

Baptist Banner

Thus saith the LORD, Stand for the old paths, where *is* the ye shall find rest



ye in the ways, and see, and ask good way, and walk therein, and for your souls.

VOLUME 11

GOODLETTSVILLE, TENN. 37072

AUGUST, 1976

NUMBER 3

"GOD SO LOVED" —

GREAT TREASURES OF TRUTH FOUND IN ONE SHORT VERSE IN THE BIBLE

By ROSCO BRONG
Dean, Lexington Baptist College

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Jn. 3:16.)

Best known of all the 31,101 verses of the Bible, and the most used, misused, and abused, is John 3:16. Rightly read and understood in context, this verse reveals something of both love and hate, righteousness and sin, grace and works, salvation and judgment, life and death, heaven and hell, God and Satan.

We cannot fully appreciate love without knowing the reality of hate. We cannot fully understand the meaning of righteousness unless we see it in contrast to sin. We cannot grasp the true character of grace until we see it as something distinctly apart from works. We cannot see the need of salvation unless we face the fact of judgment. Life and death are meaningful terms only as we compare one with the other. The same Bible that holds forth the promises of heaven contains also the warnings of hell, and either is meaningless without the other. And we can in some measure apprehend the goodness and greatness of God only when by faith we see His infinite and eternal overruling of all the evil powers of Satan.

LOVE AND HATE

First, then, the love of John 3:16 can be appreciated only in view of the fact that God hates "all workers of iniquity." (Ps. 5:5.) Or, as we read in the immediate context of John 3 (verses 18 and 36), "he that believeth not is condemned already" and "the wrath of God abideth on him."

"God so loved"—the same God of Whom it is written, "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity." (Hab. 1:13.)

This same God "repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him; he will repay him to his face." (De. 7:10.)

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I Married A Minister

Mrs. C. A. Darst

I married a minister, not because I had a special desire or ambition to do so, not because he was wealthy or because he was famous, but because God led us together. One who accepts the vow of being a minister's wife assumes a tremendous responsibility. She must surrender her life, not to preach the gospel, but to assist her husband in the work God has called him to do. She must not count her life dear unto herself, but must place her life upon the altar of service. She must, if necessary, be willing to forsake her friends, relatives and homeland for the sake of Christ. Her life must be above reproach; she must be grave, sober, not a disseminator of slander, and must be faithful in all things. Nothing should interfere with her prayer life, or the study of His Word.

MANY GOOD MINISTERS COULD BE BETTER MINISTERS IF THEIR WIVES WERE MORE PERSEVERING AND WILLING TO ENDURE HARDNESS. In spite of adverse conditions, a good wife will maintain a clean Christ — like atmosphere in her home for his pleasure. She will be a good manager. Her church and home will come first. She will discipline her children with a firm hand, and she will have to do it in public because her children are always in the public. The minister's wife can be his greatest helper because she is his closest associate. She prays with him, she rejoices with him, and shares his burdens and problems.

WHO COULD LIVE A MORE EXCITING LIFE THAN THE MINISTER'S WIFE? She never knows what a day will bring. Her home stands open continually to the public, to the spiritual needs of her husband's flock, over whom God has made him overseer. Many times she shares the burdens and troubles of those seeking advice and help and shares secrets that she only talks about to God. Often she is among the first to share the news of the engagement of the young man and his girl,

(Continued on page 2)



Revivals

First Sunday, August

White Hill Baptist Church, Louisville Rd., Goodlettsville, Tenn. Pastor James Gardner is to be assisted by Elder H. C. Vanderpool.

Lafayette Baptist Church, College St., Lafayette, Tenn. Pastor Charles Moore is to be assisted by Bro. Harold G. Carman, Jr.

Friday, August 6

Fairview Baptist Church, Woodburn, Ky. Pastor Bernard Skaggs is to be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Bro. William Stanford is to direct the singing.

Second Sunday, August

Bethlehem Baptist Church 1401 Lischey Ave., Nashville, Tenn. Pastor Bobby G. Sutton is to be assisted by Elder H. C. Vanderpool.

Third Sunday, August

Bethel Baptist Church, 879 Orchard St., Toledo, Ohio. Pastor's name and the one to assist in the revival was not included in the announcement.

New Bethel Baptist Church, 1088 Old Dickerson Road, Goodlettsville, Tenn. Pastor H. C. Vanderpool is to be assisted by Elder W. T. Russell.

BAPTIST BANNER

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"GOD SO LOVED"—

(Continued from page one)

"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." (Prov. 6: 16-19.)

One righteous man, at once the Son of Man and Son of God, provides in Himself the only and sufficient righteousness to merit for His people acceptance before God. He Who knew no sin, in Whose mouth was found no guile, was numbered with transgressors, took upon Himself our sins, and died, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.

How brightly shines the Sun of righteousness amid the darkness of this sinful world!

