

# 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. 2

INDPLS., IND.

APRIL, 1979

NO. 1



## DEMAS THE DESERTER

By Harold D. Carver  
Buena Vista, Tenn.

**FOR DEMAS HATH FORSAKEN ME, HAVING LOVED THIS  
PRESENT WORLD."  
2 Timothy 4:10**

In this brief passage of scripture the writer develops a portrait that unfortunately is becoming more and more prevalent. To be more specific, the Apostle Paul describes a "classical backslider" in the person of Demas. This spiritual insensitivity on the part of a christian results not only in a loss of one's joy of salvation, but also in the collective sense can be a loss in church spirituality, and eventually a loss in the effectiveness of the kingdom work of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the earth.

Having begun by proclaiming the injurious effects resulting from "backsliding," let's examine the identity of such an insensitive child of God.

Solomon describes the backslider as one that finds pleasure and joy in his former nature (a kind of going back). "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself" (Proverbs 14:14). The prophet Jeremiah describes this same condition thusly, "why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual back-sliding? They hold fast deceit, they refuse to return" (Jer. 8:5). The backslider might generally be described then as a child of God that has returned to the vile and vain affection of their former life, and in so doing loses the free fellowship with God which results in the loss of the joys of their salvation. The chilling words of Paul, "Demas hath forsaken me," introduces such a backslider and I believe is worthy of our consideration.

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## DID CHRIST HAVE FAITH?

By W. T. Russell, Jr.  
Bowling Green, Ky.

The explanation to this seldom considered question lies in the true relationship Christ had with the Father while in the human form. "But we see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death" (He. 2:9). If Jesus was made a little lower than the angels, then it is only reasonable to conclude that His natural abilities became less than the angels at His birth here on earth. Christ's own words give evidence of this as He states, "I can of mine own self do NOTHING:" (John 5:30); "...the words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself, but the Father that dwelleth in Me, HE doeth the works" (John 14:10). In truth, the Father-Son relationship between these two members of the Godhead was only in existence during Christ's brief human inferiority.

It might seem like blasphemy to contend that Christ was not God in full power during His life in the world: "The first Adam was made a living soul ("...who is the figure of Him that was to come." - Rom. 5:14), the last Adam was made a quickening (life-giving) Spirit" (I Cor. 15:45). This definitely denotes a difference in spiritual roles between Adam and Christ, but the apostles, who were certainly must as human as Adam, also had

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## GOD'S VIEW OF HOMOSEXUALS

By Jerry A. Reynolds  
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There is no clearer condemnation of the sin of homosexual relations than is found in the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans, verses 18 through 32. The degrading of any society which once feared God (to know him is to fear him) is shown here in three successive steps.

**First:** (verse 21) When they knew God they (1) glorified him not as God (2) neither were thankful (3) became vain in their imaginations (reasoning) (4) their foolish heart was darkened (5) professing themselves to be wise they became fools (6) became idolaters. God responded to this by **giving them up to uncleanness** (adultery, fornication, etc.) through the lusts of their own hearts to dishonor their bodies between themselves:

NOTE: this has already happened in America where the society considers the "sex life" of a person his own business and his own right to live as he pleases.

**Second:** Men responded to God's unleashing them to destroy themselves by (1) changing the truth of God into a lie (2) worshipping and serving the creature (man himself) more than the creator. For this cause **God gave them up unto vile (dishonorable in Greek) affections (feelings or passions in Greek)** for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature....the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another: men with men working that which is unseemly (improper) and receiving in themselves that recompense (reward) of their error which was meet (Of which they are worthy).

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## VOICE OF BAPTISTS

(USPS 423-350)

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Published Monthly by:  
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## ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Kenneth W. Massey

**QUESTION:** What did Jesus mean when he said, "there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God?" S.S. - Indpls.  
**ANSWER:** To "see the kingdom of God" refers our minds to the time that Jesus shall return from heaven. Paul combines the second advent and kingdom in his second letter to Timothy, chapter four, verse one: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick (saved) and dead (unsaved) at his appearing (second advent) and his kingdom." Now, we know it is not reasonable to believe that Jesus was teaching in the passage under question (Luke 9:27), that some of those people would live until his return. However, in the same manner that his resurrection is the firstfruits of them that slept, his transfiguration in the presence of Peter, James and John was a picture of his glorified return to this world. The Scriptures teach that Jesus took those three disciples up into the mountain eight days after he had taught them concerning what some should be permitted to see before death. Surely he was talking about this great occasion, and giving them a little foretaste of what is to come.

