

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 MAY, 1979 NUMBER 12

Sunday School Lesson
 * * *
FEATURED LESSON OF THE MONTH
 * * *



A PROMISE FULFILLED

By H. C. Vanderpool

Lesson Text: Acts 2:1-4; 14-21

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
 14. But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, "Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:"
 15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.
 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel:
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Baptist  History

Memorial Tribute

Elder C. B. Massey
 1867 - 1957

Our files and source of information does not give the names of Bro. C. B. Massey's parents and place of birth, which was probably Macon County, Tennessee. Elder Captain Buie Massey, known to the thousands of his friends as "C. B." or "Cap" Massey was born June 16, 1867.

He was saved on January 11, 1888, at Rocky Mound Missionary Baptist Church, Macon County, Tenn. In November 1896, he united with this church and was baptized into her fellowship by Elder Joe S. Meador. He was ordained to the full-work of the gospel ministry by Rocky Mound church on June 10, 1899.

Bro. Massey was married to Miss Effie Hanes in 1890, and to this union were born six children. After her death he was married to Fannie Graves and to them were born two sons. She too was called from him in death. His third marriage was to Maggie Barham, and after her death he was married to the widow of Elder H. C. Oldham, Sister Thulie Oldham, who also preceded him in death.

This great man of God preached full-time until his death at the age of 90. He had pastored 33 churches had written for various religious publications, had many debates with leading ministers of other denominations. He was a strong defender of the faith. He was known to use his time and money to help poor people, the sick and needy. He was a member of Lafayette Masonic Lodge No. 543. In addition to being a friend

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Ordination

There is to be an ordination service at Parkwood Missionary Baptist Church, 244 Ewing Lane, Nashville, Tenn. on Saturday, May 5, 1979, beginning at 2:00 P.M.

Four brethren of the church are to be ordained to the deaconship. They are, Brethren Talmadge Woodall, Wesley Van Hoosier, Delson Ragland and Nordean Copas.

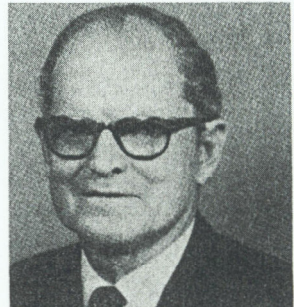
Missionary Baptist Churches of like faith and order are invited to attend. Elder Eugene Brown is pastor of Parkwood church.

OUR GOD IS ABLE

By Henry Smith

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20.

There shouldn't be a doubt in the mind of any child of God as to whether God is able to do for us what we ask, or what we need. Some people do wonder, however, as to why He doesn't, and I would guess that there are Christians who worry a lot about this. Certainly He has the power and the resources, and He has the willingness also to help us. So the problem isn't with Him, and we would be so foolish to accuse our heavenly Father of being unjust in His dealings with His children. But we would surely do well to examine the why we ask in the first place, what was the motive? Was it greed or for some benefit of our own, just to satisfy our own desires? Too many times our will gets in the way of the will of God and obstructs the flow of God's blessings to us. The Word of God says, "Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your own lust." James 4:3. We must pray according to the will of God if we desire an answer. (1 John 5:14)



HE DOES MORE THAN WE ASK

There is one thing that stands out very clearly in the text, and that is, our God is very generous. He can and does exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think. The Word of God declares, "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Ps. 84:11. We see examples in the scriptures where that God gave people more
 (Continued on Page 3)



THE PERSONALITY AND DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

By J. M. Pendleton, D.D.
 1811 - 1891

The subject discussed in the preceding chapter (The Deity of Christ) may be considered in some of its aspects the most important and vital in the system of theology. It is therefore wise to establish by conclusive proofs the Deity of Christ. When this is done, the doctrine of the Trinity is usually accepted without hesitation, while personality and divinity are accorded to the Holy Spirit. This being the case, it will be unnecessary for the subject of this chapter to receive a very elaborate investigation, but it should by no means be passed over. It divides itself into two parts:

1. THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. By this is meant that the Spirit is a person, not a mere energy or influence or operation, but an intelligent person. What does Jesus say? "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;" "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things." John 14:16, 26.

