

CHARLES PATTERSON
RT 5 BOX 168
LAFAYETTE TN

37083

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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A POSITION

(Matthew 20:20-28)

by Calvin Perrigo
Indianapolis, IN

The nature of Zebedee's sons enter somewhat into the true rendering of these scriptures. There is ample Biblical evidence that these two brothers may have thought a bit more of themselves or their abilities than was becoming an apostle of Jesus Christ. From Luke 9:51-56 we hear Jesus rebuke James and John for their lack of understanding toward his purpose in the world. From this experience (the Samaritan rejection), we note that James and John considered their ability to pray to be on an equality with Elijah, the Old Testament prophet. They also were considering the destruction of lost souls in retaliation for one rejection of hospitality toward Jesus of Nazareth. Their request (it was really their idea, not altogether an ambitious mother, see Mark 10:35) was to have a prominent position with the Lord in his kingdom. Jesus was given another opportunity to remind James and John of their lack of understanding by stating, "Ye know not what ye ask." Jesus explained that a life of service in his vineyard requires sacrifice and suffering. James and John responded to this: "We are able." Their answer clearly indicates that neither had yet completed their work. Both men thought they were able to do the work of God that was yet before them. There is a vast distance between our good intentions and the dedicated service that Jesus so rightly deserves from his chosen.

Simon Peter thought he was able to do some things also and voiced his opinion but the test proved him wrong. (Study Matthew 19:27, Luke 22:33-34 and then verses 54 through 62.) Paul gives sound advice from Galatians 6:4; after the job is completed, then one can feel good about it and that within himself alone. Jesus told James and John of their future (his cup and his baptism). Jesus also let them know that God, the Father, had designed the throne arrangements. Positions such as they requested were not his to give or even promise.

The three following passages of scripture will be sufficient evidence to show that Jesus was not in a position to make such a commitment to James and John: I Corinthians 11:3, "the head of Christ is God"; John 14:28,

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BRO. LYLES ORDAINED

The Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church ordained Bro. Terry A. Lyles to the full work of the gospel ministry on Saturday March 30, 1985. Brethren from nine different states gathered in to assist and witness the ordination service.

Twenty-four churches were represented by forty-seven ordained brethren in the all day service. The presbytery chose the following brethren to fill the offices in the presbytery: Moderator - Calvin Perrigo, Clerk - Ray Sutton, Sermon - Billy Moran, Introduction of Candidate - Harold Dean Hauskins (Deacon), Interrogation - Paul Bryson, Prayer - Jeffery Elliott, Charge to the Preacher - Don Watts, Charge to the Church - Don Curtis, Presentation of the Bible - Charles Patterson.

The Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church has extended an arm to Elder Terry Lyles to do mission work in Anchorage, Alaska and he is on the field and meeting three times per week with a group of people. Please pray for this work.

THE DEVIL'S PUPPET STRING

by Jerry A. Reynolds
Bowling Green, KY

The scene is set; the work is done;
The will to come and see is won
Of one both lost and blind in sin,
To come to church and see what's in
This claim of Christian friend whose plea
Has been so long, just "come and see".

The Devil heard the frequent plea;
He worked and schemed on endlessly,
And week by week he kept away
From words of life each fair Lord's day
This loved and pitied Christian's friend
And hoped to do so to the end.

One day by chance or Providence
The lost one gained a better sense
And said to self, "I'll go next week
And see what good thing's there to seek;
It may be I will find some good.
At least my good friend thinks I should".

So Satan worked another thing,
Some Christians on his puppet string
Came to his mind and so he thought
To keep them from the thing they ought
To never fail to do each week:
To go to church, God's will to seek.

One said, "I'm tired, too tired to go;
I've worked and worried this week so.
I need a rest; I'm not prepared;
I'm almost sick; I should be spared.
Besides there's Brother So-and-So;
He's up to it and sure to go.

One said "I'm sick"; one said, "I'm mad".
Another called away was glad
To be with worldly friends in fun
Instead of where they should be Sun-
day, not just any Lord's day morn,
But fateful, tragic, sad, forlorn.

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and who followed me *with all his heart*, to do that only which was right in my eyes" (1 Kings 14:8)

Folks, Jesus said great deception would come before His return (Lk. 21:8). Never in my life have I seen and heard so much religion, and the bible says the last days would bring a falling away and perilous times. How can we harmonize such? "Take heed that ye be not deceived." Things must not be as good as they look and sound.

Solomon advises, "keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Pro. 4:23)

The Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus on one occasion and asked, "why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread." (Matt. 15:2) Wasn't that terrible! Wonder how many people have gone to hell for failing to wash before eating? If that wasn't so sad it would be funny. Many religionists in America today are spending all their energy, time and money to reform our nation. We don't need reformation until we first have regeneration. Make the cup good and the platter will be good also. Oh, that the people of our land did all have heart-felt salvation.

