

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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THE BIBLE

By F. W. Lambert
Westmoreland, Tenn.

- THE MIRACULOUS BIBLE - THE BOOK OF ALL BOOKS - Luminous with the LIGHT that dwelleth not on land or sea. What is it? Whence cometh it? What means it?

It has made and unmade nations. It has uprooted kingdoms and empires. It has diverted the mighty tides of history. It has crumpled ancient faiths and superstitions. Because of it fell pagan Rome.

Only ignorance scoffs at the Bible! The greatest rulers; the greatest statesmen; the greatest scholars, writers, orators, scientists, soldiers; and the untold millions of the common people, whose collective genius outweighs them all, have thrilled to its divine wisdom.

The only Book of Books, vouchsafed for the guidance of mankind through the ages.

The BIBLE is composed of sixty-six books. It was originally written in several different languages, in different countries, over a period of about sixteen hundred years, by about forty different authors. These men varied in their circumstances and positions of life. David and Solomon were kings; Daniel and Nehemiah were statesmen; Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Zechariah were prophets; Ezra was a priest; Amos a herdsman; Moses was learned in all the wisdom of Egypt and was mighty in words and deeds; Paul a converted Pharisee, was well grounded in Jewish law; James, Peter and John were "unlearned" and ignorant fishermen; Matthew was a tax-collector; Luke was a physician.

Many of these men never saw each other and as they wrote they did not know what the other had written. They represented different ages, different

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YOUR MOST IMPORTANT POSSESSION

By Harold Carver
Buena Vista, Tenn.



"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36-37. Man today finds himself in the midst of a world treasure chest. The age in which we live shall surely be noted and remembered as the materialistic model of all ages. The boundaries of materialistic possession is only limited by man's imagination, since seemingly whatever man has imagined or desired in his heart, a means has always been devised for the accomplishment and obtaining of temporal possessions.

Man has sought gratification and esteem through the collection and display of these treasures. A brief inquiry or personal examination into ones most important possession would surely reveal the influence this materialistic environment has had upon society. In assigning value and importance to personal possessions, many, and I regret to add most likely the majority, would answer as did the "Invited Guest" in St. Luke 14:16-20. "Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. These "guests" as so many have today, esteemed temporal, materialistic possessions before spiritual possessions.

(Continued on next page)

OLD UNION BAPTIST ORDAINS BRO. VERNON ROARK

Sunday afternoon, August 26, 1979 at 2 p.m., Old Union Missionary Baptist Church ordained Bro. Vernon Roark to the full work of the ministry.

Elder Paul Bryson, pastor of the church, served as Moderator with Elder Thomas Armstrong serving as Clerk. Deacon J. P. Doss presented the candidate followed by Elder W. T. Russell's interrogation. Elder Kenneth Davis led the ordaining prayer after which the presbytery offered the laying on of hands. The charge to the ordained Brother was given by Elder Don Curtis. Elder C. B. Huddleston gave the charge to the church and the Bible was presented by Elder Bernard Skaggs.

Elder Roark has gone to Oregon to accept the pastorate of the church which called for his ordination.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9)

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C-H-U-R-C-H spells Church. But it doesn't mean anything unless UR in it.

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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“A FLAMING SWORD”

By Kenneth W. Massey

Lesson: Matthew 10:34-39**Text: Genesis 3:24, “And he (God) placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”**

This flaming sword represented Christ and Christ represents the precious blood-bought gospel of himself.

The eternal flame placed on the grave of J. F. Kennedy will go out someday for sure when this world is destroyed by fire and brimstone, but the flame of the garden of Eden will brightly glow in yonder world by the presence of Christ Jesus and the Book of all books, Matthew 2:1-2 - Three wise men saw his star in the East and came to worship him. Matthew 24:27 - For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall the coming of the Son of man be.

The glorious gospel of Christ originated in eternity with the intelligence of God. It was promised in Gen. 3:15, demonstrated in Gen. 3:24 by the flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life. It turns to the east, west, north and south; to the poor, rich, halt, blind, maimed; to the red, yellow, black and white. The star in the East was a guiding light to show the wise men the place of Jesus. That star was never used before nor has it been used since to direct another to the location of any other human being. And the world refused to recognize the fact that God ordained a divine plan of redemption (Gen. 3:24), confirmed it by the birth of His son (and the Word was made flesh and dwelt

among us), announced it to shepherds in the field and guided the wise men to the Bethlehem birthplace. In all of these revelations, God reveals himself as author by the use of the word “East”. And one step further, the promise of his coming is verified of God by the presence of “out of the east”. This proves the inspiration of the scriptures beyond any doubt because of the one design of the many writers, and only one Author, God Himself.

