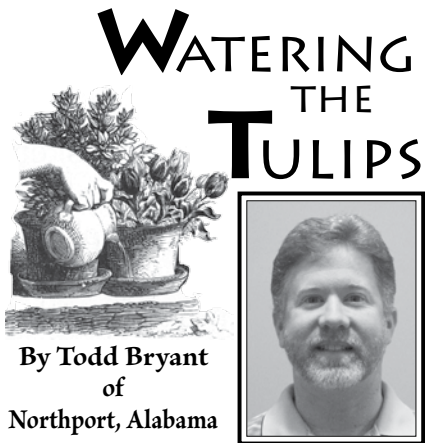
I am exceedingly thankful for each brother that God has called to the gospel ministry and I pray that each one may be found doing what the Lord would have him to do. However, I do not care how many letters he has after his name or how many people flock to hear his flowing oratory, if his words are not in alignment with God's holy Word then he is wrong!

In one of their efforts to find fault with the Lord Jesus the Jews sent people to try and trick Him with their words. They stated a well known fact about His manner and hoped to use that fact to get something against Him.

**"And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any**

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By Todd Bryant  
of  
Northport, Alabama

## To God Be the Glory

**“Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth’s sake” (Ps. 115:1).**

Man is not to be glorified. That thought is worth considering for a few moments. Notice, the psalmist here clearly says, **“Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory.”** Let that sink in for just a moment. The Creator alone is to be ascribed glory...not creatures. Never should a pastor seek glory for himself. Never should a singer seek glory for himself. Never should a teacher, a piano player, a deacon, or even a lay member seek glory for themselves. Ephesians 3:21 says, **“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”**

Anytime we hear a person seek to brag spiritually, we should exercise caution. Whether a missionary is bragging about the number of souls saved under his ministry or a treasurer is bragging about the offering, there is a cause for concern. Sometimes this may seem like semantics and nothing more – and it may be. But, we should always make sure that God is ascribed the glory and not we, ourselves. If a missionary has been blessed to see many souls saved under his ministry, then

praise God for effectually working through the Gospel. If the offering of the church members has been bountiful, then praise God for putting it in their heart.

The natural tendency of men is to measure ourselves. And even the Scripture says, **“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”** (II Peter 1:10). But, testing yourself to make sure you are serving God can quickly develop into pride if we are not careful. Measuring yourself against the next brother or sister will quickly do the same. Pride is, in a sense, giving glory to yourself rather than God. Let us all realize that this is a natural tendency that we easily fall into.

I have often heard a new convert praised by friends and family. Something such as, “I am so proud of you” frequently follows a profession of faith or baptism. But why? Why would a profession of faith give us any reason to be “proud” of a person? Happy for them – of course! A thousand times yes!! But proud of them? Ephesians 2:8 says, **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”** This verse gives God the recognition for our faith. Jesus is said to be the **“author”** of our faith in Hebrews 12:2. We ought to be thankful to God for the salvation of any person. And, to be consistent, this should be audibly expressed in such a way. We frequently find the Apostle Paul giving God thanks for the salvation of those he ministered to (Rom. 1:8; I Cor. 1:4; Phil. 1:3; Col. 1:3; II Thess. 2:13). Oh, let this ever be our response to the salvation of any soul!

Children of God, it is important how we say things. It does matter.

We must always be careful that we are expressing our thoughts and thankfulness in such a way as gives God the glory. Let us commit to the same attitude as the Psalmist by saying, **“Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth’s sake”** (Ps. 115:1).



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**man: for thou regardest not the person of men” (Matt. 22:16).**

It was apparently a well known fact that the Lord Jesus was not impressed by the status of people, that He regarded **“not the person of men.”** As the omniscient God He knew what was in man, that being a sinful and depraved heart. Therefore they were, in themselves, all the same to Him. Romans 3:19 declares that **“all the world”** is **“guilty before God.”**

The Lord Jesus Christ told rich lawyers as well as poor fishermen that unless they repented they would suffer in the flames of Hell.

The Lord Jesus told religious Jews that they would weep and gnash their teeth when they saw themselves **“thrust out”** of God’s kingdom while those whom they deemed unfit for it would be enjoying the very splendors of it.

**“Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you”** (Matt 21:31).

**“There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out”** (Luke 13:28).

Some religionists seem to feel that they have the privilege or the prerogative of deciding who the glorious teachings of God’s Word are to be shared with. They act as if they were at liberty to select who will hear those blessed truths and who will be denied that hearing. We see this recorded in Mark 2:16, and sadly we see also it amongst some modern day Pharisees.

**“And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners”** (Mark 2:16)?

Those religionists apparently felt that publicans and sinners were not worthy of being associated with or being spiritually instructed.

If we would follow our dear Lord in His impartiality and unbiasedness we would do well to commit to memory the inspired words of the Apostle James.

**“My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of (with) evil thoughts”** (James 2:1-4)?

Because He knew that we were all made from the same lump of clay (since it was He who had made of that same lump of clay some vessels of honor and some vessels of dishonor) He regarded

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not the persons of man.

Because He knows all about everyone He is not influenced by anyone.

Because He owns the cattle on a thousand hills as well as the hills He is not impressed with any man's accumulation of wealth.

The Lord Jesus Christ was an unbiased and an impartial man. Therefore His judgments are and will be impartial and unbiased.

3.) The third thing which I wish to put before you for consideration relative to the manner of the Lord Jesus Christ is that He was a sinless man.

In the previous article on the humanity of the Lord Jesus it was demonstrated by the Holy Scriptures that the Lord Jesus had two natures, one divine and one human, both of which are distinct and in total harmony with the other.

It was also noted that the Lord Jesus had a human nature that is in every aspect like unto our nature with the one marvelous exception being that His human nature was not tainted with sin as our nature is.

We will not further review that brief article on the humanity of our Lord and Savior at this time, but we will show by the Scriptures that our Lord, in His human nature, was sinless.

The actions of our Lord were always unselfish and good. When the Apostle Peter was telling Cornelius about the Lord Jesus he declared that His actions were good.

**"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him"** (Acts 10:38).

After being in the wilderness forty days the Lord was thrice tempted by Satan. The Lord used the Word of God to defeat that old deceiver and His sinless nature shines radiantly in the divinely inspired narrative of those events.

**"And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season"** (Luke 4:13).

Throughout His sojourn upon this earth our Lord was tempted by Satan as he tried to induce our Lord to sin. Though he was persistent in his assaults upon our Lord he was always a failure and our Lord was always victorious and sinless!

In every type of sin that we are tempted to commit, and most ashamedly often succumb to some of them, our Lord was also tempted. As we are guilty of repeatedly surrendering to those temptations, our Lord was continually victorious over each and every one of those temptations.

Speaking of those manifold temptations of our Lord the writer of Hebrews makes it abundantly clear that He was triumphant over each and every one of them.

**"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"** (Heb. 4:15).

The religious Jews were frequent in their attempts to find a fault with our Lord. Yet, they were unable to bring one single valid charge of sin against Him. After telling them that they were children of the devil and that they did his bidding our Lord then asked the Jew who could bring a substantiated charge of sin against Him to speak up. Of course no one spoke up because no one could rightly charge the Lord

Jesus Christ with sin.

**"Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me"** (John 8:46)?

From the first day of His birth to the last day of His life our Lord never committed a sinful action. He never said a sinful word and He never had a sinful thought. He was a sinless man.

4.) The fourth thing which we wish to put before you for consideration relative to the manner of the Lord Jesus Christ is that He was an obedient man. That is that He was obedient to His heavenly Father.

In the Old Testament Scriptures it was declared that the Lord Jesus Christ would come unto the earth to fulfill the will of God the Father. In the fullness of time the Lord Jesus took on Himself the form of a man and fulfilled every aspect of the divine law. He declared that His purpose was to do the will of His heavenly Father.

**"Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second"** (Heb. 10:9).

In His incarnation, from His youth up, it was the Lord Jesus' desire to be about His Father's business. When Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem they found Him, when He was twelve years old and had been to Jerusalem for the Passover, in the temple amidst the religious leaders both hearing them and asking them questions. When His mother told Him that they had sought Him with sorrow, that is with fear that something had happened to Him, He declared His earthly purpose, that He would be a man of obedience.

**"And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business"** (Luke 2:49)?



Quotes  
from  
**Brother  
Ritechus  
N.  
Dignation**

by Joseph Harris

Sometimes the Master of the sea may allow you to go under the water just so He can save you, as a reminder of who is really in control of your life.

**"...What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?..."** (Job 2:10).

Two times, once after fulfilling the righteous act of being baptized by John the Baptist and once when He was transfigured upon the mount, the Father declared that He was **"well pleased"** with His Son, the Lord Jesus.

**"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"** (Matt. 3:16-17).

**"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud**

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# What Manner of

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**overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him"** (Matt. 17:1-5).

As the second person in the Godhead the Lord Jesus is just as divine as God the Father or God the Holy Spirit and it was His will as well as the Father's that He fulfilled. There has eternally been perfect accord in the Holy Trinity for the three personalities are one God.

Thinking of the coming time when He would tread the winepress alone the Lord Jesus' soul became exceeding sorrowful, even to death.

**"Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt"** (Matt. 26:38-39).

NotethatourdearLorddeclared that it was to be according to the will of the Father.

John Gill comments on the two wills of the Lord Jesus: "That there are two wills in Christ, human and divine, is certain; his human will, though in some instances, as in this, may have been different from the divine will, yet not contrary to it; and his divine will is always the same with his Father's."

As was noted the Father was "well pleased" with His Son the Lord Jesus. He was pleased with His perfect and complete obedience to fulfill every jot and every tittle of the law and thereby magnify it. He was pleased with all that the Lord Jesus did, because all that He did was pleasing to the

Father.

**"Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him"** (John 8:28-29).

John Gill comments on the Lord doing those things that please the Father: "By submitting to Gospel ordinances, as to baptism, at which the Father declared his well pleasedness in him; and by complying with the ordinances of the ceremonial law, which were typical of him; and by perfectly obeying the precepts of the moral law, and bearing the penalty of it; or by suffering and dying in the room and stead of his people; all which were the will of God, and well pleasing to Him."

The Lord Jesus, in His humanity was in perfect obedience unto His heavenly Father.

And for the everlasting well being of His people He learned obedience to death, that is He experienced obedience to death. **"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered"** (Heb. 5:8).

Through His sufferings on the behalf of His people He experienced death, and that voluntarily so, in the room and stead of His people.

**Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he**

**humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him the name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"** (Phil. 2:5-11).

If we would be like our Lord and Saviour then we need to pray that the Holy Spirit would give us hearts of compassion, strip us of all partiality, grant us a hatred for sin, especially in our own lives, and teach us to be obedient unto our Heavenly Father.

