

Voice of Baptists

"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." **Isaiah 40:3**

VOL. 1

INDPLS., IND.

FEBRUARY, 1979

NO. 11



ATTENTION! CHURCH DROPOUTS!

By Kenneth W. Massey

THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN HUMBLY PREPARED TO SPEAK TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ONCE WORSHIPPED WITH GOD'S PEOPLE, BUT HAVE DROPPED OUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY. I am referring explicitly to the person who knows in his heart that God has saved him. If you were deceived in your own heart and mind, but united with the church and were baptized,

and later discovered your lost condition in the eyes of God, NOW is the best time of your life to return. Go back to the church, and clear the air of all the formalities which were altogether meaningless, anyhow, without salvation. But, hold on just a minute. Before you rush down to the church to repudiate your membership, your baptism and announce that you were never saved, you had better check to see if your life being lived indifferent of God's Will, void of prayer and weak in faith, is really your number one problem.

The devil may have tempted you with some of the following temptations in order to entice you to drop out:

1) THERE ARE NO YOUNG PEOPLE MY AGE ATTENDING!

To have other young people attending might be an added incentive alright, but it should never be the sole purpose for going to God's House. All Baptist pastors ought to teach and encourage all members that our primary objective in gathering as a church is "to worship God in Spirit and in Truth." Whether you are nine years old and have only been a member of the church for a few weeks or are 99 years old and have been a member for many years, you both have the same Saviour, Who Himself established His

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LIGHT, LIFE, LOVE

By Jerry Taylor
Indpls., Ind.



All LIGHT is of God. All LIFE is of God. All LOVE is of God. These are manifested to us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

To be without Christ is to possess only the opposites; DARKNESS, DEATH, and ENMITY!

LIGHT: "And God said, let there be light and there was light" (Gen. 1:3).

By forming LIGHT, darkness was just an automatic result. Darkness is simply the absence of LIGHT, just as evil is the absence of peace (Isaiah 45:7).

It is reasonable to assume that death is the absence of life, and hatred (enmity) is the absence of love.

Jesus is the true LIGHT (John 1:9). He said, "I am the LIGHT of the world: He that followeth me shall not walk in DARKNESS, but shall have the LIGHT of life" (John 8:12). John said, "...the DARKNESS is past, and the true LIGHT now shineth" (1 John 2:8).

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THE PREACHER

By F. W. Lambert
Westmoreland, Tenn.



(This lesson was originally taught by Bro. Lambert in Old Union Baptist Ministers School of Bowling Green, Kentucky.)

The desire to clean the church is another pitfall for a young preacher. You didn't clutter it up. He didn't call you to drag skeletons out of closets. Yes, it is obvious that many churches do need to have a housecleaning. But if they need it, let the church do it. We must confess that discipline in many present-day churches is almost totally unknown. This lack of discipline has robbed our churches of their spiritual power within.

A pastor can always find those who will promise to stick by him, if he will lead the church in the project of housecleaning. There is always an adequate number of cowardly backslappers who will pat you on the back as you begin, but when you get one of their family or friends, they will give you a kick in the pants. They will challenge you to do your duty, and then you are holding the bag when the going gets rough.

Another pitfall for the young preacher is the habit of making dogmatic pronouncements or predicting what's going to happen about the second coming of Christ, more than the Bible says. Hitler was the beast of Revelation some years ago, according to some. Some will tell in advance how many conversions there will be in a service, and they say the Spirit led them. Don't you think some might accuse God of something in which He is not guilty? Might some mishandle the truth? The preacher was telling a tall

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VOICE OF BAPTISTS

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor

Published Monthly by:
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
P. O. Box 33131
Indianapolis, Ind. 46203

STAFF WRITERS

James H. Smith
1169 Hunters Lane
Nashville, Tennessee 37207

John A. Keen, Jr.
1027 White Avenue
Brownsburg, Indiana 46112

W. T. Russell
1125 Magnolia Ave.
Bowling Green, Ky. 42101

Second-Class postage paid at Indpls.,
Ind. 46206

ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Kenneth W. Massey

QUESTION:

- 1) Will you explain "adultery"?
- 2) Also, explain I Corinthians 6:16-18.
- 3) Should wives or husbands forgive their spouse who is guilty of adultery?