This one direction “from the east”, “in the east”, significantly points us to the flaming sword. Just one source, from just one direction, did God initiate the sword of the spirit - that unmistakably is the counsel of the living God. One church, one Christ, one gospel.

When David fell Goliath with his sling-shot, he drew Goliath's sword and cut his head off in a great victory for the people of God. “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd” Zech. 13:7 - Referring to the actual execution of it (sword) on Messiah the shepherd, the substitute for the sheep, by God as judge. God proves His love by saying “my shepherd”. O, what a price for the greatest victory ever known to man. The sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, Ephesians 6:17, will probe into the hearts of men and enable honest souls to be pointed in the direction of victory in Jesus, Hebrews 4:12

The flaming sword of divine justice began with God, culminated in death on the cross to the Christ, and is being proclaimed today by the church of the living God. Many have been cut in the heart by this sword, but thank God for their healing in the cleansing fountain of the precious blood of the Lamb of God.

REVIVALS

OCTOBER 7 - McFerrin Ave. Miss. Baptist Church of 1208 McFerrin Ave., Nashville, Tennessee. Pastor Howard G. Taylor will be assisted in the preaching by Bro. Jackie Wilburn. The public is invited to attend these evening services beginning at 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 14 - West End Miss. Baptist Church of Gallatin, Tennessee. Pastor W. E. Massey will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Everyone is invited to these evening services.

OCTOBER 21 - Meadorville Miss. Baptist Church of Lafayette, Tenn. Pastor Harold D. Linville will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Elder Tommie Lankford will be in charge of song service. A cordial welcome is extended to all.

YOUR POSSESSION

(Continued from page 1)

My friends, may I now inform you that your soul is your most important possession. It is of infinite worth because it is eternal. Your soul is your most valuable and precious possession because:

1. The soul is eternal, and because of its nature it will last forever. In Genesis 1:27, 2:7, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” The breath of life here mentioned is but the Spirit of God. A living soul could no more cease to exist than the eternal living God could cease to exist. When the sun has been turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, the stars of heaven falling unto the earth, the heavens depart as a scroll when it is rolled together, the elements have melted with fervent heat, and the earth burned to a cinder the soul will still be in existence. The soul is indeed eternal and will exist throughout eternity, in either Heaven or Hell.

2. The soul has great and glorious potential. Romans 8:29, “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.” The great foreordained plan of God provides the ways and means for man to be transformed into the image of his dear son. In the regenerated soul God finds worship, honor, and glory. Therefore the soul is a most precious possession, not only for what it is, but for what it can be.

3. The price paid for the soul: John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” I John 3:1, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:” Oh, what great love God hath shown to save our souls! Meditate upon the precious son of God as he prayed unto his Father in the garden of Gethsemane. St. Luke 22:44, “And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Meditate upon the precious son of God as he was brought before Caiaphas the high priest and before Pilate the Roman Governor in mock trials to be accused by false witnesses, and mocked, spit-upon, beaten, smitten, and abused by hard hearted, unbelieving sinners that cried crucify him, crucify him, crucify him. Meditate upon the precious son of God as

he mounted Golgotha, was nailed to a cross, suspended between earth and glory, and then in the midst of darkness came the piercing cry "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me." Hebrews 2:9, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." Oh, sinner friend, can you not see what great value God has placed upon your precious soul? Please consider it your most important possession. The Bible gives many illustrations of men who neglected their most important possession, and let us now consider some of these.

Mark 10:17-22, "And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions." Here we see a man of great possessions who was sincere and of high morals but lost. He showed zeal by running, humility by kneeling, and personal intelligence by inquiring "What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" But upon receiving the answer to his question from the lips of the Lord, he was saddened and grieved. We must assume that his zeal and humility were only manifestations of the flesh and not of the heart. He went away having neglected his most important possession, His Soul.

