

Baptist Banner

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Psalms 60:4

VOLUME 13 GOODLETTSVILLE, TENN. 37072 APRIL, 1979 NUMBER 11

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FEATURED LESSON
OF THE MONTH

THREE DAYS AND THREE
NIGHTS

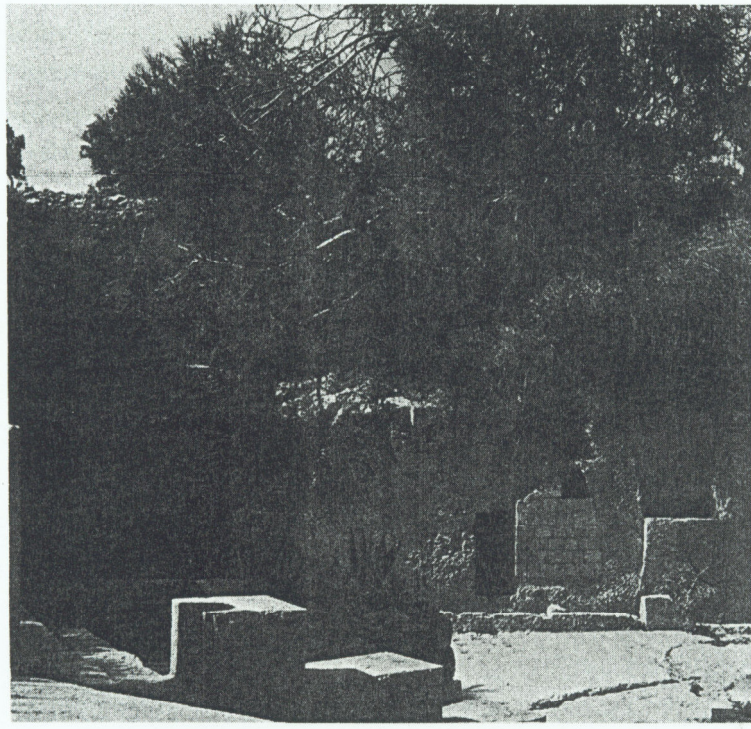
BY
ELDER W. T. RUSSELL

Lesson Text: Matthew 12:38-41; 28:1-10
Memory Selection: Matthew 12:40

38. Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.
39. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:
40. For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
41. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

1. In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.
2. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.
3. His countenance was like lightening, and his raiment white as snow:
4. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.
5. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.
6. He is not here: for he is risen, as he

(Continued On Page 2)



GARDEN TOMB

The Garden Tomb is reached by a lane, north of Damascus Gate. The property was acquired in 1894, when a Society was formed "For the preservation of the Tomb and Garden outside the walls of Jerusalem, believed by many people to be the Sepulchre and Garden of Joseph of Arimathea". The garden lies on the west side of the prominent hill just outside the city wall, at the foot of the rocky knoll, the south and west side of which are steep. The rock-cut Tomb, first discovered in 1867 but not excavated until 1891, dates from the Roman period and is thought to have been the Tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea, of which we read in John 19:41-42. Among the earliest adherents to the belief that this was the Sepulchre of Christ was General Gordon (1882) who was a Bible student as well as a notable British soldier. The garden is a quiet and pleasant spot, lying at the foot of the tomb-covered green hill, just without the city wall, a congenial place for quiet meditation. The rounded hill has a resemblance of the human skull.

Baptist Mission

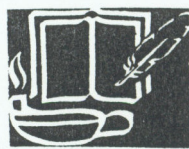
Another Baptist Mission was begun recently in Cleveland, Tenn. by Bro. Darrell Hicks. The Mission is located at 170 Church St., in Cleveland. Services are each Sunday at 2:00 P.M. This service schedule is temporary, and when a change is made it will be announced in the BANNER.

Bro. Hicks is a member of Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Roseville, Mich. which represents in the Siloam Missionary Baptist Association. If you wish to contact him, write: Bro. Darrell Hicks, c/o Louie Baker, Route 1, Box 423, Cleveland, TN. 37311.