The Comforter here promised is said to be the Holy Spirit, and the plain meaning of the term is, one who administers comfort. This is clearly suggestive of personality; but if stronger proof is required, it is found in the fact that the Spirit is said to teach. Surely the office of teacher is inseparable from personality. When it is said of the Spirit, "He shall teach you all things," it is virtually declared that he is a person. The baptismal commission furnishes as strong proof of the personality

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BAPTIST BANNER COMPLETES 13 YEARS

With this issue, the BAPTIST BANNER completes its 13th year of publication. This is the 156th issue, one each month for the past 156 months without interruption. To the writers, churches, many individuals, printers and all who have made this possible, we say, THANK YOU!

Next month, the Lord willing, we will begin our 14th year. Again, we invite our preacher brethren to write articles of interest, announcements and other news items. I would like to express my appreciation to every subscriber, whether an individual, or a church ordering a bundle each month. Your continued support and prayers will be appreciated. This paper belongs to all our Missionary Baptist people.

— Editor

MOTHER

When I was a youth I tried my best to be an infidel; but the memory of my mother's beautiful and eloquent Christianity was too much for me. I had no answer for that.

—Richard Cecil

 A little house well filled,
 A little field well tilled, and
 A little wife well willed,
 Are great riches.

—Grete Herbell, 1561

 Much of the work of mothers is done in quietness and obscurity, but it is done with patience and faithfulness. Appreciation is not always forthcoming, but the mother finds her compensation in the assurance that duty has been well done.

—W. J. Hart

Baptist Mission

There is a Baptist Mission now in Adams, Tenn. The services are conducted each Sunday with Sunday School at 10:00 A.M. and Worship at 11:00 A.M. Elder Charlie Watts is conducting the work, and the Mission is located on Main St. in Adams. Anyone having friends or relatives in that area who would be interested in them attending, may notify them of the work. It is called the Adams Missionary Baptist Mission.

Pastoral Call

Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Tullahoma, Tenn., recently called Elder Harold Dunn of Nashville, to her pastorate. Bro. Dunn began his work with the church on Sunday, April 1. They have asked for our prayers for the work of the church in that area.

Revivals

WEDNESDAY - MAY 2

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1088 Old Dickerson Pike, Goodlettsville, Tenn. Pastor H. C. Vanderpool will be preaching with members of the church in charge of the music and singing. Services 7 P.M. each night. Public invited.

SUNDAY — MAY 13

Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 9835 Hayes St., Detroit, Mich. Pastor Charles Moore is to be assisted by Elder Levie Smith. Services daily at 7 P.M. Everyone is welcome.

SUNDAY — MAY 27

Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Cookeville Highway, Carthage, Tenn. Pastor Marvin Link is to be assisted by Elder Gordon Wheeler. Services nightly, and everyone is welcome.

Baptist Mission

A new mission work has begun in Denver, Colorado. Bro. Luther Jent and wife along with several others are now meeting each week for services. At present they are waiting upon the Lord to lead a minister to them for this work. The weekly services now consist of prayer, singing and Bible Study. Anyone having friends or relatives living in that area are asked to contact them and inform them of the mission. Those desiring to get the information there may contact Bro. Jent as follows: Mr. Luther Jent, 45 Garfield St., Denver, Colorado 80206. If you wish to call him the number is: (303) 377-5050.

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.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Continued from Page 1)

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

* * *

MEMORY SELECTION: And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:4).

INTRODUCTION

It is natural to assume a purpose in the divine choice of the day on which the church was to receive the promise of God. That day may have been determined, if one may so speak, either in view of the circumstances of the feast, or of its history and symbolic fitness.

