



Matt. 28:19-20

# Baptist

# Banner

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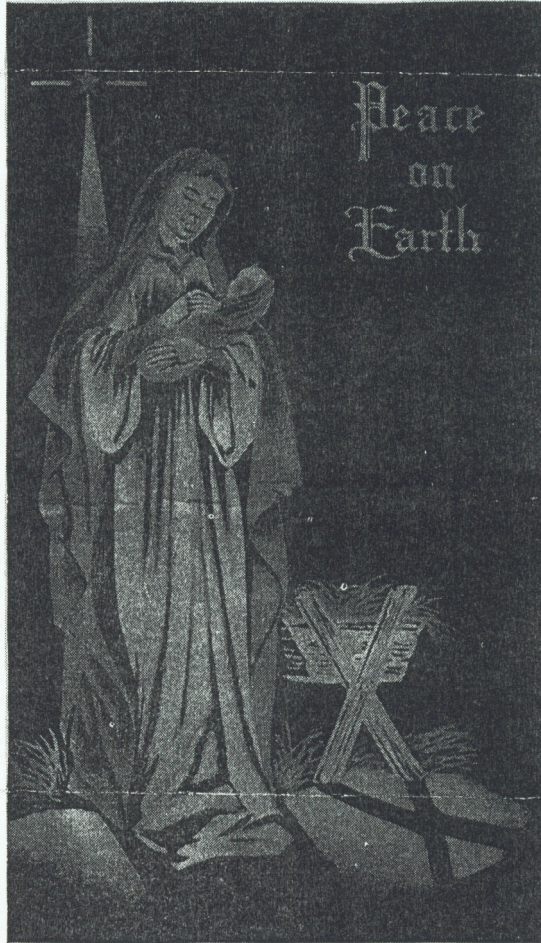
DECEMBER, 1977

NUMBER 7

## Merry Christmas

**A**nd this shall be a sign unto you; We shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. □

Holiday Greetings



### The New Testament In Modern Hebrew

**AAJE**

Ralph M. Gade, D.D.



It has been regarded by Hebrew scholars both in Israel and abroad as a masterpiece. Delitzsch had sought the constant advice of fellow Jews who were at home in both rabbinic and Biblical Hebrew. However, the revival of Hebrew as a spoken language had not yet come about.

Dr. Robert Lindsey, a Baptist Biblical scholar who first came to Jerusalem in 1939, has been a leading figure in the quest for a translation into the Hebrew spoken today. When he published "A Hebrew Translation of the Gospel of Mark" in 1969, Professor David Flusser of the Hebrew University, with whom Lindsey has worked closely for many years, wrote the foreword.

(Continued on Page 2)



Pastor F. R. Bingham

### Why I Am A Baptist

By F. R. Bingham

This message is not so much about Why I Became a Baptist, as it is WHY I AM NOW A BAPTIST. Like many others, I was taken as a child to a Baptist Church, and I virtually grew up in a Baptist Church. My parents were Baptists. After I was converted, **SAVED**,  
(Continued on Page 4)

### EGYPT

CAIRO—Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said that Egyptian Jews who have left the country since the creation of Israel in 1948 are welcome to return.

In an interview published by the newspaper "Al Ahram," Sadat said returning Jews will be treated on an equal footing with other Egyptians, and "not as second-class citizens."

"My decision is a contribution to the peace for which we are striving," Sadat said.

The number of Jews who have left Arab countries is estimated at 800,000. Egypt alone had a Jewish population of 66,000, the bulk of whom fled their homes following the 1956 Suez campaign. (the rest were expelled after the 1967 war).

### It Is So Easy To Stay Home and Find Fault

C. C. Bishop

"But Thomas was not with them when Jesus came . . . But he said unto them . . . I will not believe" John 20:24-25.

Read the whole story of doubting Thomas and find whether he did worse than the others or whether you do better. The whole secret in the matter is this: Thomas was gone when the Lord appeared. All had doubted the stories that had been told about the resurrection of Jesus.

