

Voice of Baptists

CHARLES PATTERSON
RT 5 BOX 168
LAFAYETTE TN

37083

"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. 3

HUNTINGDON, TENN.

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NO. 1

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
April 25-27

Hosted by the

INDEPENDENT MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH
of
Huntingdon, Tenn.



James H. Smith
Pastor, Mt. Calvary
Baptist Church
Nashville, Tenn.

Preaches
Saturday evening
7 p.m.



W. T. Russell
Pastor, Fairview Memorial
Baptist Church
Bowling Green, Ky.

Preaches
Friday evening
7 p.m.



Kenneth W. Massey
Pastor, Independent Baptist Church
Huntingdon, Tenn.

Preaches
Sunday morning
11 a.m.



T. L. Campbell
Pastor, Caledonia Baptist Church
McKenzie, Tenn.

Preaches
Saturday morning
10:30



Preaches
Sunday evening
6 p.m.

E. F. Prince
Pastor, New Bethel Baptist Church
Henry, Tenn.

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

(USPS 423-350)

P. O. Box 572

Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344

EDITOR:

Kenneth W. Massey

123 Skyline Drive

Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344

Telephone (901) 986-9048

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

F. W. Lambert

Route 4, Box 75

Westmoreland, Tenn. 37186

Second-Class postage paid at Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344

DOES WATER BAPTISM ACTUALLY AND LITERALLY SAVE US FROM OUR SINS? NO! NO! NO!

By Kenneth W. Massey

In face of the fact, that many people (millions) are being taught in our country and around the world salvation comes through baptism, I felt a great responsibility to expose and condemn this false, corrupt and damnable heresy.

The following quotation is one of the major scriptures misused by the proponents of baptismal regeneration.

Mark 16:16 – "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

TRUE EXPLANATION: Jesus spoke these words according to the King James Translation. It is believed by many that the Gospel of Mark ended with the eighth verse. The Manuscripts which include verses 9-20 do not represent the best witnesses. Nevertheless, let us face Mark 16:16 as though it were fully reliable as authenticated Scripture.

A true believer is **saved** ("For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). A true believer who has been baptized is **saved** and obedient to the law of Christ toward His disciples. Jesus was not teaching baptism in order to obtain salvation, but only emphasizing the importance of baptism

in the same sentence with salvation. Please open your Bible to Matthew 28:19. This is the great commission to the Church. Jesus commanded His disciples (saved people) to – Go ye therefore, and teach all nations – the word "teach" in the original Greek language means make disciples of; then he said, Baptizing them (disciples, saved people) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. So according to this scripture, they were already disciples, believers, or saved folks before ever being baptized. Now, it is a fact that Jesus intended for all saved people to be baptized to make manifest or symbolically declare their death to sin and new life in Christ. That's why the words – "believeth" and "baptized" are so closely connected in Mark 16:16 and Matthew 28:19. The last part of Mark 16:16 clarifies the entire verse by telling us the unbeliever shall be damned. Someone may ask, "where is the believer who has never been baptized?" Jesus said, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace" (Luke 7:50). So far as the Scriptures teach, this woman was never baptized.

Notice Acts 10:31-48: This passage is the account of Cornelius and his household hearing the gospel, believing it with all the heart, receiving the Spirit, and then were commanded to be baptized.

"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (Gal. 4:6). They had the Spirit before baptism. No record is given that they were ever baptized. Do you think the Lord would have omitted mention of their baptism from the Holy Scriptures, if indeed it was the very thing that really and actually brought salvation to that man and his entire household?

Let's get back to Mark 16:16; I asked an English professor if the coordinating conjunction "and" always joined words and phrases of equal rank or importance, such as in this scripture, He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved. Here is his answer – "It usually does, but not always. The exception has the most important word or phrase placed first." To be consistent with the rest of the Bible, Jesus put believing first in this scripture because it is most important. Now, here is the clincher on this scripture. Jesus said, "But he that believeth not shall be damned." If baptism is essential to salvation, why didn't the Lord say, but he that is baptized not shall be damned. You can save your time by not looking for such a statement, for it will not be found in all

the Bible.

An exposition of Acts 2:38 will appear in the May issue.

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OTHERS MAY... YOU CANNOT

If God has called you to be really like Jesus he will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to follow other people, or measure yourself by other Christians, and in many ways he will seem to let other people do things which he will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it, and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their successes, of their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, he will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, or may have a legacy left to them, but it is likely God will keep you poor, because he wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, a helpless dependence upon him, that he may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored and put forward, and keep you hidden in obscurity, because he wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for his coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. He may let others be great, but keep you small. He may let others do a work for him and get the credit for it, but he will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious he may let others get credit for the work which you have done, and thus make **your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.**

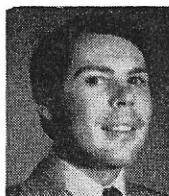
The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings or for wasting your time, which other Christians never feel distressed over. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do as he pleases with his own. He may not explain to you a thousand things

which puzzle your reason in his dealings with you, but if you absolutely sell yourself to be his love slave, he will wrap you up in a jealous love, and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are in the inner circle.

