

# 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**

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## THE CHURCH IN A TUBE

By Kenneth W. Massey

***"Is it possible that religious broadcasting is feeding the growth of 'The Universal, Invisible Church' at the expense and deterioration of the local congregation?"***

One of the first things learned about good communication is the cardinal rule of identifying our audience. Who are they? What do they need to hear? How are they reacting? Can we expect to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to these people? Jesus never preached an evangelistic sermon to a group of disciples for their conviction. Neither did he teach sinners sanctification of their bodies. He knew the hearts of all men, and was able to teach them according to their needs.

### What Americans are doing

The average American over 18 spends his time each week as follows: 53 hours sleeping, 26 hours working, 8 hours eating, 26.4 hours WATCHING TELEVISION, 21.3 hours LISTENING TO RADIO; newspapers, 4.2 hours; magazines, 3.3 hours; with records and tapes accounting for 1.3 hours; attending movies, sports, or cultural events occupies just 17 minutes a week; reading books trails the list with 12 minutes; all other activities fit into the remaining 24 hours.

Mr. Average American spends more time watching television and listening to radio (combined) than he spends at any other activity except sleeping - an average of 47.7 hours a week! Most members in most churches know the Walton Family better than they know you. Many of these same people will speak exten-

sively about Fred and Lamont or Dr. Quincy or Barnaby, but will whisper to the only member of the church that they really know, and pointing to you or some other member ask, "who is that?" Why is church attendance better on Sunday mornings than any other time during the week? Because the television programming is worse then than any other time.

### Looking Back

A glance back across the past quarter century, according to the Gallup Poll, reveals some startling developments. First, to my surprise, the survey found that basic religious beliefs and practices have undergone very little change in 25 years.

However, the emphasis of organized religion has dropped sharply during this same period of time. For example, in 1952, 75 percent of those surveyed said that religion was "very important" in their lives. This figure dropped to 70 percent in 1965, and to 53 percent in 1978.

This sharp decline in the number of those who say religion is "very important" in their lives has been paralleled by a marked decrease in the percentage of Americans who say they received religious training as a child - from 94 percent in 1952 to 83 percent today.

Now, let's summarize our view of the last 25 years. Most Americans are

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## JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH IN CHRIST PART II

By James H. Smith  
Nashville, Tenn.



### How Justified?

In God's gracious plan to set sinners free, and count them righteous, excludes all boasting on the part of the freed captive. Paul asked this question, "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay, but the law of faith." "Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law." Romans 3:27-28. Note: 1, That man is justified by faith, 2, without the deeds of the Law. Faith excludes works, and of course the Law is doing something, it is deeds, or works. A man who is trying to be justified by law is working at the job. And if he could get the job done, he would have a right to boast, because he would have earned something; and if God were to set him free from penalty on the basis of what the man had done, God would be paying a debt.

Men now, and in ages past, have been justified by faith, without the deeds of the Law. Abraham was a good man, if there ever was one, but he could not glory before God for the works which he did. "For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory, but not before God." "For what saith the Scriptures? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Romans 4:2-3. We learn here that one's faith is counted for righteousness; it is not to him that worketh, for his works don't count; but God does look at his faith, and He counts that for righteousness. "Now to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteous-

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**SPECIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
\* \* \*  
**SINGING SCHOOL**

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church of 1032 S. Holmes Ave., Indpls., Ind. will host the annual singing school sponsored each year by the Marion County Singing Convention, August 20-31, 1979, Monday thru Friday evenings, beginning at 7 p.m. Bro. Dean Hauskins, member of Fellowship Church and Convention President has been selected as the instructor. **EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

\* \* \*

**FELLOWSHIP MEETING**

The Bethel Baptist Association quarterly Fellowship Meeting will meet with Bethel Miss. Baptist Church of 1501 Pleasant St., Indpls., Ind. Saturday evening, August 4, 1979. Refreshment and fellowship hour will precede the 7 p.m. Worship service. Elder Raymond Hargis of Pleasant Valley Miss. Baptist Church, E. Washington, Illinois will be the guest preacher. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

\* \* \*

**REVIVAL****AUGUST 19**

New Bethel Miss. Baptist Church - Goodlettsville, Tenn. Pastor H. C. Vanderpool will be assisted by Elder L. W. Smith. Services nightly at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited!

**JUSTIFICATION**

(Continued from Page 1)

ness." Romans 4:4. If our works were to be counted in this in anyway, as far as our justification is concerned, even after we are forgiven and released from the penalty, we could still be charged and condemned for our sins afterward.