Singing School

A singing school is to be conducted at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1088 Old Dickerson Pike, Goodlettsville, Tenn. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights for two weeks. The dates are April 16, 18, 20, and then on the 23, 25, 27. Bro. Don Xavier Hines will be the teacher with services beginning on the above dates at 7:00 P.M. All sister churches in the Nashville area are invited to attend, and a general invitation is extended to the public. We hope to see you there! REMEMBER, the two weeks following Easter Sunday!

Baptist History



Eternal Security Of The Believer

By Elder M. M. Henson

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life," John 5:24. After one has trusted Christ, he is then in possession of ETERNAL LIFE, and cannot come into condemnation, because he has already passed from death unto life. If a believer has eternal life, then apostasy is preposterous, because that life which he now has can never end.

When a person is born again, he is given a new nature and that new nature which is implanted within him is a sinless nature; it is the very image of the nature of God; he is a partaker of God's nature. In Rom. 7:22-25 Paul tells of the inward man which delights in the law of God and outward man which wars against the inward man.

(Continued on page 4)

By H.C. Vanderpool

I trust to give to you each month important excerpts from various histories, telling of the sufferings and persecutions of God's people in centuries past that we today might have the gospel and the freedom of worship. Some articles will relate the experiences and activities of early Christians and the fellowship of Baptists throughout the past twenty centuries.

This month I am giving from Fox's Book of Martyrs, pp. 8, 9, what some of our brethren and sisters suffered in the second century A.D. This was the fourth persecution, under Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, beginning in 162 A.D.

"The cruelties used in this persecution were such that many of the spectators shuddered with horror at the sight, and were astonished at the intrepidity of the sufferers. Some of the martyrs were obliged to pass, with their already wounded feet, over thorns, nails, sharp shells, etc. upon their

(Continued on Page 4)

BAPTIST BANNER
Founded June 1, 1966
Publication No. (USPS 041-800)

H. C. Vanderpool, Editor-Publisher

Second-Class Postage Paid At
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

Mail all Correspondence to:
H. C. Vanderpool, Editor
104 Hasty Drive
Goodlettsville, TN 37072
Phone: (615) 859-5780

POSTMASTER: Send 3579 to:
104 Hasty Drive
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

SUBSCRIPTION RATE
1 Year.....\$3.00
2 Years.....\$5.00
In bundles to churches, \$2.00
per copy per year. For 100 or
more copies to one address,
\$1.50 per copy per year.

Banner Policy

The purpose and intent of this publication is to do a mission work by which the work of God may be advanced. This may be done by articles of history, revival announcements and reports, subjects of Bible doctrines, ordinations, missions, radio work, church organizations, associations and their work, Orphans Home, educational matters, debates, singings, reports from missionaries at home and in foreign countries, the distribution of good sound Baptist books and literature and other announcements and articles of general interest.

I reserve the right to refuse publication of articles that are not written in the proper spirit, those that reflect upon another to the detriment of the Lord's cause or those judged to be unsound.

However, there is the possibility that in some articles or announcements there would be things said that would be of general information, but would not have editorial endorsement.

- Editor.

Deadline

The editor requests of each minister, individual or church that has an article, revival announcement or other item for publication, to mail it so I will receive it by the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication.

EDITORIAL

By H.C. Vanderpool

TV MISSIONS

In recent months I have given a number of reports concerning the mission work that is now being done by Missionary Baptist Churches by telecasts in the United States. I hereby place my endorsement upon this important work, and call upon every true Missionary Baptist, every true Baptist church, pastors, missionaries and all concerned Baptists to continue your prayers and financial support of this work.

Russell Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Red Boiling Springs, Tenn. has been operating under her authority, the Old Fashion Gospel Hour Telecast Committee.

Bro. Bob Pitt, Hartsville, Tenn. a member of that church has been in charge of these telecasts for several months. Elder William House of Nashville is the Treasurer of the Committee.

