

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**

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ONE PLAN OF SALVATION

By the late F. L. Ray

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Romans 1:16-17

God's great, infinite love for man caused him to devise the way of salvation. Our redemption is solely of his grace; it is executed by Jesus Christ, who is the Messiah, the everlasting God. Whose satisfaction for our sins is perfect; who is, the great Mediator between God and man, and our glorious Intercessor in heaven, in whom redemption is complete.

The World Has Four Plans of Salvation The Law of Moses. Many people today think that keeping the law or trying to keep the law will bring salvation to the soul. Only one person ever kept the law in all degrees, and that was Jesus Christ.

The Law of the Land. It is common opinion today to hear people say, "I'm trying to be honest and good to my neighbors, so if anyone makes it I'll be there." That's all well and good for the person who has really been saved, but that's just another form of Phariseism for the unbeliever.

The Baptism of John. Some people think the baptism of John with water brought spiritual salvation. Jesus was already the only begotten Son of God when John baptized him. John didn't have two kinds of baptism, therefore, he only baptized sons of God and not sinners.

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JOINS DENVER MISSION



After several months of prayer and steadfast faith, the people of the new Denver Mission have received notification that Elder Ottis L. Jones of Lafayette, Tennessee is coming to join arms with them in preparing the way of the Lord in behalf of the conviction and conversion of sinners.

Elder Jones had visited the mission in April holding a few special services. Feeling this to be the ultimate leadership of the Holy Spirit for his life, he has made all arrangements to begin his work with the Mission, July 1, 1979.

May God's richest blessings be with Elder Jones, his Christian companion, Sherrell, their two daughters, and all the people of the Mission as they labor together for God's glory and honor.

Elder and Sister Jones are members of Lafayette Missionary Baptist Church of Lafayette, Tennessee. The Lafayette Church has extended an arm of authority for this work in the state of Colorado.

BACKSLIDING

By Jerry A. Reynolds
Davisville, W. VA.



"God hath not cast away his people whom he foreknew" (Rom. 11:2). "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified." (Rom. 8:29-30)

God's foreknown people are guaranteed by scripture eternal salvation. Who are they? The foreknown will in time be conformed in part to the image of Jesus. The bodily conformance will be made at the resurrection of the bodies of the elect. The conformance in time is spiritual. It consists of regeneration, and a progressive sanctification of the life, by the workers of the Holy Spirit.

The point at which a man cannot backslide unto the loss of his soul is found in Peter's address to the saints, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:"

The Holy Spirit sanctifies (sets apart) the foreknown people unto obedience and the application of the cleansing blood. It is through this degree of sanctification that they are the elect or chosen of God. (I Pet. 1:2) Paul concurs with "...God hath from the beginning chosen (elected) you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:" (2 Thes. 2:13) This is that degree of sanctification that obtains faith and obedience in the person. This trust in and surrender to the will of God are the conditions of salvation upon

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VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Kenneth W. Massey

QUESTION: Was the baptism administered by John the Baptist for the same purpose as those being baptized today by Baptist churches.

ANSWER: Yes. E. C. - Indpls, Ind.

The authority is the same in either case. John received his authority from heaven, not from men (John 1:6). The true Baptist churches receive their authority from God also (Matt. 28:19, 20). Everything but the Godhead must have a beginning ("...from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Psalms 90:1). As God created Adam and Eve, but all others have been born into this world, it pleased God to send John the Baptist with the proper authority to baptize disciples thereby making them fit subjects for charter membership in the church. Jesus Christ took right up where John's work ended (making ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:17), and brought the church into existence. The authority for baptism passed from John to the church, after she had been fully endowed to begin her mission.

John's baptism was gospel baptism or believer's baptism. The baptism of the church is the same.

The only real difference in the baptism of John and that of the church is, that his baptism was administered in view of the institution of the church while the church's baptism is administered in view of the perpetuity of the church, but the purpose, authority, mode and design are identical in both cases.

