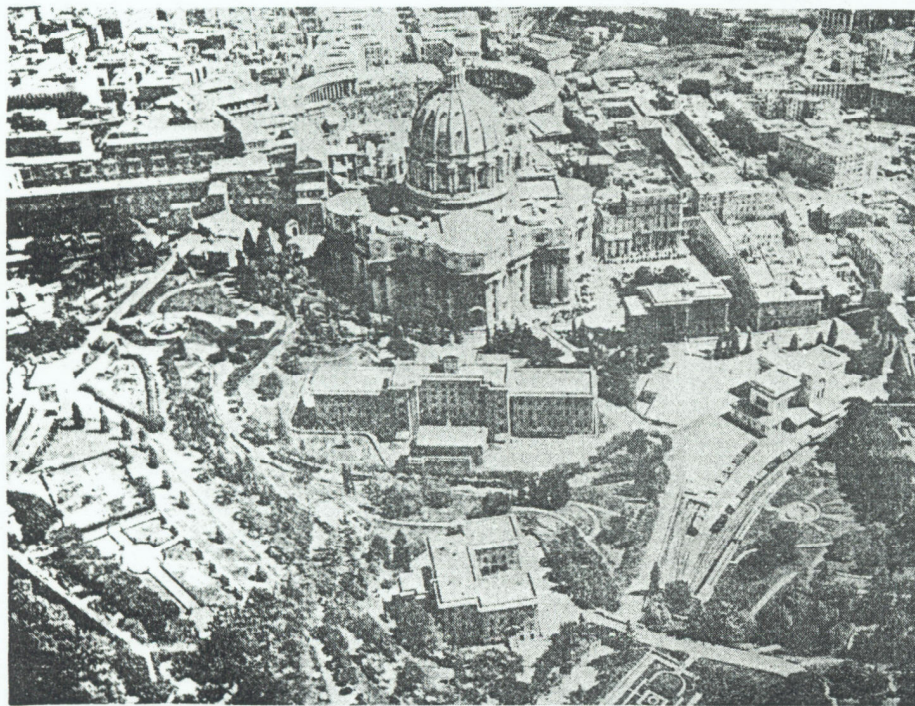


Baptist Banner

.....
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 SEPTEMBER, 1978 NUMBER 4

In the Shadow of St. Peter's They Don't Believe Anything



(Wide World Photo)

Vatican City

Rome (RNS) — A noted prelate reported here that many Catholics in the Diocese of Rome do not believe in heaven or hell or "even in eternal life."

Angelo Cardinal Dell'Acqua, papal vicar for Rome, made the revelation while addressing the first pastoral conference of Roman priests.

The information was included in findings of a survey being conducted by the Social Research Center of Jesuit-maintained Gregorian University.

Cardinal Dell'Acqua said that such disbelief or skepticism was due in part to the fact "that priests themselves did not talk about such doctrines."

"Dear brothers," he said, "let us look each other in the face and tell the truth. We do not talk about

such things either because we do not even believe them ourselves — and you know that that's not a mere hypothesis — or because we are ashamed to do so."

The cardinal proposed "a real missionary campaign" among Catholics of Rome. "Many of those who regularly attend Mass do not believe in eternal life," he said, "and they don't consider this illogical."

He noted that, while many Catholics — according to the survey — "prayed a lot," many of them prayed for "materialistic advantages." In this connection, the papal vicar for Rome said the survey findings indicated that Sunday church attendance was a "really unexpected" 35 per cent, but "conscientious participation" in church life was low.

THE FALL OF BABYLON . . .

"The Vatican Empire"

REVELATION 18

By F. R. Bingham

On Thursday morning, March 20th, on the "TODAY" program on television, I heard a man discuss the wealth of THE VATICAN EMPIRE. He was Mr. Nino Lo Bello, and had recently written a book on the subject of THE VATICAN



Pastor F. R. Bingham

EMPIRE. Mr. Lo Bello identified himself as a Practicing Roman Catholic, so what he revealed cannot be charged as biased against the Catholic Church. I went out and bought the book to see what all he had to say about the vast COMMERCIAL SYSTEM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. Maybe that is why they advertised it, to get people like me to buy the book.