A new station, channel 61, in Chattanooga has been added in recent days to the already list of stations. In addition to this powerful station, the telecasts will go from there by cable television into 64,608 homes in 23 more cities in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. The services were already being viewed in Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and California. The Old Fashion Gospel Telecast Committee appreciates the support the churches have been giving. I personally urge our churches to prayerfully continue this support. This is one of the best ways of spreading the gospel that we have ever had during the past two thousand years.

Listed below are the cities and channels where the Old Fashion Gospel Telecasts will be seen. Those in these areas should contact TV schedules for the time of telecast in their local area. These telecasts all originate on Channel 55, WCPT, Crossville, Tenn. They go to all other stations by tapes.

Here are the stations:

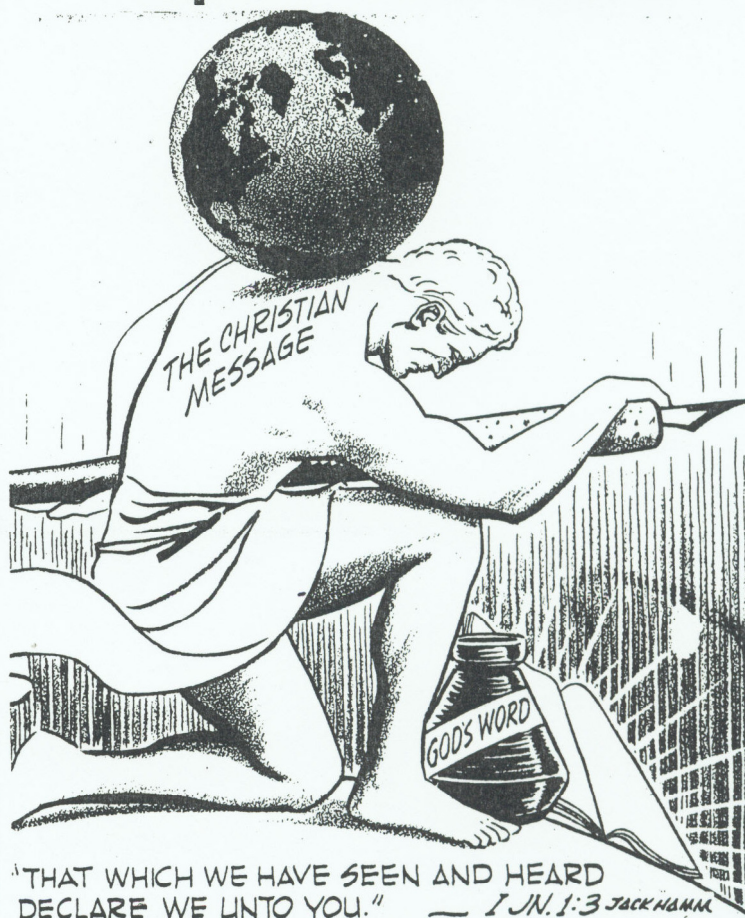
- Crossville, Tenn. - WCPT.....Channel 55
- Livingston, Tenn.Channel 11
- Sparta, Tenn.Channel 3
- Oak Ridge, Tenn.Channel 10
- Rockwood, Tenn.Channel 4
- Dalton, Georgia.....Channel 7
- Knoxville, Tenn.....Channel 61
- Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.....Channel 9
- Chickamauga, Ga.Channel 9
- Scottsboro, Alabama.....Channel 10
- Athens, Tenn.Channel 6
- Chattanooga, Tenn.....Channel 61
- Kingston, Tenn.Channel 5
- East Ridge, Tenn.Channel 11
- Red Bank, Tenn.....Channel 11
- Cleveland, Tenn.....Channel 6
- Harriman, Tenn.Channel 5
- Ringgold, Georgia.....Channel 9
- Catoosa, Georgia.....Channel 9
- Summersville, Georgia.....Channel 13
- Walker Co., Georgia.....Channel 9
- Oliver Springs, Tenn.....Channel 10
- Clinton, Tenn.....Channel 10
- Sweetwater, Tenn.....Channel 4
- Dalton, Georgia.....Channel 7
- Rossville, Georgia.....Channel 9
- LaFayette, Georgia.....Channel 11
- Etowah, Tenn.....Channel 5
- Oneida, Tenn.....Channel 8
- Cookeville, Tenn.Channel 28
- Algood, Tenn.Channel 28
- Somerset, Kentucky.....Channel 8
- Johnstown, Penn.....WJNL-TV
- Santa Monica, Calif.Channel 3

