

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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SORCERIES

By Harold D. Carver
Buena Vista, Tenn.

"For thy merchants were the great men of the earth; For by thy sorceries were all nations deceived."
Revelation 18:23b

The first-glance impression when presented with the word "sorcery" is a term associated with supernatural power over others through the assistance of evil spirits. In connection with this subject and practice, we might also be reminded of the art of "Witchcraft" or "Black-Magic." We would not be altogether incorrect in these interpretations, since all are in a measure closely related and may be accurately defined by the word, "sorcery." However, as the word "sorceries" appears in the text, we need to be more analytical in pursuit of arriving at the specific interpretation of the word as used by the author of Revelation.

Literally the word "sorceries" is but the agent or agents which is used by the sorcerer (the devil). In the following passages we find the word "sorcery": Rev. 9:21, Rev. 18:23, Rev. 21:8, and Rev. 22:15. According to Young's Analytical Concordance, "sorcerer" in all of these passages is derived from the Greek root word **pharmakeia** referring to an "enchanter with drugs," or "enchantment with drugs." We recognize this to be the same Greek word from which the familiar term "pharmacist" is derived. For the purposes of this writing "sorcery" as relates to the use of drugs will be used. More specifically the term is used as it relates to the illicit, immoral, illegal and abusive use of drugs.

It appears that the devil has pulled from his quiver of deceitful and damning tricks one of the most destructive weapons of all time. It just may be possible that during this century his use of deceitful sorceries will exceed in destructiveness his most dreaded weapons of "heresy" and "false doctrine". This rather strong statement has been made to challenge the mind of each and every born-again Christian. It is fitting that we

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Qualifications Of A True Witness

By J. H. Smith

"AND YE ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS." Luke 24:48

In obeying this command we have something great to bear witness to, or something to witness about; there is ample subject matter. In fact the outstanding theme of the whole Bible is the, "These things" that Jesus has reference to here in this text. For He said in the verses preceeding the test, "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24:46-47. So it is that His suffering and resurrection must be proclaimed among all nations; and in this we must declare that men must repent and receive remission, or forgiveness of sins or be eternally lost without hope. There is no use for beating around the bush, and this is no time for sugar coating the message that the Lord has given for us to declare to the world. People with an ideology, or those with some new political system, regardless of how bad, are trying to sell their ideas to everybody on the face of the earth. They have their propaganda machines going full blast. How zealous are we to propagate God's great plan for the salvation of lost sinners, may I ask? But, you may ask, how do I qualify for such a task? May I answer from the Holy Scriptures, as follows:

NUMBER ONE. In order for anybody to be a true witness, and an effective one, he must himself know Him of whom he bears witness, he must be personally acquainted with the Saviour, or else he would be the blind leading the

(Continued on next page)

CHANGES PASTORATES



W. R. Overton

Elder W. R. Overton of Madison, Tennessee has resigned from Plunkett's Creek Missionary Baptist Church, having served them the past nine years, and has accepted the pastorate of Hendersonville Missionary Baptist Church. Elder Overton began serving the Hendersonville Church January 1, 1980.

May this servant and church witness a great ingathering of souls to the family of God and a building-up of His Temple in that place.

* * *

"In every triumph, there is a lot of TRY."

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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BEST NEWS EVER

January 3, 1980

Dear Brother Massey,

This is Kim Whitney. It was the 21st, the night before Thanksgiving. I was on the altar, and do you know what happened then?

THE LORD SAVED MY SOUL! I said to myself it's now or never. After I got saved, I felt glad and happy. I felt a lot lighter, too. I got baptized Sunday. I'll be seeing you again sometime.

Yours in Christ,
Kim Whitney

P.S. I am sorry I didn't get this letter written earlier.

(This letter was sent to me a few days ago written by the hand of this young daughter of Bro. & Sis. James Whitney. This family attends church at Fellowship Miss. Baptist Church of Indianapolis with Elder Calvin Perrigo serving as their pastor. May God bless this testimony and use this young Christian as a great soul-winner for Jesus.)