They, no doubt, reasoned on this order:

(Continued on page 2)

### O, Little Town Of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark street shineth,  
The ever lasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years,  
Are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today!  
We hear the Christmas angels,  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Im-man-u-el!

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Hebrew New Testament

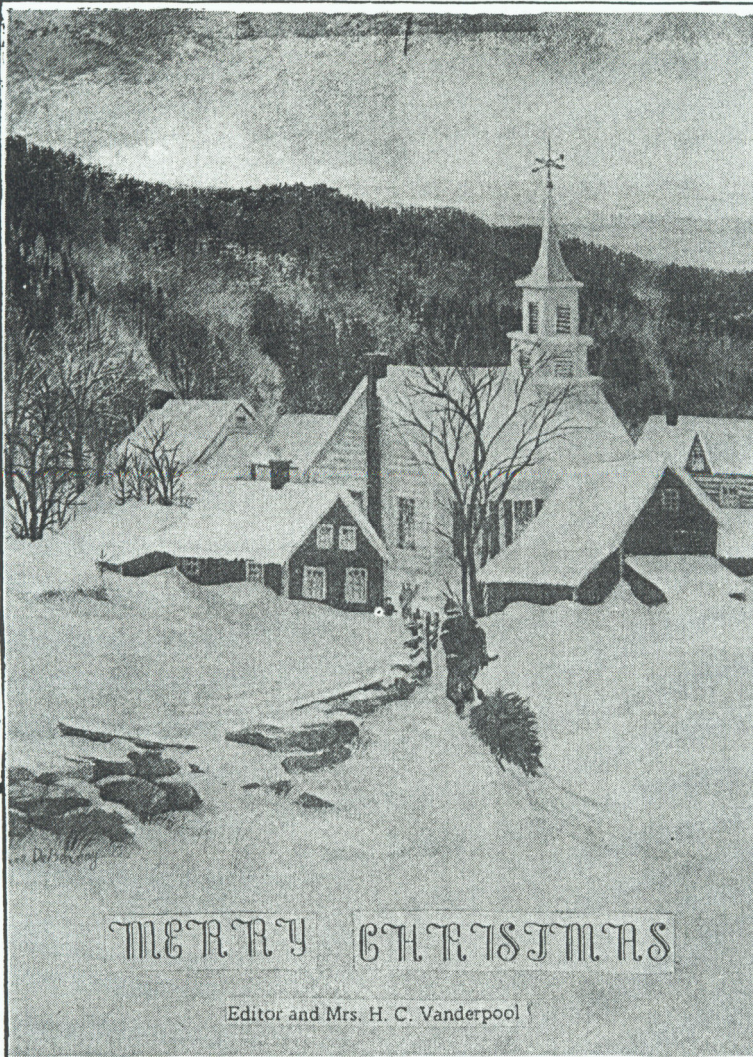
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Lindsey's translation of Mark (only a small portion of the New Testament) raised the issues with which the subsequent translation committee had to struggle. Lindsey's concern was that his translation be in "language which adequately reflects the early Jewish-Christian linguistic scene and will give literary pleasure as well as understanding." Amazingly, no criticism of the Hebrew text of Lindsey's translation has been made by Hebrew-speaking persons.

The new translation, encompassing the entire New Testament, has been done primarily by a native-born Israeli, a graduate in Semitic languages from the Hebrew University, in close cooperation with a team of Hebrew specialists from throughout Israel. The committee was headed by Magne Solheim, who until retirement was Executive Secretary of the Bible Society in Israel. Manuscripts were submitted to non-Christian Hebrew scholars for detailed criticism before the final draft was approved.

How contemporary should a modern translation be? Should one use the language of the average person on the street? The New Testament in Modern Hebrew tries to bring both a true and intelligible rendering of the Greek text while being easily readable for the average Israeli. Effort has been made to produce a text which is natural and unambiguous, while being faithful to the meaning of the original.