GRACE AND WORKS

God so loved that He gave. If He had wished to tie strings or attach all sorts of conditions to His gift, He could have done so.

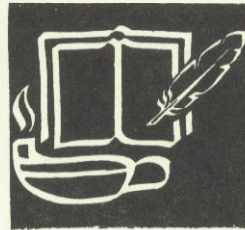
He could have required baptism as a condition in order to the remission of sins, but He never did so.

He could have limited salvation to members of His church, but He never did so.

He could have required any or all sorts of good works on man's part to add human merit to Christ's perfect righteousness in order to gain admittance to heaven, but He never did so.

He could have provided only a temporary salvation, with continuance dependent on our "holding out faithful," but He never did so.

"Therefore it is of faith, that it might



The Editor Says

By H. C. Vanderpool

As I was preparing to write this column, some late announcements were received. My comments will be held over and the space on this page will be used for these announcements.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH TO CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Fairview Baptist Church, Woodburn, Ky. will be celebrating their 25th anniversary Sunday, August 29, 1976.

Sunday School will be at 10:00 a. m. and worship service at 11:00 a. m. Elder L. W. Smith, the first pastor of the church, serving nine years, 1951-1960, will be preaching at the morning worship service. Lunch will be served at the noon hour with singing in the afternoon. Elder Bernard Skaggs is the pastor of the church. Everyone is invited to attend.

BROTHER HICKS ACCEPTS CALIFORNIA PASTORATE

Elder Darrell Hicks of Detroit has accepted a pastorate in California, and due to a mix up in mail, I failed to get his address and all the information needed to make a full report. I trust to have this for the next issue. Bro. Hicks, I'm sorry. — Editor

be by grace." (Rom. 4:16.)

Nor is there in all the earth a member of the human race born without that sinful character which makes him an abomination in the sight of God. Of God's own people it is written, "We all had our conduct in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Eph. 2:3.)

Only when we recognize the scriptural teaching of God's holy hatred and anger against sin and sinners can we begin to appreciate the meaning of "God so loved." Only then can we appreciate the statement, in Rom. 5:8:

"God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SIN

The world that God loved was a lost world, a world under the curse of sin, a world with the poison of the serpent in its veins, a world condemned to die. But as God provided a remedy for snake-bitten Israelites, so He has provided a remedy for Satan's victims to deliver them from sin.

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I Married A Preacher

(Continued from Page 1)

to share the news of the new arrival and rejoice with the happy parents. Very, very often she is just a little nearer Heaven than anyone else. In fact, she sits in many heavenly places. She even finds Heaven surrounding the death bed. How peaceful and how precious to sit the last few hours with one who is spending one's last hours on earth, getting a glimpse of the glories of the great beyond! No wonder David said in Psalms 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints". Oh, how sad for the one who has no hope. Yes, it is a great privilege to walk the last mile with the ones left behind and to help them find comfort.

DOES ANYONE HAVE SUCH A HOME AS HERS? She may not have the best furniture, but her house is adorned with beautiful and useful accessories, things she would not have were it not for her husband's people, as he speaks of them. Even though her greatest desire is to be adorned with the spirit of Christ, she too has many beautiful things for her personal adornment that have been given from hearts that love and appreciate her. Often she feels her blessings are the greatest in the world.

ONE MIGHT CONCLUDE THAT THE MINISTER'S WIFE LIVES AT EASE ON A BED OF ROSES. Not so! Did you ever gather a rose without feeling the prick of a thorn? Behind all the good things in life there is of necessity much work and toil. It may appear that she has a life of leisure, just visiting around, etc., but the day is never long enough to accomplish the things she would like to do, and the things she must do. She does not want to do big things, but the little things daily that bring comfort to others. She wants to be your servant; to serve you in her capacity.

Your minister's wife does not want sympathy, but she wants your prayers and your words of encouragement. She is happy to be your pastor's wife. When the load seems just a bit heavy at times, she can say as David in Psalms 121:1, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." His sustaining grace is demonstrated in many ways. Could she ask for more when a dear one says, "As my pastor's wife, I wouldn't want you to be different?" - Mo. Miss Bap.

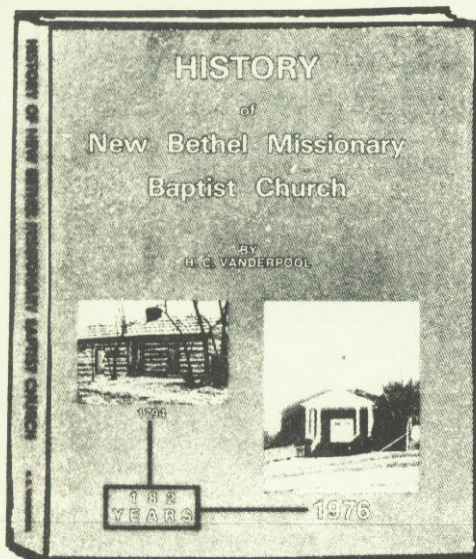
INDIANA ORDINATION

It is possible this announcement is too late. On Sunday, August 1, there is to be an ordination at Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, 2861 So. Randolph St., Indianapolis, Ind. Services are to begin at 10:00 a. m.

