

Voice of Baptists

"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." *Isaiah 40:3*

VOL. 1

INDPLS., IND.

AUGUST, 1978

NO. 5



LIBERTY VERSUS LICENSE

By Charles R. Moore
Roseville, Mich.

Just as there are responsibilities of citizenship attendant with civil liberties, the same is true of soul liberty.

Just because a saved person is in possession of Heavenly Citizenship which affords him a purified soul, he must not forget that his citizenship was purchased with a great price and that he has certain responsibilities toward the one that paid the ransom price. The Apostle Paul reminds us that Christians are still subject to commit sin. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels," (2nd Cor. 4:7) Liberty from sin is a far cry from license to sin. As a citizen of The United States, I must live within the frame work of the civil law. I must remember that I AM NOT FREE to violate the law. As a citizen of Heaven, I must remember that although my soul has been set free from sin, (in fact it cannot sin, 1st John 3:9) that I AM NOT FREE to violate the law of God.

The Apostle Paul makes a statement in the Corinthian letter that should produce deep humility in the heart of a saved person. "and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price:" (1st Corinthians 6:19-20) How often are we guilty of going about our lives as though we owed no allegiance to anyone other than ourselves? I am especially concerned about members of old fashioned Missionary Baptist Churches in this respect, and preachers in particular. The doctrine of final security has been preached so often WITHOUT its attendant responsibilities that it has produced an attitude of self-sufficiency in many people. The idea that a person

(Continued on page 4)

GOD'S REVELATION TO US

By Terry L. Foster
Belton, Mo.

"Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in Heaven." **Psalms 119:89**

Where did we come from? Why are we here? What will our end be? These questions have, or rather, the answers to these questions have eluded even the most searching hearts and minds in all ages. How can anyone know except it be revealed to him?

Where are we suppose to look for the answers to these perplexing questions? Shall we look to ourselves, our own reasoning, or shall we look to others and their understanding? Can our fallen nature (Ge. 3:22-24, Ro. 3:10-18) fully discover the will of the creator as it concerns us? Shall we look to nature with its never ending testimony of the wisdom and sovereignty of God (Ps. 19:1-6)? Is there enough or sufficient knowledge available in the well ordered events of nature to give us a satisfactory answer?

There is, in this world, right now, a revelation from God! It is in almost every home in our country, and in many other countries, too. It's sound has gone out to all the world (Ro. 10:18). It is the book above all others the best. It is the **Holy Bible**. The word holy gives us an insight

(Continued on page 2)



ONLY ONE PLAN OF SALVATION IN ALL AGES

By F. L. Ray
Goodlettsville, Tenn.



BAPTISTS BELIEVE THAT IN ALL AGES OF THE WORLD PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY FAITH IN CHRIST. AND, OF COURSE, THAT MEANS OF FAITH WITH ALL THE HEART, AFTER ALL OTHER CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN MET THAT ARE NECESSARY TO SALVATION.

A good proof text for this article can be found in Acts 10:43, "To him (Christ) give (Bear) ALL the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."

Now, we will go to the Old Testament and give you one example, and then we will give you one in the New Testament. First, the O.T. example, Genesis 15:6, "And he (Abraham) believed in the Lord: and he counted it to him for righteousness." Now, in the N.T. hear Paul in Romans 4:2-5, "For if

(Continued on page 2)

ORDINATION

LYONS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Gagel Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky will come together Saturday afternoon, August 5th at 1 p.m. E.D.T. for consideration of ordaining the following brethren to the office of church deacon: DWIGHT BECKMAN, WILLARD CARTER, DAVID WARREN and EDDIE WRIGHT. The church and pastor, Elder Kenneth Davis, extend a cordial invitation for all ordained brethren from sister churches to assist in this work.

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor

Published monthly by Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

1501 Pleasant Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

STAFF WRITERS

James H. Smith
1169 Hunters Lane
Nashville, Tennessee 37207

Charles R. Moore
26210 Janet Court
Roseville, Michigan 48066

John A. Keen, Jr.
1027 White Avenue
Brownsburg, Indiana 46112

Second-Class postage paid at Indpls., Ind.

ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Kenneth W. Massey

QUESTION: "Where were idol Gods first mentioned in the Bible?"

