

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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NO. 4



ARE WE?

By Calvin Perrigo
Indianapolis, Ind.

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" **Matthew 28:20**

The church by Jesus Christ does willingly accept the privilege and responsibility of preaching the gospel of Christ to every creature, believing it is the power of God unto salvation. The church by Jesus Christ does unselfishly invite the saved to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. BUT does the church by Jesus Christ extend the teachings of its head and founder to its own members with the same zeal and dedication as it makes and baptizes disciples? If you answer this question with a "NO" or even, "I'M NOT SURE" then we are in a difficult situation and face a problem tomorrow that can bring less truth to the unsaved multitudes of this world.

This effort addresses itself to the teaching ministry of the church by Jesus Christ. The purpose of this essay is to improve those things that should be improved, remove those things that should be removed, replacing them with things that can strengthen the things that remain.

OUR POSITION: The church is in the world today without the bodily presence of its head, founder and law giver. This in itself is nothing to be alarmed over because the church was taught and amply prepared to labor on under this condition. Jesus taught his church very carefully of his departing from them, (John 14 thru 17th chapters) before he gave himself as a sacrifice for our sins. After the promised Comforter returned to the church, they understood completely why and how they were to go into all the world with the gospel of Christ. This work was done with such love, sincerity and zeal that people by the thousands joined with them (after being saved) in the work. The multitudes continued steadfastly in their (the apostles) teachings (doctrine) and became workers together with them for the Lord. The church by Jesus Christ has maintained this position (aided by the ever present Spirit of God) upon the earth

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YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!

By F. W. Lambert
Westmoreland, Tenn.

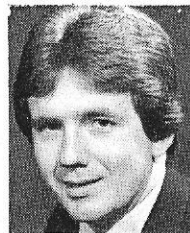
"MARVEL NOT THAT I SAID UNTO THEE, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN."

John 3:7

It matters not what else may come into your life, unless you have been born again you shall be forever lost in hell. Some preachers and some churches have not been emphasizing this most important doctrine, and the result is that our churches are being filled with unsaved people. Unless that error is corrected, ruin is ahead.

The "new birth" is a necessity. Jesus did not tell Nicodemus that he could be born again, or that he ought to be born again, but that unless he was born again, he would not see the kingdom of God. Why should preachers mince words when Jesus was so emphatic? Nicodemus, to whom the Lord was speaking, was a high class gentleman. He was a member of the Jewish Supreme Court, and was in every way a fine citizen. There is not so much as a suggestion against him. No doubt he was what the people who knew him would call a good man. Yet he was told plainly that he must be born again. The "new birth" is from above. It is a birth of the Spirit. Jesus said in John 3:6, "That which is born of the spirit is spirit." It is a spiritual birth. Our spirits are made to partake of God's divine nature. It does not change the body, except as the inner spiritual life may influence the body. The "new birth" cleanses the spirit so that the spirit of man becomes free from sin. In I John 3:9 we read, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." Since the spirit does not sin after the "new birth",

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NEWS FROM WEST COAST

Dwayne Greer

Bro. Kenneth Massey:

I sure hope your paper continues to be used for God's will. No doubt you know what a blessing it is to every christian who is able to be nourished by such an inspiring paper.

Pray for our church (Bethel Baptist Church, Corvallis, Oregon). The load is heavy, but I know someone's there to share that heavy load. Please pray for my family that we will get adjusted and be able to let our lights shine as they should. Pray for me! I am one of God's weakest. But I know His grace is sufficient. If you would, in your next issue, please give everyone our thanks that prayed for us. Also, those who made a financial effort toward this cause. We have a lot to be thankful for. Mere words can't express our feelings, but God knows our hearts.

May God bless you always,

Bro. Dwayne Greer
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REVIVALS

JUNE 30

NEW CROSSROADS MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - 3 miles east of Huntingdon off Northwood Drive. Pastor Clarence Carter will be assisted by Elder Harold Carver. Services each day 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. **ALL ARE INVITED!**

JULY 13

MADISON MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Maple St., Madison, Tenn. Pastor L. W. Smith is to be assisted by Elder W. T. Russell. A cordial welcome is extended to everyone.