Various Missionary Baptist Churches and their pastors, with singing groups have been making, and are continuing to make these telecasts. I call upon all true Missionary Baptists to support this great work. Mail is being received from various states expressing their appreciation for the opportunity of seeing these telecasts, and asking for copies of "The Trail of Blood," "Baptist Banner," and "What True Baptists Believe," as these are being distributed across the country.

Those sending contributions for this mission work may send your money to: Old Fashion Gospel Hour Telecast Committee, c/o Elder William House, 934 W. Delmas, Ave., Nashville, TN. 37216. You may phone: (615) 262-1123.

Remember, THE HOPE OF THE WORLD, is through the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Hope Of The World



"THAT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD
DECLARE WE UNTO YOU." — I JN. 1:3 JACK HANNA

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON (Continued from Page 1)

said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid; go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.



Memory Selection: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.



INTRODUCTION

As a matter of introduction, I will not be guilty of sanctioning the claims of many writers that Jesus was buried on Friday and arose again on Sunday morning. This argument denies the plain teaching of the word of God, including our Memory Selection, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. I am not interested in the traditions of the Roman church as well as others, in Lent. Good Friday, etc.

Those who contend for the above tell us that Jesus was crucified and buried the day before the Jewish Sabbath, and this was bound to have been on Friday. It is true that the scriptures teach that Jesus was crucified and buried the day before the Sabbath, but this was not the Jewish Sabbath, it was the Passover Sabbath. Christ was crucified on the day of preparation, not the preparation for the weekly Jewish Sabbath, but the day of preparation for the Passover Sabbath, which Passover was eaten on the fourteenth day of the first month at even annually, and the fifteenth was a Sabbath. Ex. 12:16; Lev. 23:5-7 It was the beginning of the feast of unleavened bread that lasted seven days and occurred only once a year. Thus we see the reason for the special description of this preparation day and Sabbath in John 19:31, "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day (for that Sabbath day was an high day) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away."

PLAIN FACTS PLAINLY STATED

The Passover lamb was killed in the evening between the 13th and 14th of Nisan, a Lunar month held sacred by the Jews, and it was eaten that night. Ex. 12:6-8. The 14th day following this night was preparation day for the Sabbath that always fell on the 15th of the same month. On this preparation day Christ was crucified and buried. He lay in the grave over the Sabbath which occurred on Thursday; this was one day and night; he then lay in the grave over

(Continued on Page 3)

Revivals

SUNDAY — APRIL 1

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 1032 So. Holmes Ave., Indianapolis, IN. Pastor Calvin Perrigo is to be assisted by Elder Floyd Ferguson and Elder Tommie Lankford is to direct the singing. Services are to begin on Sunday nights at 6:00 P.M. and on week-nights at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is invited.

SUNDAY — APRIL 8

Lyons Missionary Baptist Church, 904 Gagel Ave., Louisville, KY. Pastor Kenneth Davis is to be assisted by Elder Paul W. Bryson. The Sunday night services will begin at 6:00 P.M. and the week-nights at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is invited.