J. R. - Darden, Tenn.

ANSWER: Joshua teaches us in Joshua 24:2 that Terah the father of Abraham served other Gods.

When Jacob departed from Laban, taking Rachel and Leah with him, he did not know that Rachel had stolen images (teraphim) that were her father's. (Genesis 31:19) Men have continued to build false Gods made of gold and other precious stones, but none could ever save. Today, Japan has more people working to manufacture idol Gods than the number of employees working to build all the Toyota and Datsun automobiles produced in that country.

GOD'S REVELATION
(Continued from page 1)

into the character of this book, and where could it have gotten such a character except from God (Le. 19:2)?

How was this wonderful book delivered to us? "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21). Indeed, it has God for it's author? Though men wrote it or dictated their thoughts to another penman, still they are the very words of God (Ez. 3:4).

Whether the information came through a dream, a vision, or mouth to mouth as to Moses (Nu. 12:8), or as he by the spirit spake to David (2 Sa. 23:2-3), it was all of God and by God!

I believe that religion is essential for the preservation of mankind in general. Without true religion it is impossible for us to please and to glorify our creator so that his blessings will abide on us (Ro. 1:21-32). Realizing that we must worship God "In spirit and in truth" we must have "A lamp to our feet and a light to our path." Without that "Lamp" we could not discover the way of approach to God. Our efforts would be in vain as in the days of Babel (Ge. 11:1-9).

Though God has not left himself without witness in the world, yet to know that he exists and to render the proper service due him are two different things. We must worship God according to his holy character; and this character is not revealed in the things of nature, neither in our rational reasoning, but alone in the Bible. Today, and since the days of John the Revelator, we have no other place to look for this blessed light but in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. If he were to speak to us today he would add nothing nor take away anything from his word (Re. 22:18-19). It is complete!

There is one thing that is of the utmost importance to men, and that is the way of salvation. Again, how can anyone know except it be revealed to them! Adam and Eve had their Cherubims turning "Everyway to keep the way of the tree of life" (Ge. 3:22-24). Abraham had his vision of the Lord (Ge. 15:1-6), and Jacob, his visit from an angel of the Lord (Ge. 32:24-32). Likewise, God has given to mankind of all generations the knowledge of the way to salvation; and, "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son" (He. 1:1-2). What did his Son direct us to do: "Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Again, we are reminded by the Apostle Paul, that the scriptures are the means used by God to guide us to salvation (2 Ti. 3:15). Our own reasoning is enough to reveal unto us that man has sinned or fallen out of favor with God; but, nothing less than a divine revelation will direct us to the "Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

Such is the power of the Gospel (He. 4:12), to lift the idolatrous heathen up from his wooden and stone images, to reconcile the erring and rebellious Jew, to plainly show to the entire world that he is "Not willing that any should perish" (2 Pe. 3:9). The Holy Bible stakes a claim in

our lives that no other book can, it alone can and should be the "Supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried."

Some say that Jesus was just a good man, a prophet or even a great teacher. We know that either he was the very Son of God, as he claimed to be (Jn. 14:8-11), or the greatest cheat ever. So it is with the Bible. It is not just another good book with good moral principles to live by. It is either the very heart and soul of God or it is the biggest farce man ever read!

ONLY ONE PLAN
(Continued from page 1)

Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Now look to verses 23 and 24 in the same chapter - "Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead."

Again, we make the following argument: THERE HAS BEEN ONE AND ONLY ONE REDEEMER IN ALL AGES OF THE WORLD. According to the Scriptures there will be people in heaven out of every nation, kindred, and people, and tongue. Notice Revelation 5:9, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." Then let's look a little further in Revelation 7:9-10, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."

Now hear Job as he speaks about his hope of the resurrection - "For I know that my REDEEMER liveth."

(Job 19:25)

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER: FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED."

(Acts 4:11, 12)

REVIVAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 6

MT. CALVARY MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Nolensville Rd., Nashville, Tenn. Elder James H. Smith will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Paul Bryson. The public is cordially invited.

