

# 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. 4

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NO. 2



## KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH

By Kenneth W. Massey

**"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."  
I Tim. 2:4**

One of the most important works of our churches is the duty of informing sinners "WHAT THEY MUST DO TO BE SAVED." When was the last time you heard a sermon declaring to the sinner the eternal gospel, teaching him what God requires on his part?

Sometimes I hear a preacher on television or radio, and usually they are doing one of four things - either begging for money, selling something, promising a healing miracle, or trying to teach on prophecy (a subject beyond the combined knowledge of the best theological minds in the world). People right here in America are starving to death to hear the plain message of God's everlasting gospel delivered in the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is apparent to me from the associational statistics of our churches, that something other than just this simple, ageless, grand old story of God's redeeming grace is being preached. The true, pure gospel will have its' effect. God has promised to honor His word.

### Experience Preaching

What does your pastor preach? Is his favorite subject, "Security of the Believer?" That's a part of salvation that definitely needs to be taught, but no one else would ever be saved if that was all he ever heard. I am not saying that you cannot be saved without hearing a preacher in the pulpit. What I am saying is that sinners cannot be converted until they know they are in sin and what they

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## ALL-DAY YOUTH SERVICE

On Saturday, May 23, 1981 beginning at 10:00 A.M. CDT, a special all-day service for all youth will be held at Natchez Trace State Park near Lexington, Tennessee.

This is your invitation to come and expect a good time in the Lord. Many are coming from all parts of Tennessee and some from Kentucky, Mississippi and perhaps Missouri.

In the morning, convicted drug pusher Jerry Ellis will relate how his life was victimized by the Devil's advocate in the form of pills.

Talented singers will be singing and leading in group singing during the afternoon.

Emphasis will be given to the church's need of this generation to help further the gospel's call.

"Rejoice, O young man (and woman), in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." Ecc. 11:9

Exit and turn to the South off I-40 between Nashville and Memphis at the Natchez Trace State Park exit (116 mile marker).

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## PASTOR AND DEACON

By Don McDonald  
Warren, Mich.

The beginning of this article could be called the two Scriptural officers in the Lord's Church. They are not essential for its existence, but they are necessary to its well being.

If the Church expects to grow and prosper, it must obey the laws handed down by its head—Christ.

The New Testament teaches that the pastors and deacons are the only two permanent officers of the Church. Paul in his writings said, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Eph. 4:11, 12. Pastors and deacons are permanent spiritual officers of the Church.

**We would like to discuss these two important offices in their proper order.**

What are the qualifications of a pastor? Well, we want to call your attention to the word of God. "This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt

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## REVIVAL

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 222 E. Epler Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. will begin revival services Sunday evening, May 31st.

Pastor William L. Shoulders is to be assisted by Elder Eugene Brown of Nashville, Tenn.

Sunday evening services 6:00 p.m.; week nights 7:00 p.m.

**YOU are invited!**

**VOICE OF BAPTISTS**

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"The 'Voice of Baptists' is a real interesting publication, and I do appreciate your sending it to me."

Vivian Stewart  
Camp Hill, Al.

"Just received the last issue. We both enjoy it very much."

Robert & Ruby Jackson  
Ochelata, OK

Editor,

"I have been reading 'Voice of Baptists' for the past few months and have enjoyed it very much. Please put me on your mailing list."

Clifton Craighead  
Brush Creek, Tenn.

"Your publication, 'Voice of Baptists', is enjoyed and fully read each month."

Nancy Winfield  
Nixa, Mo.

"I want to write and tell you that I enjoy the 'Voice of Baptists' very much. The articles promote good sound doctrine."

Richard Crain  
Bolivar, Mo.

**BRO. RUSSELL  
RECOVERS**

Our dear friend and staff writer of "Voice of Baptists," W. T. Russell, has made a rapid recovery from open-heart surgery and additional surgery. He returned to the pulpit April 12th to continue preaching the great gospel of a Great God.

**PAPER RECEIVES  
NEW STRENGTH**

It is a real joy to announce the addition of four new Staff Writers and a Circulation Manager to the paper's organization.

New Staff Writers are:

Elder Jerry A. Reynolds, pastor of Old-time Baptist Church in Elizabeth, West Virginia.

Elder Harold D. Carver, pastor of Clarksburg Baptist Church of Clarksburg, Tennessee.