Then by His unmerited grace may we one day hear, **"Well done thou good and faithful servant."**



## How Far,

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the coasts can be counted on to sway national elections in their favor: that means more fiscal irresponsibility. So let us not ask "Which Way, America?" but rather, "How Far, America?" How far will God allow our "American culture" to go before He says, "Enough?" God does have a plan, you know, and history and the Scripture both demonstrate that there are times when God puts a stop to sinful men in their mad career of sinful pleasure. And that is basically what the liberal-leftist-entitlement-minded agenda is all about: pleasure. Their philosophy is "if it feels good, do it" and they are ever ready to supply willingly unemployed citizens and illegals with tax dollars taken from hard working folk. God certainly put a stop to the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities of

the plain because of their sinful pleasure-seeking lifestyle. We tend to agree with one preacher who said that if God does not judge the U.S. for her approval of sodomy, He will need to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah for judging them for those same sins.

The Lord Jesus spoke of the conditions that will exist when He returns to this earth – not at the rapture, but at His second advent. In Luke 17:26-30 the Lord's words are recorded thus: **"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."** This passage is often referred to as "the Noah and Lot sign." It pictures humankind living without regard to God or His Word: given over to satisfying the flesh. These United States are following in the path of both Sodom and ancient Rome: sinful pleasures of all kinds and government provided bread and circuses to satisfy the masses of unemployed who as a result vote and protest to keep the leftist tyrants in power.

The Bible is clear: **"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"** (Pro. 14:12). While we know of no human government better than a democracy, the gangrene which eats at democracy is this: **"...it**

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# How Far,

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**is not in man that walketh to direct his steps**" (Jer. 10:23). A democracy, to function even tolerably well needs at least three things: (1) an educated citizenry, (2) an industrious work ethic, and most important of all (3) a moral compass: i.e., the Bible, taught and followed. By this last, the Bible, man is not left to himself to determine right and wrong. Without the Bible America is like ancient Israel: **"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes"** (Jud. 21:25). Accordingly, most Americans, right along with most professing "Christians" live according to their wicked hearts. The total hereditary depravity of mankind is seen in man's continual departure from righteousness. God made Adam upright, but our mutual father sinned and plunged the whole of his posterity into bondage – a bondage which the flesh (sin nature) of man loves. Because men love sin and utilize their wills to choose sin, they are deceived into thinking their wills are free, but they are in truth as Peter wrote they have, **"...eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin..."** (II Peter 2:14). Their wills are bent toward sinning and so they are happy in their sins and unable to cease from them. They do not want to cease sinning: not really. The present condition of the people of these States is the result of at least two things: (1) the absence of moral teachings from the Bible in homes and schools and (2) the preoccupation of the people with seeking after pleasure. Do you, as a Bible believer, wonder that teenagers and children go on killing sprees and that parents do

horrendous things to their infants and children? We have educated people without the Bible. Humans are just animals. Evolution says so. Killing a human being is no worse than killing an ant or a spider. Life is no longer sacred: the prevalence of abortion in this country proves that beyond any argument to the contrary.

The right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. But a people solely given over to pursuing happiness – solely given over to fulfilling the lusts of the flesh – a people demanding instant gratification – will not stand for principles of godliness nor long submit to a legal system based upon Biblical morals. They demand more and more and their addiction to the pleasure-drug continues to grow. Sin is popular and has become acceptable in American culture. And the rest of the world is not far behind us. Pastors, even many Baptists and their "lambs" here in the U.S. prove they are not concerned with Biblical principles of godliness. They strip off their clothing for shorts and bathing suits as well as immodest clothing worn even in the gatherings of God's supposed people. There is little difference between the way the average Baptist dresses and the fashion of the harlots whom they adore on TV. Baptists do not want to be different: this translates that Baptists do not want to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. But if you want a big church... "you gotta get with the times." "Give'em God and glamor!" "Sexy and salvation" are both possible: fleshly lusts and eternal life can go together. This is the modern "evangelical" philosophy. Baptists, right along with Catholics and Protestants, have succeeded in turning liberty into license. Easy-believism has no

connection with practical holiness because it has no connection with the gospel. It is a false gospel!

At the time of this writing, the United Methodist Church is wrangling over whether or not to uphold the defrocking of one of their clergy: a man who performed the "marriage" of his son to another man. The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. has by vote of her governing body voted to divest herself of financial investments that benefit Israel. And a new poll of the people living in these United States indicates that some fifty-two-percent of us now favor same-sex "marriages." (This writer insists on putting the word "marriage" and "marriages" in quotes when used of religious or civil ceremonies which supposedly join two persons of the same sex in some kind of ungodly perverted "union.") And the Baptists? Where are they? Probably about five years behind the rest of the world. Already some Southern Baptist Convention Churches have women "ministers" and the popular jargon is for preachers among them (and their wives) to say, "we pastored in such-and-such a place for x number of years, etc." The Bible has news: God does not call women to preach or to pastor! Neither does He call men and women to somehow "pastor" together. While we are on the subject of God's calling, the Bible never indicates that God ever called any man (or woman) to a "music ministry," or as a "worship leader," or any number of modern Baptist innovations! Strange, is it not, that the truths in your Bible are always throwing monkey wrenches in the best laid schemes of the religious crowd! It is now the popular thing for "churches" to be "welcoming congregations" - i.e., welcoming sodomites!

Is there a connection between

what the "same-sex-marriage" advocates are saying and doing and what the religious crowd in America is saying and doing? We think both are instances of just what the Bible said would come to pass. We are not so much concerned with recent Protestant escapades. The Methodists and the Presbyterians are among the daughters of the Harlot and are only behaving like what they are. The Protestants may have cried "sola Scriptura," but they never meant it and do not follow only the Bible now. While there doubtless exist some congregations within the Southern Baptist Convention who reject the claim, the SBC continues to boast that they are the "largest Protestant denomination." Let them be Protestants if they wish. It is nothing of which to boast! But their untaught or falsely-taught unregenerate membership has their flesh tickled: if they are big they must be right! Hear this! Absolutely nothing good, came out of the Protestant Reformation! The filthy Roman Harlot gave birth to her little-less-filthy and slightly more attractive daughters who teach the same damnable doctrines of baptismal regeneration and works for salvation. And most "Baptists" are running a parallel course with their equally damnable doctrine of decisional regeneration which is just another form of works for salvation. We think this departure from the truth by the majority of Baptists cannot be anything other than the prophesied apostasy of II Thessalonians 2:1-4: **"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor**

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# How Far,

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by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." Notice these things: (1) this prophecy speaks of the return of Christ to the earth, not the rapture of His saints and her bridesmaids: (2) the Greek for **"falling away"** is "apostasia" from whence our word apostasy: a willful departure from the truth: (3) Paul clearly states that "the day of Christ" is not "at hand," i.e., there is a significant intervening time before Christ will return to establish His earthly kingdom. If we understand the Scriptures aright, we are in this time of apostasy even now. Later in this same epistle Paul states, **"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived"** (II Timothy 3:13). This present apostasy is not being successfully opposed! It is thriving and growing and shall continue to do so. And the pressure is constantly applied to remain in fellowship with deviants from the faith.

"How Far, America?" Not how far will wicked men go, but how far will God allow wicked men to go in moral filth and doctrinal evils? Probably farther than you or I would allow! But certainly they will go no farther than God has planned for them to go! We can be absolutely confident that God is not concerned with time: rather He is concerned

with His elect for we read that the restoration of national Israel will follow that time when, **"the fulness of the Gentiles be come in"** (Rom. 11:25). In other words, God shall turn again to little Israel when His elect from among the Gentiles are regenerated and sanctified to the point He has predetermined. Then God will be acting in a different manner toward these United States. Two things here: (1) sometimes folk will say that this last phrase quoted means that "when the last elect Gentile is saved... etc.," Our reply is this: God did not take you to heaven immediately after your were converted so what makes you so sure that God may not leave His last saved elect Gentile here on earth for a while after they are born again? May He not leave them here awhile to witness to the world and to experience that sanctification needed by each of His sheep? (2) In turning to Israel God shall bring to pass the **"time of Jacob's trouble"** (Jer. 30:5) which has absolutely nothing to do with Christ's congregations. From the Book of Revelation we see that all the evidence points to the fact that when God's end-time judgment upon this world begins, His congregations (made up of principally Gentile peoples) will be with Him and not on the earth at all. Always keep in mind the God-given outline of the Book of Revelation found in chapter one, verse nineteen.

Matthew chapter twenty-four is a record of our Lord's prophecy regarding the end of this age and the tribulation to follow. His counsel to the disciples was as follows: **"...Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 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. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows"** (Matt. 24:4-8). The Lord's words in this passage indicate that the danger to the saints of God at this time is twofold: (1) being deceived: the Lord said, **"Take heed that no man deceive you,"** and (2) **"be not troubled."** These two dangers – being led astray and being alarmed or frightened – are the dangers of our time. Radio and TV preachers as well as some "big time pastors" and some not so big ones are busy at this very moment leading people astray. Some of them gain followers and make huge amounts of money off the alarm felt by

most people – i.e., the notion that America is heading in the wrong direction, and that things cannot continue long in this direction without catastrophic national or even worldwide consequences. Recently at least one governor, Jindal of Louisiana, has warned of the possibility of a "rebellion" and of a "hostile takeover of Washington, D.C., to preserve the American Dream for our children and grandchildren," (quote from Gov. Bobby Jindal's keynote address at a recent Faith and Freedom Coalition event). But, lulled to sleepiness if not outright sleep by our toys, treasures and pleasures, we Americans for the most part are only vaguely uneasy about our Social Security, Medicare, and 401Ks.

Will some of us live to see such events as Governor Jindal speaks?

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# How Far,

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Possibly. Some would even say, probably. In light of these things, the Words of the Holy Ghost to Timothy are appropriate: **“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them”** (II Tim. 3:14). These words follow those quoted above regarding the proliferation of evil men and deceivers in these days of apostasy. What shall we who believe in the absolute sovereignty of God in all things do? What shall we do who hold to “mother-church daughter-church succession?” “Continue thou!” Stay with the Word of God! Believe God’s Book and practice accordingly! What better advice can be given? Do not jump overboard when it seems the old ship of Zion is about to be overwhelmed and the seas of apostasy and opposition are tossing her about. Do not panic! Let us remain faithful to Christ and to the system of doctrine taught in the Bible! In that, we shall not err. God has not changed, does not change, and will not change: why should we?



# The Redemption of

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propriety the angels sang with rapture and surprise, glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will to men.