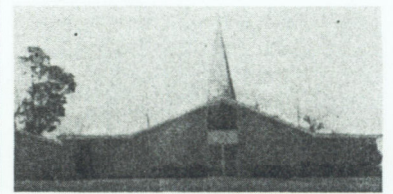
Of all the feasts of the Jewish year, it was that which attracted the largest number of pilgrims from distant lands. The dangers of travel by sea and land in the early spring or late autumn prevented their coming in any large numbers to the Passover or the Feast of Tabernacles. At no other feast would there have been representatives of so many nations. So, it may be noted, it was the Feast of Pentecost that Paul went up to keep once and again, during his mission work in Greece and Asia. (Acts 18:21; Acts 20:16).

So far, then, there was no time on which the gift of the Spirit was likely to produce such direct and immediate results. Each aspect of the old Feast of Weeks, now known as Pentecost, or the "Fiftieth-day" Feast, presented a symbolic meaning which made it, in greater or less measure, typical of the work now about to be accomplished. It was the "feast of harvest, the feast of the firstfruits;" and so it was meet that it should witness the first great gathering of the fields that were white to harvest.

It was one on which, more than on any other, the Israelite was to remember that he had been a bondman in the land of Egypt, and had been led forth to freedom. (Deut. 16:12). On this Feast day they were to do no servile work. (Lev. 23:31). Therefore, it was a fit time for the gift of the Spirit, of whom it was emphatically true that "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (II Cor. 3:17). The Spirit was also to lead them into all truth which indeed was to make men free, (John 7:32).

It was a day on which sacrifices of every kind were offered, burnt offerings, sin offerings, meat offerings and peace offerings, and so represented the consecration of body, soul and spirit as a spiritual sacrifice. (Lev. 23:17-20). As on the Passover the first ripe sheaf of corn was waved before Jehovah as the type of the sacrifice of Christ, of the corn of wheat which is not quickened except it die, (Lev. 23:10; John 12:24).

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HENDERSONVILLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

This March the Hendersonville Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate her eleventh (11) anniversary, being organized in March 1968. Eld. Robert Gregory being the minister who labored to bring the church together. The majority of the members came from Parkwood Missionary Baptist Church, of which Eld. Gregory was then a member.

The Church called Eld. Gregory as her first Pastor and he served the Church in this capacity until April 1976. The Church then elected Eld. Landon C. Long in August 1976, as their pastor, and he is still serving the Church at present.

The Church has sent out two other Churches since 1968. They are Victory Missionary Baptist Church and Liberty Missionary Baptist Church.

During the last eleven years, Hendersonville Church has provided a church home for several hundred members. The Church has brought the gospel to scores of people that resulted in the salvation of many souls.

The past several months the Church has been in a revival state, enjoying good fellowship with God and each other. During the year (1978) the Church provided a Church home for an additional 29 members. Seventeen of these came to the church by baptism and the others by letter from sister Churches. There were about 30 souls saved during the year.

God is continuing to bless the church. He has saved seven souls already this year. There has been six additions to the Church, five by baptism and one by letter.

Within the last eighteen months five of our brethren have acknowledged their calling to the Ministry. They are Bro. Mike Faulkner, Bro. Dallas DeRossett, Bro. Tim Cauldwell, Bro. Landon J. Long (Buddy) Pastor's son, and Bro. Butch Barton. The other ministers who hold membership are Bro. Jack Duffer, Bro. Bill Huntsman, Bro. David Thompson, Bro. Lyman Sloan, Eld. Robert Gregory and Eld. Landon C. Long are the two ordained ministers in the Church.

Hendersonville Church sponsors a radio broadcast each Sunday morning over W.A.M.G. radio in Gallatin, Tenn. The program airs at 8:00 A.M. - 1130 on the dial. Bro. Huntsman and Bro. Faulkner also conduct a service on the same station. Bro. Huntsman each Sunday 9:00 A.M. and Bro. Faulkner each second Sunday at 8:30 A.M. The other ministers are active in appointments and revival work.

We thank God for his many blessings he has sent us. Our prayers are that God will continue to bless all his true Baptist Churches.

We appreciate the Baptist Banner and New Bethel Church for the good sound Sunday School literature she provides for our Church and our sister churches.

May God continue to bless you in your labors, Bro. Vanderpool.