Elder Stephen M. Skinner, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Buffalo, Missouri.

Elder Keith D. Frieze, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Bolivar, Missouri.

**PASTOR AND DEACON**

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to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth 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 church of God?) Not a novice, 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 and the snare of the devil. I Tim. 3:1-7.

Now then we notice that he is referred to as an undershepherd. The Lord Jesus being "The great shepherd of the sheep" says to his undershepherd to "Feed my sheep", "Feed my lambs". Jesus spoke these words to the apostle Peter after He had questioned Peter three times "Lovest thou me"? Jesus is plainly saying to Peter that if you don't love me I cannot entrust you with my spiritual sheep and lambs. Of course the love of God MUST be regarded as the supreme qualification of the pastor. All other qualifications are worthless or of no value if love is absent.

**What is the work of the pastor?** Paul says "If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work." Yes, this is truly a good work, but also a rewarding work as well. There is nothing more rewarding or satisfying than working in the vineyard of God and seeing lost souls being saved by the grace of God. The salvation of the souls of lost people are to be the first priority in the heart and mind of the pastor and the church members, if success is accomplished.

The word "BISHOP" comes from the greek word "EPISKOPOS" which means, an overseer, a man charged with the duty of seeing that things done by others are done rightly; any curator, guardian, or superintendent. Also, the superintendent, head or overseer of any christian Church. Thayer pp 243. See Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:7.

Under the forgoing statement we are not to suggest or even imply that the bishop or pastor has charge over a number of churches in a certain district or area. A bishop was a pastor of a Church, and the New Testament is far from encouraging a plurality of churches under one pastor, but we can find in at least two instances of a plurality of pastors in one church. See Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1.

It is plain, therefore, that a pastor's work is the spiritual oversight of the flock, the church he serves. He must care for the sick and the feeble as well as the healthy and the strong. Some he will be able to feed with strong meet of the word and others on the sincere milk of the word. Young converts are to be nourished along and then as they grow, be fed on the strong meet of the word. This is to be done with much love and concern on the part of the pastor if he expects them to grow in the doctrine. I'm sure that each individual can relate back to the time he or she got saved and then see how our pastors began to teach us on the simple things with their love and concern for our growth in the word and doctrine. I can well remember that after I got saved how my former pastor's helped me and the utmost concern for me. Today, I am most appreciative of their work and labor of love in the word.

We notice in 2 Tim. 2:15 the pastor must "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". To rightly divide the word of truth depends much upon the prayerful study and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. If these are neglected, the pastor will find himself wanting for spiritual leadership among the flock.

The administration of the ordinances as well as the preaching the word of God is the proper, yes proper, business of the pastor. He does this by virtue of the office he holds in the church.

Now then we want to consider the authority of the pastor. He is to rule in accordance with the law of Christ. "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you and are over you in the Lord, and to admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake". I Thess. 5:13. Also, "Let

the Elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine". I Tim. 5:17. Also, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God". Heb. 13:7. "Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves for they watch for your souls, as they must give account". Heb. 13:17.

In these scriptures, the pastor's are entrusted with authority not belonging to any other church member. He is not to rule with an iron fist or dictatorship. He is not to be the boss of the church but to be the servant of the church. Sometimes he will be asked to give advice on various matters and he should do so if he is acquainted with those matters. Churches in choosing their pastor should do so voluntarily and by love show him respect in the performance of his duties.

Also, while the proper exercise of pastoral authority is essential to the spiritual welfare of the church, pastor's should be careful of trying to assume powers or authority which do not belong to them but to the church. "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock". I Pet. 5:3. They should by all means be an example to their flock and to the community and world as well. The pastor and preachers should conduct themselves in a manner that their influence will be far reaching of those who are well acquainted with them and those who hear of them. The world is looking at him and to him for spiritual guidance, and if he has that good influence, he will be able to help someone. If not, he will be a hinderance to the cause. Also, his work and the work of the church will most surely suffer.

In choosing or calling a pastor, the church should make an indefinite call and if after a sufficient time the work prospers, well. If after a sufficient time there is nothing being accomplished, let them resign.