I would call your attention

I. To the incarnation of Christ, and

II. To the glorious anthem sung on the solemn occasion.

I. But in the first place, the incarnation of Christ, demands our serious attention. Though it is impossible for the unchangeable

God to be made a creature; yet the human nature was so closely and mysteriously united to the divine nature, that the mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the prince of peace, is the Son given and the child born in Bethlehem Ephratah. Though the incarnation of Emmanuel did not take away nor tarnish in the least degree the essential glory of the Deity; yet it was a very great condescension in Him, Who is above all, God blessed forevermore, to be united to the nature of man. With the greatest astonishment Solomon asked the important question --- will God in very deed dwell with man on earth? The question is now answered in the affirmative by men and angels. The Word that was in the beginning with the Father in the fullness of time tabernacled in the flesh; and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Though we cannot form any idea of the infinite distance between God and man, yet that vacuum is filled up in the incarnation of the Messiah, so that He is called the true God, and the man Christ Jesus.

Though angels are more excellent creatures than men yet He took not on Him the nature of angels, but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Though He did not take upon Him the human nature in its original glory; yet He was perfectly free from all the contamination of sin; He was holy, harmless, and separate from sinners; He knew no sin, there was no iniquity found in Him, nor any guile in His mouth.

Though it was impossible for the divine nature to become human, or the human nature to become divine; yet the two natures mysteriously united in Christ, make but one glorious person. Notwithstanding that our

blessed Redeemer thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the painful and ignominious death of the cross; yet there was something so wonderful and glorious in His nativity that the angels came down from Heaven to publish the glad tidings. It is true, there were no Ambassadors sent to the Sanhedrin of Jerusalem, and the court of Rome, to proclaim His birth; but the Ambassadors sent to the shepherds on the plains of Bethlehem in the land of Judea, were far more noble than any that ever announced the birth of an eldest son, of the greatest monarch in the world. No sooner Jesus made His appearance on earth than the command was given, that all the angels of Heaven should worship Him; whose example was followed by all the wise men of the east, who came and worshipped Him. The prophet Isaiah said, that His name should be called wonderful! And the angel Gabriel said to Mary that He should be great, and should be called the son of the Highest; and that the Lord God should give unto Him the throne of His father David; that He should reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there should be no end. He became poor, that through His poverty, we should be made rich. He humbled Himself that we might be exalted, ---He was wounded, that we might be healed; ---yet He died of the most shameful death, that we might be saved in the most glorious manner that infinite wisdom might have contrived.

II. The glorious anthem sung on



## Quotes from Brother Ritechus N. Dignation

by Joseph Harris

Why are people surprised when we give our legislators a blank check and they make it out for the highest amount possible?

the solemn occasion, glory, peace, and good will.

The shining light between the cherubims on the mercy seat in the tabernacle, was called the glory of the Lord; for it represented the presence of the Messiah. Moses and Elijah saw the glory of the Messiah on the Mount of Transfiguration; and all the believers have seen His glory by the eye of faith. The word glory in the angel’s anthem denotes, the honor and praise conferred on the divine government resulting from the humiliation of Christ. The redemption of sinners by the blood of the cross, and the spirit of grace, is consistent with the glory of God, as our Creator and Lawgiver. The new crown of glory as an index, is showing some new perfections that were not visible before. In the representation that God has given of Himself in the works of creation and providence, and in the nature and requirements of the law, it is evidently seen that the righteous are happy, that the Lord Jehovah is their God; but by the angel’s anthem, it appears that the miserable objects of mercy may rejoice. Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy; which shall be to all the righteous? ---No.

Which shall be to all the defenders of rights, life and

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# The Redemption of

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prosperity? O No --- but shall be to all people. A Saviour, and a Redeemer is born, for a lost and perishing world. Look to the cross, and behold a righteous God and a Saviour. Here we see the Lawgiver Himself, embracing the rebels; the former receiving the glory, and the latter the benefit, resulting from the death and resurrection of Christ.

All this may be considered as an anthem of praise and glory to God, for redeeming grace and dying love. Though the angels received no benefit; yet to these things they desire to look. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Not by compromising matters with the devil, as he offered to do, when the Son of God was tempted by him in the wilderness, neither is the peace founded by him on the expense of the law, but by magnifying the law and make it honorable; neither is it peace with enmity, for that is slain by the death of the Lamb of God, when atonement and reconciliation were made for enemies. Having made peace through the blood of His cross, sinners are reconciled to God. The atonement of Christ is the foundation of peace with God and peace of conscience. Conscience is a witness within condemning for doing that which is wrong, and justifying for doing that which is right. Let that internal monitor speak and the truth is likely to come out. A guilty conscience is a fire that ever burns, and a worm that ever gnaws. It often torments the bosoms of emperors, kings and princes, in the midst of their splendor and glory. Witness the king of the banqueting-house, surrounded by noble lords and his friends and associates, and

drinking the best wine in golden and silver cups; his hands are trembling, his knees are shaking, and his countenance is changing at the strange appearance of a man's hand writing against the plaster of the wall. If he was in such consternation before he knew what the writing was, what must have been the agony of his mind, when he found it to be, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN: --- thou art weighed in the balance, and art found wanting.

To be hewn in pieces, like Agag; to be swallowed up by the earth, like Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; or to be eaten of worms, like Herod, ---is nothing in comparison to the continual gnawing of a guilty conscience. You may hush and lull it as much as you please, and sear it with hot iron, it will certainly awake sooner or later, like one of the most outrageous lions at the swelling of Jordan, ---for it is a worm that may sleep, but never dies. Language is not able to express the unspeakable privilege of having a clear conscience, or, in other words, peace of conscience. It will do you good in every condition; in private and in public; in prosperity and in adversity; in sickness and in health; at home and abroad; in life and in death. It will make you cheerful in life, and happy in death, for which you will have reason to bless God, when time is swallowed up in eternity.

But the important question is this: Is there any thing that can give a guilty conscience ease? for we are all guilty before God. How can we therefore stand before the bar of His just tribunal? Philosophers say that there is in nature a certain stone which nothing but blood can dissolve. The conscience of the children of men are so hardened by sin,

that nothing but blood can soften them: and all the blood of beasts slain on Jewish altars could not do it. It must be "a sacrifice of nobler name, and richer blood than they." The blood of Christ the heavenly Lamb---the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world---can give the guilty conscience ease, and take away its stain.

Glory to God! ---Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Though our case is desperate in itself, yet there is balm in Gilead, and a Physician there who can effectually heal the deepest wounds of a guilty conscience. While the day of grace lasts, while the door of mercy is open, while the arms of Jesus are extended to embrace you, and His bowels of compassion yearn over you, flee to Him for refuge and shelter in His adorable name, for He is able and willing to save.

**"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."** The good will of whom? The good will of the all-rich and almighty God to men---yes, to sinful men. Had I been of the nature of angels, and as sinful as I am, I should have no hope of escaping the wrath to come; an eternal prison of despair would have been my portion; for God never made any preparation to let such prisoners free: but He has formed the plan, of His infinite wisdom, agreeably in the demands of justice, the honor of the law, and the requirements of the divine government, to manifest His good will to man.

The funds of many benevolent institutions are so low, that a poor dying man can reap but little benefit from them on his death bed; but the funds of this most benevolent institution---good will to men---are exhaustless. Here are unsearchable riches,

sufficient to discharge you from all your debts, to open your prison doors, and bring the prisoners from the prison, and those that sit in darkness out of the prison house. Here is enough to make you live comfortably, to die happy, and to go to the grave in peace; and also to raise you out of the grave to the resurrection of life, not like beggars, but all clothed in white, without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing.

Had it not been for Him who was wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger in the stable of Bethlehem, the good will of God to men would never have been manifested; for men deserved nothing at His hands, but His wrath and displeasure forever; but the gift of His only begotten Son is the strongest and clearest evidence of His good will to men. The babe of Bethlehem might have addressed the inhabitants of the earth in the words of the prophet Isaiah; "Why when I came there was none to receive me; when I called was there none to answer? Why do you not know me by the description given of the Messiah by the prophets? Is my hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? No---verily I can redeem, being clothed in human nature, I can save to the very uttermost; though my almighty power is hid from your eyes, this is the arm that clothed the heavens with blackness, dried up the sea, and made rivers a wilderness.

Though you do not hear me speak, I have the tongue of the learned to speak a word in season to him that is weary; being clothed in human nature, I can hear the cries of men, and sympathize with them. Because of my good will to men, I became a man, and will give my back to the smiters, and

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## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. Recently there has been a group of "so-called" Christians that have said the word "Hell," in the Bible, is a mistranslation and that no such place of eternal torment really exists. Is this true?

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Before we answer the question we feel the frustration in the questioner's question. There always seems to be a group of (I like the way the questioner puts it) "so called" Christians. There are many groups that fuss about so many things that I do not pay them any attention anymore. The Word of God is true, unadulterated, and has the final say about everything.

The reason people, "so called" Christians, and even Christians, want to make a big ado about something like Hell is they do not like the thought that they might go there (which they will), so they try to find avenues to discount it. The Jehovah's Witnesses are such a group, but they are not Christians for they deny the Deity of Christ. No one wants to believe when they die they are going to spend eternity in Hell (lake of fire, eternal torment), so they make up stuff, and make jokes about it to relieve their conscience. I am sure everyone has heard the one where the person is going to be in Hell with his friends and have a party. They are delusional and ignorant.

We will not take up too much space here to give our answer but would direct the questioner and the reader to the Berea Baptist

Church Bookstore to purchase a copy of the late Elder Milburn Cockrell's book *The Doctrine of Hell*. It is very easy reading, very explanatory, and only 19 pages long. You will find in there the meaning of Hell in the Old Testament is the Hebrew word for Sheol. And Hades is the Greek word in the New Testament for the word Hell. And also the Greek New Testament word for Hell is Gehenna which is associated with judgment and fire.

I really love Elder Cockrell's statement, "The fact forever remains that Hell is Hell...Hell is a real place." I always refer folks to Luke 16:28 as does Elder Cockrell, it is not a parable as some would say. A little study along with this little book will put your mind at ease. I cannot improve on what Elder Cockrell's book says, nor will I try, but I concur with it 100%.

So, to answer the question, NO what this group is claiming is not true; Hell is a real place and the unregenerate will dwell there for eternity.

One last note: If you are lost and without Christ, you will go to Hell, **"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"** (Heb. 9:27). You are doomed and you will die. You will be judged and cast into the **"lake of fire"** (Revelation chapters 19-20), there to be tormented with **"fire and brimstone"** (Rev. 21:8), where the **"worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"** (Mark 9:44), never to escape the punishment

that is given to you for your crimes, for the abominations you have committed against God. The Bible says you must be **"born again"** (John 3:3). The only hope you have is Jesus Christ, (Acts 2:21) **"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."** (Joel 2:32) **"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered."** Are you looking for life? Only in Jesus will you find it! God Bless!