Your Brother in Christ,
 Eld. Landon C. Long
 Pastor: Hendersonville Missionary Baptist Church
 221 Rockland Road
 Hendersonville, Tenn. 37075

THE HOLY SPIRIT
(Continued from Page 1)

of the Holy Spirit as of that of the Father and of the Son. "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." The phrase "in the name" usually means "by authority of," and if this is the meaning here, the authority of the Spirit is equal to that of the Father and of the Son, and the Spirit must be a person.

But this is not the meaning of "in the name" in the commission. Baptism is administered by authority of the Son, but, as it seems to me, "into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit;" that is, there is an avowal of allegiance and consecration to the three persons of the God-head; there is a profession of fellowship with God in his three-fold unity. The personality of the Spirit is undoubtedly implied, for it would be absurd to associate an influence or energy with the Father and the Son in the ordinance of baptism.

The Spirit has equal personality with the Father and the Son. To confirm the view now presented, I may say that the Spirit is referred to as doing what a personal agent alone can do. He is said to "testify" of Christ, to "glorify" him, to make "intercession for the saints," to distribute gifts "as he will," to "will," and to "seal." It is morally certain that the Holy Spirit is a Person.

II. THE DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Not more evident is the personality than the divinity of the Holy Spirit. This will appear in view of such facts as these:

1. **He is called God.** "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?... Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." Acts 5: 3-4. Here it is plain that to lie to the Holy Spirit is to lie to God. But why is it so? Because the Holy Spirit is God. The change which Peter interrogatively makes is, that Ananias had lied to the Holy Spirit; and to show the greatness of the sin he said it was lying to God, the term God being no doubt better understood by the guilty man than the phrase Holy Spirit.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" I Cor. 3:16. The temple at Jerusalem was God's house, and he was said to dwell there. Availing himself of this form of speech, Paul told the members of the Corinthian church that they were the temple of God — that is, his habitation. What else does he say? "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?" I Cor. 6:19. We have, therefore, in the same Epistle the expressions "temple of God" and "temple of the Holy Ghost" applied to the same church. If a church or an individual Christian is the temple of God and the temple of the Holy Spirit, it must be because the Holy Spirit is God.

2. **Divine perfections are ascribed to the Holy Spirit.** If these perfections, when ascribed to Christ, prove his Deity, they also, when ascribed to the Spirit, prove his Deity. That the Spirit is represented as eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent is manifest from the following passages: "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Heb. 9:14. "But God hath revealed them to us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." I Cor. 2:10. "Whither shall

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Baptist History

TRIBUTE

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to all ministers, he served as moderator of Enon Baptist Association for 40 years.

He died at his home in Pleasant Shade, Tenn. on October 18, 1957, and was buried in the Dixon Springs Cemetery, Smith County, Tenn.

I am using books for my study and ministry now that Bro. Massey gave to me around thirty years ago when I was a young preacher. We have letters that he wrote to me, to my wife, and to our son, Bobby, while he was still unsaved, instructing him to keep seeking the Lord until he was saved. He told my wife, Alta, what an important work she had in being a preacher's wife and the place she was filling. He gave me many important helps as he had to hundreds of young ministers.

He had filled his appointment at Faith Missionary Baptist Church on 10th Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky on Sunday, Oct. 13, 1957. He wasn't feeling well and came back to his home in the afternoon. I was living in Bowling Green at the time and went to fill his appointment that night. I wrote him a letter the next day, sending him an offering, and when I heard of his death the following Friday, I went down to visit the family and learned he had answered my letter the day before his death. The day after I attended his funeral service, I received his letter.

They Won't Miss Me

"They won't miss Me," said the mother as she repeatedly left her children for rounds of teas and parties. The devil did not miss the children either.

"They won't miss Me," said the soldier as he went a. w. o. I. But he spent 30 days in the guard house after that.

They won't miss Me," said the man on the assembly line, as he slipped away without permission. But that airplane crashed and killed his brother for lack of a single part.

"They won't miss Me," said the sentry as he slipped away from duty. But the enemy surprised and massacred his comrades that very night.