* *

AUGUST 6

LAFAYETTE MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Lafayette, Tenn. Pastor D. C. Barton will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

* *

AUGUST 20

NEW BETHEL MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Old Dickerson Rd., Goodlettsville, Tenn. Pastor H. C. Vanderpool will be assisted in the preaching by Elder James (Pete) Porter.

A general welcome is extended to all.

"Salvation is of the Lord"



NOTICE

Any announcements of special interest should be submitted thirty days in advance of service date. We encourage you whole-heartedly to advertise your work for God in "Voice of Baptists."



SOUL-WINNING

By

Kenneth W. Massey



"...but his blood will I require at thine hand."

(Ezekiel 33:8b)

Almost twenty six centuries ago, the Lord advised Ezekiel concerning the penalty for failing to witness to his brothers by creation who were separated from God. Since that day, the era of the prophets has passed, the nation Israel has performed its' work in keeping with God's eternal scheme, John the Baptist has fulfilled his task as forerunner and preparer, and Jesus Christ has established His church sending it with the gospel to every creature in all nations.

As a result of the divine promises of God, the ecclesiastical corps is yet in operation equipped with every weapon essential to win sinners from the domain of sin to the blessed fellowship enjoyed by being a recreated new creature in Christ Jesus.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: 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)

WHY ARE SO MANY CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS LESS EVANGELICAL THAN OTHERS?

Did you know that many churches will go a year without winning a single soul to the Lord. What's the reason for this? Is the gospel less effective today than in the past? NO! Do some build up an immunity against the power of the spirit accompanied gospel? NO! God had ample foreknowledge and power to provide an unailing plan of eternal redemption in every point. Let us look further. Perhaps, the number one cause is a lack of preaching from the pulpit on the importance of individual as well as church evangelism.

Who should become a soul-winner? Does God call a select few of those saved to become soul-winners? **EVERY BORN AGAIN CHILD OF THE KING** should have a genuine heart-felt concern for the souls in sin. Some men are divinely called to preach to a lost world, but every saved person is called in the moment of salvation to witness for Jesus Christ. Witnessing is not always soul-winning in effect, but no one ever won a

soul without witnessing. The babes in Christ should be taught from God's word the required tools to lead others to the Saviour.

It's all too obvious that many churches have misapplied the "revival" concept of reaching lost souls. There's not enough time in one or two annual revivals for each church to win all the sinners in their communities. We should be daily carrying out the "go ye therefore and teach (make disciples) all nations" as commanded by Christ in the great commission. A church that virtually forgets sinners until revival time will have a less successful revival than the church and pastor who are administering their daily duties as soul-winners for Jesus Christ. **WHOSE BLOOD WILL BE REQUIRED AT YOUR HANDS?** The first duty of every church and every saved person in this whole, wide world is to point sinners to the Lamb of God who shed His blood to wash our sins whiter than snow.

No church, preacher, nor any other person ever led one to the Lord without the presence of the Holy Spirit. "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44). "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17)

DEFINITION OF SOUL-WINNER: a person who has a direct influence on the salvation of another.

BEHOLD, NOW IS THE TIME

Many false prophets are gone out into the world deceiving the souls of thousands, but how many of God's children are dedicated to the task of leading their family, relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers and fellow-citizens into the kingdom of God.

If your church is having unnecessary contentions or divisions, seek the counsel of God in guiding you back to the real purpose of your life-"...and he that winneth souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30b)

"What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul." (Mark 8:36)

If the efforts you are making for the salvation of souls were the measure of your belief in God and His Truth, would your faith be equal to a grain of mustard seed?

**MAY GOD HELP US TO
BECOME BETTER FISHERS OF
MEN**

LIBERTY VERSUS LICENSE

(Continued from page 1)

develops which says that "I have been saved, therefore I can do as I please," is an act of treason against Christ. I do not mean that I have heard this concept preached or taught, but I am saying that it is observable in the conduct of many people. They live unto themselves and therefore are in open rebellion against their Saviour, having forgotten that they do not belong unto themselves.