Mr. Lo Bello identified THE VATICAN EMPIRE as "that of the Roman Catholic Religious System that "sits on top" of the entire Catholic Church, and under the direct control of the pope, and the regime of the Vatican State at Rome, Italy. A lot of people are not aware that The Vatican is a State of its own, and owes no allegiance to any other governmental State. So, the Roman

(Continued on Page 3)

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By H. C. Vanderpool

ROME

For the past several days there has been a lot of news from Rome. While we may respect all mankind to a degree, yet the world needs to know the truth about the Lord and His true church.

With all due respect to anyone involved, I trust the reader of this paper will sincerely read the three articles which appear in this issue: "In The Shadow of St. Peter's, They Don't Believe Anything," "The Fall of Babylon" and "Peter's Tomb Was Recently Discovered In Jerusalem."

Please note the sources of this information! Much of it came from the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church. According to the Bible (as Bro. Bingham has written) this worldly empire is going to fall, and great will be the fall of it!

Peter was never in Rome! Besides he was never a Pope. He wouldn't allow men to worship him as Popes have (Acts 10:24-26); he was a married man (Matt. 8:14) and Popes are not allowed to marry.

BIBLE LANDS TOUR

The Lord willing, on October 30, my wife and I with co-hosts and a large number of brothers and sisters, including several of our Baptist ministers, will be leaving on our tour of Egypt, Jordan and Israel. This will be my sixth tour.

I consider these tours an extension of my ministry and missions. I have been privileged to make many acquaintances through which I have been privileged to distribute Baptist literature in these countries besides preaching there.

We would be happy to have YOU to join us for eleven great days of touring and fellowship. You should contact me for reservations before October 15. For address or phone number, see page 4.

Ordination Service



An ordination service was held at Lyons Missionary Baptist Church, 904 Gagel Ave., Louisville, Ky. on Saturday, August 5. Services began at 1:00 p.m. Four brethren of the church were ordained as Deacons. They are pictured above with their wives after the ordination. They are, left to right: Mrs. Eddie Wright, Deacon Eddie Wright, Mrs. Willard Carter, Deacon Willard Carter, Mrs. David Warren, Deacon David Warren, Mrs. Dwight Beckman and Deacon Dwight Beckman. Ministers and Deacons present represented churches from Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Elder Kenneth Davis served the presbytery as moderator and Elder Tom Armstrong served as clerk. Deacon William Martin presented the candidates for interrogation which was led by Elder James H. Smith. The ordination prayer was led by Elder Paul W. Bryson. After the laying-on-of-hands by the members of the presbytery, Elder H.C. Vanderpool gave the charge to the newly ordained Deacons. The charge to the church was given by Elder Calvin Perrigo followed by the presentation of the Bible by Elder Bernard M. Skaggs. The Lord blessed with a good service and time of fellowship.

Missionary Report From West Virginia



Eld. and Mrs. Jerry Reynolds and children, Todd and Stephanie

Route 1, Box 216-J
Davisville, W. VA 26142
July 21, 1978

The Brethren of the Lord's Churches

Dear Brethren,

I wish to notify all of you that any mail sent to the church here should be sent to "Old Time Baptist Church, P. O. Box 223, Elizabeth, W. VA 26143. Our church clerk is now Sister Maudeen Merrill and our treasurer is Brother Philip Creecy.

My last report to the brethren by way of the Baptist Banner was nearly two years ago. The Lord had just wonderfully blessed us at that point in time. Since then we have longed for another season of abundant blessings. Some of our members have departed from our fellowship, going in other paths. We have heard five new professions of faith in this time period but only one of those was added to our number by Baptism. We rejoice in the salvation of all but feel a great need for helpers to be added to our number.

There is a vast region from here north-eastward that is desolate of sound preaching and worship.

We need your prayers as always.

We cannot express enough thanks to the churches and individuals who have helped us in this work. Donations sent between Jan. of 1977 and June 30 of 1978 are as follows: Old Union, \$2284.60; Fellowship, \$840.69; Lyons, \$1,050.00; McFerrin, \$999.09; Goodwill, \$1,800.00; Madison,

Homecoming

There will be all-day Homecoming services at Old Paths Missionary Baptist Church, Watertown Road, Lebanon, Tenn. on Sunday, Sept. 24, 1978. Sunday School will begin at 10:00 A.M. followed by preaching at 11:00 A.M. by Elder Kenneth Woodall the pastor. At the noon hour lunch will be served and there will be singing in the afternoon. Everyone is invited.