## LYONS CHURCH PLANS SPRING REVIVAL

Beginning Sunday evening, April 8th at 6 p.m., Lyons Miss. Baptist Church of 904 Gagel Ave., Louisville, Ky. will begin a series of revival services. Elder Paul Bryson will be the evangelist. Pastor Kenneth Davis extends a cordial welcome to everyone. Week night services begin at 7:30 p.m.

## DID CHRIST HAVE FAITH?

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different spiritual roles to Adam - Peter even raised the dead! (Acts 9:36-41) Herein lies the answer to this discussion. Let us very respectfully compare the following works: "Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which GOD DID BY HIM in the midst of you..." (Acts 2:22). Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders GOD HAD WROUGHT among the Gentiles BY THEM" (Acts 15:12). Were Barnabas and Paul SUPERHUMAN? Was Christ? They definitely were; they all were made superhuman through the Spirit, but each by nature was human. "...God ANOINTED Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with POWER: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was WITH HIM" (Acts 10:38). This accounts for the power which Christ could feel leaving Himself: "And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched Me: for I perceive that virtue (Greek - "POWER") is gone out of Me" (Luke 8:46).

If Jesus had been born into this life as God in full power, how could He have possibly been "in all points tempted like as we are..."? (He. 4:15). "...For God CANNOT be tempted with evil..." (Ja. 1:13). What is temptation but a trial of faith? Consider further that we each are specifically tempted to DOUBT! Therefore, if Christ was tempted in all points as we are, He too was tempted to doubt. Thus, He had faith. Jesus said, "...the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things which please Him" (John 8:29). "But without FAITH it is impossible to please Him:" (He. 11:6).

The concept that Christ had faith is very important in two ways. First, Christ should be given proper credit for doing all He did on earth THE WAY HE DID IT, that is through human weakness and strong faith - not easily through unlimited power and ability satisfying His every human whim. If He had been a natural superman, no one could take comfort in His statement. "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I HAVE OVERCOME the world" (John 16:33). This pinpoints the second reason of importance: In the words of Christ our good works are also performed in the same manner as His: "...the father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works... Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth in Me, the (human type) works (through faith) that I do shall he do also; ..." (John 14:10 & 12). "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).

## GOD'S VIEW

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**NOTE:** Our society is very close to having reached this stage. Women have long ago moved out of their natural place and are trying to be equal to men and lesbians and homosexuals are beginning to abound among our population.

**Third:** Man's reaction to God's permissiveness in allowing them to utterly dishonor their bodies which are made in his image is "they do not like to retain God in their knowledge." At this point **God gives that people over to a reprobate** (unprincipled in English from a greek word meaning disapproved) **mind.**

At this point God has removed all divine restraints which keep men from unbounded wickedness, allowing them to come to the fullness of iniquity that fully justifies him in utterly destroying them. Sodom was known for its homosexuality immediately before God utterly destroyed its inhabitants. This is illustrated clearly in Genesis 19 when the men of Sodom gathered around Lot's house having seen two strange men enter there saying to Lot "bring them out unto us that we may 'know' them." This word "know" is very consistent with Bible terminology expressing sexual intercourse between people. Lot answered the men "I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man" and he offered his two virgin daughters to them to do with as they wished to try to get them not to molest his two male guests. So much were the inhabitants of Sodom famed for their perverted sexual behavior that the word Sodomites came to denote people who so practiced (Deut. 23:17, 1st Kings 14:24, 22:46, 2nd Kings 23:7) The word Sodomy has ever been used in Christianity to mean homosexual of human-with-animal sexual intercourse. It is evident from the Bible (1 Kings 14:24) and history that the inhabitants of Canaan whom God commanded Israel to utterly destroy had incorporated abominable sexual practices into their idolatrous worship rituals. In Deut. 23:17 God absolutely forbade Sodomy among his people Israel. He condemned it there on an equal with whoredom. Under the law the penalty for Sodomy is death. (Leviticus 20:13) "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death..." Although we do not now live under the letter of God's law by Moses, sin is defined as "transgression of the law" (1st John 3:4). Homosexuality can be seen to be both a sin and a perversion of a decaying society.

## GOSPEL TELECASTS

Under the direction of Bro. Bob Pitt and Bro. William House, by the authority of RUSSELL HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee, tapes of gospel sermons by gospel preachers are being produced and then aired each Sunday on four different stations representing a 20 million potential viewing audience. These stations include Crossville, Tenn., Somerset, Ky., Johnstown, Pa., and Santa Monica, Calif.

