

# Voice of Baptists

*"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way of the Lord" Isaiah 40:3*

VOL. 1

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NO. 2

## JESUS CHRIST CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

By J. H. Smith

***"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."***  
*I Timothy 1:15*

The above statement in Scripture clearly teaches that there are sinners in the world, and that they need to be saved, because no such statement would have ever been made if there had not been sinners to be saved, or needed to be saved. Whether men can realize it or not, the fact still remains that they need to be saved. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23. Sin has its wages and the wages is death, and man just can't lift himself out of the situation. So someone had to come to save us, and thank the Lord that He came to save; He came to save sinners, not good men, or those who think they are good, but Jesus actually came to save sinners. Our text says, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance" and I would admonish you, dear reader, to accept this saying, because it is the Word of God, and it is truly a faithful saying.

### **-HE WAS SENT OF THE FATHER-**

God loved sinners, He loves sinners, and His love prompted Him to send His only begotten Son into this sin cursed, unloving, and unfriendly world to save men from that which he cannot save himself, the dreadful penalty of the Law of a holy and righteous God. Jesus said several times that the Father had sent Him. I refer here to one of those times in John 4:34: "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work." Of course it was very fitting for Jesus to make this statement at this particular time because He had just been talking to a poor sinful

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## FREEDOM

By Charles R. Moore

What price liberty? I tell you truly, I don't know. How do we place a value upon what we Americans call FREEDOM? I am intensely proud of my American heritage and pray that the liberties thereof will always continue. The designers of the Constitution of the United States have endowed me with liberties that perhaps I would not have even thought of for myself. But as I contemplate the moral and political affairs of the world today, as I consider the ever tightening controls that our various governments (local, state, federal) are placing upon us, I find that I am much more able to appreciate the statement of the renowned American Patriot, Patrick Henry, "Give me liberty or give me death."

In keeping with that concept of liberty and desiring to remain free politically and socially, American men have sacrificed their lives in order that other men and women may enjoy the privileges of FREEDOM. But all of these privileges are for the carnal person. If not tangible themselves, these privileges are at the least, desired by people in order that they may obtain and enjoy tangible objects. But in our quest for tangibles we are prone to forget that the most important things are intangible. The liberties afforded us by the constitution of the United States end with our natural death. But what about liberty for our ETERNAL SOUL?

(Continued in June issue)

## GOD COMMANDED REPENTANCE — WHAT DID HE MEAN?

By Jerry A. Reynolds

When the gospel writer wrote of "repentance for the remission of sins" required before John's baptism he wrote of that degree of repentance required for salvation. The word translated "repentance" in the new testament as it was originally written in Greek meant essentially a change of attitude. Paul taught "repentance toward God" for salvation. A change of attitude toward God is what is first required of man.

Any soul who thinks he has changed his attitude toward God is a deceived and lost person. Such are those who have "accepted Christ." However, many have had their attitudes toward God changed by submitting themselves to the working of His reproving power. These are the genuinely saved. Only these have "repented for remission of sins." The deceived may have repented to some degree. They may have changed from brazen blasphemy to trembling fear but this change is not complete enough to meet God's salvation requirements. Repentance is not a change of actions (outward) but of the thoughts and desires.

How true it is that man is totally corrupt in his natural state. He has a similar nature to Satan who was cast from heaven for rebellion and has been in rebellion against God ever since. So man's natural attitude toward God is one of rebellion. Some men do not realize that they are in rebellion against God because they do not know anything about the living God. They may not notice any rebellion against him until the Gospel and

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## VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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## ONE MAN'S OPINION

**QUESTION:** "When did men begin to observe the weekly cycle?" B. W. - Fishers, Ind.

**ANSWER:** Editor

"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. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." (Gen. 2:2-3)

The institution of the Sabbath is as old as creation, giving rise to that weekly division of time which prevailed in the earliest ages. Saturday was kept as the Sabbath or Seventh Day until the resurrection of Christ on the first day. Since that great triumph, the true churches of our Lord have observed the first day of the week as the Christian Sabbath or Lord's Day.