But Paul goes back to the Old Testament, to one of the Psalms, to prove that a man once forgiven will never be charged and condemned again, saying, "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered." "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." Psalm 32:1-2. Of course a man will sin after he has been forgiven because his life will not be perfect; all his works will not be good, but his sins will not be charged against him, for our sins are covered by the blood of Christ, and that takes care of all our sins, past, present, and future. When we sin in the flesh after conversion, our heavenly Father chastises us for those sins, but never will He condemn us and send us to hell. The word impute means: to charge, to impose a charge for some wrong done, but God says that this will never happen to one that He has forgiven. "Blessed is that man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." Romans 4:8.

The true believer has the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, and His is a perfect righteousness. Our sins were charged to Him, and He took our sins to the cross and paid for them. He died in our stead, died the death that we were due to die, and in turn, when we believe on Him, His righteousness is put to our account. He took our sins, and we take His righteousness; and God, the Almighty, sees us through His beloved Son and accepts us on the basis of what Christ has done, and not on the basis of what we have done, or ever will do. "Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to every one that believeth." Romans 10:4. This doesn't mean the termination of the Law, that it has gone out of existence, but it does mean that Christ is the end of it for righteousness. That is, He fulfilled it; He didn't destroy the Law but fulfilled it. (Matthew 5:17) And when we believe on Him, the Law doesn't make any more demands of us, everything is settled in Christ Jesus.

**FRUITS OF JUSTIFICATION**

It is certain that no one can enjoy the fruits of justification until he has been justified. There are many people, however, who would like to experience the fruits but they don't want to meet the

conditions that would bring them into the position to have them. The sinner is an offence to God, because he has transgressed His Law, "For sin is the transgression of the Law." I John 3:4, And as long as there is this offence the sinner stands condemned. But the believer is justified, and he can enjoy the wonderful fruits of having been justified. Note: 1, he has peace with God. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1.

The offence is removed, the guilt is removed, the condemnation is lifted, and this one who has put his faith, his trust, in the Lord Jesus Christ has peace with God. 2, the believer has access by faith into the grace of God wherein he stands and rejoices in hope of the glory of God, (Romans 5:2). This believer is experiencing something wonderful in the Lord for the first time, because he is standing, not falling, in the good favor of God; and that is what grace is, the favor of God, unmerited favor. And he rejoices in hope of the glory of God. He has a hope! Hope, hope, what a joy it is to have a hope. The hope of glory! 3, Those justified by faith in Christ can rejoice in tribulation, not just in his hope of glory, but he can rejoice when he is having a hard time. Sinners can't do this, and sinners can't understand how it is that Christians can glory in hardships, but they can. In fact, some of the greatest joy that we have from the Lord comes during severe trials. Paul said that we don't only rejoice in hope of the glory of God, "But we glory in tribulations also." Romans 5:3. 4, Those who have been justified by Faith have the love of God shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5) Unbelievers don't have the Holy Spirit to dwell in them, therefore they don't have the love of God within them. God's children can and do Love Him, because they have had the love of God poured into their hearts. How could one keep from loving their heavenly Father when they have a part of His very nature within them? The big reason so many professed Christians today love the world and the pleasures of the world so much, is because they have just professed and never possessed — John said, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in them." I John 2:15. There are just lots of people who need to examine themselves on the basis of this Scripture.

**CONCLUSION**

In Paul's letter to the Romans the great doctrine of justification by Faith in Christ stands out and runs through most

of its chapters, and I believe it would be a great blessing to any child of God to study this great teaching. And when one has studied these great chapters on justification, I believe he can rejoice and say, as the Psalmist did, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Psalm 126:3.

## **POLK CO. BAPTIST ASSOC. CONVENES August 14th, 15th**

The 112th annual session of the Polk County Missionary Baptist Association of Missouri will meet with Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Bolivar, Missouri.

Services both days begin at 10 a.m. Elder Stephen Skinner has been selected to preach the Annual Sermon. Other sermons will be delivered by Brethren Alpha Redford, Dennis Spears and Joe Sprague. Elder Austin McGinnis was chosen as moderator last year with Bro. David Gallivan serving as clerk and treasurer.

## **FOOTPRINTS**

There was a man who just died, and he was reviewing the footsteps that he had taken in his life. He looked down and noticed that all over the mountains and difficult places he had traveled there was one set of footprints, but over the plains and down the hills there were two sets of footprints as if someone had walked by his side.