"They won't miss Me," said the Christian worker as he shed his responsibility in a day of crisis, and then wondered why his country gave way to softness and demoralization.

"They won't miss Me," said the church member as he omitted worship one Sunday, and then another, for trivial reasons, and then wondered why he no longer enjoyed a victorious Christian life.

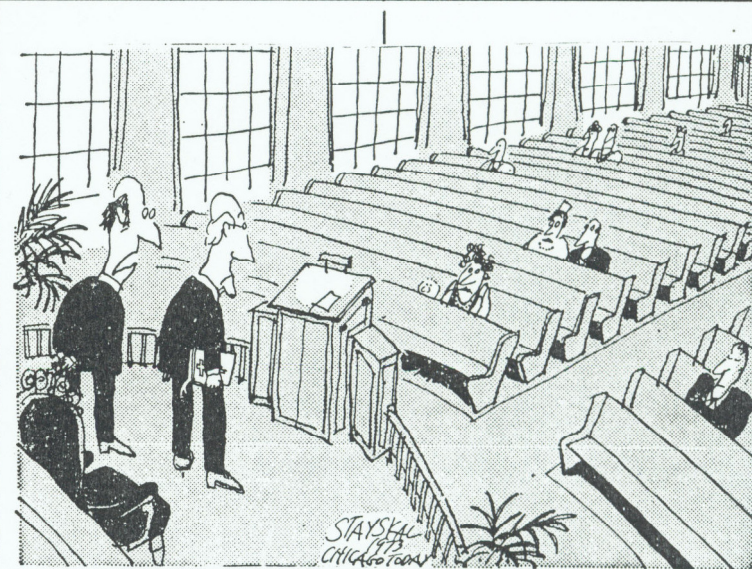
TAKE TIME TO PRAY

GOD IS ABLE

(Continued from Page 1)

than they ask for. He was able to do that. He wanted to do it, and He did it.

The case of Solomon is one outstanding example. God appeared to Solomon, when



"I Thought The Ban On Sunday Driving Started About Three Years Ago."

he had just been made king of Israel, and said to him, "Ask what I will give thee." II Chronicles 1:7. And King Solomon answered, "Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this thy people, that is so great." II Chronicles 1:10. Now, it is worthy of note to look at the way he asked, first of all, because his was an humble and unselfish prayer. He asked for wisdom and knowledge that he would be able to judge God's people. He didn't ask for riches, wealth, honor or long life, but God gave him all of these and more, yes and of course the wisdom and knowledge that he asked for. God gave Solomon much more than he asked for.

Another outstanding example of this thought in scripture which I would like to call attention to, is the thief on the cross. This thief was being crucified for the crimes that he had committed, & there was another man being crucified right next to him for offences that He had never committed. He was dying for the sins of others, and His name was Jesus. The name of the thief is not given. This thief realized his condemnation and that he was going out into eternity without hope. So he turned to Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. Luke 23:42; "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today thou shalt be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43. This thief only asked Jesus that He would remember him when He came into His kingdom, but Jesus said you will be with me today in paradise. So the Lord gave him more than he asked for.

May I call your attention to the Samaritan woman. Jesus was traveling through Samaria and came to Jacob's well and sat down, the woman of Samaria came to draw water, and Jesus asked her for a drink. She refused at first, asking Jesus why it was He being a Jew asking her for a drink, she being a Samaritan. "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water." John 4:10. And Jesus says in verse 14, That those who drink of the water that He gives shall have in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. He is saying that not only do you drink but you will have in

you a well of water. Ask for a drink and you get a well of water. We get more than we ask for; when the asking is from the heart and with faith.

HE DOES MORE THAN WE THINK

God knows our needs better than we do, and sometimes it is difficult for us to express ourselves before Him, because our own thinking is so limited, human thoughts are just too shallow to fathom the depths of our needs. So He can go beyond our thinking and grant to us what we really need. His Holy Spirit helps us in this situation, that is in our human weaknesses. He helps our infirmities and makes intercession for us according to the will of God. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26.