**QUESTION:** "Was fermented wine used for the first Lord's Supper?"

B. W. - Fishers, Ind.

**ANSWER:** Editor

Probably. In those days, the only means of preserving the fruit of the vine was by fermentation. After having sought out many sources of information concerning this question, I believe the first church in its' first observance of the Lord's Supper Ordinance used fermented fruit of the vine (wine). The first observance was in the Spring of the year. Grapes ripen in late Summer or early Fall. Had this event taken place in October, it would have in all probability

consisted of fresh fruit (juice) of the vine. No one should ever make a test of fellowship on this point because the heart (center of feelings) should be more engaged than the tongue and mouth (location of taste buds) when commemorating the death of our Lord. The element, whether fermented wine or unfermented juice, should be red in color to best symbolize His blood.

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*"The tongue doesn't weigh very much, but it carries a lot of weight."*

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## MY DEAR MOTHER

By Riley Copeland

OLD AND FADED MOTTO on the wall,  
Declares to all the fairest of them all,  
In all the world

There is no other,  
Can take the place of  
My Dear Mother.

She went to death's door  
To bring me into the world,  
Yet no banners for her  
Were ere unfurled.

She was stern when I was bad,  
But as gentle as a dove.  
Her care for me was so complete  
All you need to add was love.

May we as Mothers' sons,  
Help Mother bear her load,  
To make her burdens lighter,  
As she plods along life's road.

God bless Mothers everywhere;  
The plump, the thin, the short, and tall.  
A boy has a special spot in heart for his  
Mother,  
So may God bless 'em one and all.

When Mothers work and wait on us,  
We think it's very nice,  
But we so seldom stop to thank them,  
For so great a sacrifice.

So love and respect your Mother,  
Each passing hour and day,  
For the time is fast approaching,  
When there's nothing left to say.

All hail to Mothers - Always,  
I stand right here to say,  
Let's make each day in all the year,  
Another Mother's Day.

## MINISTERS SCHOOL REPORT

The sixth annual session of the Old Union Baptist Ministers School, held March 28-31, brought together approximately 45 ministers from California, Michigan, West Virginia, Indiana, Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky. Elder Paul Bryson, pastor of Old Union Church, and the school committee did a wonderful job in hosting this session. The teaching of various important and timely subjects by Elders F. W. Lambert, F. L. Ray, J. H. Smith, W. T. Russell and H. C. Vanderpool was of the highest caliber. Several were in attendance for their first time and were impressed with the good fellowship and noble instruction. A generous "thanks" is sent to each one who assisted in making this endeavor a success for God's glory, our blessings, and prayerfully and hopefully the continued spreading of the gospel throughout America and other lands.

When Springtime of 1979 dissipates the clouds and effects of another winter, it is our prayerful desire to meet with a host of God's servants at Old Union for the 7th annual session.

(Continued from April issue)

## THE VOICE OF HIM THAT CRIETH

By W. T. Russell

(Second of two-part article)

In verse 57, we read about the birth of John and further on about what he was to be named. As the custom was, on the eighth day when the boy was to be circumcised according to the law of the Jews, they called him Zacharias after his father, but his mother said, Not so; but he shall be called John. The people marvelled about the name John, saying, why, there is none of thy kindred called by this name. And, they made signs to his father how he would have him called. He asked for a writing table or tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John". His mouth was opened immediately and his tongue loosed, and he spake and praised God. We also learn that the people were amazed and asked each other, What manner of child shall this be?

Many like to confuse the minds of people as to why this messenger, this forerunner of Jesus Christ was called Baptist. The most common reason given is that he was called Baptist because he baptized. If this be true, why is it that these same people who believe, teach

and practice the rite of baptism don't call themselves Baptist. It seems obvious to me if John was called Baptist because he baptized, then all who baptize should be called Baptist.

The truth is that John was not called Baptist because he baptized, for we learn from Matthew 3:1 that he was called John the Baptist before he ever baptized anybody. "In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea." Therefore, a Baptist Preacher before he baptized anyone. The only answer is that he was John the Baptist when he came, and God made him such when he sent him into the world. The reason he was called John the Baptist is simple. He was sent from God with divine authority to administer baptism. That is why true churches today are called Baptist churches, as they consider themselves the only organization on earth holding that divine authority. Jesus knew that voice and walked about sixty miles to receive baptism at his hands—the hands with divine authority.