He turned to Jesus and said, "There is something I don't understand. Why is it that down the hills and over the smooth and easy places You have walked by my side, but here over the rough and difficult places I have walked alone, for I see in these areas there is just one set of footprints?"

Jesus turned to the man and said, "It is true that while your life was easy I walked along at your side, but here when the walking was hard and the paths were difficult, I realized that it was the time you needed me most, that is why I carried you."

## **REVIVAL AUGUST 5**

Lafayette Miss. Baptist Church — Lafayette, Tenn. Pastor D. C. Barton will be assisted by Elder Thomas Armstrong in the preaching. All are invited to the services at 7:30 each evening.

## **LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor,

We appreciate you mailing the Voice of Baptists to us, hope this little contribution will help some. May God bless you and the Staff Writers in this work. Pray for us at our Church.

Yours in Christ,  
Geo. Jr. and Alda Johnson  
Lafayette, Tennessee

We would very much like to subscribe to your paper "Voice of Baptists". Please advise of any charges and we will be happy to send you a check. It is so refreshing to find literature that teaches sound doctrine. May God bless your efforts.

Mrs. Kendell Huff  
Louisville, Ky.

Our family would like very much to receive "Voice of Baptists". Bro. Terry Foster of Belton, Mo. gave us several issues. We have truly enjoyed them. Being of such a small number it was comforting to know that there are many others in this country still holding on to the ways of our Lord. Thank you for your wonderful paper and may the Lord continue to bless you in your efforts.

Mrs. Daniel D. Huff  
Edwardsville, Kansas

I enjoy the "Voice of Baptists" very much, especially Bro. F. W. Lambert's articles.

Mrs. Willa Blackwell  
Huntingdon, Tenn.

I truly enjoy reading your monthly publication. I would like you to put my dad on your mailing list also. I take him my paper and he enjoys them. He is a preacher and has been a great influence in my life.

Mrs. George Austin  
Lafayette, Tenn.

Please send me the "Voice of Baptists". I read one of your papers at my parents' home (Charles & Mary Long). I now live in Hampton, Virginia and there isn't a church here like I grew up in. You don't know how much you miss or need the old church until you don't have one. Remember me in your prayers. May God bless you in the work you are doing.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bunch  
Hampton, Virginia

We really enjoy reading the "Voice of Baptists" paper.

Mr. & Mrs. George Cofer  
Versailles, Missouri

A short time ago, I visited Fairview Memorial Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky. As I left the church, I picked up a copy of the "Voice of Baptists", which I have enjoyed reading very much. I feel this paper is very strengthening to all its readers. Knowing most of the writers, and their soundness in the faith, gives me a much greater interest in the paper. I am sending a donation asking for a year's subscription to the "Voice of Baptists."

Mrs. Otis Berry  
Flushing, Mich.

We have put off too long to send you a check for help on the "Voice of Baptists". We enjoy it very much. Some of our favorite preachers are writing for it. You will find a check enclosed for the support of the paper.

Curtis & Lillie Pardue  
Holland, Ky.

Sure do enjoy your paper, "Voice of Baptists". Enclosed is a donation to use in the work. I think it is good work you are doing.

Robert & Ruby Jackson  
Ochelata, Oklahoma

I am enclosing a check which was in the mission fund of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, to be used for the expenses of printing the "Voice of Baptists". Please keep sending the same number to our church. We really enjoy reading your publication and pray that you may be able to keep printing it. I am also sending a donation and wish that you would send about 10 copies to Liberty Miss. Baptist Church of Lafayette, Tenn.

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church  
Toledo, Ohio  
Mrs. Lou Ann Green, Church Clerk

I have enjoyed the "Voice of Baptists" so much I just had to write and tell you. I read the March issue through twice, each article was so good. Thanks again for the little paper.

Mrs. Martha Crafton  
Woodburn, Ky.



## CHURCH IN A TUBE

(Continued from Page 1)

spending more of their awake time watching TV and listening to radio than any other one thing.

Couple this fact with the realization that television began to make its impact during those same years, and that, while basic religious beliefs and practices changed very little, we see the importance of organized religion to Americans dropping drastically. This means one thing — TV and radio are hindering the work and progress of the local church established by Jesus Christ. Are we prepared to face the possibility of substituting a phantom church in the place of a true church with real people? Should we expect those who are converted through the gospel via broadcasting media to follow the Lord in baptism by the authority of the local church? Another look into the past reveals that only 3 percent of the hundreds of thousands of those professedly saved, by hearing the gospel from either TV or radio, ever find their way into an organized church. Did you know that a river runs through the dark depths of Mammoth Cave with eyeless fish swimming in its waters? Through many years, the process of adaptation has eliminated any need for eyes of these fish. They are now born without eyes!