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No it is not true. Hell is a real place of torment and punishment where the wicked who die in their sins go to experience the infinite wrath of a holy and just God. To deny the existence of Hell as a place of torment would necessitate calling the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Truth, a liar! Jesus told of a rich man who died in his sins: **"And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame"** (Luke 16:23). Hell is a real place of flaming torment that is experienced in a real and literal way by all who die in their sins. Jesus gave a similar description of Hell that He repeated 3 times in 6 verses for emphasis: **"And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life**

**maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"** (Mark 9:43-48). The wicked will be detained in Hell until the resurrection of the unjust dead at which time they will be summoned before the Lord Jesus Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment. Their wicked life will be reviewed by the Almighty and they will be assigned their place in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15).

The rise of no-hellers spewing forth their heresies under the guise of supposed "linguistic scholarship" is nothing new. In fact, the Jehovah's Witnesses came up with an entirely new translation to support their doctrinal heresies. Everyone who has ever denied Hell and defied the plain truth of the Word of God will one day find out just how literal the flames and torments of Hell really are.

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Three Greek and one Hebrew word are found 87 times in the Bible that are translated 54 times as Hell. Mistranslated? No. A lot of modern Christians, so-called, might like those 54 times to be translated as "grave" or "pit" as the other 33 times are, but it would not really change anything. The Hebrew word "Sheol" and the Greek word "Hades" both speak of the dwelling place of the dead. So if we "transliterated" these words into the English Bible, we

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# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. Our nation has become worse than Sodom and Gommorah! Why does God not do something? Alabama

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It is true that we appear to be living in the last days that are similar to the days in which Lot lived when God rained down fire and brimstone upon the cities of the plain for their wickedness (Luke 17:28-32). The homosexuals were forcing their abominable way of life upon the inhabitants of Sodom as evidenced by their insistence that Lot turn over the two angels that had come to his house so they could abuse them (Gen. 19:4-11). Immorality, intolerance, and violence were the order of the day as evidenced by the behavior of the Sodomites who desired that everyone agree with and perhaps participate in their reprobate way of life. Many who are pushing the homosexual agenda in our day are very much like the Sodomites in Lot's day. They want to bully and intimidate anyone who exposes their willful sexual deviance by calling it an abominable sin. God judged Sodom and He will judge America. I believe the judgment has already begun and will continue. God will judge when and how He sees fit. God does everything according to His own plan. He works His will in His time, not ours. As we see the day of Christ's coming drawing near we should be daily heeding

the admonition of Romans 13:11-14: **"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in clambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."**

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He is! Check out our president! Who do you think sent him to us...? The current set of career politicians that fill our House and Senate are not just the result of our own folly in failing to recognize God's will and a culmination of our complete disobedience, it is also the handiwork of God. **"For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth"** (Rom. 9:17-18). Selah! Think

about it! **"...For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God"** (Rom. 13:1).

I sense an impatience in the worded question. Beloved reader, I would not be so anxious to have the judgment of God to come down in full force upon our beloved nation. **"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth"** (Ps. 2:9-10). Certainly the righteousness and the holiness of God require an action from the Almighty. What will that ultimate action be? Will it be fire and brimstone from Heaven, like the homosexual towns in Palestine received many centuries ago?

As we study, we realize that our sovereign God is completely in control. He continues to (not monitor) but claim superiority in our elections and to cause to come to pass the dictates of His prescient foreknowledge. **"Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it"** (Isa. 46:11). God will certainly make a short work of America, if that is what He has foreordained. What an awful thing for our sitting president to read the passage in Romans 9 and realize that he was raised up exactly like Pharaoh, so that God could break his stubborn heart with the destruction of his nation. **"And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed"** (Ex. 10:7)?

Some nations God has broken swiftly; some He allowed to totter and fall (as Rome) over a period of devastating decades or centuries. But judge them, He certainly will. There are no sins of individuals or of nations that will go unpunished. Selah! Think about it!

But that brings to mind an interesting thought. Not just nations, but individuals... Here's a truth in I Corinthians 6:9-11, **"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, (gays and lesbians) nor abusers of themselves with mankind (sodomy) ...shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus..."** If we apply this concept, we see that God has been merciful to many vile sinners down thru the millennia. Not just individuals, but nations also!

Consider! Jonah 3:1-5, **"And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. ...And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them."** After approximately 300 years of paganism, heathenism, modernism, etc., God raised up a king that HEARD THE WORD OF GOD, when Jonah came preaching! A time of revival and repentance came to this town and country! God's will was NOT fire

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# Forum #1

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would still have a place called Hades where the soul of every dying person would go to await judgment. Changing the name, changes not the Biblical truth of afterlife for the wicked, as well as the righteous. Selah! Think about it!

There are lots of books and websites that try to deny Hell's very existence. The vain, mortal HOPE that "Hell is a mistranslation" is very popular to this carnal generation. Reviews posted on the websites by relieved folk ranged from "joy to not have to worry about Hell happening to me" to "now we don't have to consign the unwitting heathen to Hell." For an America that does not want to be held accountable for their lusts and vices, this idea has caught fire and is raging across many denominational lines (btw, the other popular book is "You Don't Have to Tithe!" Wonder why that is so popular?).

The nuts and bolts of these guys' theology to get rid of Hell goes beyond the mistranslation of Hell. Because the Bible is full of references to the eternal soul and the everlasting judgments (and promises) of God, they go a step further to solidify their shifting sand base, and claim that there is a major mistranslation of eternity, as well. They ignore and simplify words to suit their doctrine and say that there are no Hebrew or Greek words for eternity/everlasting/forever and ever, etc. But that just does not hold water when we go to the Bible...

**"Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever <owlam> and ever <ad>. O thou enemy, destructions are come to a**

**perpetual <netsach> end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them. But the LORD shall endure for ever <owlam>: he hath prepared his throne for judgment. And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness"** (Ps. 9:5-8). Three of at least four Hebrew words I found that convey the meaning of everlasting are found in this passage. "Owlam" alone is used 414 times in the Old Testament! (91 times for the other two.) The foolishness of this premise to get rid of everlasting judgment by deleting the eternality of it, does away with perpetual glory in the same stroke! If there is no Hebrew or Greek word for forever, then **"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable"** I Cor. 15:19). Selah! Think about it!

Even if Hell was a mistranslation (which it is not!), the Bible still speaks of a lake of fire and unquenchable torment and judgment for those that reject the authority and grace of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 6:1-2 claims **"... resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment"** as "principles" and "foundation(al) ...doctrines." Read your Bible! Even when the word Hell is not mentioned, the judgment of (Hell) fire is in every part of the Book!

**"Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire"** (Matt. 18:8). **"As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 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"** (Matt. 13:40-42). **"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ... And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal"** (Matt 25:41, 46). **"The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings"** (Isa. 33:14)? **"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name"** (Rev. 14:10-11). Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP



# Forum #2

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and brimstone!

Not that Nineveh was not worthy. Not that the Corinthian believers were not worthy of judgment! But because GOD had purposed GRACE...!!! **"What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known**

**the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles"** (Rom. 9:22-24)? Yeah, if there is no revival, then the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah is coming... but... if God might show GRACE! Selah! Think about it!

**"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, ...Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved"** (Eph. 1:4-6).

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**"And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled"** (Rev. 6:10-11).

Back in the mid-seventies my first pastor, the late Elder Oscar B. Mink, during one of his sermons made this statement and I have never forgotten it. He said, "I believe there are more homosexuals in San Francisco

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## Forum #2

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today than there were in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah!" What would he think if he was alive today?

Well to answer a very good question, I have many times asked myself the same thing, more than that, I pray for the Lord's soon return. But then I stop and think a moment, and see that God is doing something...but no one is listening or paying attention.

I believe God is doing a lot in the way of our weather. Look at the tornadoes, the hurricanes, and the tsunamis we have had and the devastation they have caused. Who can control the weather other than God? None!

And why should we blame God for our failures? I do not mean this in a sarcastic way, but what have you done, dear reader, to stand up against such an abomination? Have you written any letters to overturn the freedoms the sodomites have in our nation today? I have, but not as many as I should have.

We just had an incident with a close city to us when two female sodomites wanted to join the swimming pool for the summer by getting a family pass. When they were turned down, they sued. I was listening to our local radio station and they were asking people to call in with their opinion. A Christian man called in and said though he was against the lifestyle, there was not much we could do about it. Wow, nothing we can do about it! Well the sodomites did something and no one, or not many, did a thing. So now we want God to intervene? We are responsible to take care of it, not God.

When I was growing up you went to jail. It was a crime.

But because of talk shows, our government, and of course the good old bleeding heart liberals, here we are. One of our Senators, Senator Portman was against sodomy and same sex marriage, until his son came out of the closet. Below is the letter I wrote him:

Dear Senator Portman:

I am emailing you because of your recent change on your stand against sodomy and same sex marriage. It has been reported you have known about your son's sexual preference for the past two years, yet you made a stand against these issues.

Senator, I can NO longer support you as my Senator and am very disappointed in you. Congratulations Senator, you now have become another bleeding heart liberal, instead of standing for what you believe you have faltered under the pressures of the Obama administration and have become one of his puppets, and that makes you a liar as well.

I do not and will not allow my children to dictate to me what I do or do not believe, it is a shame that you have. That is what is wrong with this country and I will NOT be a part of it. You can offer no words of explanation to me, so I would appreciate that you do not try unless you hold your ground and continue to speak out against these issues; this flip-flop stuff is appalling to me to say the least. I am passing this email on to all that I know and will encourage them to stop their support for you as well, and will continue to speak out against such sin as you are committing!

One last note Senator, my views are about God and Country like my Forefathers before me, not what my son thinks! And I am not sure what your religious advisers told you but sodomy and

same sex marriage are a sin and an abomination in the sight of a Holy, Sovereign God, and if they told you anything different then they told you wrong and do not know their Bible and will answer to the Almighty Judge which I am not. Without the Lord Jesus Christ there is NO hope, only the lake of fire for eternity. You CANNOT be a child of God and commit the acts of sodomy and same sex marriage!

In His Service;

Pastor Roger D. Reed

Those who live in Ohio, did you write such a letter? Let us take it to the Scriptures: **"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked"** (II Peter 2:6-7).

We are now where Lot was **"vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked."** Lot had good intentions, I believe, when he chose to go to the well watered plains of Sodom and Gomorrah. He was going to evangelize those two cities but was overcome with the wicked to the point that his own daughters had turned to the wickedness of those cities. Lot was so vexed that he was willing to give his youngest two daughters to those who came to his door for the angels, and do to them whatever they pleased, **"Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof"** (Gen. 19:8). How vexed he was.

I believe it is too late for us, to

our shame. God delivered Lot and He will deliver us. Let me close with two thoughts, God is doing something, but we need to do something as well. God Bless!