Any Baptist church interested in contributing to these efforts either financially or with the production of a tape should notify:

Elder William I. House  
934 W. Delmas Avenue  
Nashville, Tenn. 37216  
Telephone (615) 262-1123

## EXPERIENCES OF SALVATION

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

To: God's Children via the Voice of Baptists

Dear Brethren:

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

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

I would appreciate your help.

Jerry A. Reynolds

**"Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee."**

**Psalms 116:7**

## THE PREACHER

By F. W. Lambert  
Westmoreland, Tenn.



BUT ARISE, AND STAND UPON THY FEET: FOR I HAVE APPEARED UNTO THEE FOR THIS PURPOSE, TO MAKE THEE A MINISTER AND A WITNESS BOTH OF THESE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST SEEN, AND OF THOSE THINGS IN THE WHICH I WILL APPEAR UNTO THEE. DELIVERING THEE FROM THE PEOPLE, AND FROM THE GENTILES, UNTO WHOM I NOW SEND THEE. Acts 26:16 & 17  
Paul - UNTO ME, WHO AM LESS THAN THE LEAST OF ALL SAINTS, IS THIS GRACE GIVEN, THAT I SHOULD PREACH AMONG THE GENTILES THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST. Eph. 3:8

Paul was first on his face, then on his feet. Paul - A BISHOP THEN MUST BE BLAMELESS, THE HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE, VIGILANT, (alert to danger, wakefulness), sober (temperate in any way, not extreme nor extravagant), OF GOOD BEHAVIOUR, GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY, APT TO TEACH, NOT GIVEN TO MUCH WINE, NO STRIKER (a worker who is on a strike won't work), NOT GREEDY OF FILTHY, LUCRE, BUT PATIENT, NOT A BRAWLER (cause an uproar, to create a disturbance), NOT COVETOUS: ONE THAT RULETH WELL HIS OWN HOUSE, HAVING HIS CHILDREN IN SUBJECTION WITH ALL GRAVITY; (FOR IF A MAN KNOW NOT HOW TO RULE HIS OWN HOUSE, HOW SHALL HE TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE OF GOD?) NOT A NOVICE (new or fresh), LEST BEING LIFTED UP WITH PRIDE HE FALL INTO THE CONDEMNATION OF THE DEVIL. MOREOVER HE MUST HAVE A GOOD REPORT OF THEM WHICH ARE WITHOUT; LEST HE FALL INTO REPROACH (to bring shame and disgrace upon the cause of Christ) AND THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL. 1 Tim. 3:2-7

Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:2: PREACH THE WORD; BE INSTANT IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON, REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT WITH ALL LONGSUFFERING AND DOCTRINE.

I have heard it said that a few have chosen the ministry because it was an easy way to make a living. Poor thing! No man can wisely choose this work: it is

chosen for him. We can rest assured that God knows his work in this world, and he chooses and calls men to fill places of responsibility in his pastorates. A man should be very certain that God has called him, and then go ahead without fear. God provides for those whom he calls and sets apart. Be certain of the call of God! If we are to deliver effective and powerful sermons in the pulpit, we must do much effective prayer and study in the closet. Some preachers have an unduly exalted opinion of their sermons. One such preacher said that his ability was being wasted in the small church he was serving, and that by all rights he should be in a much larger church. You know, preachers think they are firing twelve gauge sermons in twenty gauge pulpits. But the truth is, you have to shoot twenty gauge shells in a twenty gauge gun. A man who preaches should do it for the glory of God. A preacher's sermon may become his idol. We should not think more of the sermon than we do our Saviour. Sermons have their place in God's kingdom. One man told me he didn't like my sermon; well, many times I don't like them, but the man kept coming back. There is nothing that will improve preaching, apart from God himself, as much as study.

Untrue criticism has never been such a dangerous matter for preachers: it is the criticism that is true that does the most damage. Just what is a preacher to do in face of false criticism? Each case is a problem to itself and may require a different approach from any other.

But there are some general practices that are safe to follow under such circumstances. These practices would enable a man to caress his nerves rather than convulse them. Take your time! Time solves many problems. There is no big hurry, because an old lie made right will bring more glory to a victim than a young lie corrected. Tell it to God. He is much concerned about your good name because your good name also involves his good name. This is one place where I believe God literally "fights the battle for his servants". Ask for wisdom. Some ask for wisdom, but fail to exercise it. We have no set rules, and a man needs wisdom at this point as at no other point in his life. Remember, God promised to give us wisdom. Get it! Keep it! the man who can smile at criticism and laugh at a lie becomes a Rock of Ages for troubled souls in the storms of life. He becomes a haven of rest for himself and others. How can a minister live a model life for thirty years, and then go to the devil in thirty minutes? Why do preachers go mad for

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**DEMAS THE DESERTER**

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It is obvious from a brief scriptural review that Demas had not always been a backslider, but no doubt had been in previous times a devout and dependable servant of God. The Apostle Paul expresses the greetings of both Luke and Demas in the same breath. "Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you" (Col. 4:14). Then again in Philemon 1:23 Paul refers to Demas as a fellow laborer: "Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow laborers."

