

# 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**

**VOL. 8**

**HUNTINGDON, TENN.**

**JULY, 1986**

**NO. 10**



## THE GODS OF LIBERTY AND LICENSE

by Jerry A. Reynolds  
Bowling Green, Ky.

In so far as it is an expedient to morality and the propagation of truth, liberty of human thought and actions is a great asset to any people. When, however, that view of liberty reaches the excessive degree that it becomes an expedient to immorality and a barrier against truth it becomes a nation's greatest liability. When viewed as a means to a good end, freedom is held in its proper perspective. While it is so held in view it permits the most virtuous of people to prevail over the base and evil ones of society because of the superiority of truth over falsehood as they compete on an equal footing. When, however, liberty comes to be viewed as an END in itself it has moved out of its place and has become a God to its adherents who is always accompanied by a closely related God, called "license." To those who prize liberty of thought and actions as a desired end, unrestrained passions and destructive whims soon become a way of life. Unbridled lust and liberal experiment with life increases the chaos in society, disturbs the peace of mind and heart of its inhabitants, gives license to do evil to the wickedest of its citizens, and provokes the just anger of the longsuffering Creator of men.

In the beginnings of our great nation liberty was prized above peace among men and life in this world. As long as legal bondage kept men from freely pursuing the truth, and God himself, it was intolerable. To men who all believed there was a Creator and most of whom believed there was a life hereafter freedom was thought to be the best of means to a noble end. That END was to do what was right. Right was thought to be that which God willed and His will was to be always best for the human race. As long

as that end was kept in sight freedom was a blessing to all.

After generations had passed who respected God, and the reins of education, justice, and government had been handed to men and women who were man-centered in their thought and purpose, a gradual and increasingly destructive cycle was initiated which nothing but a true spiritual revival brought about by widespread repentance toward God can possibly change. Such revival is hard to imagine while most of the religious leaders are preaching an unrighteous God who will indefinitely tolerate a free nation of licentious people. These teachers of religion are as much false prophets as were those who opposed Jeremiah's prophecy regarding the impending captivity of Judah, preaching "peace, peace, when there is no peace."

Although some of these religious teachers bewail the same moral degeneracy we hate, they still preach a God and Saviour to whom all men can come "just as they are" and be saved by merely "accepting" Him. The ones converted under their preaching have avoided the pains of true repentance and thus failed to receive true regeneration. Thus spiritually unchanged they have no moral power to affect society toward its betterment. Many of these teachers will paradoxically claim that there already is a spiritual revival in progress in our nation and world. This conclusion they reach because they erroneously suppose that great numbers of their converts are really being saved.

In a society obsessed with freedom and having forgotten a righteous and vengeful God, "human rights" has replaced the "golden rule," making people naturally self-

(Continued on Page 4)

## REGENERATION



by F.W. Lambert

Nature of regeneration, its necessity to salvation; the spirit alone can effect it; the means he employs; results of the change. To describe the nature of that spiritual change known as regeneration, the record is inspired and employs various terms and modes of speech. It is a new creation, it is the putting off the old man with his deeds, and putting on of the new man; it is being renewed in the spirit; it is the being quickened, born again, having Christ formed in the soul, the hope of glory. Your preceptions, affections, and purposes are wholly changed. We were moved by worldly considerations. Now we are moved by heavenly impulses. Sin and misery are inseparable. Where the former is, there invariably, is the latter. If they are thus uniformly found together in this world, they must also be uniformly found together in the world to come. Moral qualities are the same in both worlds. If men go into eternity in their sins, they will and must be miserable forever. The wrath of God that ever burns against the offender. O, Who can bear the wrath of God? Who can flee the wrath of God? The sinner who dies without God, can never be saved. He is depraved, and in that condition is incapable of salvation. Spiritual things have no charm for him.