How true it is in our own experiences that we try to pray and just don't know how and what to pray for as we ought, but the blessed Holy Spirit takes us up and begins to help us, and from there we begin to really pray.

CONCLUSION

Most people in this world are living their lives without asking God for anything; evidently they think that He doesn't have anything to give them, or that He is not able to help them. The reason for this in many instances is due to that lack of teaching, somebody is failing to do their job of teaching. However, on the other hand there are people who would just like to be left alone to live their own lives, to get what they can by any means of getting it, and leave God out altogether. But God is so rich and unselfish with what He has! and how He would be so pleased to give to those who would ask! The Bible says, "Ye have not, because ye ask not." James 4:2. Jesus said, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." The day will come when men will ask, they will call, they will seek, they will knock, they will cry, weep and wail, but the door will be shut. Too late, the Master will not hear, He will not give. Why not call upon Him while the door of mercy is still open?

Baptist History

TRIBUTE
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Elder C. B. Massey

Truly a great man in the army of the Lord fell on that October night in 1957. Only eternity will reveal what his life and ministry meant to God's cause and to the world.

- Editor

Abortion

It's not the color of my skin
I'm not a foreign spy
It's due to this new monstrous sin
That I am doomed to die.
You cannot blame one certain race
For this would be a lie,
Before you ever saw my face
The world I bid goodbye.
It's the proposed abortion law
That makes the angels cry,
If they should get it legalized
My birthright you deny.
No evil words have crossed my lips
I couldn't hurt a fly,
I'll never climb those mountain peaks
Because I'm doomed to die.
I am hated, I am despised
I'll never see the sky,
Those who are my next of kin
Decide that I must die.
I'll never see the gorgeous sun
Or view the heaven above
Have you the right to take away
My life and all my love?
Before I've had the chance to breathe
Before you've heard me sigh,
My mother in her mixed up mind
Destines me to die.
The law if passed will back them up
"Abortion on demand" they cry
No shred of love they offer me
So what is there but die?
They conceived me in their passion
Before I've had a chance to live,
Do they know how many talents
To the world I have to give?
I haven't harmed one single soul
So may I ask you why
You saw fit to order me
Then doom me that I die?

-TIGER LILY,
Saskatchewan, Canada

THE HOLY SPIRIT (Continued from Page 3)

I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? Psalm 139:7. "Being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." "He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." I Peter 3:18; Rom 8:11. As the attributes of eternity, omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence belong inalienably to God, and as they are ascribed to the Holy Spirit, the conclusion is irresistible that he is God.

3. **Divine operations are ascribed to the Spirit.** The most prominent of these operations are connected with creation and the working of miracles. "The earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Gen. 1:2. Order and beauty were brought out of chaotic darkness by the Spirit; and in Job 26:13, we read, "By his Spirit he hath garnished the heavens." These two passages sufficiently show the Spirit's connection with the work of creation, and by consequence his Deity. As to miracles, it is written, "But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you." "For to one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; ...to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles." Matt. 12:28; I Cor. 12:8-10.

A miracle is a supernatural work which no created being can perform and therefore the working of miracles by the Holy Spirit proves him to be divine. The "laws of Nature," as they are called, God has established, and he alone can suspend them; but as a miracle is a suspension of some law of Nature, the Holy Spirit in working miracles vindicates his claim to divinity.

I may say also that what is said of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit furnishes conclusive proof of his Deity: "All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewithsoever they shall blaspheme: but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: because they said, He hath an unclean spirit." Mark 3:28-30. The intimation here seems to be that ascribing an evil spirit to Christ and saying that his miracles were wrought by such a spirit, and not by the Spirit of God, was blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. This sin was not to be forgiven, and this fact implies the divinity of the Holy Spirit.

That is, if the Holy Spirit is not divine, we cannot see why a sin committed against him cannot be forgiven, especially as sins against the Father and the Son are forgiven. There is of course something peculiar in blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, rendering it unpardonable, but the peculiarity, so far as we can judge, is inseparable from Deity of the Spirit.

