

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

VOLUME FIVE

HUNTINGDON, TENN.

SEPTEMBER, 1982

NUMBER SIX



FOR IT IS GOD WHICH WORKETH IN YOU

by J. H. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

It is a soothing and comforting thought to know that God is at work in His people, something that we can be conscious of, and a work that draws our attention away from things earthly. As He works in us we are given the will and the ability to do works that are pleasing to Him; otherwise we are left to go on the energy of the flesh, and I fear too much of so-called Christian work is done today just that way. God works in and we work out, and this is what is meant by the great words in Philippians, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it God Which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Philippians 2:12,13. The Holy Spirit works in and we work out, and in this way it is manifest that the work is wrought of God, and not energized by the flesh.

TO WILL

For us to get a blessing from doing God's work, we have to become willing, and not feel that we are compelled to do it. God wants willing workers, and so He works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. We have a problem with the flesh, there is the will of the flesh that we have to contend with. So God works to break down this stubborn will of ours, and once we are able to subdue our old human nature, we go ahead doing God's work with rejoicing. When God calls a man to preach, in most cases, the Lord has a lot of work to do in that person before he gets willing to do God's bidding. I have heard men say that they fought their calling to preach for years, but all of that time God was still at work making their lives miserable because of such rebellion. But they finally gave in, the old will had been conquered, and they

went on rejoicing, sowing the good seed of God in the hearts of men. Once in Tokyo I heard an air force chaplain preach, and he told of his call to the ministry. In this he told how that he was a lawyer and was making good progress, and for some time he fought the calling to preach. But, as he told it, the Lord kept dealing with him, burdening his heart down, and before he finally yielded he was lying flat on his back in a hospital, and it was there, as he related it, he told the Lord that he would preach; and he gave up his law practice and went to preaching. The man could really preach too, anybody could tell that the Lord had called him. God continued to work in that man's life until He broke down his stubborn will. Perhaps if he had gone on to preach before he was willing he would have been the stop and go, the in and out kind. God got His man the way He wanted him.

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TO THOSE WHO ARE IMPRISONED

by James Moody
Lexington, Tenn.

At the drop of the gavel the judge had sentenced John to four years in prison for armed robbery. John was miserable in his new surroundings and filled with anger at society. John feels that his greatest need is to get out but John is wrong! John's greatest need is a way of getting and staying out of prison. But the same nature that got John into

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WHAT IS YOUR MOTIVE?

by Kenneth W. Massey

"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned and have not charity....." I Cor. 13:3

One of the sure signs of Christian maturity comes when we no longer ask so much, "what did he do" as to ask, "why did he do it?" The motive behind the deed may either give added strength to the deed or expose the person's selfish purpose in performing the deed.

After the rich young ruler walked away from the invitation of Christ, Peter said, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?" (Matt. 19:27). He was simply asking, "what shall we get out of our ministry?" It seems that a growing number today is asking, "what's in it for me?" WHERE HAS LOVE GONE! WHERE HAVE THE SERVANTS GONE!

EXAMINE THESE MOTIVES

"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 6:1) Christ is speaking of relief for the poor exercising the right motive. If you give to be seen of men, you have for reward the praise of men.

"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." (Matt. 6:3) Christ admonished his disciples to pray secretly and the Father would reward them for it openly. He denounced the use of vain repetitions in their prayers. Prayer

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VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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THOSE IMPRISONED

(Continued from page 1)

prison could very well land him there again. John's enemy is not society, nor the police, nor the judge but his own nature that gets and keeps him into trouble. John needs a new nature. But is that possible? 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." If John would receive Jesus into his heart that old nature would pass away and God would give him a new nature. The old things which would pass away would include his desire for lawlessness. The Bible tells us that sin is lawlessness, not against society but against God. John did not only break the laws of man, but John because sin was in his life, but also broke the commands of God. The nature of us all is sinful. Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