Naturally, he does not love God in this world, nor will he ever love God in the world to come. He cannot therefore be saved after death. But may not some period arrive in the far distant future, at which salvation may visit the lost in hell? NO, NEVER! NEVER! The sinner remains under power of his depravity, and thus they continue forever wretched and undone. I only remark further that regenera-

(Continued on Page 2)

## VOICE OF BAPTISTS

(USPS 423-350)

P.O. Box 572

Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor

## STAFF WRITERS

James H. Smith, Nashville, TN

W.T. Russell, Nashville, TN

F.W. Lambert, Westmoreland, TN

Harold D. Carver, Buena Vista, TN

Jerry A. Reynolds, Bowling Green, KY

Stephen M. Skinner, Springfield, MO

Keith D. Frieze, Springfield, MO

## CIRCULATION STAFF

Glynn and Linda Williams, Huntingdon, TN

POSTMASTER: Return all mail to Voice of Baptists, P.O. Box 572, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

## DEEP SETTLED PEACE

by Mrs. W.T. Russell

They wheeled me in a lonely  
room,

Where everything was quiet;  
And they that were around me  
then,

Were everyone dressed in  
white.

I did not mind my task that  
day,

My heart was quiet and still;  
For Jesus stood the closest one,  
His promise to fulfill.

The hands went on and worked  
and toiled,

And things worked out so  
neat,

I know my Lord okehed it all,  
For it was so complete.

He did not send His servants  
then,

But came along to see;  
That everything would be  
alright,  
And bear my cross for me.

And when I reach the end of  
life,

How sweet, I know 'twill be;  
For Jesus will be there I know,  
To bear my cross for me.

Note: Our dear sister passed away May 26, 1986 and was laid to final rest on Thursday following. We send all sympathy to Bro. Russell as he mourns the passing of his faithful companion.

## REGENERATION

(Continued from Page 1)

tion is necessary to salvation, because the joys of heaven are derived from holiness, and unchanged men takes no pleasure in holiness. But why occupy your time in reasoning on this. John declares that it is the direct work, not of men, but of God. "The sons of God," are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1 Peter makes the same declaration, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1 Because God is especially the author of eternal life, through the Redeemer, an apostle attributes our regeneration directly to Christ. "Ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him." 1 John 1. According to the declaration of God, this work of the Father's grace, performed on account of the merits of the son, is by the immediate agency of the Holy Ghost. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. Ye must be born again - born of the spirit." John 3. Paul also says, "according to his mercy he saved us by the washing (the spiritual cleansing or purification) of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Titus 3. Thus it is clearly seen that the regeneration of the soul is the work exclusively and emphatically of God the Holy Ghost, by the will of the Father, and through the infinite merits of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The import is briefly: that God our sovereign and judge, is holy, and that we his creatures are unholy; that our sins against him have been deliberate, intentional, and without excuse, and that we are in consequence, justly exposed to eternal death. That his mercy towards us, and which originated solely in himself, required for the due honor of his government, to be exercised through the sacrifice of his beloved Son; that with his satisfaction, the Father is well pleased, and can now, consistently with all his perfections, pardon every sinner, who truly repents, and believes in our Lord Jesus Christ. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where-with he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ." (Eph. 2). To quicken is to make alive. In salvation it is the impartation of spiritual life - that very life which is necessarily the seat of all holy sensibility and action. When ye were dead, he quickened you and imparted to your life. All spiritual vitality, therefore, in the first place, is from God himself, moved to bestow it solely by "the great love where-with he loved us."

Secondly, this spiritual life, this first impulse towards our personal union with Christ, is imparted by God, the Holy Ghost. The

Messiah himself has so taught us, "it is, said he to his disciples, the spirit that quickeneth," and, lastly; the quickening - the life - given is "together with Christ." The same life that was in him, is also in you. "This is life eternal" and Blessed be God, for the declaration of his Son, "He that liveth, and believeth in me, shall never die." The Holy Ghost is therefore, the efficient agent by whose power and work we are brought into union with our Lord Jesus Christ. Our union with him is also perpetual. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Who can separate you, but either Christ or yourself, and will the Redeemer cast you off? NO, "Having loved his own, he loved them unto the end." (John 13). You union will never be severed by any act of God. Will it be by any a act of yours? Never, the prophet said, "They shall not depart from me." Such a soul may wander far and long in vanity and error, but will at last be found returning to the cross and taking its position at the feet of the Redeemer.

One of the direct results of union with Christ is the possession of life, that life which prepares us for his service here, and his glory in the world to come. "Because I live," said he to his disciples, "ye shall live also," and "I give unto them eternal life." You are no longer under the power of death. Now "grace reigns" through righteousness, unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord."

