

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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PERSEVERANCE AND PRESERVATION OF SAINTS

By W. T. Russell
Bowling Green, Ky.

The comparison between these two words and their union bearing witness to the eternal security of the true believer in Christ will be the substance of this article. Sometimes we tend to use these words synonymously as meaning the same thing, but really there is a definite difference. It is true that they both unite in the accomplishment of the same thing and are inseparable, just as repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ are two different things, yet inseparable, so is the Perseverance of saints one thing, and their preservation is another, and they also are inseparable for there cannot be one without the other, and both are through Grace.

We believe, and the scriptures so teach, that the true believer in Christ will persevere, and to make it somewhat stronger, we believe that such only are true believers as endure to the end for they only possess that persevering attachment to Christ which is the unquestionable result of the new creation in Christ Jesus effected by the new birth of the Spirit. Spiritual regeneration gives a holy disposition to the mind which is spiritual, even though the carnal disposition of the mind still remains.

There would be no reason to consider the perseverance of the child of God, were it not for the fact that he possesses two natures, and one of those natures lusts after the things of the world, and the other desires the things of God. That there is a continual warfare between the two is indisputable, but which will overcome and win? We answer in no uncertain terms from 1 John 3:4, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." Hear John again, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

There have been and still are many superficial professors who lack that saving faith; and regardless of whatever position they may hold in religious circles or the name they carry as being religious, they are still without God and have no hope in the world. They are a part of the world that lieth out in wickedness, and to

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MY MOMENT WITH GOD

By the late Eddie White

Dear Heavenly Father, My deepest need is to find myself, to know what I really am, and to know your plan in life for me. Give me a belief in the future, a purpose in life and a sticktoitiveness to see it through. Help me to solve my own problems by helping others with theirs. Help me to love my enemies and to return kindness for cruelty, for only by doing that will I find the peace I so earnestly desire.

Above all, Dear Lord, give me the faith to say, "Thy Will Be Done", and to accept without bitterness the things in life that can't be changed.

Amen

(This simple, but beautiful prayer was written by the late Eddie White of Bowling Green, Kentucky as he lay dying with the dreadful disease of multiple sclerosis. It was not found until just recently, as his mother discovered it one day while going through his personal effects. Their pastor, Elder W. T. Russell, passed it along to me for your benefit. Editor's note)

Dear Bro. Massey:

Dear Bro. Massey:

After reading an especially good article in the June issue entitled "Revive Us Again" by Bro. Harold D. Carver, it is timely that I write of the results that may be made manifest when God's children unite in an effort to serve the Lord.

Freedom Missionary Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana, held revival services during the week of June 14th thru 22nd with Bros. Odus Cummings and Berlin Roy bringing nightly sermons filled with the spirit of God. I'm glad to report that 5 souls were baptized into membership and one joining by credit of a letter.

We have truly had a most "reviving" revival and say to all, "Keep the Faith."

Sister Cathy L. Jones
Church Clerk

POLK COUNTY ASSOCIATION

August 12-13, 1980, the 113th annual session of the Polk County Missionary Baptist Association will convene with Walnut Ridge Missionary Baptist Church of Halfway, Missouri.

Bro. Junior Ingram will deliver the Annual Sermon on Tuesday morning. Officers serving in 1979 were Elder Austin McGinnis, Moderator and Bro. David Gallivan, Clerk.

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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AUGUST REVIVALS**1st Sunday**

LAFAYETTE MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Lafayette, Tenn. Pastor D. C. Barton will be assisted by Elder Tom Armstrong. Services each night at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is invited!

NATCHEZ TRACE MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Lexington, Tenn. Pastor Rufus L. Chandler will be assisted by Bro. Connie Burton. Services daily at 10:30 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. All are welcome!

2nd Sunday

CROSS ROADS MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Camden, Tenn. Pastor Marshall Gurley will be assisted by Elder Harold Carver. Services each day at 10:30 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. A cordial welcome is extended to each one.

MT. PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH - Henderson County, Pastor E. J. Baker will be assisted by Elder Jack Hopper. Services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The public is invited!

3rd Sunday

NEW HOPE MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Yuma, Tenn. Pastor Clarence Carter will be assisted by Elder Harold Carver. Services daily at 10:30 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. Each one is cordially invited.