Anonymous

ANSWER:

1) "Adultery" has more than one definition and application. However, the most common reference in scripture, and perhaps, the most appropriate application in our society today is "the violation of marriage sanctity by either the husband or wife to the point of having sexual relationship with another."

2) Explain I Corinthians 6:16-18.

Paul is teaching the church at Corinth by the authority of the 7th Commandment ("Thou shalt not commit adultery"), and his own apostolic appeal their sacred duty as members of the Lord's body. Those that join themselves to an harlot have defiled the temple of the Lord. Usually Paul uses the term "temple" when speaking of the church, but in this instance he is definitely referring to the individual member's body. All other sins that men commit are without the body (verse 18), but this sin of fornication (adultery) involves the body.

3) SHOULD WIVES OR HUSBANDS FORGIVE THEIR SPOUSE WHO IS GUILTY OF ADULTERY? Read Judges 19:1-5

The Mosaic Law required death as the penalty of adultery (Deut. 22:22). The Law of Christ allows for divorce (Matt. 19:9). However, the Christian's method of reconciling adultery is repentance toward God, their husband or wife, and their church. God has promised to for-

give all sin except blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how often shall by brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus replied, I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but, Until seventy times seven" (Matt. 18:21, 22).

If God forgives, and brethren are instructed to forgive, then it follows that Christian companions should certainly forgive.

LIGHT, LIFE, LOVE

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There is no LIGHT without Christ! LIFE: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the LIFE:....." (John 11:25).

To those who were trying to kill our Lord, Jesus said, "...for as the Father hath LIFE in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have LIFE in himself;....." (John 5:26).

In our Saviour's own words He teaches, "...I am come that they might have LIFE...." (John 10:10). It is evident that the source of LIFE is in Christ, and mankind must come to Him to obtain it.

"God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of LIFE" (Gen. 2:7).

There is no LIFE without Christ! LOVE: "God is love" (I John 4:8).

"...he that dwelleth in LOVE dwelleth in God" (I John 4:16).

"LOVE never fails" (I Cor. 13:8).

Long sermons and lengthy theses have been offered on the subject of "God's Love." All of these have delighted us and exalted our spirit. We have rejoiced in the deepness of His LOVE to us, but never have we comprehended its' richness and depth. Some day, in His presence, we will know the fullness of His LOVE. What a glorious hope and cause for shouting His praises and rejoicing in His marvellous LOVE and mercy!

There is no LOVE without Christ!

There is nothing more desired by mankind than LIGHT, LIFE, and LOVE. A man lost in a dark cavern will rush toward a ray of LIGHT with delirious anticipation!

At the brink of death, man clings to his mother earth with every fiber of his being, trying desperately to sustain LIFE!

LOVE sustains men of all social ranks. Many suicides are caused by the lack of it. Men die for those he loves, and yet this love cannot compare with the LOVE God offers!

At the very instant these words are penned, there exists a place where men, women, and children exist and have full use of their senses, and yet LIGHT, LIFE, and LOVE are absent.

Hell is called "outer darkness" (no light). Hell is eternal death (no life). Hell is weeping and gnashing of teeth (no love).

Jesus, the only hope of salvation, is in the paradise of God where LIGHT, LIFE, and LOVE exist in more abundance than we can comprehend. How horrible it is to think of hell, and how wonderful to think of heaven!

If a person wishes to get to heaven, he must be saved. Then, when with Christ, be illuminated by ETERNAL LIGHT, experience ETERNAL LIFE, and enjoy the comforts of ETERNAL LOVE. Jesus has them all, and they exist nowhere else.

If a person chooses hell, and the absence of these essentials, he needs simply to do nothing.