Bro. Richard Jenkins is to be ordained to the full work of the ministry. Churches of like faith and order are invited to attend and assist in the ordination.

HOLY BIBLE

ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL



"HISTORY OF NEW BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH" is now available to every person interested in Baptist history. See below for features of the book.

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God has attached only one condition to the gift of His Son, and that is that He must be received. And we can receive Him only and wholly through faith. (Jn. 1:12; Eph. 2:8.)

The "whosoever" (literally "everyone") of our text that has everlasting life is not everyone that is baptized, not everyone that joins a church, not everyone that does good works, not everyone that "holds out faithful," but simply "everyone that believes." This is pure grace.

SALVATION AND JUDGMENT

Obviously a person need not be saved unless he is lost. Recognition of the fact that "judgment came upon all men to condemnation" (Rom. 5:18) gives sense and urgency to the message of salvation.

Lost sinners will never seek salvation until they feel the judgment of God upon their souls. Christians will never have any zeal for the salvation of lost souls until they understand in their minds the meaning of eternal judgment, and believe in their hearts that sinners without

Christ are under the condemnation of God.

LIFE AND DEATH

Our text contrasts life and death, or perishing, as extreme opposites. If life were mere existence, it might make sense to speak of death as non-existence, but it is not so. The life referred to is existence on the highest plane of activity, joy, and blessing, while the perishing is existence on the lowest level of futility, woe, and torment.

The death of the lost is in scriptural terms everlasting punishment, everlasting destruction, torment day and night for ever and ever in the lake of fire and sulfur, where their worm dieth not, and the fire never shall be quenched.

As eternal life is the knowledge of God (Jn. 17:3), so those who know not God are scripturally described as dead in trespasses and sins. As the lost shall perish in the eternal wretchedness of the second death, so the redeemed shall live forever in enjoyment of the knowledge and presence of God.

HEAVEN AND HELL

If life and death name the respective states of saved and lost, heaven and hell name the places of their abode.

People who will not believe the Bible teaching about hell have no reasonable ground on which to believe the Bible teaching about heaven. But if we can accept the scripture as God's infallible revelation of truth, then there is a place above where Christ sits at the right hand of God, and there is a place below where anguished souls are tormented in the flame.

According to Jesus Himself, He has gone to prepare a place for us that have believed in Him; and there is also prepared a place of everlasting fire for the devil and his angels, with room for soul and body of everyone whose name is not found written in the Lamb's book of life.

GOD AND SATAN

Satan is not personally mentioned in our text, but as the archenemy of God he it is that leads men to destruction and seeks to prevent their acceptance of Christ:

"If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (II Cor. 4:4.)

Isaiah envisioned the age-long contest between God and Satan for the souls of men when he quoted God's promise of the Messiah:

"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong." (Isa. 53:12.)

To gain the victory for all who would believe in Him, the only begotten Son of God took on Himself the nature of flesh and blood, "that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." (Heb. 2:14, 15.)

Our text, therefore, presents to every sinner of Adam's fallen race a simple choice between love and hate, between righteousness and sin, between grace and works, between salvation and judgment, between life and death, between heaven and hell, between God and Satan.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.



Pictured above is Editor and Mrs. Vanderpool (at right) with tour group in the Holy Land. The scene is at Capernaum among the ruins of a second century synagogue. The Sea of Galilee can be seen through the trees. Christ's ministry centered around this community. Matt. 4:12-22.

LIBERAL CONTROL ADMITTED

The Southern Baptist Journal, printed in Atlanta, Georgia with William A. Powell as Editor, is a new-comer to religious journalism. It states "one purpose of the SBJ is to expose the Bible doubting liberals teaching in schools and writing Sunday School literature:

They further state that they "are committed to removing the liberals from the payrolls and places of leadership within the SBC. These liberals don't want to leave without an all-out struggle".

Continuing, "The fundamentalists, with God's help and guidance, will wrestle the control of the largest denomination of Baptists in the world from the hands of the liberals and return the SBC leadership to the hands of the Bible believing Baptists."

Here, they admit the liberals are in control of the SBC! And their policy is to stay in and fight rather than "Come out" as the Bible commands. They will only give a false sense of success to those about to come out, and encourage them to return. "A task of this magnitude has never been accomplished", they say, in regard to cleaning up the convention. They failed in the North, and finally had to separate. Then, why waste time? "Come out" is God's command!

----- THE BIBLE TRUMPET -----

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By H. C. Vanderpool

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