INDEPENDENT MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Highway 22, Huntingdon, Tenn. Preaching by the pastor, Kenneth Massey. Everyone is invited to our services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

JULY 20

HAYSVILLE MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Scottsville Rd., Lafayette, Tenn. Pastor Bobby Gann is to be assisted by Elder James G. Beal. Services at 7:45 p.m. **EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

MARLSBORO MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Vale, Tenn. Pastor Marshall Gurley will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The public is cordially invited!

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BORN AGAIN

(Continued from Page 1)

and the flesh remains in the unregenerate state and does sin, there is a conflict that begins immediately between the new born spirit and the unchanged flesh. This conflict is discussed in Romans 7:15-23. Here we read, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I." Every saved person has had this experience, this war within himself. Before being born again, he was in harmony with himself. But the moment he was born from above, the moment the new spiritual life was imparted to him, he felt the best evidences of having been born again. He finds himself doing what he hates and failing to do what he greatly loves. Paul the inspired writer goes on to say in this seventh chapter of Romans, "For the good that I would I do not, but the evil that I would not, that I do, I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind."

Noticing Paul's experience, when he was saved on the road, and continuing our study into the eighth chapter, we shall find that he didn't get rid of this conflict. The answer to this is sufficiently and completely explained in Romans 8:23, "ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." This passage plainly states that Paul and others had the "firstfruits of the Spirit" just as the seventh chapter of Romans said, and they were waiting for something else which he calls the "redemption of the body." So the body is not yet saved, after we get into the eighth chapter of Romans. Paul declares in that same chapter that we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope, for what a man seeth why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." We are waiting for something. What is it we are waiting for? Our spirits have been saved by grace, and we have divine nature in our souls, but the body waits for redemption. The evidences are clear and plain. The love of God has been shed abroad in the hearts of the new-born children of God. They serve God because they love God, and not because they are trying to work their way to heaven. They do not feel as if they had taken out fire insurance policies, and must keep their premiums paid-up lest forfeit their heavenly insurance. They love God and God's people. That is why they join the

PRACTICE WHAT YOU SING

...teaching and admonishing one another,...singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:16

Music is a wonderful gift from God. As Christians, we can receive much spiritual benefit from the use of sacred songs. We must guard against being hypocritical in our singing, however. Just repeating hymn lyrics thoughtlessly, without being willing to put them into practice, is actually a form of lying.

The story is told of a discouraged preacher who stood before his congregation one Sunday in evident disgust. "If I had my way," he said, "I think I'd eliminate all the music for a while, because the singing is making most of you dishonest. Take that last song for example: 'To the work! to the work! we are servants of God.' Do you know what? Not one of you took the time last week to visit a single member who was in the hospital. Only two of you showed up to go calling on the unsaved in our neighborhood. And I noticed that while the collection was being taken and you were singing, 'I surrender all,' some of you didn't surrender even a few coins for the Lord's work. How many times have you sung, 'Where He leads me I will follow'? Yet most of you didn't make any effort this past week to comfort Sister Brown in her bereavement." The preacher paused a moment, then he continued, "Apparently there's only one song you sing and really mean it: 'I shall not be moved!' Frankly, brethren, I feel like adopting as my favorite hymn, 'I stand amazed'! I'm surprised that God puts up with us. Most of us don't mean a word we sing!"

Be admonished by the lyrics of the psalms and gospel songs that flow from your lips. By God's grace, practice what you sing!

H.G.B.

GOD HELP AMERICA!

"I recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history that those nations only are blest whose God is the Lord."

—Abraham Lincoln

Born Again (Continued)

church. They have the light first, their candles lighted, and then they place them on the candlestick, and that is the church.

"To be born is an everlasting calamity, unless one is born-again."

PSALMS TWENTY THREE

By Frank Standley
Azusa, Calif.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

SEVEN DIVINE FREEDOMS

Remember, the first verse is the key for all of the verses. David had made peace with the Lord. He knew him as Lord and His Shepherd. This knowledge gave David a desire to testify for His Lord. In this twenty-third psalm, we find our subject, which I call, "The Seven Divine Freedoms."

