

Baptist Banner

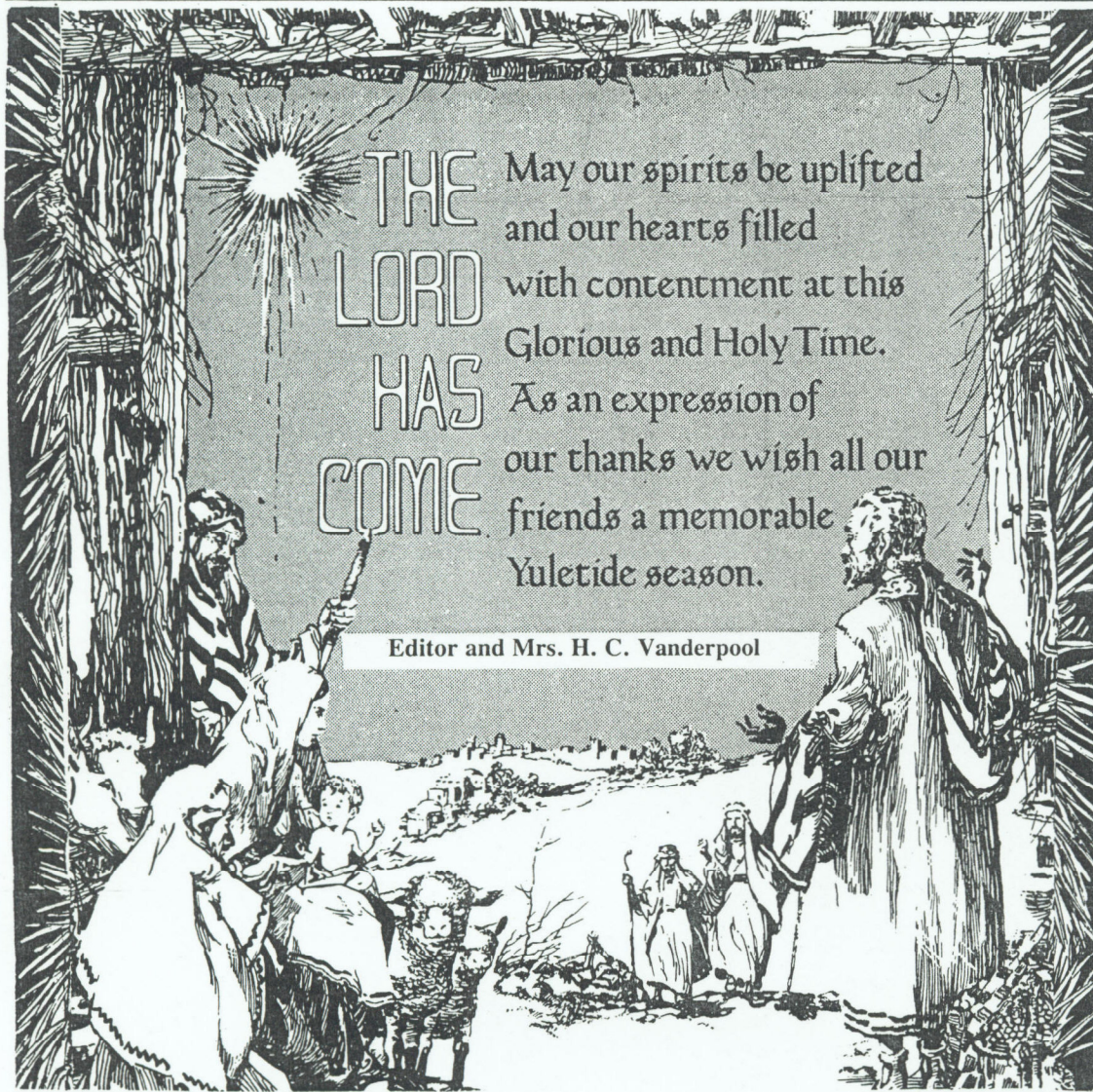
Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Psalms 60:4

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THE
LORD
HAS
COME

May our spirits be uplifted
and our hearts filled
with contentment at this
Glorious and Holy Time.
As an expression of
our thanks we wish all our
friends a memorable
Yuletide season.

Editor and Mrs. H. C. Vanderpool

Can We Know That We Are Saved?