This is supposed to be a Christian nation. how did *prayer* and *bible reading* get voted out of our public schools? How has the sin of killing unborn babies in wholesale lots been approved? See what I mean by deception.

Jesus's reply in Matthew 15 fits our time to a tee, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." (Matt. 15:8)

I close with this line from Paul's pen to the Ephesians: "... as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, *as to the Lord*, and not to men." (Eph. 6:6, 7)

No Longer Divided

I searched for God half-heartedly,
While half my heart and mind
Were seeking pleasure of the world;
And God I did not find.
Yet, when life tossed me to and fro
And none would take my part;
I found God, because 'twas then
I searched with all my heart.

PASTOR RESIGNS

Bro. Gary Duncan has resigned the Colorado Missionary Baptist Church. He feels his work is finished.

Any minister willing to serve the Lord is asked to pray about visiting the church, and then seek God's will together with the church.

INDIANA MISSION CLOSES

Services at the Liberty Baptist Mission in Brownstown, Indiana will be terminated May 26, 1985. This mission was an arm of Friendship Baptist Church of Columbus and was under the direction of Bro. John W. Thompson.

REVIVALS

June 2

McFERRIN AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH - Nashville, TN. Pastor Howard G. Taylor is to be assisted by Elder Harold D. Linville of Hartsville, TN. Services each week night at 7 p.m. and each Sunday at 6 p.m. EVERYONE IS INVITED AND WILL BE WELCOME!

COLORADO BAPTIST CHURCH - 5900 S. Parker Rd., Denver, CO. Elder Charles Patterson will serve as evangelist for the revival. Services each evening at 7 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME!

July 14

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH - Huntingdon, TN. Pastor Kenneth Massey will be assisted by Elder Tom Armstrong of Mt. Juliet, TN. Services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. We invite your prayers and your presence.

July 21

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH - Chesterfield, TN. Pastor Earl Owens is to be assisted by Bro. Kenneth Massey. Services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

July 28

DARDEN BAPTIST CHURCH - Darden, TN. Pastor Cletus Dukes is to be assisted by Bro. Kenneth Massey. Services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. YOU ARE INVITED!

* * * *

"O LORD, REVIVE THY WORK IN THE MIDST OF THE YEARS, IN THE MIDST OF THE YEARS MAKE KNOWN: IN WRATH REMEMBER MERCY."

Habakkuk 3:2

YOUR COMMENTS

Enclosed is a check to help with the publishing of "Voice of Baptists" paper. It is a very informative paper and also inspiring. Appreciate the paper.

Mrs. Ethel Smith
Lafayette, TN

We appreciate receiving "Voice of Baptists" and look forward to it each month.

Enclosed is a check for \$25.00 to help with the cost of the paper.

May God bless you is our prayer.
Mrs. W. R. Carman
Poplar Bluff, MO

God bless you in your work with the "Voice." Enclosed will find a little more money to help the paper. Sure wish I could do more because I enjoy helping out in the Lord's work. He sure has been and is my Helper.

Robert & Ruby Jackson
Ochelata, OK

We enjoy the "Voice" and want to see its work continue. Enclosed is a check to help with your expenses.

Dixie Foster
Bolivar, MO

Enclosed is a donation to help with the paper.

Elder Alton J. Lewis
Louisville, KY

Our church wants to send this money to help publish the "Voice of Baptists."

Old Time Baptist Church
Elizabeth, WV

This is our monthly donation to help with the "Voice of Baptists."

Crossroads Baptist Church
Camden, TN

We enjoy the paper and send our donation for May.

Bethel Baptist Church
Corvallis, OR

Enclosed you will find our regular monthly donation to the "Voice of Baptists."

Victory Baptist Church
Hendersonville, TN

A POSITION**(Continued from Page 1)**

"My Father is greater than I"; I Corinthians 15:28, "The Son . . . subject unto . . . God." Therefore, such honors as James and John requested were reserved for the Father's discretion and when he is all in all he will announce his choice.

Let's consider the throne position as found in the scriptures: Acts 7:56, ". . . the Son of man standing on the right hand of God"; Hebrews 12:2, ". . . is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"; I Peter 3:22, ". . . and is on the right hand of God"; Revelation 3:21, ". . . and am set down with my Father in his throne." Each of these statements was written after Jesus had drank of his cup (finished his work) and had returned victoriously into the presence of his Father (see Psalms 24). The prepared position was reserved for Jesus and awaited his return with the victory. Philippians 2:9-11 describes the position that Christ earned and does now occupy. Note this fact: Jesus had already earned this exalted position by what he had already accomplished. No mortal man has a right to ask beforehand to be on an equal and flank such an one as our Lord Jesus Christ. Truly James and John did not know what they were asking for!