* * *

BAPTIST-CATHOLIC "SPLIT"

By W. T. Russell, Jr.
Bowling Green, Ky.



We true believers today know with all our heart that we have the truth and that satisfies us without our knowing every detail of how that truth has been delivered down to us. Our faith is not dependant upon full historical knowledge of our denominations: it is enough that Jesus commanded and prophesied to the first church which had the truth: "Go ye therefore, and teach (Greek - "disciple") all nations,...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, Amen." (Matt. 28:19-20) By this closing promise - prophecy we know the authentic church has "always" had an existence - and logically, even in different nations.

The greatest misconception we have today about the times of the very early church (or churches) comes from our tendency to oversimplify the actual situation. We picture one massive group of Christians harmoniously striving together until an enormous division finally takes place about 200 A.D., which we refer to as the great Catholic apostasy. All of this I bring to question: The great religious historian, Mosheim, discusses fourteen separate "Christian" sects of the first and second century having numerous factions - not counting the Catholics. As for overall harmony, Paul wrote warnings to avoid current: fables and endless genealogies (I Tim. 1:4), profane and vain babblings and false oppositions of science (I Tim. 6:20), strivings about the law (Ti. 3:9) and philosophy (Col. 2:8). While divisions were prevalent in early times, a split as we know it shows highly unlikely between the true church and the Catholics.

Any of these earliest false sects had an earlier beginning than we credit the church of Rome with and might have prospered as she did. So, it is not impossible nor out of the question that the Catholics themselves had such a very early beginning. I am convinced that they did - it is better that they did! If a sudden separation ever took place concerning

WEST END BIBLE STUDY

West End Miss. Baptist Church of Gallatin, Tennessee will host a Bible Study to be taught by Elder W. T. Russell of Bowling Green, Ky.

These services will begin the first Tuesday in April and continue indefinitely on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Elder W. E. Massey, pastor of West End Church, sends out an invitation for everyone to come and study God's word together.

Services begin at 7 p.m.

"Come now, and let us reason together." The Church of the living God is the divinely created custodian of God's teachings in the world.

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BAPTIST-CATHOLIC cont'd.

the most sizeable Christian clan it was so insignificant that two of the most thorough historians we have, Mosheim and Gibbon, totally fail to note it. Too, if a split took place, we would have been the first little group of reformers to leave the church which was considerably greater in number, for it is not reasonable for the many to leave the few.

I believe the monstrous counterfeit church prophesied of in Revelation had its start during Bible days. Paul warned the church at Ephesus: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock,...For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away (Greek adds - "the") disciples after them." (Acts 20:28-30) These false teachers were not after merely "some" disciples, they were after "the" disciples, the flock, or the church herself! What more dangerous "perverse thing" could these deceivers have taught than baptismal salvation? Finally, Jesus told John: "Unto the angel (or pastor) of the church of Ephesus write:...I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love (the love of lost souls). Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works: or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick (or church authority) out of his place except thou repent (Rev. 2:1-5). Should the church at Ephesus or any other valid early church not have heeded this warning and lost her church authority, she could have continued "business as usual," retaining a historical connection with the first

church at Jerusalem while growing larger and larger and farther and farther from the truth. Such a mother church could have lost her authority while any godly daughter churches retained their full authority. This "splitting" into two separate church theologies would have gone unnoticed by the world and left nothing for historians to work with. In weighing the contradicting claims of the two groups, the larger group would, by human nature, be given the benefit of the doubt by the world.

FROM CANADA TO CHRIST

By Kenneth W. Massey

It has been a thrilling experience for me to hear this story of Pat Cunningham's search for God in the forgiveness of all sin. Pat lives with her husband, Ralph, and their three-week-old daughter, Ty Marie, just a mile east of Huntingdon.

The Cunningham family had visited our church a few months ago, but we just met and spoke without becoming acquainted.

Then, a terrible tragedy took the life of one of Pat's dearest friends, Lucricia Duncan. She was killed instantly while crossing the railroad tracks leading to the Cunningham home. This happened on Monday afternoon, February 11th of this year, while Pat sat in her living room rocking Ty.

Being informed of the circumstances of Mrs. Duncan's death and her close friendship with Pat, I felt like visiting her home to offer what comfort and sympathy I could. It was then that I began to hear a little of what I wanted to hear more. So following the visit, I called back and asked for an interview with Pat. She agreed and responded as follows:

Pat was born in 1940 a citizen of Montreal, Canada where she lived her first five years prior to moving to Ogden, Utah. Her mother was a strong Catholic sending Pat to Catholic schools until she finally withdrew at age 16.