Now, we would like to call your attention to the office of deacon and see some things about his qualifications and duties. This is the second scriptural office in the Lord's church. You will find the qualifications for a deacon recorded in I Tim. 3:8-13. The word "Deacon" comes from the greek word "DIAKONOS" which means ministrant or terms such as, "To be a servant, attendant, domestic; to serve, wait upon. A deacon, one who by viture of office assigned him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes money collected for their use, Thayer, pp. 137, 138.

In the book of Acts Ch. 6:1-7 we find

the reason and purpose for the church to ordain deacons in the early church. The pastor could not give his time to all that was needed. The church was prompted to ordain deacons because "The number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations." The members of the church at Jerusalem "Had all things common", and the distribution was made out of the common stock "As every man had need". This was probably done first under the immediate direction of the apostles: and the large increase of the church interfered with the impartial distribution of the supplies. The apostles saw that, if they made it their own personal business to "Serve tables" that would greatly hinder their work in its spiritual aspect. They said "It is not reason that we should leave the word of God and serve tables; wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word". Acts 6:1-4

The creation of the office of a deacon suggests or recognizes the duties of the pastor are spiritual; and they should not be burdened with the secular interest of the church. Some have the opinion that the deaconship should be temporary and not permanent. In the first place, they (the church) cannot retract the ordination of the deacons. I do know of some so called churches who ordain deacons and they serve one year. But the conclusion is, that the pastors and deacons are the only permanent scriptural officers of the Lord's church.

The words "Men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom", applied to the first deacons, indicates that they were men of unblimished reputations, ardent piety, and good common sense. Certainly these qualifications should be sought in all who are to be ordained as a deacon. The phrase, "Full of the Holy Spirit", is an admirable description of fervent, elevated piety; and in their being selected as deacons their spirituality MUST be regarded. They should be "PILLARS OF THE CHURCH", and have the respect of the body.

They are to help the poor and to distribute the charities of the church. Deacons should not perform these duties in a formal manner, but must inquire into the spiritual as well as the worldly circumstances of those who receive the

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## TWENTY DON'TS FOR YOUNG PASTORS

1. Don't fail to pray.
2. Don't neglect to study God's word.
3. Don't look for an excuse to refuse preaching.
4. Don't preach so much negatively as positively.
5. Don't deal in off-color stories.
6. Don't be tempted on any occasion to preach less than your best.
7. Don't live beyond your means.
8. Don't be lazy.
9. Don't be selfish.
10. Don't be picking out your next church.
11. Don't be a pessimist.
12. Don't be too narrow-minded.
13. Don't betray a confidence.
14. Don't shun to declare all the counsel of God.
15. Don't be jealous of your fellow ministers.
16. Don't be a put-on.
17. Don't belittle small things.
18. Don't take your frustrations out on others.
19. Don't fail to keep your appointments.
20. Don't fail to pray.

## OLD UNION SCHOOL REPORT

The ninth annual session of the Old Union Baptist Ministers School has become history. Approximately 90 ministers were in attendance. Good fellowship, warm hospitality and God's presence reigned during these three great days.

A soul-stirring blessing was poured out upon the host of ambassadors Thursday as Bro. Howard Taylor delivered the message, "God Cannot Be Measured." The instruction was enlightening to all, but most especially to several young newcomers.

Bro. Jerry Reynolds urged all of us, as he preached on Thursday evening, to be more aware of our Baptist heritage and to faithfully maintain communications with all of our brethren around the globe.

Tapes of this session and previous sessions are available. Please write or call: Elder Paul W. Bryson

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**KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH***(Continued from Page 1)*

must do to be saved. God has chosen to evangelize the world through the worldwide ministry of His local churches as they go forth declaring the whole counsel of God.

The "Establishment of the Lord's true Church" makes for a good preaching theme at the right time, but a steady diet of that could deny the sinner his great need.

I believe that the churches in our country today are preaching more about gospel experience than gospel truth. Please do not think I am condemning the glorious experience of the new birth. I'm referring to preaching that illustrates preachers' experiences in the ministry and those of former pastors and the ministers of half a century ago. The Bible is filled with experiences of people, but one of those is unique. While we speak often of our own personal conversion, may we ever teach repentance toward God and faith in the Crucified One as the only anecdote for sinners' disease.