What was the original? Several Jerusalem scholars believe that Hebrew originals of the New Testament biographies of Jesus (the Gospels) lie behind the Greek text. "The extraordinary richness of Matthew and Luke is due to the treasury of Hebraic stories which they preserve and which clearly go back to eyewitness memories of Jesus," asserts Lindsey. If this is true, it makes even more fascinating the journey from early, long-lost Hebrew documents to the new translation in Modern Hebrew.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Editor and Mrs. H. C. Vanderpool

## EDITORIAL

By H.C. Vanderpool

### VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST

True Baptists have, and still believe and teach the virgin birth of Christ. About 700 B. C. Isaiah wrote, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14). Seven hundred years later the angel of the Lord spoke to Joseph concerning his taking the virgin Mary to be his wife and said, "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord, by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (Matt. 1:22-23).

Jesus had no earthly father. Had he been begotten and born after the nature of mankind, our faith in him would be in vain, we would be without a Saviour, which would mean we would be without any hope in the world. We would still be in sin and doomed to eternal night.

Since we have the witness of the Holy Spirit in our hearts that we have been born of God. (Rom. 8:16), our witness, that of the Spirit and the word of God all agree that we are born again by faith in Christ, the Son of God who was born in Bethlehem of the virgin Mary. She was found with child of the Holy Ghost, (Matt. 1:18-20). Without the virgin birth of Christ there could be no plan of redemption for lost humanity. (Acts 4:11-12).

### from Page 1 Find Fault

The women were led by Mary Magdalene. Christ had cast seven devils out of her and she probably was telling fancied stories to shield her past. Peter and John were the men and Peter had been guilty of "cussing" and a preacher that would lie and "cuss" just couldn't be trusted. He was no doubt pulling a few tricks to get back into the leadership of the people. Then John was such a bosom friend to Jesus that he would do anything to shield a fallen prophet." They had lost sight of Christ and were looking at the faults of the disciples. I fear this is too true of the world and even the church today. Thomas just took out, and didn't come. The Lord appeared, and showed them marvelous things, assured peace to them, empowered them to forgive each other, commissioned them to 'go' and breathed the Holy Spirit on them. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord.

Thomas missed the blessing He failed to get the revival the others got. They went after Thomas and told him what happened. Thomas began finding fault. "Unless, etc . . . I will not believe" How sad! It wasn't the weak disciples he was taking out on, but the Lord Himself. Occasionally a member will get OFF and POUT, and tell the minister, "I'm through until, etc., ETC." It is good to let such see sometimes that Jesus can get along without them. When Jesus appeared He offered Thomas all the proof he wanted, but He gave him a sharp rebuke. This was what Thomas needed. He proclaimed "My Lord and my God" If you have been staying at home and finding fault, try going out to meet the Lord and see what difference it makes.

## Fortress of Gamla 2,000 Year Old Ruins Emerge

GAMLA Occupied Syria—The ruins of a once-mighty Jewish fortress city have emerged from the camel-shaped hillside after which it is believed to have been given its name: Gamla.

It was here in the year 68 A.D. that the Roman legions of Emperor Vespasian made their first major dent in Jewish resistance, a hard-won success that opened the way to Jerusalem, which fell two years later.

The Gamla epic survived two millennia, largely because of the incredibly accurate description of the Jewish-Roman war penned by a renegade Hebrew historian, Josephus Flavius, a witness to the defeat and dispersion of his people.

Archeologist Shmarya Gutmann used Josephus' narrative as a guide to the long-buried site of Gamla, pinpointing it with the help of a fellow collective farmer.

His first season of excavations, carried out under incredibly difficult conditions, revealed the once-impregnable city's defensive wall, a stone stairway that served as one of its streets and a remarkably big public building that may prove to be the oldest synagogue ever uncovered.