In 1970, after coming to Tennessee, Pat heard for the first time a gospel sermon by a Baptist preacher in a little Baptist church in Carroll County. That brought mixed emotions to her mind and heart and she left scared. As a result of that sermon and other things, a great empty feeling began to grow greater and greater. She went back to the Catholic church in search of relief, but found no help there. Some of her friends told her that salvation was an emotional high, but

(Continued on Page 4)

FROM CANADA TO CHRIST

(Continued from Page 3)

due to previous experiences knew it must surely be more than that.

By now, her sins had become so great in her sight and conviction so deep and thorough, that she lost the will to live. At that very point, in the private sanctum of her own home and down by the bed on her knees in prayer to God, she was saved by His grace experiencing a shedding abroad in her heart of His wondrous love.

Pat has since followed the Lord in baptism becoming a member of His church. It is her heart's desire to be a witness for the Lord to all people, but especially her precious loved ones.

May God bless this testimony to His glory.

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor,

I want to express my thanks for receiving the "Voice of Baptists". I enjoy all the articles by all the writers. You are doing a wonderful work with the "Voice", please keep up the good work.

Joe Hinton
Scottsville, Ky.

Truly we thank you from the depths of our hearts for putting our needs before your readers. God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform.

Bethel Baptist Church
Corvallis, Ore.

(If you recall, there was a "prayer request" in the January issue for God to help this church in Oregon find a pastor. Their need has been met. Bro. Dwayne Greer has been called to serve as pastor. Bro. Greer was ordained March 29th by Victory Baptist Church, and left the next week for Oregon.

Am glad you started the "Voice of Baptists". My prayer is that God will continue to give you good articles to print each month. If you have any extra copies, you might send a few.

Billy R. Gregory
Indianapolis, Ind.

I enjoy your paper very much.

James S. Leslie
McKenzie, Tenn.

I want to thank you for sending me the paper. I really enjoy it.

Bro. Horace Head
Madison, Tenn.

I really enjoy reading "Voice of Baptists". The articles are spiritually uplifting for me.

Linda (Perrigo) Baumgartner
Forest, Va.

I would like to tell you how much I have enjoyed reading the "Voice of Baptists". I have been blessed reading the many articles found in the paper, and I have gained many thoughts and much insight from them.

Kenny Hensley
Carthage, Tenn.

I'd like to say that your paper has been helpful and encouraging to me. I really enjoyed the "anonymous" letter in December issue. God bless this person and all of you.

Joyce Brown
Louisville, Ky.

We enjoy "Voice of Baptists" very much. You are doing a fine job.

John & Freida Leonhardt
Harper Woods, Mich.

We have been receiving the "Voice of Baptists" since the start of it and appreciate it so much. We have received much help from it in our own lives. Thank you so much and our prayers are for your work there.

Mrs. Charles Stapleton
Rossford, Ohio

I enjoy reading the "Voice of Baptists". Your efforts in putting together this paper is appreciated, and I have enjoyed all the articles.

Marvin Payne
Kansas City, Mo.

Our church enjoys the paper very much.

Freedom Baptist Church
Speedway, Ind.

I look forward to receiving the paper each month. Always read it all before stopping.

Mrs. Pearl Hargis
Indianapolis, Ind.

We just learned about the paper you print just a few weeks ago. It is very inspirational and we enjoy it. We would like to receive the paper at our home.

Lavoin, Frances & David Brewer

MY BIBLE AND I

(John 3:31-33 and Psalm 119)

We've traveled together,
My Bible and I,
Through all kinds of weather,
With smile or with sigh!
In sorrow or sunshine,
In tempest or calm!
Thy friendship unchanging,
My lamp and my psalm.

We've traveled together,
My Bible and I,
When life had grown weary,
And death e'en was nigh!
But all through the darkness
Of mist or of wrong,
I found there a solace,
A prayer, and a song.

So now who shall part us,
My Bible and I?
Shall "isms" or schisms,
Or "new lights" who try?
Shall shadow for substance,
Or stone for good bread,
Supplant thy sound wisdom,
Give fully instead?

Ah, no, my dear Bible,
Exponent of light!
Thou sword of the spirit,
Pur error to flight!
And still through life's journey,
Until my last sigh,
We'll travel together,
My Bible and I.

—Charles Sandford

SPRING REVIVAL

Revival services will begin April 6th at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church of 1032 S. Holmes, Indianapolis, Ind.

Elder Guthrie Thompson of Bethpage, Tenn. will serve as evangelist. The pastor, Elder Calvin Perrigo, and all the members extend a special welcome for EVERYONE to attend.

Services begin at 7 p.m. week nights and 6 p.m. on Sunday nights.

INDIANA CHURCH CALLS PASTOR

Kokomo Missionary Baptist Church of 1723 N. Lindsey, Kokomo, Indiana has chosen as pastor Elder Charles Chapman.

Elder Chapman has already begun his labors with Kokomo Church.

May God greatly bless your work for His glory.