Prior to our involvement or participation in anything, we should first of all consider whether or not the thing under consideration will "glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1st Corinthians 6:20) In our American society today, we are told by statisticians that the number one killer of young people (ages 16 through 24) is accidents. Many of these accidents are the result of involvement and participation in the abuse of drugs. (Alcohol is a drug.) There are many things that a Christian might do with his body that is sinful, but surely the more far reaching has to be the act of taking into our body any substance that will distort the process of reasoning. That is, to cause our minds to function abnormally. I cannot think of a situation that would please Satan any better than to have a Christian's thinking process so distorted as to cause him to lose his ability to reason.

The previous thought brings about the consideration of the statisticians second highest cause of death in young people. SUICIDE! Something is terribly wrong with a society where the SECOND highest killer of young people is SUICIDE. For one thing, the same drugs that were spoken of regarding accidents are also very much involved in the statistics of suicides, but there is another killer that I want to discuss in regards to the problem of suicide. Not unlike the drugs which have been mentioned, this killer also affects the thinking process. Its name is DEPRESSION. Depression is a terrible state of mind, it can crush a person right into the ground. It can so consume the mind of an individual that he is unable to consider other matters in their proper perspective. Often as not the victim of depression can only think about the circumstances which have produced the depression in the first place.

The question may well be asked, just what does all of this have to do with the subject of LIBERTY VERSUS LICENSE? I answer thusly, as a born again child of God, I am at complete

liberty IN Christ Jesus, but that does not give me license to indulge in just anything that I might please. The strength of God is instantly available through prayer to any child of God regardless of the problem that he is facing. Prayer is the earnest sincere desire of the heart; therefore God is able to hear even though we might not be able to speak. The key to this is of course, ATTITUDE. It follows naturally, that attitude is dependant upon faith. Faith in Christ, (saving faith) is the supreme test of trust in the first place. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" (Romans 5:1)

I have personally been very close to more than one suicide (My son died exactly two years ago today as I type this) and I am of the strong conviction that the victim's faith in Christ to see them through the adversity had faltered. Their faith regarding the salvation of their soul was still secure, but they seemed to have lost sight of the promise of God to help us overcome all problems of life. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) If we will keep our attitude of mind focused upon the promise of Jesus to see us through all trials of life, we will not need drugs to forget, nor will we allow depression to control us. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1st Corinthians 10:13)

POLK COUNTY ASSOCIATION

The annual Polk County Missionary Baptist Association will convene August 15th and 16th with Salem Missionary Baptist Church (near Cliquot, Mo., north of Bolivarville on Hwy. 83) The session will begin at 10:00 A.M. C.D.T. Elder Hobart Mustain will preach the annual sermon.

IF EVERY MEMBER OF MY CHURCH WAS JUST LIKE ME. WHAT KIND OF CHURCH WOULD MY CHURCH BE?

FISHING TO CATCH ALL

By Rufus L. Chandler
Huntingdon, Tenn.



John 21:6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

This is the third time Christ had shown himself to the apostles after his resurrection. Peter in the third verse had said "I go a fishing" and six others of the disciples went with him. They fished all night and caught nothing.

On another occasion in Luke Chapter 5 when they had labored all night without a catch and the fishermen had gone out of their boats and were washing their nets after a fruitless toil, Jesus entered into Peter's boat and sat down and taught the people who were on the shore. Then He said to Peter "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught," Peter replied, "We have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. "When they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes and their net broke."

Here in Luke 5:1-11 Jesus calls out his first four disciples and said unto them that he would make them fishers of men. I want us to notice Peter not doing what Jesus told him to do. Jesus said nets (plural) but Peter let down net (singular). Even on this occasion a great multitude of fish were caught by Peter doing only part of what Jesus told him to do, but the net broke letting some of the fish escape. Peter called for help but it was too late, he should have employed the help of the others in the first place along with obeying Jesus's command.

In the thought I want to get across in John 21:6-11 the disciples had become discouraged because of Jesus not being with them at all times. This made them to sit down on the job of being a soul winner for a while. In Luke there were many fish that escaped the net as many lost souls have heard the gospel but went through the net. We as the Lord's servants, be it preachers, deacons, or lay members in the service of the Lord we have to work together being guided by the Holy Spirit that we can catch the big ones that might have been slipping through the brake in the net. In John 21:11 The numbers one hundred and fifty and three were used. I don't know why this number was used, maybe they were the ones that escaped when the net broke.