Gutmann, a white-haired man in his late sixties who can climb up and down the rocky slopes of Gamla with the ease of a teenager, believes the historical importance of his find will rival that of Massada, the mesa overlooking the Dead Sea where the Jewish rebels made their last stand.

He helped the famous Yigael Yadin, Israel's best-known archeologist, work on the massive Massada dig.

The difference between Massada and Gamla, Gutmann says, is that the former went through several changes, serving as the site of several Byzantine Christian churches, palaces of King Herod, and other stages.

"Gamla existed as a Jewish city only from the time of its construction, starting in the 4th Century B.C. until its fall," he said, surveying the newly exposed stone landscape.

Gutmann believes the Romans had good reason to lay siege on Gamla before moving westward towards Jerusalem.

"They—especially Vespasian and his son, Titus—knew that the country could be conquered only if its provinces were subdued piece by piece," he explained.

"Therefore," he went on, "in true Roman fashion, they worked systematically to crush the then-large Jewish community in the Golan Heights, Gilead and the Bashan Region, moved into Galilee and finally closed in on Jerusalem and Massada."

Then, as now, the Golan was Israel's first line of defense.

During 45 days of digging under an unrelenting summer sun, Gutmann and his dedicated corps of young kibbutz volunteers—the exception was a 74-year-old kibbutz engineer "who worked hardest of all"—scores of stone ballistic missiles were plucked from the ground.

Gutmann also found arrowheads which, like the stone missiles, were catapulted by the Romans at the defenders.

The public building, which measures more than 20 feet in width and 100 in length, had three tiers of precisely cut stone seats around its rectangular floor.

—AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH EVANGELISM, INC.

# Revival Report

A revival closed recently at Faith Missionary Baptist Church, 18000 Glendale, Roseville, Mich. There were six professions of faith during the meeting with seven additions to the church.

The pastor of the church, Elder William Shoulders, was assisted in the revival by Elder William House of Madison, Tenn.

## SPEAK OUT FOR JESUS

You talk about your business,  
Your bonds and stocks and gold;  
And in all worldly matters  
You are so brave and bold.  
But why are you so silent  
About salvation's plan?  
Why don't you speak out for Jesus,  
And speak out like a man?

You talk about the weather,  
And the crops of corn and wheat;  
You speak of friends and neighbors  
That pass along the street;  
You call yourself a Christian,  
And like the gospel plan—  
Then why not speak for Jesus,  
And speak out like a man?

Are you ashamed of Jesus  
And the story of the cross,  
That you lower His pure banner  
And let it suffer loss?  
Have you forgot His suffering?  
Did He die for you in vain?  
If not, then live and speak for Jesus,  
And speak out like a man,

I'd like to tell the story sweet  
Of Jesus. Wouldn't you?  
To help some other folks to meet  
Their Saviour. Wouldn't you?  
I'd like to travel all the way  
To where I'd hear my Jesus say:  
"You've helped my work along today."  
I'd like that. Wouldn't you?

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### From The Bible

"Come thou with us and we will do thee good." Numbers 10:29.

"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Matt. 7:12.