PERSEVERANCE

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overcome the world, they must first overcome themselves which can only be effected by faith in Jesus Christ. This is that grand mark that distinguishes the true believer from the superficial professor. Many today are trying to work their way to heaven by doing what they regard as good works and striving to steer clear of wrong doing. This they are striving to do on their own without faith and without hope. This person is without purpose in his efforts to persevere. The true purpose is to glorify God, but his purpose is a selfish motive to reach heaven while still of the world.

FUTURE CONTINUENCE PROOF OF PRESENT DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus, speaking to his disciples in John 8:31 said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." Now, notice he did not say, If ye continue in my word then you will be my disciples. Jesus is simply saying that future continuance in his word was the real proof that they were at that present time his true disciples. Here is perseverance, continuing steadfastly in his word in spite of obstacles, hinderances thrown in the way, pressure from false religions, persecutions as a result of his word, offenses arising because of holding fast his word, etc.

It is true that since the days of Judas there have been nominal believers who have entered in among the true saints of God, yet they did not remain true to the common faith and withdrew from them. In John 2:19, we find out why, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us, but they went out that it might be made manifest that they were not all of us." Williams in his translation says of their going out, "It was to show that none of those who went out really belonged to us." Therefore, they did not have that persevering attachment to Christ which is the mark of distinction between the true believer and the nominal professor. Of Judas Jesus said, "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me." John 13:18

Note another nominal believer: Matt. 13:20, 21, "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth

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MISSIONS & SMALL CHURCHES NEEDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Bethel Baptist Church (22 members)
Corvallis, Oregon
Pastor - Dwayne Greer
2420 Railroad Ct.
Albany, OR 97321

Hauser Baptist Church (13 members)
Hauser, Oregon
Pastor - Vernon Roark
310 Driftwood Inn Rd.
North Bend, OR 97459

Denver Baptist Mission
Denver, Colorado
Mission Pastor - Ottis L. Jones
13182 E. Louisiana Ave.
Aurora, CO 80012

Elizabeth Baptist Church (10 members)
Elizabeth, West Virginia
Pastor - Jerry A. Reynolds
Rt. 1, Box 216-J
Davisville, WV 26142

Hartsville Baptist Mission
Hartsville, Tennessee
Mission Pastor - Jackie Wilburn
Route 2
Carthage, TN 37030

AUGUST REVIVALS**3rd Sunday**

PLEASANT HILL MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Benton Co., Tenn. Pastor James Higdon will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services begin each day at 10:30 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. Everyone is given a welcome to come.

4th Sunday

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH - Henderson County, Pastor E. J. Baker will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. YOU are invited!

BETHEL RELOCATES AND BUILDS NEW HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church organized Nov. 5, 1944 at West 10th Street and Olin Ave. worshipped at this location until December 1949 at this time, Bethel moved to 1501 Pleasant Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Bethel worshipped at this address until August 1979. The church worshipped temporarily at 5715 Keystone Middle School, Indianapolis, Ind. while the new church was being constructed. The church worshipped at this location until March 30, 1980. On March 30, 1980 Bethel Church held their first service in the new church building at 222 East Epler Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. There were approximately 225 people present for the first service in the new building. The presence of the Lord was felt among his people. Elder William Shoulder is the present pastor for Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Elder Shoulders and Bethel Missionary Baptist Church invites all to attend any and all services and help us at Bethel to pray for the leadership of the Lord to direct and lead the church.

John A. Keen
Church Clerk



MARKS TRACE SHROUD'S DATE: RESEARCHER

CHICAGO (AP) — The Shroud of Turin, a cloth some believe was used to wrap Jesus Christ's body for burial, can be traced to the time of crucifixion, a Loyola University researcher says.

Tiny marks on the shroud have been identified almost positively as the impression of a coin minted during the reign of Pontius Pilate, the Rev. Francis L. Filas, a professor of theology, said in a copyright article he released yesterday.

PILATE WAS the Roman governor of Judea around 30 A.D., the time when Biblical scholars believe Christ was crucified. Filas said his evidence on the shroud's authenticity is as conclusive as any that scientific tests could produce.

"I don't see any hole in the evidence," Filas said.

The shroud, which is about 14 feet long and 3½ feet wide, has been kept in a cathedral in Turin, Italy, since 1578. It bears the sepia-colored outline of a man and what appear to be blood stains near

the figure's head, side, hands and feet.

FILAS SAID photographic negatives of the shroud show, over the figure's right eye, marks resembling a small staff and four Greek letters that are part of the inscription "Of Tiberias Caesar." Coin experts say the staff, called a "lituus," appears only on coins minted during Pilate's reign.