If we follow Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith, we too will perform before we ever receive any position in the eyes of our God. I Corinthians 3:8 is evidence of this truth. Jesus earned the exalted position that he now occupies and man too will earn any reward that God passes out in time or eternity. The apostles were promised a position for having forsaken all and following Jesus of Nazareth. Matthew 19:28, "ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Who among us expects Judas Iscariot to sit in this position? Why not? Because he never ran and completed the race. Do not the winners of races run the entire race? The request that the sons of Zebedee made to Jesus effected the other ten apostles with indignation toward them.

We now have two problems: a request for an exalted position is not according to godliness. Neither should there be room for indignation in the hearts of the ten. Can such (high desires and envy because of these wants) exist in the minds of the Lord's apostles? In the midst of this situation Jesus taught a very important lesson. His church would not be ruled by, but would be ministered unto, by those that followed his example. He came to serve, not to be served. Those that obtain a position with God will do likewise. High positions follow high service done in the spirit of humility.

Are we able to establish our title to a leading role and do the services that reach supreme heights in the kingdom of heaven?

Instead of desiring the prominent position, God's servants will crave the spirit of service and sacrifice that in turn will entitle them to the prominent position of being able to truthfully say, "we are unprofitable servants; we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10). The characteristic of humility does not fade on yonder side of eternity either because there in the presence of God, crowns will be cast before the throne, while voices proclaim, "THOU ART WORTHY O LORD, TO RECEIVE GLORY AND HONOR AND POWER" (Revelation 4:3, 4, 10 and 11).

Do we know what we ask for? Let God be the sole judge of our labors. They will not be in vain because God does not forget.

THE DIVINE CALL TO THE MINISTRY

by P. D. Ballard
Vian, OK

Not many weeks and months after the Lord saved me by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-10), He called me to preach His everlasting gospel.

Now my experience was something like this: I was sitting, I believe it was on a Saturday, in my living room four miles northeast of Sallisaw, Okla., when a still voice spoke to my soul. This voice told me that I was to preach the word of God. It was so plain, even more so, than if it had been audible. The call was so impressive that I arose from my chair and walked around over the house wondering if I should tell my wife of my experience. I readily decided I would not tell her, for I seemed to get the idea, as others have, that God might change His mind, not knowing that the gift and calling of God are without repentance. Romans 11:29.

As time went on, this God-given burden grew heavier on my heart. I would lay on my bed at night, and in my imagination, preach the word. My what some sermons I preached before I started preaching.

This went on for a few months, but the time arrived when I just had to let it be known. The word burned in my bones, as the prophet has well said.

While attending prayer meeting at my home church, Sycamore Missionary Baptist, one of my uncles, Jack Craighead, endeavored to bring us a lesson from God's word. He said, in the outset of his talk, that he was not a preacher, but would try to bring us a lesson. The thought struck me, and that with force: If you will hurry up and finish with

the lesson, I will let them know there is a preacher present. I could hardly wait till he finished to tell them of God calling me to preach His word, and to my surprise, not many were surprised.

They gave me an appointment to preach and they let others know about it, so there could be a sizeable number there to scare me. Anyway, I was faced with a goodly number when the time came to preach. I know the crowd looked larger than what it really was.

I will never forget my first effort to try to preach to a visible audience. I preached on Luke 16:19-. The sermon has two main thoughts: 1. Lazarus and the rich man. 2. The rich man and Lazarus. Anyway, the effort relieved my soul whether it did anyone else or not.

Many may, and do, scoff at the idea of God calling men to preach His word, but that does not change the Bible and my experience. For that call was just as plain to me as my conversion. Thank God for these heavenly experiences! Amen.

Readers, when my mind goes back to this experience, my soul takes on renewed strength. I seemed to mount up with eagle's wings. It seems to put the storms of life beneath me. Bless God for such a call. "I feel like traveling on." (I must preach till I hear that call to go home.)

(Baptist Progressor, Sept. 1964)

Time to Live

Take time to work – it is the price of success.

Take time to think – it is the secret of power.

Take time to play – it is the secret of remaining young.

Take time to read – it is the fountain of knowledge and wisdom.

Take time to worship – it is the highway to reverence.

Take time to be friendly – it is the road to happiness.

Take time to love and be loved – it is the privilege of the blest.

Take time to look around – the days are too short to think only of ourselves.

Take time to laugh – it produces psychia vitamins and destroys mental acidosis.

Take time to notice the children about you – they are soon to fill your shoes.

Take time to cultivate your soul – it is the highway to God, purity, destiny.

– SELECTED