ROGER REED



## The Redemption of

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my cheeks to them that will pluck off my hair, and I will never hide myself from shame and spitting. Calvary and Joseph's grave shall see the manifestations of my good will to men; and Hell itself shall see that my good will is stronger than death. Who will contend with me? Let us stand together. ---Who is mine adversary? Let him come near to me. ---In all my journey from my Father's house to the gulf of death; and from there home to the mansions of glory, the good will of God to man, shall be written on every gate and door post, from Heaven to earth, and from earth to Heaven. Yes, and the gates of death and Hell shall hear of the good will of God to men, and shall tremble to the very center, as if they were shaken by a most tremendous earthquake. I imagine I see the angel pointing to Bethlehem, saying: yonder in the stable is the sun of righteousness shining seven times brighter than the sun of the glory of God ever appeared in creation and providence, and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai; that God might be righteous in the justification of all that believe in Jesus. If the glory of God was so brilliant, when the Father glorified the Son; when the Son glorified the Father, and when the Holy Spirit glorified them both: what must be the splendor of the glory of God shining forth in the face of Jesus Christ at His

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# The Redemption of

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second coming, when the great Parchment of divine wisdom shall be unfolded; when the great act of free justification, whereby the sinner is entitled to eternal life, by deed and gift, shall pass without injuring any of the attributes of God. God has manifested His good will to men in creating all things for their accommodation; but more especially in demolishing the kingdom of darkness in their hearts, and establishing the kingdom of Heaven therein, founded on the merit of Emmanuel's blood; pressing out the wine of eternal life for us from the cup of His own mortality; destroying the works of Satan, liberating us from his iron yoke of bondage, and uniting us to Himself in the bonds of peace and love. Glory to God in the highest, for His good will to men.

All the designs of mercy, --- the manifestations of the power, goodness, and the riches of God's grace for man, upon man, and in man are clear evidences of the good will of God to men; like so many machines with dog wheels, one acting upon the other; so that the whole is in constant motion. The wheels of eternal purposes and infinite atonement, and the operations of the Holy Spirit, as the quickener and sanctifier of men, setting the whole machinery, of vocation, justification, sanctification, perseverance, and glorification, in motion. The law of the spirit of life, having power, and sufficient room, to turn in Christ Jesus. Good will to men is the spring of peace upon earth, and the river flowing from that spring, is the salvation of men; which runs within the golden banks of the passive and active obedience of Christ, down to the sea of

eternal life; without doing any damage to any man whatever. Its floods convey no mercy to devils; but carry away many precious jewels from their tyrannical dominion. When Jesus returned from the manger, the cross, and the grave, His glory shined from on high, over the hills of the whole Roman Empire; and the rivers of peace, love and salvation, swept away from the temples of Europe more false gods than would have filled the Pantheon at Rome---to be worshipped no more. Nothing can stand before this glory of God in the highest, this peace, and good will to men, they will in spite of all opposition follow Jesus to every region, to every house, to every congregation, to every town and city, and to every heart where Jesus go. O that the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ might shine upon this congregation. O Lord convert the careless, and the prayerless sinner; let him be founded on the foundation of joy, that all his sorrows might be swallowed up. Let thy good will to men, constrain them to look on the world as a secondary thing; and go out quickly to behold Jesus in the means of grace with great fear and joy. When your eyes are opened to behold the glory of God, your lips will soon be opened to proclaim it, before the church and the world, praising and adoring God, for what you have experienced, for what you have felt, and for what you have seen and heard. Soon you shall be removed from glory to glory, --- from peace to perfect love; where that fear that hath torment shall never enter; where you shall join the heavenly choir in ascribing glory to God for His good will to men.

So let it be, says my soul. Amen.



**THE**

# BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

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

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

## CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

### EDITOR FILES

### DISCRIMINATION

### COMPLAINT OVER FIRING

(WNS)--An Iowa newspaper editor is claiming his former employer fired him because of his Biblical beliefs about sexuality. Bob Eschliman, the former editor-in-chief of the *Newton Daily News*, filed an official discrimination charge on July 24 with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). "No American—especially people in the journalism field—should be fired simply for expressing their religious beliefs," said Jeremiah Dys, senior counsel for the Liberty Institute, a nonprofit legal group representing Eschliman. Eschliman, a Christian, took to his personal blog in April to lambast the *Queen James Bible*, a revision put forward by gay activists. They say Greek and Hebrew passages on homosexuality either refer to pagan rituals or promiscuity. "We edited those eight verses in a way that makes homophobic interpretations impossible," the editors say.

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## JUDGE RULES FLORIDA SAME-SEX COUPLES CAN MARRY IN THE KEYS

(WNS)--A county judge in the Florida Keys ruled July 17 that same-sex couples could marry in his jurisdiction starting next week. Circuit Judge Luis M. Garcia agreed with plaintiffs who argued Florida's voter-approved constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman

treats gay couples as second-class citizens. Florida voters approved the ban on same-sex marriage in 2008. Attorney General Pam Bondi said the state of Florida, as opposed to individual counties, has sole authority to define marriage in the state. The Florida ruling puts couples in the Keys in a similar position to those in parts of Colorado, where county clerks have been issuing marriage licenses to gay couples despite an in-place state ban on same-sex marriage. Colorado differs slightly because a federal judge there has already ruled the state's ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional and stayed the ruling pending appeal.

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## TRUMPETING A DINOSAUR HORN

(WNS)--A few miles outside Glendive, Montana, on May 12, 2012, three researchers were hunting fossils scattered in the Hell Creek Formation, a geological trove for dinosaur bones. After paying the landowner \$3,000 for one fossil, the scientists hauled it to their lab to see if it contained any unfossilized soft tissue the ravages of time might have left untouched. They found soft tissue and structures that appeared to be original dinosaur cells. In February 2013, two members of the team, including Mark Armitage, a part-time employee at California State University, Northridge, (CSUN) published their discovery in the journal *Acta Histochemica*. A few days afterward, CSUN dismissed Armitage from his job

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in the microscope lab, claiming it had inadequate funding to continue his position. Last week, the Pacific Justice Institute filed a religious discrimination lawsuit against the school on Armitage's behalf. The organization claims the school fired Armitage because of his view -- which this discovery seems to support -- that dinosaurs lived much more recently than the millions of years ago that some scientists claim. The lawsuit accuses the university of violating the Fair Employment and Housing Act, as well as Armitage's First Amendment right to free speech and his academic freedom.

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## CHRISTIAN COLLEGE LOSES CITY CONTRACT OVER BIBLICAL TEACHINGS ABOUT SEXUALITY

(WNS)--A Massachusetts Christian college is facing a backlash for supporting religious exemptions to a proposed presidential order that would add sexuality to the anti-bias policy applied to all federal contractors. The mayor of Salem, Mass., ended Gordon College's contract to operate the city-owned Old Town Hall this week when the school's president, along with 13 other religious leaders, signed a public letter to President Barack Obama asking him to include a religious exemption from a new executive order expected to require all federal contractors and subcontractors to hire LGBT persons, regardless of the organization's religious stance on homosexuality.

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## COURT RULES FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IN TRANSGENDER DISPUTE

(WNS)--A Christian university in Oregon can keep the rooming restrictions it has placed on a transgendered student, without

risking any penalty from the federal government. The U.S. Department of Education granted George Fox University a religious exemption from Title IX, which prohibits schools that receive federal funding from discriminating on the basis of sex. George Fox is a private, Christian university, but does receive some federal funding. In April, a student referred to in legal documents as Jayce M. filed a discrimination complaint against George Fox for not allowing him to live in an on-campus apartment with other men. Jayce was born female and registered as such when first admitted to George Fox. Last Spring, Jayce completed the legal process of reassigning his gender from female to male, although he had not at that time had any operations to change his anatomy.

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## MISSISSIPPI PRO-LIFERS SUE POLICE FOR HARASSMENT

(WNS)--Life Legal Defense Association (LLDF) filed suit July 23 against the Jackson, Miss., Police Department, for allegedly violating the First Amendment rights of pro-life activists outside the state's only abortion facility. LLDF, a non-profit law firm representing Pro-Life Mississippi, says the police frequently threatened activists with arrest without legal basis. The police have interpreted a statute to mean that anyone sitting or standing on the sidewalk creates an obstruction, even though the activists leave about 4 feet of space on the sidewalks said Allison Aranda, senior staff counsel at LLDF. "The Jackson Police Department has routinely harassed pro-life citizens, who have been peacefully exercising their legal right to oppose abortion in the public square and offer information about life-affirming alternatives to women seeking abortion," LLDF president Dana Cody said. The city can not provide comment on the pending suit, a city spokesperson told *The*

*Clarion-Ledger*.

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## GOVERNMENT SURVEY: GAY POPULATION SMALLER THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

(WNS)--Less than 4 percent of the U.S. population identifies as gay, lesbian, or bisexual, a surprisingly small number given the outsized influence they have had on the nation's cultural and legal landscape. Based on 2013 data collected by the government in The National Health Interview Survey, 1.6 percent of adults identify as gay or lesbian and 0.7 percent identify as bisexual. The numbers were lower than earlier approximations, which placed gay and lesbians at closer to 3 percent of the population. More than 96 percent identified as straight, and 1.1 percent did not provide an answer or said they were "something else," or "I do not know the answer." This is the first time since its inception 57 years ago that the NHIS has included sexual orientation in its questions.

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## APPEALS COURT SAVES LAST MISSISSIPPI ABORTION CENTER FROM CLOSURE

(WNS)--A federal appeals court panel ruled in July that a Mississippi law that would close the state's only abortion facility is unconstitutional. The three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued its 2-1 ruling in a case involving the state's 2012 law, which required all abortionists at the Jackson Women's Health Organization (JWHO) to obtain admitting privileges at a local hospital. Two abortionists at the facility were unable to get privileges at Jackson-area hospitals. The ruling appears to directly contradict a March decision by the same court that upheld a Texas law requiring abortionists to have hospital admitting privileges. But the difference has to do with geography and the availability of abortions in

the two states. The Texas law would have caused some clinics to close, but not all. Women would have had to drive farther to get an abortion, but, "an increase of travel of 150 miles for some women is not an undue burden" on their constitutional right to an abortion, the court wrote in its opinion. But the Mississippi law would have closed the state's only abortion center.

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## 4TH CIRCUIT: VIRGINIA GAY MARRIAGE BAN AN "IMPERMISSIBLE INFRINGEMENT"

(WNS)--A federal court in Virginia struck down that state's traditional marriage law this morning, striding lock-step with other courts who have ruled same-sex marriage cannot be banned. The state's same-sex marriage bans "impermissibly infringe on its citizens' fundamental right to marry," Judge Henry F. Floyd wrote for the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Virginia voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2006 designating marriage as only between one man and one woman. State law also forbids recognition for same-sex marriages from other states. Although practically identical to cases in other states that outlaw same-sex marriage, the legal challenge in Virginia got a lot of attention because Attorney General Mark Herring, a Democrat, announced earlier this year he would not defend his state's regulations. Herring was not the first attorney general to refuse to defend state marriage laws, but he took it one step further, joining the plaintiffs' suit against the state.