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS

I'm sorry you were late last month in receiving the BAPTIST BANNER. After thirteen years, I am getting new printers and am making some new arrangements about our printing and mailing. I appreciate all the work our former printer has done and yet due to certain circumstances, I am making the change, hoping to get the paper to you earlier each month. You will also note in the Masthead that the paper will now be mailed each month from Goodlettsville, TN instead of Tompkinsville, KY where it has been mailed since its beginning thirteen years ago. Please note the date at the end of your name on your paper as this is the date your paper expires. Please renew before final issue is due as this saves time and money and assures you of getting all issues of your paper. — Editor

ATTENTION MINISTERS

I express my thanks and appreciation to our minister brethren who submit articles and reports from time to time for publication. Each pastor, or Baptist minister of our churches has this INVITATION to submit articles and reports. Please mail them so I will receive them by the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication. -Editor

The Holy Bible

If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity. —Daniel Webster

My Special Friend

By Debra Olds

Lord, you are a special friend,
When trouble is all I see.
When I'm alone and in despair,
I know you're here with me.

When no friends down here can I find,
I know one up above.
You're always here when I'm in need,
You're one I'll always love.

Your friendship means so much to me,
There's nothing else so dear.
As the love and kindness you have shown,
When troubles I face down here.

Tomorrow, a new day dawns,
More problems I will face;
Although I have some friends on earth,
NO ONE can fill your place!

Baptist Mission

A new Baptist Mission has begun in Smyrna, Tenn. It is located at the corner of Old Nashville, Rd. and Sam Davis Rd. and is across the street from Tellafaro's Mkt. Service is conducted each Sunday at present at 11:00 A.M. They are under the leadership of Bro. Gayle Snoddy a member of Greenfield Missionary Baptist Church, Green Brier, Tenn. and Bro. Tommy Oldham a member of Harmony Missionary Baptist Church in Nashville. Call Bro. Snoddy at (615) 643-4686; call Bro. Oldham at (615) 459-9276.



TIBERIAS

Tiberias on the western shores of the Sea of Galilee was founded by Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee in 21 A.D. During the city's construction, a Jewish necropolis (cemetery) was uncovered and Jews refused to live there for fear of ritual contamination through contact with the dead. It remained exclusively pagan for many years and we have no evidence that Jesus ever entered the site. Tiberias later became a seat of Jewish scholarship. By the second century the Sanhedrin was located here. It was in Tiberias, that the Mishna and the Jerusalem Talmud were compiled, and Hebrew scriptural punctuation was composed. After serving as the capital of the Galilee during Crusader times, Tiberias declined in subsequent centuries. It is currently a growing Jewish city of 25,000 known for its therapeutic hot springs.

Watch For Expiration Date

Each subscriber to the BANNER is asked to watch for the date at the end of your name and address on the paper. This is the month that your subscription expires. Please renew as soon as possible, for this saves time and work on the editor and the printer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON (Continued from Page 2)

Friday: this was two days and nights; he then lay in the grave over the weekly Sabbath (Saturday) and was resurrected in the very end of the Sabbath and the dawning into the first day of the week. This proves beyond question that Jesus lay in the grave three whole days and three whole nights, a total of 72 hours. No one would dare deny that Jonah was three whole days and nights in the whale's belly, so why would anyone desire to deny the very words of Jesus. "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matt. 12:40

He fastens the charge, not only on the scribes and Pharisees, but the whole nation of the Jews; they were all like their leaders, a seed and succession of evil-doers. They were an evil generation indeed, that not only hardened themselves against the conviction of Christ's miracles, but set themselves to abuse him, and put contempt on his miracles. They were an adulterous generation; so miserably degenerated from the faith and obedience of their ancestors, that Abraham and Israel acknowledged them not.

He refuses to give them any other sign than he had already given them, but that of the prophet Jonas. Note. Though Christ is always ready to hear and answer holy desires and prayers, yet he will not gratify corrupt lusts and humours. Those who ask amiss, ask, and receive not. Signs were granted to those who desired them for the confirmation of their faith, as to Abraham and Gideon; but were denied to those who demanded them for an excuse of their unbelief.