By J. H. Smith



Sometimes we ask people the question, are you saved? and we get various answers, such as these: "I hope I am. I am trying to be" Or you might hear this one: "I am doing my best and hope that I will make it to heaven." And again, you hear this one: "I am a member of a church and have been baptised." Usually those who have these answers take the view that we don't know really whether we are saved until we get to the judgment, basing their hope on their works, or their holding out faithful till the end. Anybody who is waiting till the judgment to find out whether or not they are saved must be living a life void of peace and contentment, for it must frequently run through their mind: well, what if I don't make it, is it possible that I haven't done enough good to over balance the evil? It is pathetic for someone to claim to be a Christian and a member of some church and not know that they are saved. Salvation of the Lord is too great for us to have it and not know it. Certainly everybody who has been born again have the knowledge that it has taken place in their life; because God has given the witness to that individual, the true believer has the witness within himself. "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself" 1 John 5:10; and the spirit

(Continued on Page 2)

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ALL HUMANITY

By
H. C. Vanderpool

Lesson Text: Genesis 9:8-19

8. And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him saying,
9. And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;
10. And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all

(Continued on Page 3)

Israel Gives Back to Egypt Mount Sinai Region Held 12 Years

MOUNT SINAI, Egypt (AP) — Israel ended 12-year occupation of this area yesterday, returning it to Egypt, whose soldiers hoisted their flag near the mountain where Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments.

In ceremonies at an airstrip within view of the 2,285-foot peak, Israeli soldiers pulled down the Star of David banner two months ahead of schedule at the special request of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and replaced with their black, white and red flag.

It was the fourth of a six-phase Israeli pullout that will leave Egypt with control of two-thirds of the desert peninsula by Jan. 25. Egypt, which lost the lands in the 1967 Mideast War, is to regain them by 1982 under terms of the peace treaty signed in March.



LORD,
Thou hast been
our dwelling place,
In all generations.
Psalms 90:1

19 & Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world. A-men

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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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 write, "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, "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." Matthew 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, Romans 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, Matthew 1:18-20. Without the virgin of Christ there could be no plan of redemption for lost humanity, Acts 4:11-12.

As far as is known, there are no records of the date of Christ's birth. Various dates have been set aside and kept, and December 25 is just another uncertain date. However, God's word does teach us that he was born according to prophecy, fulfilling God's plan, Gal. 4:4; Rev. 13:8.

At this Christmas season when millions disrespect Christ and Christianity with their thoughts, actions and gifts, may we keep Christ in Christmas, and live like Christians throughout the year!

Can We Know?

(Continued from Page 1)

beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. Romans 8:16.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE KNOW. AS WE NOTE: 1. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Corinthians 5:1. Now, those who don't know that they are saved, but are just guessing and hoping, can't have the joy of knowing that the Lord has a place for them when this earthly house falls down. But Paul says in this wonderful verse, "For we know." So we don't have to go through life just guessing. Let us note further about what God has prepared for His people, and what we shall finally enter into, and the way that we know about it. "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit." I Corinthians 2:9, 10. As you can see, we don't know this by our natural faculties but God reveals it to us by His great Spirit.

2. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." I John 3:14. Love for the Lord and love for His people is one of the strong evidences that we have passed from spiritual death to life in Jesus Christ. Sinners are spiritually dead, dead in trespasses and sins, (Ephesians 2:1) and it is stated in the Scriptures many times that the believer has everlasting life. So he has passed out of death into life. Now, would you think that the dead person would know when this change comes? The Bible makes it very clear that we do know. John says we love the brethren. This love, mind you, is not natural love, we didn't inherit this kind of love, it is a divine love, and a gift of God. This love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, (Romans 5:5) and it is by this love that we love God and His people. And by this we know that we have passed from death unto life. Bless the Lord!

3. "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." II Timothy 1:12.

It is popular to believe something, but the important thing is to know whom we have believed; and when we truly believe from the heart there comes the assurance that our faith has been placed in the right place. The apostle Peter said, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." I Peter 1:8. Yet, believing, he said, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. True faith, in the true Saviour brings about joy to the heart, and this is evidence that we have believed, truly believed in Him who saves sinners. People who are trusting their good works, their church membership, their baptism, and keeping the law and such, need not to expect to have joy unspeakable and full of glory, for it just doesn't come that way.