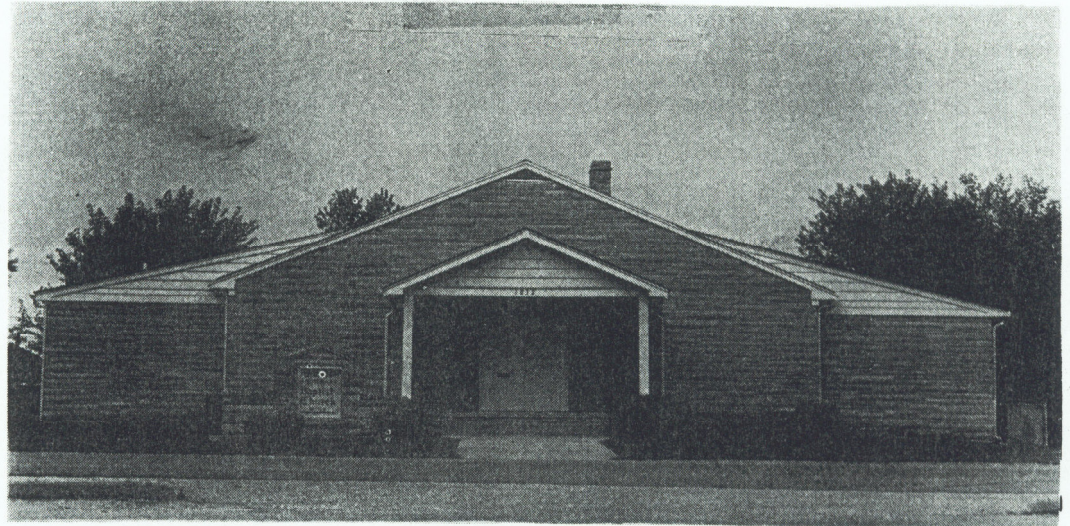
"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." Isa. 40:31.

"The Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him." Hab. 2:20.

### Country Parson



"I guess the same shortcomings always look shorter on the other fellow."



## Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church 1957-1977

By Elder Calvin Perrigo

The Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church observed the 20th. Anniversary of the organization in an all day service Sunday October 23, 1977. The late Elder Sam Hawkins and Elder C. D. Williams were engaged in a mission effort that led to the organization of Fellowship church. The church was organized on Sunday October 27, 1957 in Speedway, Indiana with 20 charter members. These original members were from Bethel, Harmony and McFerrin Ave. Baptist Churches. Four of these charter members were present in the service, they were sisters Louise Kemp, Brenda Kemp Dillie, brothers Kenneth Turner and Bobby Turner. Six of the original members remain as part of the body of Fellowship Church. 336 people have found a church home at Fellowship. Present membership is 199. The Lonnie Cockreil Family Singers of Bowling Green, Kentucky were guest singers. Their efforts were a blessing to the large crowd that attended the services. The Gospel Way Singers and the Calvin Perrigo Family were also engaged in the singing service.

Elder James Oliver, a former pastor, delivered the sermon in the afternoon. Many memories were refreshed as Bro. Oliver preached on "The Trail of Blood".

Along with the charter members, the brethren ordained by Fellowship Church were invited as special guest. All six of these brethren were present for this service. They were, Elders Jim Carter, Carlos Gammons, Hugh Hudson, Jimmy Parker, Wayne Shoulders, and Bobby Walden. It was a blessing to have these brethren visit with us on this date. A bountiful meal was served by the sisters of the church at the noon hour in the newly completed fellowship hall addition to the church building.

The committee, consisting of Billy R. Gregory, Nathan York and the pastor, Calvin Perrigo wish to take this means to publicly thank everyone for your presence and help in making this service a blessing. May the good Lord continue to bless you all.

### PARENTS SENTENCED

JEFFERSON, GA. — When two young sons of a Twiggs County family were caught stealing, Superior Court Judge Harold E. Ward sentenced the parents. The father and mother will spend Friday night in jail for the next three months and see that the children attend church regularly for three years.

## As A Twig Is Bent

Once there was a little boy. When he was three weeks old his parents turned him over to a baby sitter. When he was two, they dressed him in a cowboy suit and gave him a gun. When he was three, everyone said, "How cute," as he went about lispng a beer jingle.

When he was six, his father occasionally dropped him off at church on his way to play golf. When he was eight, they bought him a BB gun and taught him to shoot sparrows. He learned to shoot windshields by himself.

When he was ten, he spent his time after school squatting at the drug store news stand reading horror comics. His father wasn't home and his mother was busy.

When he was thirteen, he told his parents other boys stayed out as late as they wanted to, so they said he could too; it was easier that way.