### An Indepth Look

The fastest growing church in the world today is what I call the "church in a tube." It is relatively easy to raise funds for this church because it has no ecclesiastical boundaries. Therefore, it draws from the resources of people in all denominations. Once they give their funds to it, their time and loyalty will follow suit. What's the advantage of belonging to this church? You can attend in your pajamas! There is no obligation from commitment! If you choose to not watch, no one else knows. There is no discipline regardless of what you do! Perhaps, best of all, you receive the language of the cross without the mutual bearing of the cross. That is so easy on the conscience. Sure, someone may say, "at least they are preaching Christ and thus may do some good." I'm not arguing against it doing some good. **In fact, I am not referring to all broadcasting done in the name of religion.** I am speaking about those programs that present a preacher and a religious service and are aimed at creating a strong, loyal group of followers to that preacher and service. God could see the end from the beginning, and that means he could see the TV and

radio. Yet he inspired Paul to write, "for-sake not the assembling of yourselves together," and "unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages world without end."

### Conclusion

Let's project the future from a possible view and see the worst. The Scriptures teach us concerning the last days and the conditions of our world. Paul said, "for that day (coming of our Lord) shall not come, except there come a falling away first" (2 Thess. 2:3).

Doubtless to say that "falling away" began a long time ago, but shall reach its climax before the revealing of the man of sin. By the way, this "falling away" was not used by Paul to teach these Thessalonians that some of them would lose their salvation, but rather it was a turning away from those fundamental principles of the gospel of Christ by professed Christians.

No other invention during my lifetime has exceeded the acceptance of the people like the "television." Yet, I know of nothing else that has been more instrumental in destroying the values of home, church, school, neighborhood and nation. Realities have been replaced by false realities. People living in large cities have become lonely because their only friend is deaf.

The local churches begin to leave off their personal work (witnessing to sinners away from church), and decide to catch up over night thru mass evangelism over the tubes. Even if some get saved as a result of this, it is a proven fact that they (97 of 100) will not unite with the local church of our Lord, but will claim membership in "the universal, invisible church." Therefore, evangelism goes on, but the true church declines. By the true church I mean, "the local body of baptized believers joined together by the doctrines of the New Testament and dedicated to the administration of the ordinances with Christ Jesus as Head, the Scriptures as Rule of Faith and the Holy Spirit as our Immediate Guide." There is not one ounce of me ready to surrender to anything that will in any way deprive, hinder, deface or diminish the exalted Bride to be.

If the church will be the church, and get a vision for a world of sin, she would not have to resort to such methods of evangelism (TV and radio) and risk the disappearance of many local churches from the stage of action.

"Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8).

## LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

(Continued from Page 3)

I would like to thank you for sending me the "Voice of Baptists". When it is received, it is the first piece of mail read by both my wife and myself. It is a genuine pleasure to read scholarly religious writing by people in whom we have confidence.

Elder Stephen M. Skinner  
Springfield, Missouri

Thought for sometime I would write to let you know we enjoy receiving the "Voice of Baptists". Only the Lord knows what a blessing it is and how it's appreciated, the wonderful articles you and the older ministers have in it for God's children to read and receive blessings. So many of them as I read, the sweet Holy Spirit flows thru me and I get so full of tears, it takes a while to finish the article. I thank God for the paper!

Mr. & Mrs. Cledus Plemmons  
Detroit, Michigan

I really do like the paper and hope that it will continue to progress. Trust that many will read and learn more about what Baptists believe.

Elder Don McDonald  
Warren, Michigan

## THE PERFECT PASTOR

The perfect pastor preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin profoundly, but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8 a.m. until midnight, and is also the Church janitor.

The perfect pastor makes \$40 a week, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates \$30 a week to the church. He is 29 years old and has 40 years of experience.

The perfect pastor has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spends most of his time with senior citizens. He smiles all the time with a straight face, because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church. He makes 15 calls a day on his people and is always in his office to be handy when needed.

The perfect pastor is always in the next church over!

If your pastor does not measure up, simply send this letter to 6 other churches that are tired of their pastor, too. Then, bundle up your pastor and send him to the church at the top of the list. In one week you will receive 1,643 pastors — and one of them should be perfect.

Have faith in this letter. One church broke the chain and got its old pastor back in less than three months.