"I live," said the apostle, "yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now love in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2) Here is the unfailing fountain which pours forth its ever flowing waters in sparkling beauty. "Christ is our life," our spiritual, our eternal life, and "when he shall appear, then shall we also appear with him in glory." You have received from him pardon and justification. You will receive adoption into the family of God, and be made heirs of heaven, the outline of the divine image drawn upon your heart in regeneration. We have seen that repentance is always preceded and accompanied by conviction of sin and prayer, without such you can not cherish any hope of salvation. May our God enlighten and direct you and by his Holy Spirit prepare us for the great work that lies ahead. "The spirit also helpeth our infirmities." Justice demands our blood. Jesus presents his own blood.

**TRUTH IS LIKE A  
TORCH, THE MORE  
IT IS SHOOK THE  
MORE IT SHINES.**

## WHICH BAPTIST?

by Kenneth W. Massey

Convention Baptists - These Baptists were recognized as independent, missionary Baptists until 1845. They had local associations prior to 1845 and continue with those today.

No doubt the intentions of this group were good, but their mission methods led them away from God's designed source of power for true missions - the local, sovereign churches of Jesus Christ.

I hereby quote from a Minute of the Southern Baptist Convention: The Constitution on page 11, "The messengers from missionary societies, churches, and other religious bodies of the Baptist denomination in various parts of the United States met in Augusta, Georgia, May 8, 1845, for the purpose of carrying into effect the benevolent intent of our constituents by organizing a plan for eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the denomination for the propagation of the Gospel."

They were incorporated by a special act of the "Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia." Approved December 27, 1845. In this charter it further states, "said Corporation being created for the purpose of eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the BAPTIST DENOMINATION OF CHRISTIANS." Please notice how easily the plan in the previous paragraph was changed to a corporation in this paragraph. All churches should have a working plan for sponsoring missions, but a corporation is another matter altogether.

Article 2. It is "to promote foreign and home missions, and other important objects connected with the Redeemer's Kingdom." It also states in this article, "which shall fully respect the independence and equal rights of the churches."

Article 3. "The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of missionary Baptist churches cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention on the basis of one messenger for every church contributing to the work of the Convention and one additional messenger for every \$250.00 actually paid to the work of the Convention, provided no church shall be entitled to more than ten messengers." It sure seems to me that the last statement contradicts the "equal rights" as stated in Article 2. The little church with little money doesn't have the voting power of the larger church with more money. I'm glad the SBC economics do not apply to those of God. Why He promised to be in the midst of two or three that had gathered together in His name.

Article 4 provides for the election of officers, boards, etc.

Article 5 provides for as many boards as they need, and from the different states.

As I see it, this whole system is an outside corporation. Churches and missionaries have become entities of the Convention. Jesus gave His power to the churches. The churches have no right to attempt to transfer or delegate that all-important power.

We will now leave the organizational structure and mention a doctrine or two.

Concerning the "local church," Convention Baptists have departed from the staunch position held by their forefathers. The following is a quote endorsed by the Convention: "We hold that the church of Christ, which in the Bible is called 'the body of Christ,' is not to be identified with any denomination or church that seeks to exercise ecclesiastical authority, but includes all the regenerated whoever and wherever they are as these are led by the Holy spirit."

(May, 1939, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Then, there is the Invisible Kingdom Theory - In 1925 the Convention recommended a confession of their faith. In Article 25, on "The Kingdom," it says, "The Kingdom of God is the reign of God in the heart and life of the individual in every human relationship, and in every form and institution of organized human society." Every scripture reference given contradicted their own statement. Luke 16:16 - "the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." How can men press into the invisible? Daniel said, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom." (Dan. 2:44) Then, when Jesus (the God of heaven), called out His church, and set it up, He said to them, "Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the Kingdom of God." Luke 6:20

This Convention which has assumed and appointed itself to propagate the Gospel of the Kingdom destroys or ignores the Kingdom of God set up by His Son.