TRUE WITNESS

(Continued from Page 1)

blind. And there are too many like that in our day. We, or anybody else would do a poor job of telling someone about a person that we don't know ourselves. Now, you think about that real carefully. The apostle Paul was a true witness, a zealous one, a fruitful one, a faithful one, one that the Lord blessed in a mighty way; but he said this: "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." II Timothy 1:12. You see, Paul knew the Lord in a very personal way, he knew Him experimentally; because he had become acquainted with Him on the Damascus Road. (Acts 9:1-5)

Could we not at least tell what we know about Jesus Christ and our relationship with Him, who sacrificed His life and shed His blood to save us from eternal hell? The youngest babe in Christ could do that much. Jesus told the man out of whom He cast out an evil spirit; "Go home to thy friends and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." "And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him; and all men did marvel." Mark 5:19-20. Notice that Jesus commanded the man to tell what great things the Lord had done for him, be sure you give credit where credit is due. The Lord does the work in Salvation, and He wants the credit for it; and we ought to be sure to give Him all the credit. My wife and I sometimes visit a dear friend of ours who has been afflicted and bedridden for about twenty years, and the two last times we visited her she wanted to sing, and did sing, to us a part of an old hymn that we use to hear in church, especially when people were being saved; and the part that I remember her singing: "I know that Jesus saved me, and that's enough for me." I have heard people give a testimony when they seem to give the place where they got saved and the preacher who preached the sermon that convicted them more credit than they did the Saviour who did the saving. That is not right. We ought rather to say as the Psalmist said, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Psalm 126:3.

SECONDLY. For someone to be a useful and an effective witness, he must live such a life that people will believe what he says. Some people won't give much attention to what we say, they had rather observe what we are, and then come to their conclusion. Our life must

speak well, or our words will not mean but very little. It would be sad to hear somebody say to us: "Your life speaks so much louder than your words I can't hear what you say." Of course sinners can't hide behind the ungodly life of a Christian, everyone must answer for his own sins before God, but too many times a child of God will give a sinner an excuse to say such things. Such a situation has never been more prevalent than today. Too many Christians, church members, live such lives that you can't distinguish them from the world. Their actions, conversations, and even their manner of dress speaks of worldliness. All such conformity veils the testimony of God's child, and renders it ineffective. The Bible teaches us that we should not be like the world, but to be the very opposite; as we read: "And be not conformed to this world; be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2.

Jesus taught the disciples: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16. It is possible to have a light and then cover it so that the light can't shine. And this is just what our Lord taught in another verse, as we note: "Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light to all that are in the house." Matthew 5:15. Too many have covered the light the Lord has given them by the ugly life they live. If sinners can't see Jesus living in our lives we will have a hard time witnessing to them and leading them to the Lord.

THIRDLY, We need the power of the Holy Spirit in our witnessing. If we depend on human energy and the arm of flesh we shall fail. Oh, we might make some converts, but they will be spurious ones, counterfeits, not genuine, not saved ones, not born again children of God; and if we make such in our witnessing we are still failures. Too many of this kind already!

Jesus said before He left the world to return to the Father, "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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8. The Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost in fulfillment of this promise, and empowered His church for the task of being witnesses of the Lord unto the uttermost parts of the earth. This power of the Spirit is available to us, and we must depend on his power when we go to

ATTENTION! PLEASE NOTICE...



**OLD UNION BAPTIST
MINISTERS SCHOOL**

Plans have been made for the 8th annual session of the OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL. Be sure to mark your calendars now for March 26-28, 1980.

A group of important Bible subjects will be taught, with special services for the minister's wife being offered for the first time.

The teachers will be as follows: Elders F. W. Lambert, W. T. Russell, James H. Smith and H. C. Vanderpool.

For further information or motel reservation, you should contact Pastor Paul Bryson, Route 2, Alvaton, KY. 42122.

TRUE WITNESS Continued

witness. Or we find ourselves miserable failures. We can't lead men and women to Christ without this power.

FOURTHLY, Take the Word of God, which is the Sword of the Spirit. (Ephesians 6:17) As we go in the name of the Lord, take His word; for it is quick, living, and powerful, and sharper than a two edged sword. (Hebrews 4:12.) It is such a good thing for God's child, as he goes witnessing, to have some Scriptures stored away in his mind and heart, for the Word is the instrument that God uses to pierce the stony heart of sinners. When we have delivered the Word of God, and we pray that God by His Holy Spirit use the Word to convict sinners and save them, that is the extent of what we can do, as far as our power and ability is concerned; it is God's part to do the saving. The apostle Paul said of his preaching. "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." I Corinthians 3:6. We could, by high pressure tactics, lead people to make a profession of Christianity, but it takes the power of God to deliver a soul from the power of darkness and make a child of God.