Freedom From Want

David placed the Great Storehouse on His Lord. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." That teaches me that he had faith in his shepherd's leadership. This gave the David the freedom to ask His Lord for all his needs. We have the same Shepherd, the same storehouse, and we have needs that seem greater than David's, but I don't always have the same faith.

Freedom From Hunger

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures..."

Green pastures give us the thought that there is plenty for all of His loved ones. That is consolation for the soul. That is a comfort for the hungry in flesh. David believed that both could be filled. The world is filled with both, and the true churches don't seem to be feeding too many with the true Bread of Life.

Freedom From Thirst

"He leadeth me beside the still waters..." What a blessed thought to a thirsty soul! Still waters are always thought of as deep and plentiful. Take note, that the Shepherd led David to the still waters. Still places are for meditation, prayer, and make good study grounds. It seems that I come up short again. Everything today is moving so fast, I don't have time to think.

Freedom From Sin

"He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." When one's soul is free from sin, that is freedom indeed. David could see the need to glorify His Lord. That is good and right, and puts one's soul at ease. Baptists should thank the Lord more often for the peace and freedom found in this Shepherd.

Freedom From Fear

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil

(notice - evil is real, it is vicious and wrong), for thou art with me..."

David had been in the valley many times. He seems to express his closeness to God in these few words, "thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." The rod to protect him, and the staff to guide him, were David's weapons against fear.

Freedom From Enemies

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..."

What a blessed thought - being able to eat the Bread of Life before our enemies. True Baptists, that love the Lord and stand on the Bible principles, fighting for the true ways, will have enemies. But millions of Baptists gave their blood, families and all possessions, so we could hear the Blessed Word. SO WE COULD HAVE A TABLE SET BEFORE US TO KEEP OUR HUNGRY SOULS FED.

Freedom to Live Abundantly

"Thou anointest my head with oil"

Oil is a type of the Holy Spirit, and the design is to cover all over. This is security also.

"My cup runneth over..." David's joy overflowed. That is food for any Baptist. Then he said, "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life..." Can anyone express hope better than that? Listen, David didn't leave out the resurrection either. Look, at this following statement, "and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. The word 'dwell' has no ages attached to it, and the word 'ever' is without ending. These great seven freedoms have been a help, a joy, and a consolation each time I have read them.

GONE TO GLORY



Eld. & Mrs. W. T. Taylor

On May 15, 1980, Elder W. T. Taylor, a Baptist preacher for 61 years laid down his cross and went home. He followed his faithful companion of more than 58 years, Sister Bera, by just fourteen months.

Funeral services were conducted May 17th in Old Macedonia Baptist Church of Adolphus, Kentucky by Elder F. W. Lambert.

To the Baptist Cause, may I say, we have lost a "Solomon."

"....that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

REVIVALS

(Continued from Page 3)

JULY 27

CLARKSBURG MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Clarksburg, Tenn. Pastor Harold Carver and all the members invite everyone to attend. Pastor Carver will be preaching at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. each day.

DARDEN MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Darden, Tenn.

Pastor Cletus Dukes will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. YOU are invited!

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

OBSERVES

"BIBLE SCHOOL WEEK"



Are We?

(Continued from Page 1)

by faithful men committing to other faithful men those teachable doctrines of the Lord. Our present position can be held by our doing the same thing. Our present position can be given up by our failure to teach our (the church) people to observe all things that Christ commanded us to observe.

TEACHING: "Teach" applies to any manner of imparting information or skill so that others may learn. Let us review an example recorded in the scriptures of how important teaching really can be. God spoke from Mt. Sinai to the people of Israel. He spoke only once. He added no more and he wrote them in two tables of stone, (see Deuteronomy 5:22). From that time on the continuation of the law became the responsibility of the people. (see Deuteronomy 6:7) "And thou shalt teach them (the Law) diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up". Israel picked up this responsibility and taught it from generation to generation to their people. Is not the teaching of Christ far more important to us than any thing else today? Yet how little is known of what we should do and not to do for our Lord? Should we do less than the law required of Israel? Surely our desire would be to do more, regardless of what our efforts actually may be.