The judge had found John guilty, but God will justify John by faith in Jesus. God will drop all of his charges against John. God will not remember John's sins. Jeremiah 31:34 "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." God will declare John free of all penalties of sins if John will only accept the death of Jesus in his place. Two thousand years ago Jesus gave up his life on the cruel cross of Calvary and three days later arose from the dead just for John's sins and all of our sins. The enemy of God is not John but sin. Sin separates John from the fellowship of God. Jesus paid the debt of sin forever, by his own blood, so sin would not continue to destroy us. Jesus took all of John's sins and died for them so John

could go free. Jesus died so all of us could go free. John asks "How can I be set free from my sins in God's sight?" Romans 5:1 "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." John can be set free by believing that Jesus died for him and is able to rescue him from sin. John must put all of his trust in Jesus as his Saviour. John must humbly ask God to forgive him of all his sins. John falls on his knees and asks for forgiveness. John places his confidence in Jesus the Messiah. John is saved. The years go by quickly. John is released and never goes to prison again. The old sinful desires are gone. John does have a new nature.

John's only way out was Jesus. John's prison was not only the walls but John was also a prisoner of sin. If you don't know Christ as your personal Saviour then you are also a prisoner of sin. The only way out is Jesus. If you see your need of a Saviour then please repent and believe. Humble yourself and place all of your faith and confidence in Christ Jesus. You too can know the meaning of true freedom. Trust Jesus NOW!

GOOD REVIVALS

South Carthage Baptist Church - South Carthage, TN

The Lord saved 23 and there were 16 additions to the church. Pastor W. R. Overton was assisted by Bro. Benny Maggart.

Old Union Baptist Church - Bowling Green, KY

There were 10 professions of faith with 11 additions to the church. Bro. Paul Bryson is pastor of the church.

Crossroads Baptist Church - Camden, TN

The church was greatly revived with 11 added to the church by baptism. Pastor W. T. Russell was assisted by Bro. Arzelle Douglas.

Bethel Baptist Church - Huntingdon, TN

Four professions of faith were reported with seven additions to the church. Pastor Jimmy Stewart was assisted by Bro. Landon Long.

"The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Psalms 126:3

LETTERS

Dear Eld. Massey,

Enclosed find my check, hope this will help a little. I read and enjoy the Voice of Baptists.

Pray for us, our revival will begin tonight. Pray you are having good services at your churches.

Your sister in Christ,

Alda B. Johnson

Dear Sir:

We feel the "Voice of Baptist" paper is one way the "Old Time Missionary Baptist" can communicate.

Needless to say, we appreciate it very much.

A friend of mine would like to be placed on your mailing list: Jim Mitchell, Rt. 1, Goodson, Mo. 65659.

Enclosed is a check to apply on the publication of "Voice of Baptist" paper.

Thank you and "God bless."

Mr. & Mrs. Ross Walker

St. Rt. Box 26

Polk, Missouri 65727

CONSOLATION

There is never a day so weary,
But God can make it bright.
And unto the soul that trusts him,
He giveth songs in the night.
There is never a path so hidden,
But God can lead the way,
If we seek for the spirit's guidance,
And patiently wait and pray.

There is never a cross so heavy,
But the nail scarred hands are there,
Outstretched in tender compassion,
The burden to help us bear.
There is never a heart so broken,
But the loving Lord can heal,
The heart that was pierced on Calvary,
Doth still for his loved ones feel.

There is never a life so darkened,
So hopeless and unblessed,
But may be filled with the light of God,
And enter his promised rest.
There is never a sin or sorrow,
There is never a care or loss,
But that we may bring to Jesus
And leave at the foot of the cross.

WHO WAS THIS MAN

by Daniel Chandler
Belmont, W. Va.

When I was but a little lad,
Upon my father's knee.
He told me stories of a man,
Who gave his life for me.

I would listen so intently,
As the story would unfold.
And puzzle in my childish mind,
"Who was this man of old?"

The story told how he had come,
From God's own heaven above.
To teach the people here on earth,
Of God's abounding love.

Who was this man so kind and meek,
This quiet and gentle man.
Who gave sight to the man born blind,
And healed the withered hand.

His power was great beyond compare,
He made the demons flee.
Yet in a voice so kind and sweet,
Said "Children come to me."

Who was this man, this man of old,
That walked upon the earth.
What was the message that he preached,
This thing he called "New Birth."

How often did I ponder this,
Upon my bed at night.
And search the darkness for the truth,
Or just a ray of light.