GRACE, GRACE, GRACE

By Linda Helton

"WHO DELIVERED US FROM SO GREAT A DEATH, AND DOTH DELIVER: IN WHOM WE TRUST THAT HE WILL YET DELIVER US." 2 Cor. 1:10

In my prayers, quite often I have asked God to give me a burden for those that are lost, that I might be able to sincerely pray from the heart for them. The other night I felt the need to write down these things that were on my mind. I consider myself to have a very difficult situation concerning my family. Most of them simply admit to the fact that there is definitely something missing in their lives and if they were to die, they are not at all sure that heaven would be their home. Now this troubles me, but not as much as the condition of my Mother.

My Mother is a good woman. She works hard, takes great pride in her family and even goes to church regularly. She tries not to do wrong things and would always go that "extra" mile to help someone in need. Now all of these things are fine and we should all be more like this. But I, being a "born again" Christian, truly saved by God's amazing grace, with the knowledge that on a certain day, at a certain time, in a certain place, had the hand of God touch my heart and made me know I was his from now on, well I just don't know what to say to someone who believes that being good, will ever get you to heaven!

I see my Mother and millions of people just like her trying to make up for their sins by joining churches, teaching classes, or trying to raise their children in the right home atmosphere. But these are just works and through our own works we cannot obtain heaven. All of our works are as filthy rags to God. That is why Jesus had to come to this world and die on the cross to obtain our righteousness for us. We have none on our own and we will never have any because we possess no saving power. We cannot save ourselves. God is the only one who can!

We are to ask Jesus to listen to our cry and we must mean it with all our hearts. And when you have seen your lost condition, believe me, you will mean it with all your heart. Then God will let you know you are saved by his spirit that comes to dwell in your heart. It is a **feeling**, and no matter what people say about emotions or feelings, I thank God that he lets us feel our salvation. If he didn't, how would we know we were saved? Just

WHAT HEAVEN MEANS TO ME

When I picture Heaven, and quite often I do, I may not think of the things that mean the most to you; Like jasper walls...or gates of pearl so beautiful to behold; Or mansions standing everywhere, on streets of solid gold. For that's not what appeals to me, or fills my heart with bliss, 'Cause I've never had enough of that to get me spoiled...I guess. The human mind can't comprehend the beauty there is to see; But this, my friend, is really what Heaven means to me; It's a place where night will have vanished away, And the ages of time will be one long day. The weather will be perfect, and the food will be fine; And we'll never have to hurry, 'cause there'll be no time. And up there in Heaven we won't ever cry. There's not bills to pay, and nothing to buy. There'll be no more sorrow, nor one bit of sin, And the sting of death, thank God, will never be felt again; Another thing to me will make Heaven so fair, Is my Mom and Dad will both be there; And looking so young and fair to see, Not old and wrinkled, like they used to be. I want to kiss Mom, and hear her whisper in my ear, "I've been

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like he gave us feelings to know when we put our hand into a fire we feel pain, through our being saved and feeling it, we can go tell people that something has happened to us and we know we are saved. God lets us have the feeling of pain, but not that of his very presence touching our soul? How ridiculous that would be!

Now Satan will cast doubts about these things in your mind, but you can always go back to that time or that place and meet once again with the God who saved you and keeps you.

What can Mom go back to? The cookies she baked for the sick neighbor down the street, the money she gave to the church or a kind word she spoke? Can these works ever add up or take the place of the King of all Kings coming to this earth as a lowly man and dying on a cruel cross for people that hated him? If it can, then surely His death was in vain. Now I wish they could see that there is nothing wrong with good works. It is good to be like Jesus and try to be kind and considerate to others. But when people start relying on works instead of salvation through Christ to save their very souls from hell, then I feel there are no words left to say to them.....only prayer on their behalf to God.

SORCERIES

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should be challenged, because through this particular tactic, Satan, is reducing to rubble the heart, mind and soul of multitudes of young people today.

The spread of drug abuse across our land threatens not only the moral fibers of society, but gnaws at the very spiritual nature and quality of man. This menace is destroying individual souls, dividing families and disrupting the social structure of the society in which we live.

An alarming percentage of crimes committed are narcotic related and the economic impact of this problem runs into the billions when viewed on the national scale and the corresponding results in human suffering is beyond measure. We are informed of these alarming facts:

1. One of nine high school seniors, according to the 1978 National High School Senior Survey, smokes pot daily. And of all pot smoking twelfth graders, 31 percent use one or more additional drugs.
2. Fifty percent of Tenth to Twelfth graders, according to city and statewide surveys, are weekend to daily pot smokers. And one typical state survey conducted, reported that "over forty-two percent of tenth-graders use one or more of the following substances: Marijuana, hashish, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, stimulants and depressants."