Next, let's notice unscriptural baptism among this group. Our forefathers were once called by their enemies Anabaptists because they would not accept the baptism of any except Baptists. Many convention churches will accept the baptism of other denominations. If we say that's okay, then church authority is thrown out the window, and what do you have left? That big universal, invisible church conglomerant! That's what Satan is working to accomplish. When you get that thing in, away goes the Bible doctrines of Holy Spirit wrought conviction, justification by grace through faith, the perseverance of the saints, and many more. Listen to this. My son happens to be in Georgetown, Kentucky this week and this incident comes to mind. The

(Continued on Page 4)

## Revivals

JULY 13

**Maple Grove Baptist Church** - Lafayette, TN. Pastor Don Curtis will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Hilman Duncan. There will be services twice daily at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Your presence and prayers requested.

**Madison Baptist Church** - Madison TN. Pastor Jerry Shrum will be assisted by Elder L.W. Smith. Services nightly beginning at 7:15 p.m. All are invited.

JULY 20

**Old Union Baptist Church** - Bowling Green KY. Pastor Jerry Reynolds will be assisted by Elder Billy Moran. Services will continue nightly for two weeks, beginning each evening at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

JULY 27

**Clarksburg Baptist Church** - Clarksburg, TN. Pastor Harold Carver will be assisted by various preachers during the week. Services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. YOU are welcome.

**Oak Grove Baptist Church** - Lexington, TN. Pastor Calvin Perrigo will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services twice daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Everyone is extended a welcome.

## SPECIAL MISSION REPORT

Eld. Vernon Roark  
North Bend, Or.

May 20, 1986

Dear Brethren:

This report is to let you all know "All the wonderful things God has done with us, that you may rejoice with us and give thanks to our "Glorious Saviour Jesus Christ."

On Sunday night the eleventh (11) of May, 1986 Hauser Baptist Church began an effort meeting that will be remembered here for ages to come, the likes of which have not been seen for many years on the West Coast. Bro. Jeff Elliott came from California to help us, and on the first night, four precious souls were lifted up out of the horrible pits of sin, and gave sweet testimony to the saving Grace of God.

Much rejoicing and praising God followed, and from that night, those who were first saved, with others of our young teenagers and others, began to pray and invite others and labor with many tears to see them saved. The meetings closed on May 19th, with a total of nine (9) precious souls saved

(Continued on Page 4)



## THE GODS OF LIBERTY AND LICENSE

(Continued from Page 1)

centered rather than charitable. Simultaneously, a perverted sense of charity exalts the needs of "humanity" at the expense of the individual human soul. Justice is an almost forgotten concept, although one of the three stated purposes of our government according to the preamble of our constitution, is to "establish justice." Mercy which is expected, and sometimes even demanded by wicked men, is not mercy at all. It is perverted justice, falsely called "mercy." The cry of vengeance from the earth because of the blood of countless innocent victims is unheard except in the ears of the "Lord of Sabaoth" who had promised "Vengeance is mine, I shall repay."

In our time the same judges who have released the worst of willful criminals who by their hands should have suffered death according to the ordinance of God, have given license to all to take the lives of the most innocent of innocent human beings for the sake of personal convenience. The cry of millions who have died by their edict far surpasses the cry against Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin. It will surely sink these self-righteous advocates of excessive liberty and license into a lower hell than many of these most abominable offenders of human dignity. We may add to their guilt before God in the crime of legalized abortion the many innocent victims of the willful and wicked criminals they have released from their due punishment. Many leaders, legislatures, educators, and voters have agreed with or quietly allowed these horrible crimes against God! Shall not God judge such a nation as this? In the eyes of God, which is preferable, a dictatorship which at least in part upholds his laws or a "free" nation which freely perverts his laws? You be the judge!