4. "We know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see him as He is." I John 3:2.

Isn't it great and wonderful to have the assurance in our heart that when our Lord comes again that we shall see Him and be like Him. John said that we know this. Before I was saved I surely couldn't believe that I would be like Jesus when He comes; in fact, I felt sure that if He were to come then that He would find me to be a sinner, for a sinner I was; and I was afraid and didn't want to see Him. But all of that changed when He came into my heart and life. He forgave my sins and put His blessed Spirit within me, and gave me peace and joy that still prevails today. Don't tell me that people don't know when they are saved. The few Scriptures that I have given in this article are just a few of the many that tell us something about our wonderful relationship with our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. If you are not saved, you had better make your peace calling and election sure.



THE SHEPHERDS' FIELD

I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY
SAID...LET US GO INTO
THE HOUSE OF THE LORD."

Abortion

It's not the color of my skin
I'm not a foreign spy
It's due to this new monstrous sin
That I am doomed to die.
You cannot blame one certain race
For this would be a lie,
Before you ever saw my face
The world I bid goodbye.
It's the proposed abortion law
That makes the angels cry,
If they should get it legalized
My birthright you deny.
No evil words have crossed my lips
I couldn't hurt a fly,
I'll never climb those mountain peaks
Because I'm doomed to die.
I am hated, I am despised
I'll never see the sky,
Those who are my next of kin
Decide that I must die.
I'll never see the gorgeous sun
Or view the heaven above
Have you the right to take away
My life and all my love?
Before I've had the chance to breathe
Before you've heard me sigh,
My mother in her mixed up mind
Destines me to die.
The law if passed will back them up
"Abortion on demand" they cry
No shred of love they offer me
So what is there but die?
They conceived me in their passion
Before I've had a chance to live,
Do they know how many talents
To the world I have to give?
I haven't harmed one single soul
So may I ask you why
You saw fit to order me
Then doom me that I die?

—TIGER LILY,
Saskatchewan, Canada

Jesus' Church

By Patrick Eller

It has been for a long time taught that the Church was established out of the twelve apostles.

It is our desire to use scriptural teachings to try and rightly divide the word of truth in order to properly understand the beginning to the church.

It is a fundamental basic Baptist doctrine that Jesus organized the church during His personal ministry. Dan. 2:44

What did Jesus use to build His church? Material prepared by John the Baptist. He baptised those who brought forth fruit meet for repentance or in other words those who could tell of a time and place where Jesus had spoke peace to their souls. Matt. 3:8, Lk. 3:8

This is the material in which Jesus used to build His church. They first had to hear the gospel. Matt. 3:2. Rm. 10:12-18 and believe it to be the truth. Heb. 11:6. Jesus said no man can come unto me except the Father draw him; and I will raise him up at the last day. Jn. 6:44 also Jn. 5:24. When a sinner believes with all of his heart, God gives him the necessary faith in order to be saved. Heb. 7:10, Eph. 2:8-9.

After an individual has been saved he is a fit subject for baptism—for he is God's workmanship; created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Eph. 2:10.

Jesus said unto John the Baptist: thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness. Matt. 3:15.

The very first duty of a born-again child of God is to follow the Lord in baptism, and be identified with the Lord's Church. This has to be according to scriptural law.

Baptism is a righteous work; therefore, those who are righteous must be the ones who are to do this work. This is the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the building of the kingdom of God by God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ 2nd person of the God head.

John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare this material for the building. Jesus took this material and gathered it and organized the true church.

It is taught by some that in Lk. 6:13 that this is where the church was organized, when Jesus came down out of the mountain after praying all night. This is an error, which leaves the church open for bombardment by those who teach and embrace false doctrines.

What took place in reality was Jesus prayed all night, and when it was day came down and (Continued on Page 4)



H. C. Vanderpool

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ALL HUMANITY

Continued
from page 1

that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

11. And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

12. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

13. I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

14. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

15. And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

17. And God said unto Noah, This is a token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

18. And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Ja-pheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.

19. These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.

Memory Selection: While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. (Genesis 8:22).

INTRODUCTION

What is a covenant? In general terms a covenant is an agreement between two or more parties having its stipulation binding on all parties. In our lesson we have God as the first party and Noah, with all the animal world, and all mankind the second party.