Justly might Christ have said. They shall have the same signs still repeated for their further benefit and more abundant conviction. They shall have one sign of a different kind from all these, and that is, the resurrection of Christ from the dead by his own power, called here the sign of the prophet Jonas; this was yet reserved for their conviction, and was intended to be the great proof of Christ's being the Messiah; for by that, "he was declared to be the Son of God with power." Romans 1:4 That was such a sign as surpassed all the rest. "If they will not believe the former signs, they will believe this (Exod. 4:9) and if this will not convince them, nothing will." And yet the unbelieving Jews found an evasion to shift off that too, by saying, "His disciples came and stole him away." None are so incurably blind as those who are resolved they will not see.

THE LESSON

The grave was to Christ as the belly of the whale was to Jonah; thither he was thrown as a ransom for lives ready to be lost in a storm; there he lay, as in the belly of hell, and seemed to be cast out of God's sight. Jonah 2:2 Jesus continued in the grave just as long as Jonah continued in the whale's belly, three days and three nights. So long as Jonah was a prisoner for his own sins, so long Christ was a prisoner for ours. As Jonah in the whale's belly comforted himself with an assurance that he should look again toward God's holy temple (Jonah. 2:4), so Christ when he lay in the grave, is expressly said to rest in hope, as one assured he should not see corruption. Acts 2:26-27.

(Continued on Page 4)

Baptist History Republished

Several years ago while doing some historical research in Nashville, I found a copy of "The Annual Register of The Baptist Denomination in North America," By John Asplund, 1790. I paid \$35.00 for this book.

CONTENTS

- Churches
- Ministers
- Proceedings
- Original Writing
- Associations (35)
- Rules of Decorum
- Rules and Order
- Correspondence

I have seen this history referred to through cross-reference in many histories, but this is the only copy I have ever seen. It includes all the above CONTENTS up to, and including the year 1790.

I am having it republished with original spelling and writing, and with a heavy hard-bound cover. EVERY BAPTIST SHOULD HAVE A COPY OF THIS HISTORY AND ESPECIALLY EVERY BAPTIST MINISTER. While I paid \$35.00 for my copy, I'm offering them to YOU for \$10.00 per copy. Use the order form below. Your books will be mailed to you when they come from the press. The price includes the History, postage and handling. LIMITED NUMBER!

ORDER FORM

Please mail me _____ Copies of The Annual Register of the Baptist Denomination in North America, 1790, By John Asplund, at \$10.00 per copy. \$_____ is inclosed. \$_____ will be mailed when books are received.

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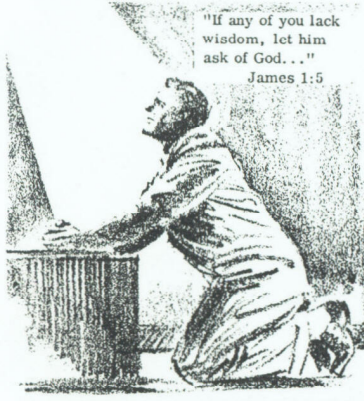
What True Baptists Believe

Over twenty years ago I wrote my first book, "What True Baptists Believe." All copies were soon sold, but I have continued to receive request for the book through the years. Recently I had it republished. The price is \$1.00 per copy including postage and handling. Order from:

Elder H. C. Vanderpool
104 Hasty Drive
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

LET HIM ASK IN FAITH

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God..."
James 1:5



Eternal Security

(Continued from page 1)

When a child of God sins, it is the natural, and not the spiritual man which sins, because the inward man which has taken on the nature of God cannot sin. See I John 3:9 and I John 5:18. If one who has partaken of that new nature cannot sin, it is impossible for him to be lost, since sin is the only cause of the separation of man from God. Even though the outward man sins, he will not be lost. David said in Psalms 37:23-24: "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."