REVIVAL REPORTS

Maces Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Smith County, Tenn. Three professions of faith with two additions. Pastor Junior Farley was assisted by Elder Doug Curtis.

Union Camp Missionary Baptist Church, Macon County, Tenn. Three professions of faith with one addition. Pastor Thomas Carter was assisted by Elder F.L. Ray.

Old Union Missionary Baptist Church, Matlock Rd., Bowling Green, Ky. Nine professions of faith with seven additions. Pastor Paul W. Bryson was assisted by Elder Bernard M. Skaggs and Brethren Corbin and Terry Thornton were in charge of the singing.

Lyons Missionary Baptist Church, Louisville, Tenn. One profession of faith and one addition to the church. Pastor Gann was assisted by Elder Otis

Goodlettsville, Tenn. No visible results. Pastor C.B. Massey was assisted by Elder H.C. Vanderpool.

Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 5208 Nolensville Rd., Nashville, Tenn. Three professions of faith with three additions to the church. Pastor James H. Smith was assisted by Elder Paul W. Bryson.

Baptist Associations To Convene Bethel

Bethel Missionary Baptist Association is to convene in its Twenty-first annual session in September 15, 16, 17, 1978, with Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 1032 So. Holmes Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. The session is to begin on Friday night, Sept. 15, at 7:00 P.M. and all-day services on Saturday and Sunday.

Officers elected last year were: Elder Hugh Hudson, moderator; Elder John A. Keen, Jr., clerk and Elder Carlos Gammon, Treas. Elder Calvin Perrigo is to preach the introductory sermon on Friday night. Bro. Nathan York is to preach the memorial sermon on Saturday and Elder K.W. Massey the doctrinal sermon on Sunday.

Siloam

Siloam Missionary Baptist Association is to convene its Twenty-Sixth annual session on September 29, 30, 1978, with Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Holland (Allen County) Ky. Services are to begin the first day at 10:00 A.M.

Officers elected last year were: Elder Doug Curtis, moderator, Elder K.W. Massey, clerk and Bro. G.W. Hauskins, Treas. Elder Jerry A. Reynolds is to preach the introductory sermon on Friday and Elder Kenneth L. Davis is to preach the memorial sermon on Friday night. On Saturday, the doctrinal sermon is to be preached by Elder E.G. Williams.

Revival!

A revival is to begin at Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church, Hartsville, Tenn. on Sunday night, Sept. 24. Pastor Guthrie Thompson is to be assisted by Elder Bobby Gann. Services each night at 7:30. Everyone is invited.

Dedication Service

Madison Missionary Baptist Church, 214 Maple St., Madison Tenn. is to have an all-day service on Sunday, October 1, 1978. The church building is to be dedicated since the indebtedness on the property has been paid.

There will be Sunday School at 10:00 A.M. and preaching by the pastor, Elder L.W. Smith, at 11:00 A.M. Lunch will be served at the noon hour. The afternoon will be given to singing with special groups featured. The public is invited to attend.

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM WEST VIRGINIA (continued from previous column).

\$721.58; Mt. Calvary, \$360.00; Grace (Detroit), \$422.00; Liberty (Hendersonville), \$146.87; Faith (Roseville, Mich.), \$225.00; Faith (Grandview, Mo.), \$96.40; Fairview Memorial, \$264.76; Haven Hendricks, \$250.00; John Hayter, \$100.00; Herman Payne, \$45.00; Michael Foster, \$50.00; Terry Foster, \$20.00; William Martin, \$50.00; Tim Breshars, \$30.00; Jake Lambert, \$15.00; Ray Reynolds, \$110.00; Willa Hood, \$20.00.

Thanks again to Brother Vanderpool for maintaining this good communication link among the people.

Jerry A. Reynolds

THE FALL OF BABYLON

(Continued from Page 1)

Catholic Church System is RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL and COMMERCIAL in all of its outreach among the inhabitants of the earth.