When he was fourteen, they gave him a deadly two-ton machine, wrangled a license for him to drive it, and told him to be careful.

When he was fifteen, the police called his home one night, and said, "We have your boy; he's in trouble."

"In trouble?" screamed the father. "It can't be!" But it was.

Now the moral is, as the twig is bent, it may also snap back in your face.

Make your resolution to teach your children how to live Godly lives by your example.

—R. G. Holland, Bulletin.

## Missionary Baptist Literature Committee

By H. C. Vanderpool

As reported last month, all the manuscripts for the Sunday School Literature to be distributed to Missionary Baptist Churches, is now being printed. The Missionary Baptist Literature Committee is happy to see this work progressing, and reports have been received from various parts of the country representing a number of churches and Associations that our people are anxiously awaiting the privilege to begin using the literature.

The first materials will be the Spring Quarter (March, April, May 1978). Order Sheets are now being prepared and will be mailed soon to churches. Again, the Committee asks that each church promptly mail your order back to them so all the literature can be packaged and prepared for mailing in time for each church to distribute the literature in their Sunday School the last Sunday in February. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciate.

Efforts will be made to get order sheets sent to as many churches as possible. If for some reason your church fails to receive an Order Sheet by January 1, please write to Missionary Baptist Literature Committee, P. O. Box 1001, Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072, or call (615) 859-5780, and one will be mailed.

Various ministers and Sunday School workers in different Associations are working with the MBLC on this important project. We all appreciate this united effort. The Wiseman Baptist Association in its annual session in October voted to accept the work of the Associational Literature Committee during the past year, and voted to retain the Committee to work in any way it could during 1978 with the Missionary Baptist Literature Committee in writing, printing and distributing the Sunday School Literature. The Associational Committee is composed of Elders A. G. Gregory, Harold D. Linville, Charles R. Moore, Howard G. Taylor and H. C. Vanderpool. This gives a broader working force and representation among our churches.

We feel we are going to have literature that will be acceptable to our people. Yes, there will be critics. I, as well as others, have been criticized all during my ministry whether it was my preaching, my writing, my labors in other ways, or whatever. No one was criticized and abused more than Christ, and he never did make a mistake! Please remember all those everywhere who are working in this needful field of literature and help with your prayers and financial assistance. Buy it, read and study it, make use of it in your life.

## Gospel Singing

There is to be a singing at Faith Missionary Baptist Church, 10th St., Bowling Green, Ky. on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2:00 P.M. The Travellers and The Beginnings from Morgantown, Ky. will be singing.

This church will also be having a New Year's Eve singing on Dec. 31, with a pot luck supper at 6:30 P.M. and the singing to begin at 8:00 p.m. The Pathfinders and The Southern Harmony Quartet will be the featured singers on that night.

## Why I am A Baptist

(Continued from page 1)

at the age of 13 years, I joined the Church I was used to attending, where I had attended Sunday School and other services all of my life. I was baptized by the Pastor, Dr. D. B. Clapp, who is now in glory. But I was only a lad then.

Now that I am grown and mature, and capable of thinking and weighing evidence, and making decisions for myself on the basis of that evidence, the fact that I was raised a Baptist is not sufficient reason for my remaining a Baptist. I must have reasons, good and sufficient, for remaining a Baptist, and those reasons should not be based upon prejudice, nor sentiment, but upon premises that are valid and certain and incontrovertible, and which will pass scrutiny in the light of Scripture.

WELL, THEN, WHY AM I A BAPTIST?

(1) I am a Baptist because I want to be a member of a Church that goes by the Whole Bible, — that recognizes the Inspiration and Authority of the Bible. I want NO human creeds, nor dogmas, to direct my thinking.