I'd wonder in my deepest thoughts
If there would ever be
A time that I would meet the man
Who gave his life for me.

Many years have passed me by,
and time has gone its way.
I've grown up and left those thoughts
Of early childhood days.

No longer do I have to ask,
"Who was this man of old?"
He leads me daily by the hand,
Upon the streets of gold.

And now I have a little lad,
Who sits upon my knee.
I tell him stories of the man,
Who lives inside of me.

YOUR MOTIVES

(Continued from page 1)

was never intended to impress another man's intellect but rather to exemplify before men our total dependence upon God.

LOVE IS GREATER THAN FAITH

Of the three abiding graces, Paul tells us that "the greatest of these is love." There may be belief without love: "the devils believed and trembled." But they had no love.

With their lips many will profess faith in Christ, yet never know the love of Christ in their hearts. It is possible to be a so-called "defender of the faith" hating not only what he would call "heresy" but also hating the person he would call an "heretic." These loveless prophets may have a semblance of faith, but without love they are nothing.

LOVE IS GREATER THAN DUTY

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly (with love), I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me." (1 Cor. 9:16,17)

I began my efforts in the ministry in reply to God's call to service. Just my duty to preach, so I tried. Not so today, forasmuch as I know myself His love has captured my heart's desire. That's not to say that carnality never engages my flesh for to say so would make God a liar.

Much wisdom is needed to know when to preach what God wants preached. It seems that some will compass land and sea to put across a personal wish in the church. That usually hurts the influence of former pastors, stymies the power and progress of the church and leaves the preacher confessing to himself, "I have cut off my own nose to spite my face." That leaves all asking him, "what was your motive?" Love must be our supreme motive at all times. Where love is absent nothing else matters. To discipline a church member without love will only deepen the rut for the church. Love as the motivating attitude in what we are and what we do and what we say and what we give makes our lights so shine that others may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven.

What is the motive of this article? First, to cause me to examine my own life and provoke me to ask why I'll do whatever I may do in the future. Then, because I love you and believe if we all do what we do out of love, God will surely get more benefit from us all.

REPORT FROM BRO. ROARK

Dear Brethren,

With this report, I send to all, my heart felt thanks for your continued prayers and support. My prayer is that your liberality will abound to the glory of God.

Pat is doing fine after her surgery, and her doctors say her condition is good, and her heart is strong, with only a small amount of tissue damage.

We are to begin our revival effort Aug. 15th. We are praying for the presence of God in our services. Bro. Joe Morgan will assist, and we ask your prayers that the Gospel might have free course.

A fellowship meeting will be held here Sept. 3rd, 4th and 5th. We plan to form an association of Baptists if possible. I have felt for some time the need for some type of united effort in this great cause. I have related to the church my intention to resign as pastor effective Dec. 31st that I may be able to devote my effort to this cause. There is a great need for unity among true Baptist people. One cannot realize the worth of fellowship and communication until he has experienced the lack of it. I sincerely ask for your prayers that, if this be His will, He will bless our weak effort to His glory.

The following is my financial report for the second quarter 1982. There being no way I can properly thank you, I pray that God will bless you abundantly.

Your Brother in Christ
Vernon Roark

Hauser Baptist.....	\$584.96
Redhill Baptist, KY.....	60.00
Old Union Baptist, KY.....	935.72
Faith Baptist, MI.....	150.00
Southside Baptist, IN.....	150.00
Fellowship Baptist, IN.....	387.33
Brattontown Baptist, TN.....	50.00
Mt. Lebanon Bapt., KY.....	75.00
Pleasant Hill Baptist.....	75.00
McFerrin Ave. Bapt., TN.....	234.26
Bethel Baptist, IN.....	100.00
Lyons Baptist, KY.....	200.00
Fairview Bapt., Woodburn, KY.....	50.00
Fairview Memorial Bapt., KY.....	142.64
Mt. Zion Baptist, KY.....	100.00
Bro. Marlin Hargis, Bowling Green....	10.00
Total	\$3,304.91

IT IS GOD

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AND TO DO HIS GOOD PLEASURE

Once the Lord gets us willing, he goes on with His work in us. He doesn't stop until we do His good pleasure. First of all He wants us to be dedicated, surrendered to His blessed will. He has rewards for the willing servant. The apostle Paul said, with regards to his preaching the Gospel, "If I do this thing willingly, I have a reward," I Corinthians 9:17. And I think the record shows that he did do his work willingly, because I can't think of any man, this side of Jesus Christ, that was more determined to live his life out in the work that God called him to do, he didn't even count his life dear unto himself, that he might finish his course (Acts 20:24). This great servant of the Lord did finish his course: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:7. He did the good pleasure of the Lord, for he did his service to Him whatever the conditions were.