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them ETERNAL LIFE; and they shall NEVER perish, neither shall ANY MAN pluck them out of my hand. My father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and NO MAN is able to pluck them out of Father's hand." John 10:27-29. A child of God is in Christ, and he with Christ is in God (Col. 3:3). "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." After being saved a child of God is sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30); therefore, to bring back under his dominion a person that has been saved by the grace of God, the Devil would have to break the seal of the Holy Spirit, go through God, the Father, then through Christ; thereby, overpowering the Trinity in the God-head. If we had to depend upon ourselves for the preservation of our souls, there would be no hope; but we are kept by the power of God. See I Peter 1:5. As God is all-powerful, a believer cannot fall away so as to be lost. Paul said: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor ANY OTHER CREATURE, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." After one has once been saved, there is not the slightest possibility of his ever being lost again. "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day," 2 Tim. 1:12.

BAPTIST HISTORY (Continued from Page 1)

points, others were scourged until their sinews and veins lay bare, and after suffering the most excruciating tortures that could be devised, they were destroyed by the most terrible deaths.

Germanicus, a young man, but a true Christian, being delivered to the wild beasts on account of his faith, behaved with such astonishing courage that several pagans became converts to a faith which inspired such fortitude.

Polycarp, the venerable bishop of Smyrna, hearing that persons were seeking for him, escaped, but was discovered by a child. After feasting the guards who apprehended him, he desired an hour in prayer, which being allowed, he prayed with such fervency, that his guards repented that they had been instrumental in taking him. He was, however, carried before the proconsul, condemned, and burnt in the market place.

The proconsul then urged him, saying, "Swear, and I will release thee; — reproach Christ."

Polycarp answered, "Eighty and six years have I served him, and he never once wronged me; how then shall I blaspheme my King, Who hath saved me?" At the stake, to which he was only tied, but not nailed as usual, as he assured them he should stand immovable, the flames, on their kindling the fagots, encircled his body, like an arch, without touching him; and the executioner, on seeing this, was ordered to pierce him with a sword, when so great a quantity of blood flowed out as extinguished the fire.

But his body, at the instigation of the enemies of the Gospel, especially Jews, was ordered to be consumed in the pile, and the request of his friends, who wished to give it Christian burial, rejected. They nevertheless collected his bones and as much of his remains as possible, and caused them to be decently interred.

I wish to add these words relative to Polycarp. One of the twelve Apostles, John, was baptized by John the Baptist. (Luke 1:17, 76-80; Acts 1:22; Luke 6:12-16, I Cor. 12:28). John, the Apostle, baptized Polycarp on Dec. 25, 95 A.D. (Neander's Church History, p. 285). Polycarp organized the Partus church at the foot of the Tiber in 150 A.D. (Cyrus' Commentary of Antiquity, p. 924). The history of our present day Missionary Baptist Churches goes back through the Welsh Baptists from America to Wales, to Italy where the church at Turan was organized in 237 A.D. (Armitage Church History, p. 182). The Turan church was organized by Tellestman, who came from the church at Turan which was organized by Polycarp.

We can well see how a true Christian, killed under the powers of Rome, left his influence upon the world, and we today, should say, "Thank God for Polycarp and his courage and faith."

BOOK

The W. T. Russell — John Welch Debate which was held in Indianapolis last November is now in book form. The price is \$7.00 per copy. You may order copies from Upward Way Book Co., P. O. Box 446, Cleveland, TN, 37311.

HISTORY

The 182-year history of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Davidson County, Tenn. has been written and published. The hard bound, large volume is \$5.00 per copy including postage. Order from New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1088 Old Dickerson Rd., Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON (Continued from Page 3)

As Jonah on the third day was released from his prison and came to the land of the living again, so Christ on the third day returned to life and arose from the grave to send forth the gospel of salvation to the world.