OUR WORK: How many Baptists believe that Jesus walks (bodily) through the world preaching his gospel today? How many Baptists assemble at the baptismal site today expecting to see Jesus perform an act of baptism (he didn't even do that while he was upon the earth)? How many Baptists expect Jesus to teach new converts to observe all his commands? God forbid but that a few may expect Jesus to do these things for us! Living members of the Lord's church are delegated to perform the works mentioned in the three questions. We are where we are because of our being taught, (see Hebrews 5:11 thru 14). It is a very uncomfortable condition not to know what a Baptist is expected to do when we claim the privilege and honor of being a member of the Lord's church.

After the Lord Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, he chose some saved, baptized men and gave them this invitation: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." This invitation was with such love, firmness and authority that an immediate response followed. They dropped their fishing nets, tax

record, etc. and learned from this man of Galilee. He taught them well, with authority and often by example. His departure back into heaven left this work with his church. Many of them were confronted and opposed by polished, learned men of the Pharisee and Sadducee sect in Jerusalem. Some were classified as unlearned and ignorant (by Jewish standards) yet it was acknowledged that these men had been with Jesus. Under threat, Peter and John confessed a truth that we all should consider today: they stated, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard," (Acts 4:20). Who can do more today? Who would desire to do less? Unrelated experiences and unshared knowledge is for ever lost at the death of the possessor. Man cannot yet transplant minds. Leave it with the living. Jesus has returned to the presence of the Father. Thank God for that reunion! All the eye witnesses of his person have long since gone the way of all the earth. Thank God for their teachings! Thousands of ancient teachers have gone into eternity since the death of the last apostle, yet the doctrines of God are still manifest to this world through the teaching of faithful Baptist people, thank God for their faithfulness. Has the abundance of Bibles caused us to do less oral teaching than our forefathers? It should allow us to do more not less.

The church should continue a full time teaching ministry to instruct the body of Christ so that the church can observe all the commands of Jesus Christ. Sunday schools, Bible studies, teaching, preaching, etc. must be expanded to meet the needs of the church. Teacher qualities must be stressed. The qualification of an apt teacher for our pastors must receive a greater consideration than at the present time. We must not be satisfied with the pattern that our nation is setting before us today: lower standards will not bring higher achievements. Surely there are teachers and material for teachers among the Lord's church today. Let them teach and expound the ways of the Lord to our people both publicly and from house to house.

The word of the Lord should be read and discussed in our homes more and more. T.V. has become the center attraction in too many Baptist homes and that allows Satan to walk right in and teach us his ways. He can be resisted. He doesn't have to make a Baptist "do it".

ARE WE ABLE: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in

righteousness." WHY? That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Now are we able to complete the work that has been assigned to us? Is the work complete until the entire commission that Jesus gave us has been fulfilled? We read of revival efforts, when they are going to start, who is involved in the work and then often we read of the results of these meetings (the number saved and baptized). How often have you read of a certain number that were strengthened by the teaching of the whole counsel of God? How often do we read of those baptized believers who were lost to the influence of Satan because of the failure of the teaching ministry of the church (the teacher and pupil have an equal responsibility herein)? Some time we read of how many members were lost by expulsion in the Associations; if these saved, baptized believers went back out into the world, it was due to a failure to observe all the wishes of Christ.

A recent report gave a staggering possibility. Some 2,339,944 people could come under the influence of the gospel through the preaching on TV. This work is done by our Baptist people, the possibility is there. In order to complete our responsibility to the Lord and the convert in fulfilling the commission, baptism would have to be offered; Teachings would have to be done so that they could become Baptists. Can you imagine what the impact on a few thousand Baptists would be? Lets take 400 ordained preachers as a conservative estimate. Equally divided that would mean each of us would have to baptize over 5,800 converts. How long would it take to teach these 5,800 people to observe the teachings of Christ? This really shocks the imagination of us all. Are we ready for so great a task? Can we do it? We are expected to cover all the earth with the truth, and follow that truth with Baptism and instruction in righteousness. The Lord's work is a personal work; the commission must be done personally. It cannot be left to other people (see Daniel 2:44 and John 17th chapter). What church among us will take a member by proxy today? Will the answer be the same tomorrow as it is today? Let us not be as children in the market places, the Lord expects a complete work from his church. Lets face his work in full and teach those that we baptize.



"One cannot be loyal to Christ without being loyal to His Church."