MY TRIP

TO JAPAN

By James H. Smith



I promised that I would give some report of my trip and short stay in Japan before I left, and so I want to fulfill that promise. I left Nashville, November 2nd, and arrived in Japan about fifteen hours later by jet airplane. I had a nice trip and a safe one, and I experienced the nearness of the Lord while on this journey, and certainly I am very grateful to Him for letting me know that he was with me to give security and comfort. I stayed over night in Osaka, Japan in a hotel, and from there I boarded a Japanese bullet train to Hiroshima, traveling that two hundred miles in less than two hours by this fast train. I got on a street car at Hiroshima Station and went across town to West Hiroshima to where our church, Koi Baptist Church is, and where Brother Tajima and his family live. They expected me to call from Osaka and let them know the time of my arrival, but I just decided I would like to have one more experience of riding on an old trolley car. So I fulfilled that desire, and they didn't have to bother about coming to the station to meet me. They were a little surprised when they saw me come walking through the gate. My arrival in Hiroshima was on Saturday, and so the next day being Sunday and time for services at Koi Baptist Church, I was with the church for my first time in about six years. I tried to give a testimony in Japanese after Brother Tajima preached, but it was quite a struggle, because there were so many words that we use in worship that I had forgotten. Anyway, it was good to be present

and see the brethren and sisters, and have their fellowship once more.

Koi Baptist Church seems to be holding its own pretty well, the attendance being about the same as it was when I was there last. People get saved occasionally but others move away, and so it goes as it has been in the past. But one very important and good condition I still found, and that is the Lord's presence was still evident. Brother Tajima asked me to preach on the second Sunday that I was there, on November 12th. I had been trying to brush up on my Japanese up to that time. So I spoke that Sunday morning on some of my favorite passages in the Bible, and the Lord gave me good liberty to speak that time, and He truly blessed my soul. I had many precious memories that day of the past when I would struggle to get a message over to the people and how the Lord would bless, and how He would touch sinners and save them; and I would be privileged to hear their testimony of saving grace. I cannot stress too much how I would like for our people here at home to pray for the Lord's work in Japan. During the years that Annie Laura and I spent there I thought sometimes that I would sweat blood trying to learn language so that I could preach the glorious Gospel to the Japanese and establish a true witness for our Lord there. I know that He answers sincere and earnest prayers of His people. So would you make this a special object of prayer. I realize that discouraging things happen, and we feel let down, but this is no excuse to give up in any sense of the word; for God doesn't accept excuses. What we sometimes think to be a tragedy proves to be a blessing anyway. In past history when some men fell by the wayside God had somebody just as good, or even better, to take that one's place. So don't say that we might as well forget foreign missions and concentrate on home missions. Both are to be carried on at the same time. (Acts 1:8) When we don't have missionaries, let us pray that God would call some. There is one sin that so many Christians are guilty of, and that is limiting the Almighty; doubtful, gloomy children of God.

On Thursday, November 9th, I went with Brother Tajima to an island called Oshima to begin a mission there. He had been invited to come and hold services in a widow woman's house, and I was privileged to go with him for the first service. Oshima, I would guess, is about fifty or sixty miles from Hiroshima, and the island has thirty thousand inhabitants. This woman said that they use to have a church on the island but the pastor

became old and couldn't preach anymore, so they closed the doors. I was impressed very much with this small beginning; but, "Who hath despised the day of small things?" This elderly woman was, without a doubt, hungering for the Word of God. So she invites a Baptist preacher to come and hold services in her house. And she had invited some other women to come for the service, and two other women came and so there were the three of them, five of us in all, for this first meeting. The sister wanted to talk some at first and tell some of her Christian experiences. I couldn't understand much of what she said, but I could very well feel the witness of the Spirit in her testimony. We sang some hymns, had prayer, and then Brother Tajima preached to these hungry souls. Please pray for this new mission effort, that it will grow and that it will be a permanent work for the Lord.

We went from Oshima to a town called Hikari and spent Thursday night with a member of Yamaguchi Church, and on Friday we went to Yamaguchi for a service in the afternoon. Attendance there was very small, because being a week day, some of the members that usually attend, were working.