THE MEN OF NINEVEH

Now Christ represents the people of the Jews, as a generation that would be condemned by the men of Nineveh, who repented at the preaching of Jonah, would arise up against them in judgment. Christ's resurrection is the answer to the sign of the prophet Jonah to all, but to the Jews it will not have so happy an effect as the effect it had on the men of Nineveh, for they were by it brought to such repentance as prevented their ruin, but the Jews hardened in such unbelief as to hasten their ruin; and in the day of judgment, the repentance of the Ninevites will be an aggravation of the sin and consequently the damnation of those to whom Christ preached then, and of those to whom Christ is preached now; for this reason, because Christ is greater than Jonah. If the men of Nineveh arise in judgment with that generation of Jews to whom Christ spoke, and shall condemn it, is it not a fact that both saint and sinner will be at the same judgment?

CHRIST GREATER THAN JONAH

Jonah was but a man. Jesus is the Son of God. Jonah was a stranger in Nineveh, he came among those who were prejudiced against his country; but Christ came to his own, when he preached to the Jews. Jonah preached but one short sermon as he passed along the streets, but Christ renewed his calls, he sat and preached and also preached in the synagogues. Jonah preached nothing but wrath and ruin within forty days, gave no directions or instructions nor encouragements to repent, but Christ beside warnings of danger has shown wherein we must repent, and assured us of acceptance upon our faith in Christ. Jonah wrought no miracles to confirm his doctrine and showed no good will to the Ninevites, but Christ wrought abundance of miracles, and all miracles of mercy; yet the Ninevites repented at the preaching of Jonah, but the Jews were not moved by Christ's preaching.

THE THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS

It is affirmed by some bible expositors that during the three days and nights that the body of Christ lay in the tomb; the He, in Spirit, went and preached to the disembodied spirits in Hades (the unseen state). This is their interpretation of I Peter 3:18-20.

Let us examine this position: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."

The twentieth verse tells us when the preaching was done — "in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, and when the longsuffering of God waited." Noah was a preacher of righteousness. The spirits in prison were the unsaved in Noah's time, and Noah preached to them by the same Spirit that quickened the dead body of Christ. See Isaiah 61:1

CONCLUSION

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after

ORDINATION SERVICE AT MEADORVILLE

There is to be an ordination service at Meadorville Missionary Baptist Church, Macon County, Tennessee, on Sunday, April 29, 1979, beginning at 10:00 A.M.

Bro. Morris Cothron is to be ordained to the full-work of the gospel ministry. Five brethren of the church are to be ordained to the deaconship. They are, Brethren Jerry Claiborne, Billy Eller, Elmo Eller, Donque Parker and Wayne Walrond.

Elder Harold D. Linville is pastor of Meadorville church.

THE CLOCK

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
At late or early hour.
To lose one's wealth is sad indeed.
To lose one's health is more.
To lose one's soul is such a loss
That no man can restore.

39 people died while you read this short poem. Every hour 5,417 go to meet their Maker. You could have been among them. Sooner or later you will be. Are you ready?



A bee flies 5,000 miles to make a pound of honey. Then someone comes along and steals it from him. No wonder bees have such lousy dispositions.
— General Features Corp.

From West Virginia

To: God's children via the Baptist Banner, Dear Brethren,

For more than a dozen years I have desired to place before the unsaved world a book which I feel would be of value to many. I desire to compile a great number of genuine experiences of salvation as told from start to finish by those saints of God to whom God gave them. The only method I know to accomplish this task is to ask in God's churches for those who feel that they would like to relate what God has done for them in this manner to write their own experiences in their own words and to send them to me at the above address. I will in turn edit the book by assembling the many replies. Your experience will appear in the book as you tell it.

This is a large task for me to undertake. I feel that it is something that the Lord would have me do. We hope that it could be a help in bringing lost souls to saving experiences of their own.

I would appreciate your help.

Jerry A. Reynolds
Route 1 Box 216-J
Davisville, W. Va. 26142

the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Col. 2:8 He who holds to the tradition that Christ was crucified and buried on Friday and raised on Sunday morning must divorce himself from God's word.

Just as Moses wrote in Genesis that, "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made." So, Jesus, on the first day of the week, ended his work and rested from his work of providing redemption from sin, for he said, "I have power to lay it (my life) down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." John 10:18