Mr. Lo Bello's statement of the wealth of the Vatican Empire did not include all of the wealth of the Catholic Church in the other phases of its existence, such as property, money in banks, capital investments, and commercial enterprises in other parts of the world, etc., in the various dioceses throughout the world. For instance, the Chicago Arch-diocese, controlled by Cardinal Cody, is one of the largest and wealthiest in the world. Now, this immense wealth of the Chicago Arch-diocese is not included in Mr. Lo Bello's estimate. Only that wealth under direct supervision of the Vatican, and over which no other Catholic group has any control.

Mr. Lo Bello spent TEN years gathering the information, most of the time in Rome, and close to the Vatican. No one released this information in a package deal to the author, but little by little, and bit by bit, he was able to learn the facts and piece them together, and thus come up to a fair estimate of the wealth of THE VATICAN EMPIRE. The author placed it as FAR IN EXCESS OF \$20 Billion American dollars; that much and far more, just how much more, no one could rightly tell. That does not include the value of particular Church properties, which is somewhere near \$2 Billion additional dollars.

The Vatican was in serious financial difficulty following World War I, but when Mussolini came into power in Italy, The Lateran Pact, signed in 1929 by Mussolini and representatives of the Vatican, did three things. It created the new State of Vatican City; it set up The Financial Convention, which granted payments to the Church for the loss of its temporal powers; and the Concordat, which gave the Vatican powers and privileges to administer its own special affairs. Under this Lateran Pact, the Government of Italy made a large money settlement for the loss of Vatican properties. A sum of \$40 million was paid in one lump; and in addition to that 5% government bonds worth about \$50 million dollars were transferred to the Vatican. On the day the Lateran Treaty was signed, Pope Pius created the Holy See's Special Administration, and appointed Bernardino Nogara, a relative to the Archbishop of Udine, to keep watch over this large sum of money that had been given to the Vatican. Nogara then began to work with this money, reaching his hands into different and various enterprises, building up wealth of the Vatican Empire, until now it is one of the wealthiest in the world. Its wealth cannot easily be known; I'm sure no one knows except those in the most intimate knowledge of the inner workings of the empire, and they are not going to reveal it.

Chapter 8 of the book THE VATICAN EMPIRE tells of all the different business enterprises that the Vatican is connected with, either owning or controlling. Mining and metallurgical products; fertilizers, Electrical power; textile mills; pharmaceuticals; aluminum; cement, artificial and synthetic fibers; bathroom and plumbing fixtures; gas companies throughout Italy; steel mills, and the things used in steel manufac-

What Does A Pastor Do ?

The pastor teaches, though he must solicit his own classes. He heals, though without pills and knife.

He is sometimes a lawyer, often a social worker, something of an editor; a bit of a philosopher and entertainer, a salesman.

He's a decorative piece for public functions; he is supposed to be a scholar.

He visits the sick, marries people buries the dead, labors to console those who sorrow. He admonishes those who sin and tries to stay sweet when chided for not doing his duty.

He plans programs, appoints committees—when he can get them; spends considerable time keeping people out of each other's hair.

Between times he prepares a sermon and preaches it on Sunday to those who don't happen to have any other engagement. Then on Monday he smiles when some jovial chap roars, what a job—one day a week!

—Author Unknown

ture, such as coke, etc.; companies that control wheat and other grains, and that produce cookies and other baked goods, even spaghetti factories; publishing businesses; transportation; television and radio, railroads, steamships, airlines; automobile companies; coal and steel companies; passenger shipping lines; the banking business. All of these are a part of the working of the vast VATICAN EMPIRE.

When I heard this man, Mr. Lo Bello, and then read this book, I thought of Revelation, chapters 17 and 18. The Vast Babylonish System, which is none other than the Roman Catholic Church system. I have taught that Revelation 17 gives us RELIGIOUS BABYLON, and its downfall, while chapter 18 tells us of COMMERCIAL and POLITICAL BABYLON and its downfall. I had thought of them as different and separate.

But now I see, as I had not seen before, that they are one and the same. The BABYLONISH SYSTEM IS RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL and COMMERCIAL. Revelation 18: 11-17 tells us of all the commercial ventures in which Babylon (the Catholic Church) shall be engaged, and it also tells of the great distress the world will be thrown into when that System falls. It may seem strange to you that this information is just now coming to light, but it need not seem strange, for the prophecy of the DOOM of BABYLON has to do with the time of the ending of this age, and every evidence coming to light now points to the fact that we are nearing the end of this age. This information about the VATICAN EMPIRE only points up more realistically the Trustworthiness of the Bible in its predictions, and in the light it sheds on man's life on earth.