**JUSTIFICATION
BY FAITH
IN CHRIST**

PART I
By J. H. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

Justification is a legal term; and such being true, we are reminded of several factors; such as: 1. Law, of course, for if there was no Law to violate, there would be no need for justification; 2. penalty for the violation; 3. violators, or transgressors; 4. condemnation, or judgment; 5. acquittal, or release from penalty. May it be understood here, however, that justification in a Bible sense has a broader meaning than merely being released from one's past sins; because this would only take care of sins up to the time of acquittal, and wouldn't provide for one's future sins. But in God's gracious plan He has fixed it so that man's past sins can be forgiven and wiped out and provision made for his future sins, so that no charge can ever be brought against him. "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God who justifieth." Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Romans 8:33-34. Note the following points:

**FIRST, MAN'S NEED FOR
JUSTIFICATION**

The Scriptures reveal that man is a guilty, condemned sinner, and subject to the wrath of a holy and righteous God, whose Law he has broken and left without an excuse. Some people try to be justified by keeping the Law, but they are condemned by it instead, for the Law shows men to be guilty. "Now we know that whatsoever the Law saith, it saith to them who are under the Law; that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." "Therefore by the deeds of the Law shall no flesh be justified; for by the Law is the knowledge of sin." Romans 3:19, 20. Note: "That every mouth may be stopped." Man has nothing to say in defense, no excuse, nothing he can do to free himself from the Law that he has violated. One of the purposes of the Law is to prove that we are sinners, to show that we have fallen short of what God requires. Therefore, by the deeds of the Law man cannot be justified because he just can't live up to such a holy standard, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of

God." Romans 3:23. This includes both Jew and Gentile. Paul said, "Are we better than they? No, in no wise; for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous no, not one." Romans 3:9, 10.

Some men suppose, and teach, that there is some good in everybody, and what we have to do is educate them and bring out the good that is in them; and in this way we can make good men and a good society. But there is no goodness in any of us that God will accept, as we note in the following: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind have taken us away." Isaiah 64:6. Since man cannot be justified by Law, or by any system of works on his part, since his works are no more than filthy rags, it is very clear that he must have the righteousness of another in order to be at peace with God; who is blessed forever!

**SECONDLY, THE BASIS OF
JUSTIFICATION**

After the Apostle Paul said, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God, he said this: Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus;" Romans 3:23, 24. Notice that he said being justified by grace is through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Without the redemption that is in Christ Jesus there would be no grace, no justification, and no declared righteousness for the sinner. But Jesus paid the price for the sinner, it was the greatest price that has ever been paid, it was the ransom price paid for the captives to free us from the penalty of the Law, "Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." I Timothy 2:5.

God has set forth, or foreordained, that His Son should be the propitiation for our sins, in order for us to have His declared righteousness. Our sins were charged to His account, and He voluntarily paid the price; He settled the old account that was against us, this satisfied justice, and God can and does justify sinners and still be just to His Law. "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Romans 3:25-26.

MISSION WORK

Hartsville Missionary Baptist Mission
Hartsville, Tenn.

This work began in the first week of May, 1978 with a revival conducted by Eld. Charles Allen Gentry and Bro. Jackie Wilburn. There were no visible results during the meeting but some 3 weeks later the seed that had been sown brought forth fruit, and since that time until now there has been approximately ten people who have been saved by grace. We are meeting in the old First Baptist Church building located on Church Street in Hartsville, Tenn. Bro. Howard Taylor helped in the revival this year and there were two saved and two that told their call to preach the gospel. One of these being my fifteen year old son, Bro. Jay Wilburn. He will be standing for his Lord for the first time the third Saturday night in June at North Carthage Baptist Church. Your prayers for my son and support for Mission Work in Hartsville will be greatly appreciated.

Jackie Wilburn
Mission Pastor
Hartsville, Tenn.

BACKSLIDING

(Continued from page 1)

which the blood of Christ washes away the sin of the human spirit leaving him inwardly changed (converted). The inward man (spirit) is completely and forever sanctified at this point.

He is a new creature. He is a child of God. He is born of God. He is born of the water and Spirit. (John 3:5) He is saved, "...by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost;" (Titus 3:5) His spirit is conformed to the image of the Son of God. His life will be by the workings of the Spirit. His body will be at the resurrection. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." (I John 3:9) John is saying that as soon as a man is born again, the part (spirit) which is born of God cannot commit sin. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6) That new creature is the seed of God and remaineth in the old body. The old body may sin but the new spirit cannot. Note that the election is **through** sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood, and belief of the truth, although the person and event was foreknown and predestinated in past eternity.

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QUESTIONS FOR BAPTISTS TO CONSIDER



By W. R. Overton
Madison, Tenn.