One other good experience I had while in Japan was my visit with a man who was the first to be saved after our arrival in Hiroshima in the year of 1951. He was a very young man at that time and a student at Hiroshima University. Back at that time he made several personal visits to our place and attended services regularly at the house. He got convicted after hearing the Word of God for a few months and went down by the sea shore one afternoon after school hours, and there he prayed to the true God for the first time, and the Lord saved him. He became a school teacher after graduation and had to leave Hiroshima to find a place to teach. He is now a man in his late forties and has two grown children. He learned that I was coming to Japan and requested that I come to his home and stay as long as I wished. I went and spent two nights with them, brother Kiyama and his family. He hadn't attended church for many years, and I could tell that his heart was hungry for spiritual food. He asked me to pray while I was there, and we talked about the Lord and the good days we use to spend together in Hiroshima. Brother Kiyama is an English speaking Japanese, and he use to, after he was saved, interpret for me, and he would go many places with me to preach and distribute Bibles.

While I was with Brother Kiyama another member of Koi Baptist Church,

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL MARCH 28-30

Several timely topics have been selected for presentation during this year's three-day session. All God-called (1 Cor. 1:26) preachers are invited to attend! An application form must be completed and returned for first-time attenders.

For complete information and acquiring an application form, you should write the pastor of Old Union Church as follows:

Elder Paul Bryson
Route 2
Alvaton, KY 42122

".....Paul departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks." Acts 19:9, 10

who has been away for many years, and who lives in the same community, came, he and his wife to visit. This man's name is Brother Fukuo; and he too was a student at Hiroshima University when he came to the services in Hiroshima and got saved back there in 1951. Both of these men were very helpful to us back in those days, because both of them could speak English and could interpret the Word of God for me. I asked both of them if they would go back to Koi church and help out. They live about a hundred miles or so from Hiroshima, but it takes only about an hour to go by the fast trains they have. They promised me that they would go as often as they could. They are able even financially to help a lot if they would go. I have longed for the time when Koi Baptist Church could become more self supporting, for I know that God would bless them more and they would get more out of the service of the Lord if they would and could. I talked to them about this while I was there, and I had talked to Brother Tajima about it in the past. I know, however the way everything is now, all the inflation, high prices, I have never seen anything like, it would be hard for Brother Tajima to make it without some help from here. But let us pray as we try to help them, that they will try a little harder and make sacrifices for the Lord's sake. My heart goes out to them, and I would not do anything to hinder, but I only want to do what I think is best for the work that is so dear to my heart. Please make this a special object of your prayers.

CHURCH DROPOUTS**(Continued from page 1)**

own Church. (Our church, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, happens to have two members the particular ages aforementioned. Our daughter, Julie, is nine and Sister Mary Gammon is 99 and will be 100 on April 15th.) "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Jesus can bridge the generation gap better than any. Paul was simply saying in that Galatian passage (3:28), that all barriers have been removed, and all have met at one central gathering place, that is in Christ. He is the object of our faith; He is the Lord of our lives; He is the Prize of heaven; He is the Theme of the Bible; He is our Rock; He is our Salvation; He is the One Who delivered us from Satan and sin. With Him, we are always a majority; without Him, we are always a minority. He likes for His House to be filled on Sundays and Wednesdays. He is beckoning me to invite you to return!

2) MY CLOTHES OR MY HAIR OR WELL, I DON'T EVEN HAVE A DRESS TO WEAR!

When God selected Jesus to come here and die for us, and Jesus volunteered simultaneously to come, I am certain and happy indeed that he offered no excuse as flimsy as those mentioned above. **HE CAME TO SUFFER AND DIE!!!** We attend services for our spiritual strength and God's praise and glory. Please don't confuse the issue any further by allowing Satan to influence your mind so that you regard God's House no differently than sinners do. If you have been blessed with a healthy body and have head enough to dress yourself, get out of that bed on Sunday morning, count your blessings, and gather with the saints to sing praises unto God at the top of your voice.

3) I AM GOING BACK, BUT NOT UNTIL I CAN LIVE IT!