What was the ground, or basis, of the covenant between God and all the earth's living? Let's note a verse of scripture, "And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savor; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground anymore for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite anyone everything living, as I have done." (Genesis 8:20-21).

As a sinner (there are lost sinners and saved sinners), Noah brought before God offerings. We are told in Hebrews that wherever there is a covenant there is the shedding of blood. In the shedding of animal

blood, there was the death of the animal. These typified the Lamb of God, who one day, would die for the sins of the world, (John 1:29).

THE ALTAR

In the above scripture (Genesis 8:20) the word "altar" appears for the first time in the Bible. It appears 421 times in the Old and New Testaments. The word "altar" in the Old Testament Hebrew is "miz-beach" and means "slaughter place." In the New Testament the Greek word for "altar" is "thusiasterion" and means "a place of sacrifice."

As Noah had come before God acknowledging his need of the benefits of an atonement, offering sacrifices unto the Lord (yahweh) which also reads sometimes "adonia" meaning Lord, or my Lord, the Lord smelled the sweet savor of those offerings and said, "I will not again curse the ground anymore for man's sake;" Again, we can see the basis upon which this covenant between God and humanity was founded.

THE COVENANT

Our lesson begins today with verse 8, of the 9th Chapter of Genesis. Before going further into the token of God's promise, the rainbow, we wish first to consider the first seven verses of the chapter relative to the covenant.

"And God blessed Noah" Here is re-published the law of nature that was announced to Adam, consisting as it originally did of several parts. "Be fruitful" The first part relates to the transmission of life, the original blessing being re-announced in the very same words in which it had been promised at first.

"And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth" This part re-establishes man's dominion over the inferior animals; it was now founded not as it was at first in love and kindness, but in terror. This dread of man prevails among all the stronger as well as the weaker members of the animal tribes and keeps away from his haunts all but those employed in his service.

"Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you" This part of the covenant concerns the means of sustaining life. While man was to have use of animal food, there was one restriction, "But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat."

"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." Here God commands capital punishment. This was for the protection of lives. It is true that image has been injured by the fall, but it is not lost. In this view, a high value is attached to the life of every person, even the poorest and humblest, and an awful criminality is involved in the destruction of it.

THE RAINBOW

What would it be like to live in a world without the law of nature? If the farmer planted corn and when it came up it happened to be some other grain, or the mother bird sat on her eggs until they hatched, and there were baby snakes hatched out instead of birds, or there were no certain times for certain seasons, wouldn't it certainly be a world of confusion?

The nature of crops being reproduced after their kind and also every fowl, fish and beast gives an assurance to man what to do to expect desired goals. The Lord said, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer

Faithful Sister Goes Home

Sister Jewell Lankford, devoted companion of Elder Tommy Lankford for 47 years, passed away at Smith County Memorial Hospital, Carthage, Tenn. on Sunday afternoon, October 21, and went home to be with the Lord.

She was a native of Macon County, Tenn. and was the daughter of Carsey and Iva Gregory Smith. She was a member of Sycamore Valley Missionary Baptist Church. Sister Lankford had desired for many years to visit the Holy Land and other Bible countries. Only a few months before she became seriously ill, she, with her husband, fulfilled that desire with several other brothers and sisters, travelling to Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday, October 23, at 11 A.M. in the chapel of Alexander Funeral Home, Lafayette, Tenn., by Elder Levy Smith and Elder F. W. Lambert. Burial was in the Will Gregory Cemetery.

In addition to her husband, Elder Tommy Lankford, she is survived by one son, Claudine Lankford, Lafayette, Tenn.; three granddaughters, Vickie Cothron, Debra Badger and Claudette Lankford; two great-grandchildren.

Sister Lankford was a devoted Christian, Baptist, wife, mother and neighbor. She has gone home to be with the Lord.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11.

Baptist Mission

A New Missionary Baptist Mission has begun near Mt. Juliet, Tenn. It is known as the Rutland Missionary Baptist Mission, located on Rutland Road. Going from Interstate 40, go one and one-half miles north of I-40 on Mt. Juliet exit, then about one and one-half miles east on Rutland Rd.

Sunday School is each Sunday at 10 A.M. and preaching at 11 A.M. Elder Herman Culbreath is the mission preacher. Everyone is invited to attend and your attendance and help will be appreciated.