God has laid out a work for us to do, but let it never be forgotten, that unless He does His mighty work in us and through us, our works would be worthless, empty, vain, and would be of no pleasure to Him. God has fixed it that way so that we cannot rob Him of His honor. Jesus said to His disciples, "Without me ye can do nothing." The power is in Him, and when we are submissive, and He takes us up, there is plenty of energy to complete the task, however hard it might seem. The words that Jesus gave to the disciples in the model prayer, at the close He said, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen." So in whatever we may accomplish in His work, we must say it is of His power, and all the glory belongs to Him.

A DELIGHT TO DO, WITHIN

"For I delight in the Law of God after the inward man." Paul said in Romans 7:22. I believe that in every born again person there is a desire, and even a delight in the inward man, to do the will of God. But of course we have another nature that is contrary, Paul had this too, for he said, "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." Romans 7:23. But I have already mentioned that God works in us and for us to get us over the will of the flesh. I have trouble with my flesh, and you do too, but I desire above everything to do the will of God, in my inward part. I want to please my Master, but I have a battle with the

flesh. This is no excuse, of course, we have to keep up the fight against the devil and the flesh. Final victory will come, thank the dear Lord! See Romans 7:24,25.

LETTERS

Dear Bro. Massey:

The paper, "Voice of Baptists," is worth so much to me. I am praying for it to come on.

Ollie Prince
Care Inn
Camden, TN

Enclosed is a small donation to help support the "Voice of Baptists."

We really enjoy the sermons and knowing people who believe what we believe about the Bible, God's word. In times like these we need the truth to encourage us and help us stand.

I thank God every day for my experience of salvation. I'm looking forward to that city whose builder and ruler is God.

Mrs. George Cofer
Versailles, MO

REVIVALS

Colorado Baptist Church - Denver, CO
Pastor Ottis Jones will be assisted by Elder W. E. Massey of Lafayette, TN. Services nightly at 7:00 p.m. EVERYONE WELCOME!

Peyton's Creek Baptist Church - Monroville, TN
Pastor Ray Smith will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services each evening at 7:30 p.m. ALL ARE INVITED!

BETHEL ASSOC. CONVENES SEPT. 17TH

The 1982 session of the Bethel Baptist Association will meet Friday evening, Sept. 17, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. with Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

This church is located at 1032 S. Holmes, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Those selected to preach the annual sermons are: Bro. Steve Perrigo - Introductory; Elder Charles Chapman - Memorial; Elder John Keen, Jr. - Doctrinal.

Officers serving last year were: Elder Calvin Perrigo - Moderator; Bro. Jeff Moran - Clerk; Elder Carlos Gammon - Treasurer.

Fellowship Church, Bethel Association and all the brethren cordially welcome all visitors to attend.

SAM LEVENSON'S HOME REMEDIES FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

1. Thou shalt guard thy children in the home and on the street.
2. Thou shalt make thy home a sanctuary of love and devotion.
3. Thou shalt honor the teachers of thy children and teach thy children to honor them.
4. Thou shalt not condone the faults of thy children through a misguided sense of loyalty.
5. Thou shalt teach thy children respect for the law and keep them from the companionship of children who indicate disrespect for the law.
6. Thou shalt not lead thy child into temptation by providing him with the means thereof: - to wit - too much money, a car, and adult privileges.
7. Thou shalt enforce decency in the dress of thy daughters, and dignity in the dress of thy sons.
8. Thou shalt protect the morals of thy children from the indiscretions of youthful ardor and inexperience.
9. Thou shalt conduct thine own affairs in such a manner as to set an example worthy of imitation by the children.
10. Thou shalt not permit thy children to bear arms except in the service of their country.