Because God in Christ Jesus had authorized the coming of John and the baptism administered by him, he not only was baptized by John the Baptist but called together material made ready by him; of which material he organized his church and commissioned it by the same authority to carry the gospel to the world. So God, in the person of Jesus Christ sent John the Baptist into the world to make disciples and baptize them. Therefore, since there has never been a time since the ministry of John and Jesus and the setting up of the Lord's church that people could be scripturally baptized except by authority given the church by Jesus Christ, her head and founder, it follows that every scripturally baptized individual is added to the church by the Lord. In Acts 2:47 we read, "And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved." ASV The Lord does the same today. A church might make a mistake in what they consider credible evidence that one is saved, but God who sees the heart doesn't make any mistakes.

The material made ready by John the Baptist (and I contend that it was completely prepared and needed only to be brought together) became the nucleus in the formation of the church by Jesus Christ during his personal ministry on earth.

Proof for those in search of truth should be sufficient as found in Acts 1:21. Jesus had ascended into heaven after giving commandment to his church to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endured with power from on high.

Judas had betrayed the Son of God for thirty pieces of silver, leaving eleven apostles. The official number being twelve, we note in Acts 1:16, Peter stood before the church, numbering at that time about 120, and said, "Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus." In verse 20, he said, "For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishopric (office) let another take."

Now, in verses 21 and 22 we find the qualifications required of one to take his place. "Wherefore, of these men which have companied (in church capacity) with us all the time that the Lord went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection." Luke goes on to tell how they nominated two and prayed, asking the Lord's leadership in the right selection. They voted afterward and Matthias was elected.

Notice, he had to have been baptized by John the Baptist. He had to be a member of the company (church), and a witness of the resurrection and ascension of Christ. So, he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

When God had created the heavens and the earth and all things therein and needed a higher creature to subdue and have dominion over all he had made, he created man and authorized him to subdue all things and to have dominion over all. In like manner, when the fulness of time was come for the establishment of the kingdom of heaven on earth, God created a Baptist and sent him to go before the Lord to take care of the preparation of material. God used an old man and his barren wife to produce this Baptist which was a God-send from heaven.

His father was not a Baptist,; neither was his mother. Zacharias was a Jewish priest, and his name was not Zacharias Baptist. Therefore, John was not called John Baptist but John the Baptist for reasons heretofore given.

It may be said, John was called Baptist in Matthew 14:8, which is true, but please note that this was done by a wicked girl whose wicked mother had instructed her to say, "Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger" (plate). The same incident recorded in Mark 6:25, he is called John the Baptist.

John the Baptist was given divine authority to fulfill his mission, but he said

of himself in John 3:30 "I must decrease" but of Jesus he said, "He must increase". In simple terms, John knew his mission would soon be fulfilled, but the mission of Jesus would continue and increase through the church as it has for almost two thousand years.

For he said in Matthew 28:18-20 to his newly organized church, represented by the eleven apostles, "All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach (make disciples of) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am, with you always, even unto the end of the world.

The Lord, I know, has kept his promise; therefore, the voice of Baptists still rings out today in the declaration of a pure, unadulterated gospel kept pure by that one and only divine institution (the church), headed by Jesus Christ, her head and founder who said he would be with her always, even unto the end of the world.



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## GOD COMMANDED REPENTANCE WHAT DID HE MEAN?

(cont'd from page 1)

the Holy Spirit reproves them. Then they discover by the battle which ensues that their very uttermost being is enmity against God. Scripturally, one needs only to read Romans 8:7 to verify this fact.

So many men teach that God approaches the sinner with a peace offer. Not so! God comes to him in battle to conquer. Why else would he come to seek sinners with a sword? The Gospel is the sword of God, but it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes. The true Gospel hurts sinners' hearts. It can cut to the heart of all who hear it. To those who submit to it rather than running away it will pierce into the heart and separate the human spirit from the soul (Hebrews 4:12). The Gospel slays the wicked human spirit so that God can create a new one within the human soul. This new creation is the inner man born of the Spirit or regenerated.

(Continued in June issue)

**JESUS CAME TO SAVE**

(Continued from page 1)

Woman, and in His conversation with this woman He said, "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. Jesus told this woman how to have eternal life, and that was His meat and the will of the Father that sent Him.