One thing is very disgusting to me in these days, and that is all the talk that the Catholic Church is poor and unable to pay its way, and thus needs government money for its enterprises. That is a lie; the Catholic Church system is the richest in the world and trying to force its way upon all other people to make it richer.

Peter's Tomb Was Recently Discovered In Jerusalem

By Paul F. Patterson

While visiting a friend in Switzerland, I heard of what seemed to me to be the greatest discovery since the time of Christ — that Peter was buried in Jerusalem and not in Rome. The source of this rumor, written in Italian, was not clear; and it left considerable room for doubt, or rather wonder. Rome was the place where I could investigate the matter; and if such proved encouraging, a trip even to Jerusalem might be necessary in order to gather valuable first-hand information on the subject.

I therefore went to Rome. After talking to a number of priests and investigating various possible sources of information, I finally was greatly rewarded by learning where I could buy the only known book on the subject, which was written in Italian. It is called Gli Soavi del "Dominus Flevit," printed in 1958 at the Tipografia dei PP. Francescani in Jerusalem. It was written by P. B. Bagatti and J. T. Milik, both Roman Catholic priests.

The story of the discovery was there, but it was purposely hidden and much was lacking, it seemed to me. I consequently determined to go to Jerusalem to see for myself, if possible, that which seemed to me almost unbelievable, especially since it came from priests, who naturally, from existing ideas concerning the tomb of Peter, would be the last ones to welcome such a discovery or to bring it to the attention of the world.

In Jerusalem, I spoke to many Franciscan priests, who all agreed that the bones of Simon Bar Jona (St. Peter) were found in Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives, on the Franciscan monastery site, called "Dominus Flevit" (meaning "Jesus Wept")

The pictures, reproduced in my book, which I had a photographer take, show the story. One of the photographs shows an excavation where the names of Christian Biblical characters were found written on bone boxes. The names of Mary and Martha were found on one bone box, and right next to it was one with the name of Lazarus, their brother, written on it. Other names of early Christians were found on other boxes.

Of greatest interest however, was that which was found within twelve feet from the place where the bones of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were found—THE REMAINS OF ST. PETER. They were found in a bonebox, on the outside of which was clearly and beautifully written in Aramaic, "SIMON BAR JONA."

I also spoke to a Franciscan priest in authority in the priest's printing plant within the walls of old Jerusalem, where the book on the subject was printed. He also admitted that the tomb of St. Peter is in Jerusalem.

Then, when I was visiting the Church of the Nativity in Bethlem, I encountered a Franciscan monk. After declaring to him what a wonderful discovery the Franciscans had made, the discovery of the tomb of St. Peter, I asked him plainly,

"Do you folks really believe that those are the bones of St. Peter?" He replied, "Yes, we do. We have no choice in the matter. The clear evidence is there."

Then I asked, "So Father Bagatti (co-writer of the book on the subject, and archaeologist) really believes that those are the bones of St. Peter?" "Yes, he does," he responded. Then I asked, "But what does the Pope think of all this?"

"Well," he answered, "Father Bagatti told me personally that three years ago he went to the Pope in Rome and showed him the evidence, and the Pope said to him, 'Well, we will have to make some changes, but for the time being, let us keep this thing quiet.'"

Then I said, "So the Pope (Pius XII) really believed that those were the bones of St. Peter?" "Yes", was his answer, "The documentary evidence is there; he could not help believing."

To Protestants, it matters little where Peter's body was buried, since they know he himself is in Heaven. But for the adherents of the Catholic Church to build their superstructure on Peter and to claim that he was their first Pope in Rome and that he was martyred and buried there, is a very unstable foundation. The Bible says in I Cor. 3:11, "Other foundations can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

"Also, it is written, 'Cursed be man that trusteth in man.' I am reminded of a story which an expriest told me in Scotland. A discussion over religion with a Protestant caused him to study the Bible and to think seriously about his beliefs. Finally he found salvation through Christ and then left the priesthood.—American Baptist

LEANING ON THEE

Lord, who am I to teach the way
To little children day by day
So prone myself to go astray.