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## US FUNDING FOR HAMAS?

In a recent Wall Street Journal report the American taxpayer may soon become an indirect party to funding Hamas. The 1988 Hamas Charter explicitly commits the Palestinian terror group to

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murdering Jews. Thanks to the recent formation of an interim government uniting Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, which the U.S. supports to the tune of more than \$400 million a year. The question is whether the U.S. government will continue to fund the PA. U.S. law prohibits dispensing taxpayer money to any Palestinian entity over which Hamas exercises "undue influence." Nobody should count on the Obama Administration to apply meaningful penalties to the PA for joining forces with Hamas and flouting its obligations toward Israel. That leaves Congress, which can block funding to the Palestinians until they prove capable of governing themselves as something other than a terrorist enterprise.

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## SAME-SEX COUPLE RECORDS MARRIAGE LICENSE IN MISSISSIPPI

(WTVA) A recent couple from Starkville, MS who were legally married in Massachusetts presented their marriage certificate to the clerk to be filed as an official part of the county's records. The couple says, "while there may not be much practical use from filing, it does make a big statement toward their goal of equal rights and privileges other married couples in the state enjoy. It is also important for us to recognize there are thousands of people if not more in the state who have been shut out of families and institutions. They have been shut out of places of employment simply for who they are. We love living here where we are. We would also like to have the legal right to enjoy all the rights and privileges as a United States citizen."

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## FAMILY PLEADS FOR DETAINED AMERICAN'S RELEASE FROM NORTH KOREA

(WNS)--The family of an

American man detained in North Korea for "anti-state" crimes apologized to the country and pleaded with officials to show mercy and release him, saying in a statement that they were desperate for him to return home. Jeffrey Edward Fowle, 56, is from Miamisburg, Ohio. His wife and three children appeared at a newscast, but did not speak. Attorney and family friend Tim Tepe acted as their spokesperson, reading their statement and answering questions while they sat nearby. He said the family was not answering questions out of fear of compromising Fowle's situation. Tepe said Tatyana, Fowle's 40-year-old wife and their family is struggling to survive financially. Fowle told her on a recent phone call that he was afraid the benefits from his job at the city streets department would run out soon. Fowle was detained sometime after arriving in North Korea on April 29 for what the country said were hostile actions that violated his tourist status. It is suspected that he left a Bible in a nightclub in Chongjin. Tepe said Fowle was not on a church mission, but on a vacation tour in the country.

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## TENNESSEE JUDGE ISSUES FIRST RULING IN FAVOR OF TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

(WNS)--A judge in eastern Tennessee has dropped an anchor amid the deluge of state and federal court rulings favoring same-sex marriage. In a decision in mid-August, Roane County Circuit Judge Russell E. Simmons Jr. said Tennessee, which defines marriage as only between a man and woman, need not recognize gay marriages performed in another state. "The court finds that Tennessee's laws concerning same-sex marriage do not violate the equal protection clause or the U.S. Constitution," Simmons wrote in his opinion, which U.S. Supreme Court reporter Lyle Denniston posted online. The case involved two

men, Frederick Michael Borman and Larry Kevin Pyles-Borman, who married in Iowa in 2010. They later moved to Tennessee, separated, and filed for divorce. But since Tennessee bans same-sex marriage in its constitution and does not recognize homosexual marriages made in other states, Tennessee officials would not grant divorce proceedings.

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## WHO WILL GET TO DECIDE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE?

(WNS)--The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati held a three-hour session to hear six marriage cases out of Michigan, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio. In each case, lower courts had struck down state laws affirming marriage between a man and woman or forced states to recognize marriage licenses granted to same-sex couples by other states. Themes of tradition and child rearing arose, as they have before. But in a new and different twist, one judge thought the issue was for the legislature and voters to decide, not the courts. "I would have thought the best way to get respect and dignity is through the democratic process, not forcing one's neighbors, co-employees, friends to recognize that these marriages or this status deserves the same respect as the status of a heterosexual couple," Judge Jeffrey Sutton said.

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## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS DUTCH OFFICIAL PLEADS WITH BRITAIN TO KEEP EUTHANASIA ILLEGAL

(WNS)--Less than six weeks after Quebec legalized euthanasia, Britain's House of Lords is considering its own euthanasia endorsement. Brought by Lord Falconer, the Assisted Dying Bill would allow doctors to administer poison to terminally ill patients given less than six months to live. Lawmakers will debate the measure during a second reading Friday. But the bill will not pass

without a fight. Bioethicist Theo Boer, once a supporter of euthanasia in the Netherlands, the world suicide capital for 12 years, told the chamber last week the evidence shows he "was wrong, terribly wrong." Boer, who sits on a Dutch government committee that reviews all euthanasia cases, said his native country may top 6,000 assisted suicides this year. In comments reprinted by *The Daily Mail*, Boer pleaded with parliamentarians, "Do not do it, Britain." The very existence of a euthanasia law seems to be "an invitation to see assisted suicide and euthanasia as a normality instead of a last resort," he said. The practice has been legal in the Netherlands since 2002.

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## FRANCE LOOSENS ABORTION RESTRICTIONS DESPITE STRONG PRO-LIFE PROTESTS

(WNS)--French lawmakers legalized abortion on demand for the first 12 weeks of pregnancy under a new law passed Aug. 5 despite pro-life protests. The law, part of a broader legal push to increase gender equality, alters France's nearly 40-year-old law allowing abortions only for women who prove they are in situations of "distress." Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, the country's women's rights minister, called that limited restriction obsolete. France's population may be overwhelmingly Catholic, but about 220,000 abortions are performed in France annually. And, one out of every three French women will have an abortion.

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## IS HINDU NATIONALISM BEHIND CRACKDOWN ON INDIA'S CHRISTIANS?

(WNS)--Christian minorities in central India face a new threat as Hindu extremists in more than a dozen village councils have passed restrictions on religions other

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than Hinduism. The laws, passed under the guise of stopping false conversions, made Christian prayer, services, and “propaganda” illegal, World Watch Monitor (WWM) reported. The Bastar district president of the World Hindu Council, Suresh Yadav, told *The Times of India* that more than 50 village councils have banned all non-Hindu missionaries. The state government of Chhattisgarh, where the tribal Bastar villages are located, has not moved to intervene on the rules, but plans to wait and see what happens, according to the *Times*. Chhattisgarh Christian Forum president Arun Pannalal told the newspaper that village councils were wrong to think they could pass resolutions that override constitutional protections. Pannalal noted that Article 25 of India’s constitution guarantees freedom of religion for all. Church leaders say the resolutions have already harmed Christians and called for higher government officials to overturn them.



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Ephesus, to make his final address to them. Paul’s heart was knit to these brethren as he ministered to them for over three years, which was more than most of the other churches. This is how Paul did his ministry, but the heart of the passage for Paul, and for us, is to stay on course and to finish our course with joy.

As you observe this hourglass, it demonstrates for us that time is running out, and one day we will finish our course and run our race. In visits to the hospital it begins to sink in that one day it will all be over for us in this world, in this life, and we will stand before our

Creator to give an account of our lives, how we ran the race of life, how we finished our course.

Some in our congregation who are being reminded of the brevity of life have been a great source of inspiration to us all.

As we approach closer and closer to Christ’s coming, the Bible describes a dark picture for this world and it does not speak of ease and comfort for Christians. We better be ready. If we are not ready during the easy times, how will be ready when, not if, it gets tough? What do we do to get ready? You have to think of it like getting ready for a race.

### I. STEPS TO UNDERSTANDING YOUR COURSE

A. I begin at the end only briefly and I will return to it at the end. I begin with this, not because it is not known, but because people do not want to be reminded of it, bothered with it, or to think about it in light of eternity, but it is a step that must be taken or one will go to Hell! What would you think of someone who knew they were about to go to battle in the next year but did nothing to prepare himself, or get some training? He would be thought of as foolish. I say this not to ridicule, but to help, for so I was before God saved me, and so were the rest of us and we would still be in that state of the fear of death were it not for the grace of God; we have nothing to boast of except in what Jesus did on the cross.

B. To desire to finish one’s course with joy begins with an honest recognition of the fact that one day we will be finished whether we are ready or not.

C. Whether we want to admit it or not, from the world’s standpoint we are all destined to be “has-beens.” That, in and of itself, is a most humbling thought.

D. Many much more clever, more wealthy, more healthy, more famous, more influential, more talented, more good looking, more charismatic, and mighty than we have fallen to that great enemy of death.

E. Thomas Watson said, “Let them fear death who do not fear sin.” Do you fear sin? Our fear of death is due to our wicked sins that our just and good God will judge us for that begins a person to think about finishing well.

### II. FOUR STEPS TO FINISHING YOUR COURSE WITH JOY

A. In this race of life God does not tell you to run the same exact course Paul ran, or the one I am to run, but there are some principles which contain the necessary elements for any runner in the race of life.

B. This race of life is an open invitation, or an all-inclusive race, that all will participate in out of every nation, kindred, and tongue, from every generation. We arrive at the starting block when we are conceived in our mother’s womb, and as soon as that starting gun fires its shot we start the race and pop out of our mother’s belly. Multitudes have already died and finished their course. There is no question as to whether we will finish our course or not. Everyone will finish the race of life, but some like Nietzsche who believed God was dead, died virtually penniless, friendless, in an insane asylum, Anna Nicole Smith overdosed on drugs,; Elvis Presley overdosed on drugs, and a host of others who were the idolized, rich and famous, who were thought to be the happiest. They did not finish their course with joy, but people like Joe Wilson, T.P. Simmons, not famous, not rich, but died trusting in Jesus to the end, and they finished their course with

joy,

C. In order to properly prepare for any race is to realize what the nature of the race is. Is it a rat race that is on the circle of life and goes nowhere, or is there a purpose and destiny to our lives? Is it a sprint? Is it a long distance run, is it a marathon, is it cross country or on a track?

1. Many people are assuming they need to be preparing for a marathon on a smooth track, like the hare did when he ran against the tortoise. Lollygagging around, lounging, not prepared to finish well at all, but finishes with shame and sadness, not joy. (Most, especially as they grow older, long to leave a legacy, and to have some purpose in their life that goes beyond their life).

2. The strange thing about this race is that you do not know whether it is a sprint or a marathon. We do not know about the terrain. There will be smooth tracks and rough cross country terrain, some have more of one than the other, and both can be treacherous! As a matter of fact, it is like an obstacle course into the darkness of the unknown that requires God’s Word to be a light to our path and a lamp unto our feet. But still, how do you prepare for that? By looking to the light of God’s Word which brings us to the first step to finishing our course with joy.