Oh, how many times have I heard that mournful promise. That's just like saying, "I am going to the doctor when I get well." Don't you know that you cannot live as close to the Lord away from His church. His preached truth, the united prayers of the church, the blessing of being able to bear one another's burdens and the edification received from that Great Spirit moving and walking in the midst of the church? Surely you remember the influencing power of God upon His people, when His Spirit reigned in every song, every prayer, the sermon, the testimonies or requests.

Why don't we stop kidding around with each other, and just get down to bare facts. You don't want to go back to church because Satan is telling you "you are having a lot more fun out here in the world than you can have back there with those straight-laced fuddy duddies."

"By faith Moses, when he came to years (that's you my saved and church member friend), refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:24-26). I would not for my life tell you that serving God is the easiest life and a course of least resistance, but I will gladly declare to you that it is the best life anyone will ever know. Why not tell the gang you are through with the beer blasts and the wee-morning hour poker games. Yeh, tell them you are a tee-totaler, or on-the-wagon, or whatever terminology you prefer. Just do it for God and yourself. Not for me. Not for those nagging parents. Not for all others combined. Just do it for God and your pursuit of happiness in right relationship with Him. Don't wait for God to send His chastening hand. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth (punishes) every son whom he receiveth" (Heb. 12:6). God is able to change your "want to." Your yesterdays are gone; don't let Satan use them to haunt you and prevent you from doing what is right today. You will find God's forgiveness so gracious, and His love so large. And now, dear brothers and sisters in the Beloved of God, fellow-heirs of God, co-laborers together with Christ, let me close with these words because of tear-stained eyes: God needs you to return to your post on the guard force. Our elder Brother needs you to help us tell a lost world in sin about Him and His precious, cleansing blood. The Zion you left cries out "come home, 'come home, we love you and need you." Your children will ask you, "Daddy or Mommy, why can't we go to the Lord's House, to church?"

Most modern-day preachers and evangelists teach people to unite with the church of their choice. I would like to advise you to unite with the church of God's choice. God will not only guide you away from all the false churches, but will also find you the particular true Baptist Church where you are needed.

NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER...Hebrews 10:25

THE PREACHER**(Continued from page 1)**

fantastic tale with such sincerity that the deacon's son was amazed. He asked the preacher's son in a whisper, "Is that the truth?" The preacher's son indifferently answered, "Naw, he's just preaching." Someone has said that you can read a man's character by studying the words he uses. Words may proclaim truths or tell lies. Words may declare love or express anger; words may be draped in beauty or dressed in filth. Just how careful are preachers in their use of words? Just how truthful are preachers anyway? How far can one stretch the truth without it becoming an untruth? What about letters of recommendation for a friend. Is it a lie when one lies by implication? YES. Does God overlook the little white lie or half-truth in the preacher? Some will resort to it, when they are in a "jam." Some will indulge in it rather playfully. Words are used to recite suggestive and even vulgar and obscene stories, and this snare catches a few preachers. God's record of some of the midnight, annual "bull sessions" is enough to make your hair stand up. Consider the preacher and his word in the business world. Some become suckers for installment buying and over-buy. Then, when they get behind with their payments, they start howling about being underpaid. A few churches have had to dismiss pastors and pay up their debts in order to save the good name of the church; but that doesn't save the good name of the ministry. Some businessmen have come to distrust all preachers because of an unhappy relationship with one preacher. In every business relationship of his life, let the preacher keep his word and language above reproach.

Consider the preacher and his word in the pulpit. Back alley language is not to be employed in delivering the King's message. His commission as a messenger does not liberate the man of God to abuse good taste in the performance of his duty. Neither slang nor coarse language should find its way into the mouth of the messenger called from heaven. A person came by my house and talked briefly about a preacher they had heard, using such words as "buzzard puke" in his message, or if I don't say this, I will burst wide open. Now that would stir a stink. We need to keep our tongues out of the gutter, too. Being "strait-laced" is no worse than being "unlaced."

* *

"The Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't."