St. Luke 12:15-21. "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat,

drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God. In these passages we find a man who had reaped many blessings and had accumulated much material gain during his natural life. But like so many today he had become enveloped with temporal life to the exclusion of consideration of everlasting life. "Soul take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry" were but the foolish imaginations of a blinded heart, because he was nearing the first of two appointments that all mankind will meet, Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:". Once again we observe a man who had neglected his most important possession, His Soul.

St. Luke 16:19-24, "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." In this account we can study the dialogue of a man who while on earth had enjoyed the finest that temporal life had to offer. He had fared sumptuously and enjoyed life to the fullest. Then the appointment with death "and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments", and again we note "and he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." Indeed a sad revelation about a man who neglected his most important possession, His Soul. What had this man profited even though he had gained much of the world but had lost his own soul? Or, what would this man give in exchange for his soul? Lost sinner, whomever or wherever you may be at this hour, please consider your most important possession, YOUR SOUL.

BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS PLAN 1979 SESSIONS

SILOAM

The 27th annual session of the Siloam Missionary Baptist Association will convene October 5th and 6th with Madison Missionary Baptist Church of 214 Maple St., Madison, Tennessee. Services begin each day at 10 A.M. Central Daylight Time. Annual sermons will be delivered by Elders Bernard Skaggs, Douglas Curtis and J. D. Sanders. Officers serving last year were: Elder W. T. Russell, Moderator; Elder Don Curtis, Clerk; Bro. G. W. Hauskins, Treasurer.

ENON

The 130th annual session of the Enon Missionary Baptist Association will meet October 12-14 with Union Camp Missionary Baptist Church of Lafayette, Tennessee. Elder William Johnson served as Moderator last year with Elder J. E. Shoulders serving as Clerk and Elder Floyd Ferguson as Treasurer. Annual sermons will be delivered all three days.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT

The 131st annual session of the Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association will be held October 12-14 with Independent Missionary Baptist Church of Huntingdon, Tennessee. The church is located 14 miles north of I-40 on Highway 22. Those serving as officers last year were: Elder Harold Carver, Moderator; Bro. Ray Smith, Clerk; Annual sermons for 1979 will be preached by Elders C. F. Carter, E. F. Prince and Roger Fowler. As pastor of this church I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone (Editor).

WISEMAN

The 88th annual session of the Wiseman Missionary Baptist Association will be hosted by Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, October 26th and 27th, beginning at 10 A.M. both days. The late Elder F. L. Ray served as Moderator last year with Elder H. C. Vanderpool serving as Clerk and Elder A. G. Gregory serving as Treasurer. Annual sermons will be presented by Elders Hilman Duncan, D. W. Story and J. W. Briley. This church is located at 1044 East Trinity Lane, Nashville, Tennessee.

THE BIBLE*(Continued from page 1)*

conditions, different classes and complications of society. Kings, Prophets, Priests, Statesmen, Lawyers, Doctors, Merchants, Herdsmen, Toilers, Tillers of the soil and Fishermen. They came forth from palace or temple or office or field or lake, and moved by the Holy Ghost, wrote the books in the BIBLE. Later generations gathered these books together and we have them bound in one Book - THE BIBLE.

The BIBLE itself tells us that it is living "and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword;" that it is a revealer or "Discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." It is the "sword of the Spirit." It is a "lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." It is true from the beginning. It is settled in heaven; it will stand forever.

Jesus declared, "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24:35).

Peter wrote: "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of men as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth forever" (1 Peter 1:24, 25).

Those statements were written nearly two thousand years ago. It was no idle boast. Nearly two millenniums have come and gone. Centuries have followed centuries. Empires have risen and fallen and are forgotten. Kings have been crowned and uncrowned. Civilizations have changed, rechanged and perished. BUT THE WORD OF GOD STILL STANDS! Speech may change and customs may change and men may change, but God's truth, Never!

Emperors have decreed the BIBLE'S extermination. Atheists have railed at it. Profane and prayerless lips have pouted at it. Higher critics have carped at its claims of inspiration. Modernists have moved heaven and earth to disprove its miracles. Materialists have ignored its spiritual claims. Radicals have ranted and raved over it. Scoffers have scorned its promises.