It will be seen that I prefer the phrase Holy Spirit to Holy Ghost, though they are of the same import. The chief reason for the preference is that Spirit is a more familiar word than Ghost, and is therefore better understood, to say nothing of associations connected with the latter term. It is a singular fact that "Holy Ghost" is not to be found in the Old Testament, though it occurs frequently in the New.

There has been some curiosity felt as to the more frequent application of the epithet "Holy" to the Spirit than to the Father and the Son. As there is in the three

persons of the Godhead equality of nature, there must be equality of holiness. The holiness is infinite, and in the infinite there are no degrees. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are equally and perfectly holy. It follows, therefore, that the Spirit is emphatically called Holy to denote official distinction. In other words, the Spirit is termed Holy because it is his office to make holy.

It is his work to deposit the germ of holiness in the sinful heart of man. There is no holiness in any human heart till the Holy Spirit produces it. The germ of holiness implanted in regeneration is developed in sanctification; which is, equally with regeneration, the work of the Spirit. The third person in the Godhead is designated the Holy Spirit because he renovates the soul, purifies it, and prepares it for heaven.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Continued from Page 2)

THE CHURCH BAPTIZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

On this day the promise that had been made was fulfilled. Jesus had told His disciples, "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49).

In verses 1-4 of this lesson we note three things that occurred. First, something audible: "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting." Second, something visible: "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." Third, a result: "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

It is believed that this took place in the upper chamber where Jesus had eaten the Passover meal with the disciples and following that He had instituted the Lord's Supper, and where He had appeared unto the disciples a number of times after His resurrection. (John 20:19-26).

In the eleventh chapter of Genesis we learn that all the people in the world spoke the same language. They had begun to build

a city and a tower which they said would reach to heaven. But God confounded their speech and because of this they were not able to communicate and the tower was not built. Because of the confusion the city was called Babel.

As God was able to confound the one language which became many, He was able to give understanding to people of many nations of the good news of the kingdom of heaven through the men of Galilee.

PETER EXPLAINS WHAT IS HAPPENING

Since verses 5 through 13 are not included in the lesson, you will have a better understanding of the lesson if you study them along with the others. Peter explains what is happening after God's people had been accused of being drunk. The appeal is made to the common standard of right feeling. Drunkenness belonged to the night. (I Thess. 5:7). It was a mark of extreme baseness for men to "rise up early in the morning that they may follow strong drink." (Isaiah 5:11). Were the disciples likely to be drunk at 9 A.M., and that on the Day of Pentecost, after a night spent in devotion, and when all decent Jews were fasting?

The prophecy of Joel takes its place. The people were suffering from one of the locust plagues of the East and its consequent famine. The prophet calls them to repentance, and promises this gift of the Spirit as the great blessing of a far-off future. He had

been taught that no true knowledge of God comes but through that Spirit. Elijah prayed that a double portion (that is, the eldest son's inheritance) of the Spirit which God had given to Elijah might rest upon him. (II Kings 2:9).

We now notice verses 17 through 21. Those mentioned are the sons, the daughters, the young men, the old men, the servants and the handmaidens. The words imply that women as well as men had been filled with the Spirit. The "visions" implying the full activity of spiritual power, are thought of as belonging to the younger prophets. In the calmer state of more advanced age, wisdom came, as in the speech of Elihu, "in a dream, in visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men." (Job 33:15).

This was the culminating point of the joyous prediction. Not on priests only, or those who had been trained in the schools of the prophets, but on slaves, male and female, should that gift be poured by Him who was no respecter of persons. The great and terrible day of the Lord as seen by the prophet had come. It was terrible to the enemies of God, but a day of blessing to those who were redeemed through the Saviour of all men, especially those who believed.

We note in verse 22 that "whosoever" includes people of all nations, races and tongues. By studying John 3:16; Isaiah 55:1-7; Heb. 2:9; II Peter 3:9; Rev. 7:9-10, you will better understand the will of God and His plan of salvation for all humanity.

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"A preacher must be more interested in doing a job than in keeping one."