Our educational institutions are now void of any Godly moral instructions except what some teacher might dare to introduce at his or her own risk. Parents are forced by compulsory education laws to submit their children's minds to whatever the state orders. The education theories of atheistic, humanistic philosophers are taught to the public teachers in their required courses of study in colleges and universities before they are allowed to enter the classrooms with your children (Thank God many of these teachers, because of prior convictions, do not regard children in the same light as their teacher-philosophers.) Teachers are almost insulated from the wishes of the parents, legal pressure organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union fight them in court, and the judges invariably rule against the majority's wishes in overturning the school board decision or legislative action. Our public schools,

and thus the minds of our children, have been used as a political football by philosophical lawyers and as places of experimentation by philosophical educators for many years. Will not these gods of liberty and license receive the devotion of many of the children educated in such an atmosphere? In the present setting a teacher can exercise the privilege of living almost any lifestyle and peddling almost any philosophy which is atheistic or agnostic or amoral without much fear of retribution from his or her superiors. The parents must overcome principals, superintendents, school boards, and courts in this battle for the minds and hearts of their children and it is a certain fact that in general and the minds of the educators and courts are prejudiced against the Christian parent.

Some prayerful and guided steps need to be taken by the few true Christians which are left in our nation. Nothing is surer than the fact that God will judge and avenge the cause of the innocent. If we cannot save our nation as a whole by repentance and reform surely we must save the minds, hearts, and souls of our children through the power of God and the sacrifice of ourselves is need be. We must not simply abandon them to the gods of liberty and license with whom the bulk of our people seem to be going astray.

## SPECIAL MISSION REPORT

(Continued from Page 3)

from sin, and all gave good evidence of salvation, both with word and deed.

On Sunday, May 18th, I was permitted, tho so unworthy, to lead five sweet young souls into the waters of Baptism, declaring to the world their faith in a buried and risen Saviour, and their own death to sin, and raised "to walk in newness of life."

Another Baptismal service was planned for Sunday, May 25th, so that two (2) others could follow them in Baptism. At the close of the Revival a total of nine (9) souls were saved and seven (7) additions to the Church by Baptism. "Oh how we thank God for His mercy and long-suffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance." "Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus through all ages, world without end." Amen.

Since coming to Hauser in October '85 the Church has been blessed with the addition of twelve (12) new members, and we are so thankful to God to see Zion grow both in numbers and in Grace.

Now it is time for my dear wife and I to depart with heavy hearts for this struggling young Church, and to engage the battle of another front. Please pray for us as we go to Idaho, that His will be done and many souls be saved, and the Church be re-established in the great work of the Lord. Continue to remember our dear friends and fellow-labor-

ers here and My dear Bro. Elliott in your prayers.

Thank you is not enough for your prayers and financial support. We thank God for you all and pray His richest blessings be yours.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Eld. Vernon Roark  
Northwest Missionary

## WHICH BAPTISTS?

(Continued from Page 3)

First Baptist Church of Georgetown, Kentucky had a Campbellite (so-called Church of Christ) preacher in her membership, who was President of Georgetown Baptist College. This college was supported by the Convention. An investigation by Elder E.E. Rice, in a discussion with Boyce Taylor over the question, revealed that 25% of the churches in some of the southern states received pedobaptist baptism. The Convention never makes any pronouncement on the question today. Let me say here that I believe there are some sound churches and pastors within the numbers of the SBC. But for the life of me I cannot understand why they continue to support such an unscriptural system. God forbid that any should accept the idea of the end justifying the means. I can't seem to get that phrase from their Constitution out of my mind, "to elicit, combine and direct the energies of the churches." Does that mean their money? Does that mean their power? Just what does "energies" mean?

Folks, what carried the gospel to Europe? It wasn't a convention or committee! What brought it to the shores of our continent? Don't tell me it was the Missionary Society of England. That thing wasn't formed until 1792. I'll tell you what carried it - it was sent by the Holy Spirit of God as He elicited, combined and directed the energies of His churches.

Today, I'm sorry to say, many SBC churches and ministers look upon other missionary Baptists as though they were traitors or no better than dogs. They should not forget so easily that their system only dates back to 1845. The old church where I grew up (New Bethel - Goodlettsville, Tenn.) is fifty-one years older than the SBC. Where is the scriptural command - thou shalt be a Southern Baptist Convention member? Perhaps, some who read this will be angered. But some are always angered by the truth. One man said he was often accused of rubbing the fur the wrong way, but he suggested the cat turn around. In Article 2 it was plainly stated that the SBC shall fully respect the independence and equal rights of the churches. When the SBC refers to those Baptist churches outside the Convention as non-cooperatives, it is slanderous. That's hardly respect. God didn't organize the SBC nor command anybody on earth to organize it.