I teach them knowledge, but I know
How faint the flicker and how slow
The candles of my knowledge glow.

I teach them power to will and do
But only now to learn anew
My own great weakness thru and thru.

I teach them love for all mankind
And all God's creatures, but I find
My love comes lagging far behind.

Lord, if their guide I still must be
Oh, let the little children see
The teacher leaning hard on Thee.



The Family Altar

ASSOCIATIONS

By Charles R. Moore

Among Baptist people the title of this article will be instantly understood, but non Baptist will perhaps not recognize the term so quickly. Since Baptist Churches are local autonomous bodies with no outside form of government to exercise authority over them, they have from the days of the Apostles, formed themselves (the local churches) into associations for the purpose of fellowship and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. The local church has as her first responsibility the evangelization of her immediate territory, but we should never forget the words of Jesus "and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8) The local church is responsible for sending the Gospel into all



Elder Charles Moore

of the world and it has been the practice of the local churches to do so in an associational capacity. Meaning simply that several churches send their offerings as a combined support for the missionary on the field. This practice is amply demonstrated in the Holy Scriptures during the missionary work of the Apostle Paul.

Paul was the first to carry the Gospel to the city of Corinth and while he was there preaching, he was supported by the local churches of Macedonia who had associated themselves together for that purpose. "And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man; for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied;" (II Cor. 11:9) I wish to point out just here that Paul was not sent to the mission field by the Macedonia Association, but rather by the local church located at Antioch. See Acts 13:1-3. The Holy Spirit called him and the local church, by the authority that Jesus gave her, ordained and sent him to the mission work. The Association of Macedonia had nothing whatsoever to do with that, they merely supported him on the field. We would do well to remember that in the Holy Scriptures there is no such term as "Associational Missionary." If he is any organizations missionary; he belongs to the local church. She is the only one on earth that has authority over him. Just here I wish to insert a quotation from a renowned Baptist Scholar, Doctor Ben M. Bogard.

"The word 'association' is derived from the Latin, 'adsocaire.' It is the Latin equivalent of the Greek 'koinonia.' But we have an English translation, and in the English version the translators used the Anglo-Saxon word 'fellowship' as the equivalent of the Greek 'koinonia.' They also translated it by the words 'ministration' (Romans 15:31), 'service', (II Cor. 11:8), where the word is 'diskonia,' 'dia' meaning through and 'koinonia' fellowship or association. It was applied specifically to the work which Paul performed both as missionary and as

treasurer for the churches in contributing for the relief of the poor saints. Read: "I robbed other churches (notice it is churches) taking wages of them (plural them) to do you (diakonia) service." II Cor. 11:8." (Associations are Scriptural, page 15)

It is a simple matter to research the historical data available, to determine that local Baptist churches have used the associational system that was begun by the Apostolic Churches down through the nearly twenty centuries that The Church has been here in the world. Alas; anything is subject to abuse and associations are no exception. It is unfortunate that through ignorance of the scriptural design of associations, some have assumed authority unto themselves that neither they nor the associations never did have, and the result has been a decline in the participation of local churches in the old time associations of our Spiritual Fathers.

This writer is going on record here and now as to his belief in not only the Scriptural basis of our associations, but also as to the need that we have for them. No one likes to see the system abused any more than I do, but may I point out to the reader that the abuse can only come about when the individual fails to do his duty. The officer elected to any position can do no more than the membership permits him to. We have to stand up and be counted as Baptists every day. We can not take some kind of action today and expect it to take care of tomorrow. Every member of our Baptist Churches needs to learn as much as possible about the way that an association is supposed to operate and when he is elected by his local church to serve as a messenger to the association, he must expect to stand up for those principles at every occasion.

The above stated principle places no exceptional duty upon the member of a Baptist Church because he has that very same duty and responsibility to his local church. If he is to be faithful to his Lord then he must be ready to stand against anyone, even a friend or relative if that person is contrary to the law of Christ. If we have different opinions as to what the law of Christ is, then we must decide what is right or wrong, not based upon a relationship with a friend or relative, but rather **The Written Word of God.** Personal opinions must not take precedence over the law of Christ which is stated in **The Written Word.** "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2).