1. **QUESTION:** What is meant by a true missionary Baptist Church?

ANSWER: One whose organization, doctrines and practice are identified in the New Testament; which was founded by Christ on His laws and authorized to continue keeping house for Him until His glorious return.

2. **QUESTION:** Can any other church, religious institution, or worldly organization usurp authority over a local church?

ANSWER: No.

3. **QUESTION:** Who makes the laws and rules for a church to follow?

ANSWER: Christ gave the church all the laws necessary for time and eternity. Local church rules are enacted only for purposes of transacting business decently and in order.

4. **QUESTION:** What is meant by Parliamentary Law?

ANSWER: It is a rule established by a Parliament, an official conference or council concerned with government (church government applies).

5. **QUESTION:** Is an independent Baptist Church required to follow Parliamentary Law to the letter?

ANSWER: No. The form of government (democracy) used in America was first witnessed in a Baptist church. All true churches are required to follow the New Testament laws to maintain their operating power. However, a church may specially add modification to a usual rule, viz. if the church has passed the rule that a certain bill must have two-thirds of the majority vote in order to pass, then it must be so. But if there be no special rule by the church demanding the two-thirds majority, then the motion is decided by the majority vote. The only vote in a Baptist church requiring unanimity is regarding reception of members.

6. **QUESTION:** When does a church member need to defend himself, or be defended?

ANSWER: Only when he denies the charge.

7. **QUESTION:** Can a non-member witness against or bring charge against a church member?

ANSWER: No. No one can bring a charge of witness against a church mem-

JULY REVIVAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY 1

CEDAR BLUFF MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Lafayette, Tenn. Pastor James Lawson will be assisted by Elder Bobby Gann. EVERYONE is invited to services twice daily at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

JULY 8

INDEPENDENT MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Highway 22, Huntingdon, Tenn. Preaching by the pastor, Elder Kenneth Massey, each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. These services continue thru Friday night. A general invitation is extended to everyone!

JULY 8

MADISON MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Maple St., Madison, Tenn. Pastor L. W. Smith will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Thomas A. Carter. All are WELCOME!

JULY 8

SOUTHSIDE MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - 1850 E. Sumner Ave., Indpls., Ind. Elder William I. House of Nashville, Tenn. will assist Pastor Marvin Emberton in the preaching. Everyone is welcome to the services beginning at 7 p.m. each evening.

JULY 15

HAYSVILLE MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Macon Co., Tenn. Pastor Bobby Gann will be assisted by Elder James G. Beal. Services nightly beginning at 7:45 p.m. ALL are INVITED!

JULY 15

OLD UNION MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Matlock Rd., Bowling Green, Ky. Pastor Paul Bryson will be assisted by Elder Bernard Skaggs of Louisville, Ky. in the preaching. Song service will be under the direction of Bro. Terry Thornton. Services twice daily at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. YOU are cordially invited!

JULY 22

DARDEN MISS. BAPTIST CHURCH - Darden, Tenn. Pastor Cletus Dukes will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Kenneth Massey. Everyone is invited to these services beginning at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. each day thru Friday.

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ber, except some member of the same church. You cannot count the word of an outsider.

ONE PLAN*(Continued from page 1)*

The Bare Word of Christ. It is reported by certain groups that Christ saved some during his personal ministry on earth without the individual exercising faith from his heart. This theory contradicts the inspired word of God. The "Scriptures" conclude all are under sin and all must repent and faith follows repentance in the regeneration of every one who has been born into the family of God.

The Day of Pentecost. Certain religious groups believe the church began at this time, and, also believe a new plan of salvation was ushered in with the church. Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and preached the very same thing that Jesus and John the Baptist had preached before Pentecost — "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." If the gospel message was the same, how could the plan be different? The church had already been organized before Pentecost, but the plan of salvation was the same before the church was organized as after — "for by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast, for we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works." Eph. 2:8-10

"LOOK unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Isaiah 45:22

This one verse of scripture clearly teaches that all men must be saved by looking to God, and the only way we can look to God is by FAITH. Therefore, regardless of whether it was Noah, Abraham, Abel, Isaiah, John the Baptist, Peter or Paul doing the preaching, the same plan of human redemption was in effect at all times.