The author of this writing personally witnessed the testimony of a responsible faculty member of the local high school which stated "approximately 60-80 percent of all students in grades seven thru twelve had either experimented with or used an illegal, controlled substance of some type". However, the measurements of crimes committed, dollars spent, and suffering experienced is unimportant and insignificant when compared to the loss of a personal soul. The effects of drug abuse tears at the heart strings of our concern, when we consider the destruction of an innocent, unbelieving soul through the use of deceitful sorceries.

The remainder of this writing will address the "deadening and damning effects" of drugs upon the mind, heart, and soul of man.

The grace of God is being extended to every human being through the redemptive blood of his Son. The infant born with an inferior and undeveloped mind is certainly covered under the merciful grace of God. Likewise, the child who may suffer unfortunate injury of mind prior to reaching the age of accountability is also covered. But what happens to the individual who knowingly

and willingly destroys his mind through the use of drugs? What happens to the person who so deranges and dulls their senses that they become insensitive to the revealing power of the Holy Spirit of God? What happens to the creature who never repents with all of his heart, soul, mind and strength? These questions are worthy of our most immediate and intense consideration and prayerful meditation.

As always, the standard of our thesis must be the Holy Bible. The word of God strictly forbids "enchantment" with drugs, "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer" (Deut. 18:10, 11). The prophet Isaiah speaks of God's judgment upon those that abuse through sorceries, "But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments" (Isaiah 47:9). Notice God's requirement that we love him with all of our heart, soul, and with all thy might, and the resulting blessings for our obedience to this commandment (Deut. 6:3-9). This commandment was also confirmed by the Lord during his personal ministry as recorded in Matthew 22:36-40. How can an individual be faithful to this commandment, when the capacity of his heart, soul and mind has been destroyed through the abusive use of drugs. The answer simply is, "he cannot!"

The Apostle Paul declares the gospel of Christ to be power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth (Rom. 1:16).

Through the revelation of the gospel, the lost sinner becomes knowledgeable of what sin is, how serious it is, how full of evil it is, how displeasing to God it is, and how exceedingly sinful he really is. Also, through the gospel, we learn what we are by nature: that we are born with a sinful nature, that we must repent or be forever lost (Luke 13:3), that all men everywhere are commanded to repent (Acts 17:30). However, we must understand that man receives such knowledge **only** through the office work of the Holy Spirit in accompanying gospel address. The Holy Spirit, which is God's ambassador to man, reveals, convicts, and convinces of these truths. John wrote of this spiritual work: "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment"

WHAT HEAVEN MEANS TO ME

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waiting for you son, I'm so glad you're here." And Dad will say, "Boy, there's no more fears," And we'll sit down and just talk, for maybe a hundred years. Try to imagine the thrill, if you can, Of seeing all the old saints and get to shake their hand, And hear all the stories of the things they've done. And maybe live right next door to old James or John. It's gonna be wonderful, when we make it through, To this beautiful land He's made for me and you. But all that I've mentioned won't even compare, To the main thrill that awaits us when we get up there; And that is to see Jesus, the one who died for me, And to live in his presence throughout all eternity. I'll just sing forever, without a trouble or care. That's what Heaven is to me. I hope I meet you there!

—Jimmy Jones

(John 16:8). The Apostle Paul preached to the Romans the absolute necessity of heart faith or belief as a condition of salvation (Romans 10:8-10). Again the all-important question looms, "If the capacity of the mind of man for rational understanding and reasoning is altered or destroyed, how can the mysteries of God be revealed to that individual through the gospel?" The answer is - IT WILL NOT BE REVEALED. Or how could an individual have the faith unto salvation as discussed by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith." The answer is negative, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God." (John 3:18)

It behooves every true teacher, evangelist, or pastor to make a concerted attack against this destructive ploy of the devil. In the final analysis it makes no real difference which means the devil uses to deceive a lost soul. We realize as we are taught in the word of God that it is the sin of unbelief which condemns and damns the unbeliever. The important point for each of us to remember is that one of Satan's greatest means of sealing the lost soul in unbelief is through the deceitful and abusive use of drugs.

Each and everyone of us must become more aware and acquainted with this perplexing problem, which as the text states, "multitudes are being deceived." I am persuaded that this century will be characterized as the period when millions were led into the captive arms of eternal destruction through the use of sorceries.