Too many times we preachers want to preach to the majority, and thus fail to warn sinners of God's great and avenging wrath. There's a number of reasons for this. One is, the christian church members might stop coming, if they are not entertained by the sermon. Gospel power preaching doesn't entertain the sinner, but will enable him to entertain the Captain of our Salvation when the terms have been met. Maybe we have selfishly crowded the sinner off into one or two weeks of what is called revival, and are hogging the other fifty weeks for our fellowship together.

**Fundamental Doctrine**

Failure to teach those basic and fundamental christian doctrines will weaken the preacher, his preaching and his congregation. God made man with mental capacities as well as spiritual and emotional. The minds of sinners are demanded of God that they must come to a knowledge of the truth before they can be saved. Idiots and babies could never be subjects of gospel address. Why? Their minds are insufficient to receive the instruction of God.

I sincerely believe that we should all return to the kind of preaching that won you from sin and won me from sin - the **GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**. It is the only way from Satan to God, from sin to righteousness, and from earth to glory. It is the same message preached by Isaiah and Jeremiah. The same gospel John the Baptist, Jesus and

Paul preached. The message of our predecessors a century ago was not filled with administrative procedures and campaigning for re-election, but was saturated with the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son, the Saviour of all the redeemed.

**Our First Work**

The main objective of evangelistic preaching is to teach the sinner what God does indeed require of him. It is our immediate duty to fill the responsibility of teaching sinners! It is the obligation of sinners to hear the gospel and believe it to be the truth - bear in mind that God has promised to send the Holy Spirit to accompany the word bringing conviction of sin to the honest-hearted sinner. With full mental faculty and a broken heart on account of contrition of sin, the unsaved individual then tries this gospel which demands - **REPENT TO GOD - REPENT OR PERISH!** What is this? Oh, that's sincere Godward acknowledgement of sin and a remorseful plea to be forgiven. How do you do it? By His marvellous grace! No one can tread on such holy estate without an invitation from the King of Kings. The gates are barred to those who would come uninvited. Is this all? No, as the Spirit has convicted and grace has wrought repentance, there must now be some kind of expiation made for that sin. Then, sinners being previously informed that Christ died for all, must actually put their case, their lives in the hands of the One Who took their place and receive righteousness in sins' place, joy for sorrow, peace for trouble, and knowledge of the saving power of a living God. My heart rejoices in His favor! Christ is the object of saving faith.

Tell everybody everywhere the everlasting gospel for instruction to those tired of sin and hungry for the new, good and full life in the Redeemer. This gospel will be a witness for or against you some day. Be careful how you handle it. I pray that this message will be practiced in my life for whatever time remains for me in the land of the dying.

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"We really enjoy "Voice of Baptists". Thanks to you and all who contribute to its writing. May God richly bless each of you and continue to give you the messages He wants us to hear."

Glynn & Linda Williams  
McKenzie, Tenn.

**PASTOR AND DEACON***(Continued from Page 3)*

church's gifts. When the occasion arises, they should report such circumstances to the church so that special attention may be given to the various needs. I have experienced people coming to the church building and ask for assistance and was told that "we will go with you and buy groceries for you and your family". They would reply, "NO". They were not sincere in their efforts but wanted financial help for some other means.

Deacons were first appointed to "serve tables", and there are three tables for them to serve: 1. The table of the poor. 2. The table of the Lord. 3. The table of the pastor. The various supplies to enable them to serve are to be furnished by the church.

The deacon should be very much concerned about the poor, the sick and those who are experiencing misfortune. They are also required to prepare and administer the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. They are to serve the pastor's table. They are not to decide for themselves or for the church how liberally it shall be supplied. The church as a body must make this decision, and every view should be taken when it is done. There may have been instances where that all the pastor was interested in was his salary. If so, he is in the wrong work and place. Should this ever happen, the church should seek elsewhere for a pastor.

The deacons should be solemnly ordained according to the example given in Acts 6:6 "When they prayed, they laid their hands on them". Prayer is in order at all times and all occasions. The laying on of hands is a token of designation to office. Some seems to think the laying on of hands is the conferring of the Holy Spirit on those being ordained, but the first deacons were chosen because they were **ALREADY** "Full of the Holy Spirit".

Finally, the pastors and deacons hold the two highest offices in the land. Their work should be done with the greatest concern for the cause of God and to the church for which they serve. The church places the greatest responsibility on the pastor and deacons and they should give their best to the work. The actions of the pastor and deacons should be as stated by our Lord "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven. Matt. 5:16