I suppose the chief heretical plan of salvation being taught today is the idea that "God saves sinners by a mixture of good deeds and Grace." Absolutely untrue! Listen, "If it be by Grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise, Grace is no more Grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more of Grace: otherwise work is no more work." Romans 11:6 Paul is emphatically saying that salvation is either by Grace or Works, but not both. And he then proceeds to defy and destroy "Works" in order to obtain salvation of the soul.

Conclusion:

1. God created one human family. Acts 17:26, Genesis 2:26-27
2. God placed a soul or spirit man within each individual. Genesis 2:7

3. God gave each person one natural life on the earth. Hebrews 9:27

4. God provided One Savior for all men. Acts 4:12, John 3:16

5. God, through the promise of His Son, sent one Spirit to reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. John 16:8

6. God has ordained one Gospel to call all men. Galatians 1:8

7. God, through Jesus Christ, established one Church and gave it a worldwide and age-long commission to preach the gospel. Matt. 16:18, Matt. 28:19-20

8. The one Church has one rule of faith — Inspired scriptures of the New Testament. 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Timothy 3:15, 3 John:12

9. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all is the same God who has provided the aforementioned eight reasonable and scriptural facts. So for complete harmony within the Godhead and the Divine scriptures, number ten must be as follows:

10. One creation of God having one eternal soul received from God is the recipient of one God-given life on earth which, when hearing the one gospel of the one Saviour is drawn by the one Spirit of God to comply with ONE AND ONLY ONE PLAN OF SALVATION - REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD AND FAITH TOWARD JESUS CHRIST. May God help us to preserve it in its purity for the wayfaring strangers to truth and right.

BACKSLIDING*(Continued from page 3)*

Certainly no regenerated person can backslide unto perdition. They can backslide, however, to the loss of their fellowship with God. (Psalm 51, Isaiah 59:2, Isaiah 64:7) to the loss of their works, (I Cor. 3:15, Col. 2:18, I Cor. 9:27, Rev. 3:11) to severe affliction by the chastizing hand of God. (I Cor. 11:32, Psalm 119:67, Heb. 12:11). The loss of their fellowship means unhappiness and a miserable life. The loss of works means a loss of rewards in eternity and a bad influence set before those people we love in this life who may perish because of our backslidings. The chastizing hand of God may mean tragedy, poverty, sickness, etc. upon our earthly lives that spiritual things of our lives may be preserved in eternal judgement.

Who may backslide unto perdition? We have proven that the regenerated cannot. Who may return to his vomit? He who still possesses the nature of the dog may. Who being washed, returns to the mire? The person who still

possesses the old nature of the sow does. In whom will be found the heart of unbelief in departing from the living God? It will be the one who has never believed with all the heart so as to be converted by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is safe to say that the writers of the Bible were deeply concerned about false professors among the believers. Their doctrine aimed to weed such out by exposing them to themselves. Thus Peter exhorted (2 Pet. 1:10) to "give diligence to make your calling and election sure", and the writer of the Hebrew letter "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." (Heb. 4:1) James expressed the uselessness for eternal salvation of a "faith without works" which "is dead" faith. (James 2:20) The devils have the kind of faith that James was warning against. (James 2:19) True faith a living faith, results in immediate conversion of the inner man into a Godly person from which good works flow naturally. The works are a natural result of true faith and regeneration of the spirit, not vice versa. Again in Heb. 3 & 4, and many like scripture passages, perseverance in holding to Christ is a natural inclination of the new creature, and therefore an evidence of salvation, but not essential to the obtaining of it.

It is sufficient to say that backsliding is possible for all who have left the paths of sin to come near to God. If men have come to God and been reborn, they cannot be lost eternally. (I Cor. 3:15, I John 3:9) They may have believed the word preached; forsaken their sinful ways; felt the powerful wooing of the Holy Ghost drawing them to Christ; felt lost, guilty, shameful, wretched, etc.

They may have endeavored to repent and have faith in Jesus but stopped short of a complete surrender to God and total trust in his power to save so that they did not experience the soul cleansing change of St. John 3:8. Satan tempts directly and through erring humans to help those yet unregenerated believe that they have done enough to be saved. Thinking that they are saved they feel better and the conviction subsides. These are the ones who can draw back unto perdition, and except they admit their unbelief they certainly will backslide to the loss of their souls.

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