D. STEP ONE—Proper Desire: What is the first step to finishing your course with joy? Paul began with a desire which was planted by the Word and the Holy Spirit when he was born again on the road to Damascus in Acts 9, and from then on, it was, “Lord, what do You want me to do,” not, “Lord, what will you do for me?” You see, Saul of Tarsus was going the wrong way. Yes, he was going fast,

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but the wrong way. It does not matter how fast you are if you are going the wrong way, and if you go the wrong way, you lose, and that is not the way to finish with joy.

1. That reminds me of when I was in my first year of organized football in Pop Warner League; my dad was in the announcer's booth doing the play by play. I was on defense and made my first interception. I was so excited, so I began running with all my might, I was getting it, I was determined to make a touchdown, to finish this play with joy, but much to my dismay I was going in the direction of making a touchdown for the other team!

I heard my dad all excited and then I heard him say something about going the wrong way, and I quickly made a U-turn and started going the right way and prevented the other team from getting the ball, and a touchdown made by me for them.

2. The Lord announced to Paul from Heaven in so many words, Why are you going the wrong way, the way of the transgressor is hard, turn from your sins and believe on Me, Jesus, and live for Me, and go the right way, for I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

3. The world would say that the key to finishing well is to live for self, live a life of "It is all about me; if I have the most toys at the end I win."

4. All that will be far from a comfort on your deathbed; as a matter of fact, it will be a torment on your deathbed.

5. So, step one is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.

F. STEP TWO—Proper Training: The second step was to be trained in the Word. He

was baptized in the church at Damascus and hit the ground running. He learned in the local church, even though he was a great apostle. These who buck against the local church are bucking against God's pattern for finishing their course with joy. He learned in Arabia for three years.

1. There must be training in conditioning and technique, and it takes time. There must be a coach for direction, accountability, teaching and oversight. There must be determination and giftedness.

2. A newborn babe in Christ is like the toddler who when he gets half a chance to run, hits the floor running with a joy and excitement that can be seen all over his face, and heard all out of his mouth, just giggling and laughing like he was on a rollercoaster or something! That is the way we Christians start off, but after a while sometimes we lose sight of those earlier years. The problem is that we do not receive the proper teaching, or we do not apply what we have learned. Let us see the lessons Paul learned and how he applied them.

F. STEP THREE—Proper Application: The third step is to apply what the coach teaches you. For lack of a better word, the Lord our God is like the head coach, and the pastors and teachers (which we all are with our life) are assistant coaches. Their job is not only to teach proper techniques of running the race and finishing our course with joy and conditioning so that we will finish well, but to encourage obedience, and in Christ's case, also to enable obedience, for without Him we can do nothing. This is what was taught to Paul.

1. Let us look at Acts 20:17-24. Why did the threat of afflictions and persecutions not move or

veer Paul from the course God had laid out for him? He was not focused on those things, Paul was not focused on himself. He was determined through Christ, by the grace of God to finish well.

2. **"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself"** (Acts 20:24). He had a right attitude about his life, did not hold his life dear to himself. A hard life, difficulties, much opposition, God was holding the steering wheel, not him. Paul wanted to be a part of what God would do. It began with his Damascus Road experience in conversion. What do you want me to do, Lord? Not what will You do for me? Paul's life was less important than the mission and ministry that God had given him. How? He had an eternal perspective not to kill or hurt himself, for he fled, got guards, appealed to Caesar. He who loses his life shall save it, and he who saves it shall lose it. America is caught up in self-preservationism. In chapters 20-21, bounds and afflictions, 21:14, Paul was determined. Not self-determination, but with joy looking forward to Heaven and Christ. Acts 22, 26, not disobedient to heavenly vision.



**Quotes  
from  
Brother  
Ritechus  
N.  
Dignation  
by Joseph Harris**

Most preachers stopped crying aloud against sin and corruption in society and politics long ago and you will note that no one else has taken up the mantle. Also, take note of the shape we are in today.

It was not all about Paul, living for Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit was more important than life itself. Living for Jesus was more important than having a new house, more important than having the latest fad, more important than having a fat bank account, more important than a good job, more important than being famous, more important than having a life of ease and comfort, more important than a good retirement income, more important than our family, more important than being liked by the world, more important than good health, more important than anything!

3. If we want to finish well, if we want to run the race of life and finish our course with joy, we must count living for Christ more important than anything, even our own life itself. How do I know that? Read the rest of the verse... **"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."**

4. When you realize Jesus has truly saved you from your sins, saved you from your evil ingratitude, saved you from your wicked selfishness, saved you from the blasphemous setting yourself up on the throne and worshipping yourself as god, calling the shots, making the rules, saved you from your hateful thoughts, saved you from your lustful thoughts, saved you from your wicked deeds, saved you from the very pit of a never ending punishment in Hell itself, it is not hard to desire to live a life for Jesus and not as hard to live a life for Jesus as being the most important thing in this

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world.

5. Not only did Paul stop at just finishing his course with joy, but he spoke of his ministry being intimately connected with that. He had a right attitude about ministry, to serve, whosoever shall be great shall be the servant. If we have a servant's heart we will always have a ministry. Now, I understand that we do not have the same exact ministry as the Apostle Paul, nor the same course, but the principles are there as I said in the beginning. We all have our own ministry, or service in God's Kingdom. We all testify or witness, we shall be witnesses Jesus said to His church, but will we be a good witness or not? If not we cannot finish our course with joy. **"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen"** (I Peter 4:7-11).

6. He had a right attitude about the message to testify of the gospel of the grace of God. Missions is not about missions; church is not about church; it is all about Christ. Life is about Christ and His great and glorious gospel; with the life and with the lips. The good news that we are saved from

sins and reconciled to God our Creator, and Heaven is prepared for all who believe on Him. The Holy Spirit testifies solemnly that bonds and afflictions abide with you, and to seriously testify of the gospel of grace. The word signifies seriousness, which is important in a day when so many are saying to lighten up, make it funny, joke around, but that is not Biblical, not that we should not have joy or be able to joke in a different context, but it would seem that to do so as is done today would make us like Lot when warning his sons-in-law to flee Sodom and Gomorrah. They thought he was mocking, or joking. Why? Because he used a nervous cowardly humor instead of serious, solemn, gentle, reverent statements of love and warning. The idea of winning others to ourselves and then winning them to Christ is almost deceptive, and does not ring true. Though we should live holy and love our enemies, the object is not to win them per se, but to win souls to Christ through the means of grace, the Word, and the Spirit. Central consuming task of every believer is to solemnly testify of the gospel of God's grace. It is not "if" we will fulfill the Great Commission, but how well and where. Everything else in life is subservient to this. Again, if we want to finish our course with joy we must finish our ministry as an individual in a local church.

G. STEP FOUR—Proper Faith: In Acts 20:24 Paul was speaking ahead to a more distant future, but when we realize we are coming to the end, and many have no idea, but some, by sheer reason of their advancing age or deteriorating and debilitating disease, pick up on the reality. But it is important to see Paul's mindset in Acts 20:22, **"And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit**

**unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there,"** and he was living in light of the fact that he did not know when he would die. But, the Lord revealed to Paul somehow that his time was about to run out, he was about to finish his course. Let us see what he says in II Timothy 4:6:

1. **"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."** What? Paul, you are ready to die? What, do you think you are some kind of saint? Well, all God's people are saints. And there is a sense in which every child of God is ready through the sacrificial offering of Christ to be offered up to die, and the Lord gives dying grace in the hour it is needed. But, Paul was ready to be offered as a drink offering which was the last of the Old Testament sacrificial offerings to be made for the children of Israel, after the burnt offering and the grain offerings. His, was a life of laying down his life as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God which was the only reasonable service to such a great God. Anything less was just plain unreasonable. He was ready to die because his whole life was one of sacrificial giving of himself for the cause of Christ and for the glory of Christ. Are we ready to be offered? Our time of departure may be at hand not knowing what shall befall us here.

2. What is striking is that Paul said, **"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."** Paul could not have been ready to be offered unless he had finished his course with joy, as was his desire in our text in Acts 20:24. Now, how was Paul ready to be offered as his whole life passed before him as it does with those who are about to die? Three things:

a) **"I have fought a good fight."** As a good soldier, fighting here has the sense of agonizing. How much agonizing have we done in our labors for Christ? Calling on Christ to help us as we fight this flesh, as we fight the world, as we fight the devil and his angels, as we wrestle not with flesh and blood, but with principalities, and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places. If we want to finish our course with joy we must war a good warfare and endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. I am not talking about afflictions that even unsaved people go through like disappointments, sickness, etc., but afflictions because we are living for Christ as the most important thing in our life.

b) **"I have finished my course."** As an Olympic runner, Paul finished his course. Paul had a sense of accomplishment, there was not any "I wish I had's" as a dear brother used to say. That does not mean Paul was sinless, just read Romans 7, but, as a righteous man is described in Proverbs, he gets right back up though he fall seven times. All believers, like Paul, have a deep sense of his/their corruption, but when we are in the mode of finishing our course with joy we have a deeper sense of God's grace, Romans 7 at the end, I thank my Lord Jesus Christ! Assurance is of great benefit and we need it. Uncertainty brings fear and cripples us, regarding our job, health, etc., assurance brings peace and confidence in the toughest of times. Even at death, Moses, Peter, and David overcame past failures and finished well; Uzziah, Saul, and Lot did not. Are you still breathing? Still have a pulse? You still have time to finish well.

c) **"I have kept the faith."** As a

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good steward, Paul did not waver. He kept the faith. He guarded it, not his faith, not faith in himself, not the faith of false religion, not faith in the stock market, not faith in the political winds, not faith in the government, not faith in even friends and family, but faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. From the time Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he had kept that faith. He did not let go, he treasured Christ as the Pearl of Great Price, held Him close to his bosom, not at arm's length. If we want to finish our course with joy, we must keep the faith.

3. **“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”** (Heb. 12:1-2).

## III. THE STEPS FROM “HENCEFORTH” TO FINISH YOUR COURSE WITH JOY

A. The **“henceforth”** is a ray of hope for anyone who realizes that they are not in a position to finish their course with joy. If you are breathing and have a pulse, there is hope. Start right now, do not wait, you may not have time, besides Paul's was a whole life of living for Christ. If you are not saved, do not wait to call upon Jesus to save you from your sins, to be your Saviour, look to Him now, why do you wait? What for? Is there really any good reason why you wait? Do you want to finish your course with everlasting shame and

contempt, with eternal weeping and gnashing of teeth, lifting up your eyes being in torments and crying for mercy and none will be given to you? Do you want to end up eternally in that state?