Filas said he discovered the marks accidentally in August 1979 while examining an enlargement of the figure's face. With the help of a Chicago-area coin dealer, Filas matched the markings on the shroud with a type of coin minted only between 30 A.D. and 32 A.D.

Asked whether someone might have saved the coins and used them for a burial later than Christ's, Filas said that was very unlikely because the coins went out of circulation after Pilate's reign ended in 36 A.D.

FILAS SAID it is virtually impossible that the marks are the result

of chance deviation in the cloth's weave. He speculated the coins were placed over the body's eyes to keep them closed in death.

He said his theory also is supported by the findings of a group of scientists who reported that two three-dimensional "buttons" appeared to have been placed over the eyes of the body that was wrapped in the shroud.

The scientists, seeking to end the centuries-old controversy about the shroud's authenticity, conducted a series of tests on the cloth in 1978.

IN THEIR report, published in the June issue of National Geographic magazine, the scientists concluded that the imprint on the cloth was the impression of a three-dimensional figure which had been wrapped in the cloth. The scientists said they could not determine exactly how the imprint was made.

Nashville Tennessean, July 1, 1980

PERSEVERANCE

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because of the word, by and by he is offered."

Jesus had disciples that were not true disciples and the same is true today. When he told those who followed him that no man could come unto him except it were given him of the Father, in verse 66 we read that many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him.

But I like to think of the words of Job, a perfect example of perseverance, "The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger."

One only has to read 2 Cor. 11:23-28 to learn that the grace of God given to Paul was sufficient to enable him to persevere under the most trying circumstances. His labors exceeded all others, had stripes laid upon him above measure, beaten five times by the Jews, frequently imprisoned, beaten with rods three times, once stoned, shipwrecked three times, he was in the sea a day and a night, he traveled a lot and was in perils of robbers, perils of waters, perils by his own countrymen, by the heathen in the city, in the wilderness, in perils among false brethren. He suffered weariness and pain, was often hungry and thirsty doing without food and water, went without sufficient clothes to keep him warm, and beside all this, that which came upon him daily, the care of all the churches. In all of this his faith enabled him to persevere, not looking back but looking forward to that which was before, he pressed forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God.

In Philippians 2:12, 13, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his own good pleasure."

The working out of ones salvation certainly teaches perseverance in the cultivation of that which one possesses, and not works in order to possess. The will to do and the doing of things pleasing to God is simply God working that will and giving grace to perform it.

Let us note Philippians 1:6, "He who hath begun a good work in you, will perform it (continue to carry through) until the day of Jesus Christ." Read also in connection with this Jude 24, 25, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our

Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen"

Under the covenant of God's grace we have this assurance in Jeremiah 32:40, "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me." Here we have God's promise not to turn away from his saints; and in the same scripture, God put the fear of God in their hearts that they shall not depart from him.

PRESERVATION

With Gods means of preservation let us consider Paul's statement to the Corinthians 1 Cor. 11:31, 32, "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." Chastening is a means which God uses to cause the believer to yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

Attention is here called to Hebrews 12: 6, 7, 8, 11, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

In Psalms 37:23, 24-28, we read, "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. For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever." Let us also note Psalms 89: 30-36, "If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before me."

On the basis of this everlasting and unalterable covenant Peter could say, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again

to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undified and fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 3:5

This is preservation, but notice the next four verses, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now you see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving (having received) the end (aim or purpose) of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:6-9

Now let us close with Hebrews 6 and see what God swore with an oath to David. "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by and oath: that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold on the hope set before us, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both SURE and STEADFAST, and which entereth into that within the vail; whether the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec."

The two words **sure** and **steadfast** I capitalized above in order to incite special attention. In this we learn that the anchor of the soul is HOPE, and this hope is not just a wish or desire, but is actually a real possession in the believer's heart.

Here I want to explain what makes the HOPE of the child of God both SURE and STEADFAST. No. 1. It is God's everlasting covenant of grace with every believer in Christ.

No. 2. Is the confirmation of that covenant sworn to by the oath of God.

BRO. LAMBERT PREACHES

Bro. F. W. Lambert, a Baptist minister for 53 years, will preach at Independent Baptist Church of Huntingdon, Tennessee Sunday morning, August 31, 1980. You are invited to come and hear this faithful servant deliver his soul in sermon.