The Design and arrangement of God was that the Son be the Saviour of the world, and the Son came and honored the Father by fulfilling the mission for which He was sent. God had His designs and great love set upon a lost world, His own creation, having pity and compassion, though this human race was in rebellion against Him and His holy Law, sent His beloved Son to save men from their fallen state. "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." I John 4:14.

**-HOW HE CAME-**

The fact that Jesus came, and the fact that the Father did send Him, is a glorious thought, and something that we, who know this Saviour, like to meditate upon. But the way that Jesus came into the world is also a great thought, a wonderful doctrine, and a doctrine that is absolutely a fundamental one; a doctrine that some men who profess to be Christians would like to take out of the Bible, and, they have made an effort to do just that.

Jesus was virgin born, this was the way that He came into the world, and in this way He took upon Himself human flesh and was made in the likeness of man. About seven hundred years before Jesus was born the prophet foretold how it would be, "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14. By being born of a virgin, and having no earthly father, our Lord had no sin in His body, and He could, and did live a sinless life that met all of the demands of the Law. And too, He could offer a perfect sacrifice to pay for our sins. If Jesus had been born the normal way that all of us were born He would have had sin, but God was His Father, His mother was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and so her first born son was none other than the very Son of God. Of course this was a great mystery, it was to the virgin Mary, but the angel sent from God explains how it would be: "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow

thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35.

**WHY HE CAME**

It is stated in our text why Jesus came. He came to save sinners, not because sinners deserved to be saved, but because He loved sinners. He had such love for sinful men that He prayed for those wicked ones who put him to death, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do" cried Jesus in that hour of darkness. Jesus died for sinners so that they wouldn't have to die; He died that we might live and never die. Oh, what wondrous love is this!

He came into the world because there was no other way for men to be saved, even though some men have been trying to save themselves since the fall in the garden of Eden. There just isn't any other way of salvation except by Jesus Christ, and all of his efforts to save himself will fail. "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

When Jesus was dying on the cross He had you and me in mind, and He endured the suffering of the cross, knowing that His shed blood was for the redemption of sinners; He had in view that in the end He would bring redeemed sinners together with Him in the kingdom of God. This no doubt was the joy set before Him, as we find in Scripture: "Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2.

Certainly Jesus didn't come to the world just to look upon sin and to be among sinners, and to see the terrible consequences of sin, but He came to save men from sin and its sad consequences and to give them a far better life, even eternal life. Surely, surely this was His high and holy aim. He left nothing incomplete, He finished what He came to do; He went to the cross and died for our sins; He was resurrected after He lay in the tomb for three days and nights: He ascended back to heaven and is seated at

the right hand of the Father; and there He maketh intercession for us. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Hebrews 7:25)

**-CONCLUSION-**

The holy Scriptures reveal God's divine plan for man's salvation, completely; there is nothing to be added and nothing to be taken from it, and if men reject this plan, he is doomed to eternal damnation, for there is no other way. More and more we find men and women trying to work their way out, by joining the church, by being baptised and doing many, what men would call good works, but all of this and more will not deliver a soul from eternal hell. It takes the blood of Jesus Christ, and without this there is no remission. (Hebrews 9:22.) Jesus can and does save sinners, for our text says that He came for that purpose. Sinner man, woman, boy, girl, can you not realize your sins, and won't you humble your heart before our blessed Saviour, repent of your sins, putting your faith, your trust alone in Him for your salvation? If you don't do this in this life, in this world, you cannot be with Him in the life to come. Where will you spend eternity?

**SPRING REVIVAL ANNOUNCEMENTS****May 14**

Kokomo Missionary Baptist Church - 1723 N. Lindsey, Kokomo, Ind.

Pastor Mitchell Smith will be assisted by Elder Kenneth L. Davis of Louisville.

All are welcome to attend the 7 o'clock service each evening except Sundays (6 p.m.).

**May 14**

Faith Missionary Baptist Church - 9835 Hayes, Detroit, Mich.

Pastor Charles R. Moore will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey of Indpls. YOU are invited!

**VOICE OF BAPTISTS****SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

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