The Bible is the One Authority in all matters of Faith and Practice. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we read that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for Doctrine, Reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect and thoroughly furnished for every good work" that he is to do. Also Isaiah 8:20 says "to the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

It is always been a proverb with us that "If it is in the Bible its Baptist, and if it is Baptist it is in the Bible." This is my first, and really the all-inclusive reason why I am now a Baptist.

(II) I am a Baptist because I want to be a member of a Church that teaches — A. Salvation by Grace, Through Faith, Without Works. This doctrine is so definitely and clearly taught in Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 3:28; 4:5; 5:1; Romans 10:1-4, 9, 10, 13-17. In carefully examining the many different denominations I find that true Missionary Baptists are the only ones who really teach this Bible Doctrine as one of their major tenets.

Many years ago, I made the statement that Missionary Baptists were the only denomination that preaches Salvation By Grace, Through Faith, and Without Works at all. A good friend of mine accosted me later and said that I had over-stepped myself, and said, "We Primitive Baptists preach that." I replied, No, you don't; you preach salvation by grace, and without works, but you omit the "through faith"; you make him saved before faith, in the predestinating purposes of God." He had to admit that I was right.

— B. THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF REGENERATION. Such scriptures as John 3:3-8 show the necessity of the New-birth. Also John 1:11-13; Galatians 6:15; and 2 Corinthians 5:17. These all show that a person MUST BE BORN AGAIN, and I believe it for it is in the Bible, and Baptists teach it, and that is another outstanding reason why I am a Baptist.

— C. I want to be a member of a church that teaches THE SECURITY OF THE SAVED. I find this in the Bible in John 10:27-30; 2 Timothy 2:12; Romans 8:35-39; Hebrews 7:25; Jude 24; 1 Peter

1:3-5, and many other places. I find also that Baptist Churches teach the Doctrine of the Eternal Security of the believer, and so I am a Baptist, and preach this doctrine with all joy. It is one of my most precious beliefs.

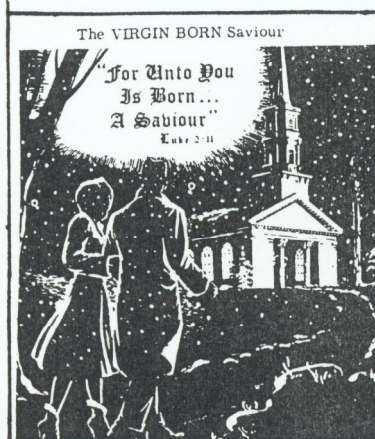
— D. Baptist Churches teach THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION; that salvation is a know-so experience. Baptist churches teach along with the Bible that a person can be saved and know it. See I John 3:14; 5:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; in John 9:25 the man who had been born blind and whose sight Jesus had restored, which is a picture of salvation, said, "One thing I know, whereas I was blind, now I see." This certainly corroborates the teaching that a person can know that they are saved.

I believe in a heart-felt religion. Romans 5:5 says "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit," and Romans 8:16-17 tells us that "the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." Baptists teach this kind of religion; it's what I believe the Bible teaches, and so, therefore, I could be nothing else but a Baptist.

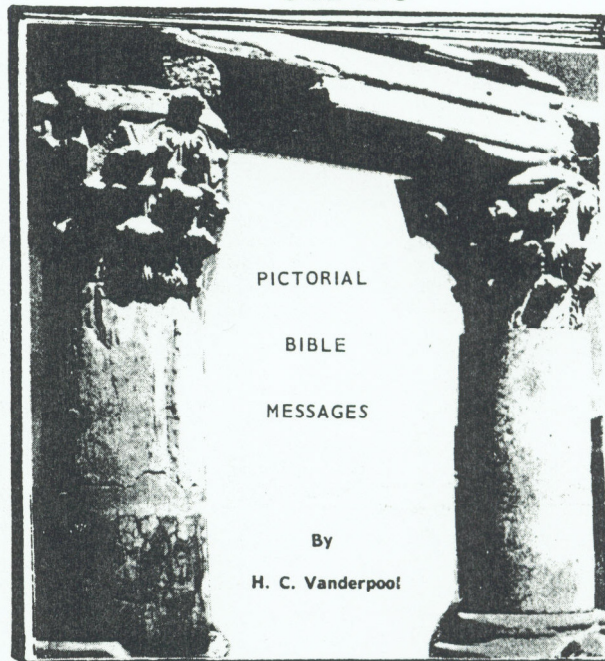
— E. I must be a member of a church that preaches JESUS ONLY AS A SAVIOUR. I find that the Bible teaches that that there is ONE MEDIATOR between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all. And in John 14:6, Jesus said that no one could come to the Father but by Himself; and in Acts 4:12 there is no salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven, given among men whereby one can be saved. And in careful, and close examination of the doctrine of other church bodies I find that true Baptists are the only ones who consistently stand for the truth.