CHRISTMAS—ON THIS WONDROUS HOLIDAY *Let Us Pray Together in Church*

and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Again the Lord promised a!l humanity for all centuries to come, even to the end of ages, "neither shall all flesh be cut off anymore by the waters of a flood; neither shall there anymore be a flood to destroy the earth." Lest there should be fear upon man every time rain began to fall, that again all things would be destroyed, God made the above promise or covenant to him, and the Lord gave a token of that promise when he said, "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud."

This writer well remembers in his boyhood days when his dad often pointed to the rainbow in the clouds after a rain, and explained its purpose, that it was the Lord's token or sign, that never again would the world be destroyed by a flood of waters. With his explanation and the confidence I had in him and in the teaching of the Bible, the world could not have convinced me that the earth and all things therein would again be destroyed by flood waters. But I was convinced through his teachings and those of other faithful Christians from the scriptures, that the next time it was to be destroyed, it would be by fire. I still believe that!

"For perpetual ages this stability of sea and land is to last, during the remainder of the human race. What is to happen when the race of man is completed is not the ques-

tion. At present God's covenant is the well-known and still-remembered compact formed with man when the command was issued in the garden of Eden.

"So God's bow is the primeval arch, co-existent with the rays of light and the drops of rain. It is caused by the rays of the sun on the falling raindrops at a particular angle. A beautiful arch of reflected and refracted light is in this way formed for every eye.

"The rainbow is thus an index that the sky is not wholly overcast since the sun is shining through the shower and thereby demonstrating its partial extent. There could not, therefore, be a more beautiful or more fitting token that there shall be no more a flood to sweep away all flesh and destroy the land.

"It comes through its mild radiance only when the cloud condenses into a shower. It consists of heavenly light variegated in hue, mellowed in lustre, filling the beholder with an involuntary pleasure. It forms a perfect arch. It connects heaven and earth and spans the horizon. In these respects it is a beautiful emblem of mercy rejoicing against judgment, of light from heaven irradiating and beautifying the soul, of grace always sufficient for the needy, of the reunion of earth and heaven, of all the universality of the offer of salvation."

When it rains again and the bow appears in the cloud, look upon it and remember God's covenant. He, too, will be looking upon it.

Apostasy

By Brad Adams



"An abandoning of what one believes in; as a faith, principles etc." This is the definition of the word apostasy as given by Webster's Dictionary. This word is used to represent a belief in the world today, that a child of God can apostatize away from God to the point of losing his soul salvation. Certainly a child of God may stray away from his Lord and be disobedient, but listen to the words in Psalms 94:12-14; "Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law; that thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked. For the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance." The Lord, according to the scripture, chastens his disobedient children, but will not cast them off to be lost again.

I believe this doctrine of apostasy is a very harmful one for several reasons. It denies the keeping power of God, and it changes the plan of salvation from a plan of grace to a plan of works. It will cause a truly born again child of God to continue, after being saved, to seek salvation again and again, thereby not growing in the Lord. And most of all, it simply denies the truth of God's word.

True Baptists have always held to the belief of the security of the saints, and I believe that we as Baptist people are to be "Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith" Colossians 2:7; knowing what we believe and stand for; and why, but also knowing the untruthfulness of the devil's doctrines and how they contradict the scriptures. The Bible says to "Try the spirits whether they are of God: Because many false prophets are gone out into the world" 1 John 4:1. So we want to "try" this devil's doctrine of apostasy and see what it says in the light of God's word.

Apostasy says that God will leave or forsake his children to be lost again; the Bible says "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" Hebrews 13:5.

Apostasy says that a child of God can be separated completely from the love of God; the Bible says "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord" Romans 8:38-39.

Apostasy says that salvation is a plan of works, for you must live good enough so as not to be lost; the Bible says "and if by grace then it is no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace; otherwise work is no more work." Romans 11:6 So there can be no mixture of the two (grace and works) whatsoever.

Apostasy says that it takes good works to keep one saved; the Bible says that we are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" 1 Peter 1:5.

Apostasy says that a child of God can be utterly cast down to hell; the Bible says "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: For the Lord upholdeth him with his hand" Psalms 37:23-24.