Something happened in the life of Demas and it is our purpose to explore the reasons why he returned to former ways. Those of you who are now in sweet fellowship with God, and presently enjoying your salvation may be saying to yourselves, "why this will never happen to me!" Well, it did to Demas, and Paul warns against such self-confidence, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12). What happened to Demas that changed his course in life? Paul supplies our answer, "having loved this present world" (2 Tim. 4:10). Did the problem with Demas develop from his love for the world of nature? No, we are taught to love and respect the handiwork and creation of God. Did the problem with Demas develop from his love for mankind in the world? No, we are taught to love our fellow-man. Demas had given up to his vile and vain affections and returned to his former love for the present world. He had become "worldly" minded. "Worldly" as used in this sense is defined as opposed to ecclesiastical and religious affairs.

The Apostle John defines worldliness as: "for all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:16).

When we are saved, our eternal citizenship is in heaven, even though we spend our remaining temporal life in the present world.

What then is our relationship to the world in which we live? This relationship is well expressed in the 17th chapter of John's Gospel.

1. Saved out of the world, (and receive heavenly citizenship). John 17:6
2. Continue natural life in the present world, John 17:11. (It is necessary to point out that even though we continue to live in the world we are taught not to conform to worldly standards,) and be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2

3. Sent into and through the world, John 17:18. "Go ye therefore, and teach 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, Amen" (Matt. 28:19, 20). Simply stated the only business a child of God has upon this earth is to be sent out through the world bearing the gospel message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Demas may have deserted the cause of God over-night so to speak; but I prefer to believe that it occurred over a longer time span. This gradual departure initially was probably not noticeable either to himself or those around him. A child of God must be on guard against the wiles of this world continually.

A good personal test I believe, regardless of the capacity of our service or calling is this: "If we are less motivated for the cause of Jesus Christ today than at any point since we were saved, then we may well be entering the path already trodden by Demas." What are the effects of becoming a backslider and deserter? Luke presents the effects resulting from deserting our obligations or leaving unfinished tasks.

St. Luke 14: 27-33

27. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.
28. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?
29. Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it began to mock him,
30. Saying, this man began to build, and was not able to finish.
31. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?
32. Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.
33. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

The cure for such a spiritual malady was given long ago: "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

**THE PREACHER**

(Cont'd from page 3)

honor and recognition? Freak circumstances in unguarded moments may bring the above tragedies, but most of the time there is cool calculation before the plunge is taken. Now, may we suggest a few answers as to why these things happen. Sinful thoughts continuously fostered take the sting out of sin and conditions the man to do the thing he thinks about so much. Since it is only a step from the thought to the act, it is so easy to pass from one step to the other. When a man gets used to the ideas in his thoughts, the sin itself is only slightly removed from outward expression. The more a man looks at an ugly thing, the less ugly it becomes. Preachers who go wrong have not guarded their own hearts with all diligence. We are told, "keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life". Proverbs 4:23 The man who condemns the act of sin from the pulpit and cultivates the thoughts of sin in his own heart is headed for a crash! And that crash he will blame on others.

Yes, power and glory in the preacher's life is sired in the same area where sin is sired. The ministry is filled with men who have risen to great heights in spiritual power. Many have rendered exceptionally effective service, even though they never became great in the world or the denomination. These men were made great in the inner sanctum.

**"Failure always follows the path of least persistence."**

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY**

By the grace of God and the generosity of many of you as churches or individuals, we have published 12 monthly issues of this religious publication. It was our aim from the beginning to promote articles of truth for the instruction of sinners, edification of the saved, and this for the glory of God.

The first issue numbered 1000 copies; presently, we are distributing 2200 copies each month.

My utmost appreciation is hereby tendered especially to the staff writers and all others contributing material worthy of publication.

With the Lord as our helper and your continued support, we enthusiastically enter the second year. Several good suggestions have been offered for consideration and perhaps will be used in future issues. No intentions of enlarging the current issue are being considered, but bi-monthly publishing is a possibility.