It is my prayer that many churches that are not now working in associational capacity, will be able to see the benefits that are available from the associational fellowship and once again take part of this great work. I will pray towards that end.

Qualifications of A True Witness Of Jesus Christ



By Henry Smith

Our Lord Jesus Christ said in the closing days of His ministry on this earth: "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day. And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things." Luke 24:46-48. Notice carefully that Jesus said, "And ye are witnesses of these things." What things? That it behoved Him to suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remissions of sins should be preached in His name among all nations. Those are the things that Our Lord was talking about. To witness of these things is the greatest subject that we could ever talk about; and what a privilege it is to tell of the great things of Jesus and redemption through His shed blood! Therefore, we certainly ought to see the pressing need of being witnesses unto our Lord Jesus Christ in a sinful world. But, how does one qualify for such witnessing?

FIRST OF ALL: In order for anybody to be a true witness for our Lord, he must know that One to whom he bears witness, he must have become acquainted with the Master and have that personal knowledge himself; or else he would be the blind leading the blind. We would do a very poor job of representing somebody whom we don't know ourselves; we can't be a witness if we don't have something to tell. The Apostle Paul was a great witness for Jesus Christ, and he said, "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." II Timothy 1:12. You see, Paul knew the Lord in a very personal way, he knew Him experimentally; because he had become acquainted with Him on the Damascus Road. (Acts 9:1-5). This experience was so real to Paul that he related it two other times that we find recorded in the book of Acts. See Acts 22:6-11; 26:12-18. Yes, and after the Lord had so transformed Paul's life, He sent him out to tell a world of sinners about this saving grace. Take note of what Jesus said to Paul, as he relates when he stood before King Agrippa: "Delivering thee from the people and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among

them, which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:17,18.

Could we not at least tell what we know about Jesus and our relationship with Him, who has done so much to make it all possible? The youngest babe in Christ could do that much. Jesus told the man out of whom He had cast out an evil spirit, "Go home to thy friends and tell them what great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." "And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him; and all men did marvel." Mark 5:19-20. Friend, if you have really experienced forgiveness of sins through the precious blood of Christ, and you truly have the witness of the Holy Spirit within you, you can get a great blessing from telling others about this wonderful experience. You can say as the Psalmist said, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Psalms 126:3.

SECONDLY: For someone to be an effective witness, he must live such a life that people will believe what he says. It is a sad fact that we hear some people say about some Christian that they know: If that is Christianity, I don't want any; or that his or her life speaks so much louder than their words. I can't hear what they say. Of course this is no excuse for sinners, but too often Christians give them some cause to say such things. Such a situation has never been more prevalent than today. So many Christians, church members, live such lives that you can't distinguish them from the world. Their actions, conversation, and even their manner of dress speaks of worldliness. All such conformity veils the testimony of God's child, and renders it ineffective. The Bible teaches that we should not be like the world, but to the very opposite. Take note of this: "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2. Jesus taught the disciples to let their light shine before men, that they may see their good works. (Matthew 5:16). Even if we do good works, men will not see them unless we let our light shine. A person can have the Light, but he can, like so many do, cover the light by the ugly life he lives. But may I say here, that if a young convert would start right out to witnessing for the Lord from the time that he is saved, he wouldn't be near so inclined to get off on the wrong course and living a life of worldliness and prove his life ineffective for the Master. And people wouldn't be saying, well, I am as good as you are, so don't talk to me about your Christianity.

CONCLUSION:
Do you, dear Christian friend, want to have the joy of the Lord in your life and be a real fruit bearing tree for the Master? If the answer to this question is yes, then start right now to be a witness to His great name and His saving grace. You can win somebody to Him by telling the Good News, by sowing the good seed of the Kingdom of God. There are great promises in the Word of God to those who will go out bearing precious seed. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126:6.

QUOTE

America is great because it is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.—Dwight D. Eisenhower

Bible Lands Pilgrimage

WORLD TOURS

INCORPORATED

October 30 - November 9, 1978

11 DAY TOUR — EGYPT, JORDAN, ISRAEL

For full information write or call

YOUR TOUR HOST
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