Apostasy says that a child of God does not possess eternal life (for eternal life never ends and this doctrine says it can) and come into condemnation and perish in hell; the Bible says "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, HATH (present tense) EVERLASTING LIFE; and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24. The original Greek says "passed out of death into life." Jesus also said "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish." John 10:28.

And last of all, in order to believe this devil's doctrine, one must take the position that once one has been saved and then lost his salvation, that there is no way for him to be saved again except Christ come and be sacrificed again. Because the Bible says, "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put him to an open shame." Hebrews 6:4-6.

The Bible also says that Christ is not coming again to sacrifice himself for sin: "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Hebrews 9:28.

What a contradiction of the scripture this doctrine is! I am so thankful that my Lord is so powerful that he sacrificed himself once for me and the whole world; and when he saved me, he sealed me with the Holy Spirit of promise, Ephesians 1:13, and is keeping me by his power. This is the whole joy of my salvation; to know

this, and look forward to the day that John wrote of and looked to when I shall "be like Him" 1 John 3:2.

Jesus said "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" John 8:32. And surely to know this gospel truth will certainly make a child of God free.

What A Saviour

From aeons of eternity

Unmeasured and unknown —

Our Lord stepped into space that He
For mankind's sin atone.

He closed the gate on Heaven's peace,
Its mansions, beauty, love;
His Father's closeness and their joy,
All this — He left above.

He had no place to lay His head;

Forsaken by His own —

He wore a crown of cruel thorns
And bore His cross alone!

"Forgive them Father, for they know
Not what they do," He said,

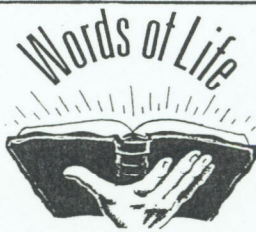
And as He spoke His precious blood
At Calvary was shed!

But though He died in agony —

Praise God He rose, He lives

And is at God's right hand today;

Still caring — He forgives!



Jesus' Church

(Continued from page 2)

called unto Him His disciples (which are followers of Christ His Church) and of them He chose twelve and also called them apostles.

The Apostleship is an office in which Jesus instituted in His Church. The twelve disciples that Jesus chose after praying all night where already members of the church, or you will have to take the position that they were apostles before they were put in the church. In Mk. 3:13-14, we find the same instance as was recorded by Luke.

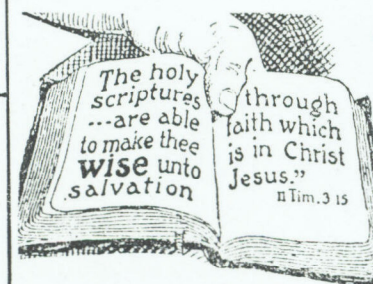
He went up into the mountain, and callesth whom he would; and they came unto Him. And he ordained 12; - these were the same twelve that Jesus called apostles. They were ordained to the apostleship. The terms for membership in Christ Church is baptism, not being ordained.

In 1 Cor. 12:27-28 states we are members in particular, and God hath set some in the church, 1st Apostles. Notice 1st there had to be a church to set the Apostles in. So what is the lesson about when Jesus came down out of the mountain after praying all night: It is as we are able to find in rightly dividing scripture; he placed the 1st gift in the church. 1 Cor. 12:1-31. All the other gifts followed, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, and diversity of tongues.

So the church to this very day ordains its ministers who have been approved, in the church. Jesus ordained the twelve apostles in the church and not out of the church.

It is due to our carelessness in reading and studying or we are taking someone else's opinion for our belief in certain scriptures.

We need the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, pure and unadulterated. God will preach thru His ministers (messengers) if we submit to Him. But we must study, pray and follow Him. May God bless and keep us in the palm of His hand until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Bible Lands Pilgrimage

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10 DAYS
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The Lord willing, my wife and I with several more, will be making another BIBLE LANDS PILGRIMAGE to the Holy Land and Greece. This will be my 7th Tour of Bible Lands.

The dates are October 27 - November 5, 1980. Since many people must know several months in advance when to plan a vacation, we are announcing this tour NOW so YOU can arrange your vacation next year and travel with us.

You may write to my address above, or call me to receive your brochure with full details including daily travels, accommodations, price, etc. In the past few years, several churches have sent their pastors on these Tours. Any church can spiritually profit from such action! Ministers or anyone else who wishes to co-host with us may get in touch with me. NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!