Men may spurn the BIBLE, they may burn it; they may abuse it, they may misuse it; they may seek to disprove it with their lexicons, their mathematics, their philosophies, their theories, their chemical formulas, by their spades and their prehistoric bones, but when they have said their final word, they will lie down in death like those who have gone on before them. And some preacher of the simple gospel of Christ will be called upon to stand over their casket and read from its sacred pages, and while their

bodies are crumbling back to the dust from whence they came, the BIBLE will continue on its heaven-gladdening, life-purifying, sin-smiting, and soul-saving way.

It has weathered all the storms of hate. It has conquered all the gnawing teeth of time, It has out-lived, out-lifted, out-looked, out-loved, out-reached, out-ranked, and out-blessed all other books.

When childhood needs a standard of truth, when youth calls for a beacon of light, when sorrow cries for consolation, when weakness needs sustaining grace, when age needs a staff, when the weary seek refuge and rest, when hungry hearts call for living bread, when the thirsty pilgrim needs refreshing inspiration, when the drifting soul needs an anchor, when the sinful need salvation, my BIBLE is the book to which they may all turn and find their supply.

It has been the pillow upon which the trust of millions of God's saints and heroes were given rest as they were passing over Jordan's swollen stream. Martyrs, have held it to their bosoms while they waited the creeping flames, or the twisting thumbscrews, the agony of the stocks, or the stealthy step of wild beasts which were to tear them to pieces at the command of pagan monarchs.

Those saints, who have found the BIBLE trustworthy in their pains and troubles, did surely find a staff upon which to lean in the valley of the shadow of death.

Open the BIBLE where you will and the first impression is that of vastness. It has in it the curve of the earth and the arch of the sky, great and wide like the world. It is rooted in the abyss of creation and rises into the blue mysteries of heaven. It reveals a world in which men live and love, sin and suffer, hope and die.

Jesus upheld this Old Testament claim. He said, "Have you not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? Matt. 22:31, 32. That which was spoken by God, not by Moses, not by man, but by God. And on another occasion he declared, "Verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, not jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all shall be fulfilled" (Matt. 5:18). Not a jot; not a tittle; not an iota, not a single letter, let alone a word. The jot or tittle was a small subscript used in the Greek writing, the language which the Scriptures that Jesus read from had been translated. And here Jesus said not one of them should pass until all were fulfilled. This is letter inspiration. It is carrying inspira-

tion to the very finest point possible. For if every letter was inspired, then every word, syllable, verse, chapter and book had to be inspired, and is, therefore, TRUE. That is exactly the claim Paul made for the Scriptures when he wrote, "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16).

Peter makes the same claim and explains how it was brought about. He declares, "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).

The BIBLE is not the evolved thoughts of men's religious thinking thru the ages. It is the result of God's Spirit moving upon them and causing them to write great truths which their own minds could not comprehend. For example, Moses wrote in Genesis, Leviticus and in Deuteronomy (Gen. 9:4, Lev. 17:11; Deut. 12:16), "the life of the flesh is in the blood." In other words Moses claimed that the blood stream that the blood-stream was the life-stream of the body. Was he scientifically correct? Go to the hospital today and what is one of the first things they do to you? I'll tell you. They stick a needle in you and draw out some of your blood and examine it under a microscope to see if it is pure or contaminated. Why? Because all medical science today acknowledges that a pure, healthy bloodstream means a pure, healthy body. A contaminated blood-stream means a deficient or diseased body. But, my friends, some three thousand years before William Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood, and before a man ever looked through a microscope or medical science began doctoring the body by doctoring the blood-stream, Moses wrote, "the life of the flesh is in the blood." Daddy said doctors used to bleed their patients. He bled his mules.

How did Moses know it? Moses didn't know it! It wasn't Moses that was doing the writing. He was being moved along by the Holy Spirit. God, who created the body and put the blood-stream in it knew it was the life-stream, and so He caused Moses to write 3,000 years ago a truth that the scientists have verified in modern times.

SOUTHSIDE CHURCH

of 1850 W. Sumner Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana will have special Bible classes taught Friday evening, November 2nd and Saturday morning and afternoon, November 3rd. Elders Kenneth Massey, James H. Smith and Billy Moran will serve as teachers and present their lessons in the same order as names were given. Southside Missionary Baptist Church and pastor, Elder Marvin Emberton, extend a welcome for everyone to attend.