Now, there may be individual preachers within other denominations who preach these truths, but the Doctrines of those denominations are not built around these truths, and it is for that reason I could not affiliate myself with any other Church body except a Baptist Church.

(III) I am a Baptist because I want to be a member of a church THAT RECOGNIZES THE LORDSHIP AND HEADSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST. Ephesians 1:20-22 tells me that God gave Him to be head over all things to the Church, which is His body. This means that no man, nor set of men as a board, or presbytery, or conference, or religious hierarchy, is to be head over His Church. I want to be in a church that is left free from human entanglements, free to do anything that it honestly and sincerely feels led by the Lord to do; and that can give its Missionary and Benevolent support where it feels that God directs it to give, and not be directed by some board. (to be continued)



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"Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed" (II Cor. 6:3).

Newspapers, magazines, and TV programs have shocked many honest, thinking people with the deceitful and unscrupulous methods used by a number of religious sects to raise funds and win converts to their particular cult. Many an unwary individual has been taken in, not knowing what he has been taken in to. The "Moonies" boast of having received over 10,000 young people, half of whom are said to be Jewish. Do these figures prove results or "fruit"?

In the parable of the sower (Matt. 13:1-9) the Lord speaks of "results" in verse 5. However, the "results" were not lasting, as there was "no deepness of earth." In verse 8 we read of "fruit" which was the result of preparing the soil and properly planting the seed. Christian workers should learn that there are no short cuts to a sound, lasting ministry of soul winning.

One of the dilemmas of our day is that some Christian organizations have adopted the methods and practices of these false cults, of whom the Apostle Paul wrote, "They lie in wait to deceive" (Eph. 4:14). In the apostle's prayer for the Philippians he prays, "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ" (Phil. 1:10). How important to "approve things that are excellent." This does not only mean that we should be able to discern between right and wrong, but rather that we should know how to choose the highest as opposed to the mediocre. The old philosophy that "the end justifies the means" has no place in the Christian ministry. Paul writes in I Cor. 6:12 that "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient."

The apostle continues his prayer by saying, "that ye may be sincere and without offense." The word "sincere" comes from two Latin words, *sine* (without) and *cera* (wax)—without wax. The ancients had a unique method for firing porcelain. Because of the great heat required in obtaining the desired results, it was difficult to fire the porcelain without cracking it. The dishonest dealer would use a special wax to fill in the cracks so the unwary customer would be deceived. If the waxed vase was held up to the light, however, the cracks could be detected. Thus the honest dealer would mark his wares "sine cera" (without wax).

The apostle uses this illustration to remind the child of God that anything that is questionable or savors of sham and hypocrisy should be done away with so that we will be "without offense till the day of Christ." He knew that any form of deception in the ministry would be offensive to those who were the objects of His grace, and the ministry would be blamed (II Cor. 6:3).

May the Lord give us the spirit of discernment so that we may be able to choose the highest, shun the mediocre, and trust Him to "give the increase" (I Cor. 3:7).

Yours in the Calvary tie, Ralph M. Gade