B. If you are a Christian, while you live and have your being there is hope to live as Paul lived and to finish your course with joy. Paul, how could you finish your course with joy when you were persecuted, falsely accused, being a fool for Christ, being a servant, unappreciated, deserted by fair weather friends, ridiculed, whipped, beaten, spit upon, slapped, stoned and left for dead? Paul, how could you finish your course with joy? How could you be sorrowful, yet always rejoicing? How could you pray and sing after being beaten and locked up in a dungeon? Because Paul was looking, as Stephen, to the Author and Finisher of his faith. He was not even looking to his faith, but the Author and Finisher of his faith, which was a gift of God given to him. We can count not our life dear to ourselves, fight the good fight of faith, finish our course, and keep the faith, and finish our course with joy through Christ through Whom we can do all things because He strengthens us. Do we think this was all recorded to glorify Paul, or to frustrate us? No, but to show us that Paul, a man of like passions as we, who said, **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”** (Gal. 2:20). His focus was on Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today, and forever!

C. **“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous**

**judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”** (II Tim. 4:8). Here is a note of incentive and encouragement. When Christ comes there will be a crown of righteousness given, which is intimately tied into the imputed righteousness of Christ, but also to the Bema Seat in I Corinthians 3 and the crowns being cast before the Lord in Heaven for to Him be the glory. What we did was not in our own strength.

1. **“The day,”** as mentioned in I Corinthians 3:13, Satan does not want us to be able to cast crowns full of gold, silver, and precious stones to the Lord. He would rather we have less and be saved so as by fire.

2. **“That love His appearing,”** Christ's appearing—living for the future, not the present. I John 2:28, abide in Christ, so we will be confident at Christ's coming, not shrink back in shame because we did not run the race, finish well, fight the good fight, keep the faith, finish our course with joy.

You may not accomplish what you would wish, but have you accomplished by the grace of God, the will of God for your life? You may not have made a million dollars, or become famous, or traveled the world over, or been engaged in euphoric experiences that would send you into orbit emotionally, but do you know what is infinitely greater than all these put together? To hear Come, ye blessed of My Father, prepared for you, enter into your rest, well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord! That is what I am talking about people! Hallelujah! Glory to God above!

Though we fail, God has not, and is not about to start now, the Lord will finish His course,

He will win the battle, but whose side are you on? Will you be on the winning side? Ah, you say, how can you win with so few, but, it will not be us, but the Almighty Creator Who fights for us, and none but fools will even think of resisting the King of Kings, the Lord of lords, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Ancient of Days, the Sovereign Lord Omnipotent Who reigns over the universe.

If you have ever sat by the bed of one who breathes their last breath, there is nothing so solemn and so sobering as that moment of deafening silence when no more breaths are taken. You and I will be in such a death bed one day, maybe today, our death bed may be in a car twisted in wreckage on a roadside, it may be in the marketplace, it may be on our jobs, or at school, while on vacation, on a battlefield, in a dark prison, at home, it may be in our bed at home, it could even happen in church, but be sure it will happen. O may the words of the Apostle Peter ring into your heart, **“Save yourselves from this untoward generation”** before you go down to the fiery pit of a tormenting, dark, eternal Hell of which the very thought of the unimaginable, awful terrors would make any thoughtful person's spine tingle with a quaking fear! I plead with you as an ambassador of Christ to be reconciled unto God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the secret of finishing your course, your race with joy? It is all wrapped up in the Lord Jesus Christ, embracing His sinless life, His sacrificial death, His burial, His resurrection, His coming again, His eternal Kingdom to come.

Listen to a young pastor from

♦ (Continued on page 211)

# Finishing Your

(Continued from page 210) ♦

Zimbabwe just before being martyred for his faith in Christ: "I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made—I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, famed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean in His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and I labor with power. My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven. My road is narrow, my way rough, my companions are few, my Guide reliable and my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up, or let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And, when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me...my banner will be clear."

This man finished his course with joy; he finished well, how about you? Will you finish well?

We all need to ask ourselves this question and have dealings with God over the matter. If you are not saved from your sins, you will go out in fear and to Hell, cry out the Lord Jesus to save you from your sins, look to that wonderful Saviour Who finished as the joy set before Him, like no one else has ever finished and has blazed the trail for everyone who would repent of their sins and believe and trust in Him and His work on the cross to save them from their sins. Who would reject that love? If you do not receive the gift, you reject the gift, and how it will torment and haunt your very soul that on this very day, you were told about your inevitable death and your sins and the judgment to come, and repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ Who came into this sin cursed world, to be despised and rejected of men, a Man of sorrows, well acquainted with grief, Who came into this world to save sinners, to suffer, to bleed, and to die for sinners so that they could have eternal life, and you were invited to come to Christ, and you declined the invitation!

Saved brother or sister, in this time of silence let us have some serious dealings with our God that we would finish well and finish with joy, first, for the sake of the well-deserving and all-loving God we serve, and then for the sake of those who we will leave behind one day. People give their whole lives to their work, to drinking, to drugs, to fame, until it literally kills them. They give their lives over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh. Should we not have that same spirit of determination through the power of the Spirit to give our lives over to Christ even if it would mean dying for Him?

He emptied Himself and

offered Himself a sacrifice for our sins, can we not empty ourselves and offer ourselves a living sacrifice for service to Him which is our reasonable service? Anything less is unreasonable. Ah, yes, the love of Christ is so constraining, so inviting, so motivating, so full of wonder and amazing grace. Let this mind be in us that was in Christ in that He emptied Himself for us, **"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels"** (Ps. 22:14). **"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors"** (Isa. 53:12). Let us empty ourselves for Jesus that He might fill us with His Spirit and we finish our course with joy to the glory of our great God, and to brighten the day and brighten the way for our dear brothers and sisters in the faith, and for poor sinners living in the darkness of sin.



## OOPS! We Goofed...

In last month's *The Bible and the Newspaper* section, the news item on "Pope Francis Declares all religions are true," was incorrect. It seems that it was a spook blog and largely satirical. The editor apologizes for the error.

Also, if you were having trouble following articles in the August issue, our printer reversed one of the pages. If you will fold out the issue and exchange the second and fifth sheet, the pages will be in their correct order.

### BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST

#### Financial Report

7-1-2014 to 7-31-2014

Beginning Balance .....	\$7,260.49
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	225.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	100.00
.....	325.00
TOTAL .....	7,585.49
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Radio Time .....	454.98
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....	454.98
.....	7,130.51
Interest .....	.06
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$7,130.57



### BEREA BAPTIST BANNER

#### Financial Report

7-1-2014 to 7-31-2014

Beginning Balance .....	\$1,396.39
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Amazing Grace B. C., Stockdale, TX .....	50.00
B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL .....	50.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	300.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL .....	60.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX .....	50.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	150.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV .....	313.45
Carol Willitt, Edgewater, FL .....	50.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL .....	25.00
Faith B. C., Lynn, AR .....	12.50
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME .....	20.00
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC .....	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL .....	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK .....	35.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV .....	100.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC .....	50.00
Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY .....	25.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH .....	100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....	50.00
Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR .....	100.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL .....	100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR .....	50.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS .....	25.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Courtland, OH .....	75.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL .....	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX .....	30.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA .....	25.00
Subscriptions .....	137.00
Anonymous .....	1,210.00
Dividing checks .....	150.00
Sub Total .....	\$3,542.95
TOTAL .....	\$4,939.34
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Printing .....	490.00
Postage .....	659.08
Wages .....	2,300.00
FICA .....	175.90
Dividing checks .....	150.00
Supplies .....	81.50
Total Expenditures .....	\$3,856.48
.....	1,082.86
Bank charge .....	-13.00
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$1,069.86



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Big Creek Baptist Church of Wayne, WV will be having Homecoming services Sunday, September 14. Scheduled speakers are Elders Tom Hysell, Pete Horn and Tom Ross. Services start at 10:00 a.m. Dinner on the ground will be provided by the ladies of the church.

For further information concerning service times or directions to the church house, please contact Pastor Matthew Stepp at: (304) 807-5063(M) or (304) 522-1261(H), or by Email at [mnbstepp@suddenlink.net](mailto:mnbstepp@suddenlink.net). All are invited to attend.

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The Community Missionary Baptist Church of Mansfield, LA is in need of a pastor. The church believes and preaches the Doctrines of Grace and church truth. Any interested elder should contact Bro. Ray Darden at (318) 567-3961 or (318) 364-6302 or former pastor Elder Garthel L. Burr at (318) 872-3742.

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The Calvary Baptist Church of Paris, TN is in need of a pastor. The church believes and preaches the doctrines of grace and local church. Any interested elder may contact Paulette Owen at (731) 641-6172 or Nathan Tucker at (270) 212-0030.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Galena, OH is in need of a pastor. Any interested candidates possessing the qualifications and traits concerning the office as found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 are asked to contact either of the following: Bro. Randy Coffey at (614) 871-2406 or email [recoffeypot@aol.com](mailto:recoffeypot@aol.com), or Bro. Joe Vass at (614) 846-8699 or email [jamijoe@wowway.com](mailto:jamijoe@wowway.com).



\*\*\*\*\*

The Glade Creek Baptist Church, Summersville, WV, is in need of a pastor. This church believes and preaches the doctrines of grace and church truth. Any interested Elder should call Bro. Rodney Perkins at (304) 742-3050 or Bro. Allen Frame at (304) 742-5775.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Cobbitty, South Wales, Australia is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact David Jackson at 4 Station Street,

Thirlmere, NSW 2572, Australia or Email: [shellie45@bigpond.com.au](mailto:shellie45@bigpond.com.au).

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The Victory Baptist Church of Chehalis, Washington is in need of a pastor. Any interested brother may call Gerry Greisen at (360) 985-7975, or Mark Fenison at (360) 751-2929.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Marion, IL is in need of a replacement pastor. Elder Raymond T. Ellis is the

current pastor, but due to his age, is needing to resign. The church believes and preaches the doctrines of grace and the local church. Any interested Elder may contact Elder Ellis at (618) 983-8697 or Bro. Gary Ratley at (618) 841-0228.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Twinbrook Hills Baptist Church of Hamilton, OH is prayerfully seeking a pastor. Organized in 1938, the church holds to historic Baptist truths, including the Doctrines of Grace. Please visit the church's website at <http://twinbrook.net> to view the Church Constitution and other items that describe our beliefs and show what the church is doing today. Please contact Bro. Chris Willis at [Elohimfirst@gmail.com](mailto:Elohimfirst@gmail.com) for more information.

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Any church that is without a pastor, please feel free to send your information in regards to the pastoral position for publication in these announcements.



Quotes  
from  
Brother  
Ritechus  
N.  
Dignation  
by Joseph Harris

Some folks justify wrongdoing because of the presence of God's blessing. The house of Potiphar was blessed, but not for his Egyptian idolatry. God blessed Joseph for his righteousness, and this blessing spilled over onto Potiphar by association. Blessings can come from righteous associations, but it doesn't excuse our doing wrong, and will be brought up judgment day.

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