

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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TEMPTATION

By Keith D. Frieze
Springfield, MO

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation"

James 1:12

Let us define the word TEMPTATION. It means, a tempting. This leads us to the word "tempt," meaning, "To make or try to make a person do something." The Greek word translated "tempt" means, to TRY, PROVE, or TEST. Generally when we hear or think of the word temptation, we think of evil, but this is not necessarily true. The moral character of the TESTING depends upon the object and methods. If the object be to incite or entice to sin, or the means be guile, flattery, lying, indeed any form of deception that would turn the tempted one from God and appeal to lower motives, then it is bad, whether coming from Satan or from his subordinates. But if the object be to honorably ascertain or prove character by lawful methods, or to fairly develop and discipline the inexperienced soul, then it is good.

I would like to explain these views more clearly by using a personal experience. Recently Bro. Kenneth Massey asked me if I would become a staff member and contribute in writing articles to "Voice of Baptists." My first thought was - I have never done this before and I am not qualified. Then came the thought in my mind and heart - What is this offer? What results could it bring? This TRIAL or TESTING would cause me to help a Brother spread God's word in a way I had never anticipated. My answer was, by the Grace of God I will try.

Through this Brother, God has tempted me to accept this challenge and strengthen one of my weaknesses. When we are TEMPTED to do good and we yield to perform that good, we are made to feel wanted and needed further in the

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THE HONOR THAT COMES FROM GOD

By Jerry A. Reynolds
Davisville, WV

Along with warm encouragement to the choice few of our young people who strive to serve God rather than the world should go the solemn warning to "seek that honor that cometh from God only" in setting their goals for their Christian lives. There is that danger of the selfrighteous leaven of the Pharisees hindering them and others that they touch in their daily lives if they fall into that vain human desire of receiving honor from their fellow men.

It has been my observation that those men who have rightfully been accounted the greatest in the esteem of following generations of the saints have been the ones who sought God's honor and his alone for their works. They have been occupied, or perhaps we should say obsessed, with only two pursuits regarding religion, pleasing God, and benefiting their fellow men.

Adoniram Judson, having returned to America after forty years in a foreign land seemed surprised at the fame he had acquired, annoyed by the honor given him, and more interested in courting the woman who was to become his third wife during his brief stay than he was in speaking to many enamored audiences of American Christians. Indeed to many who honored him his preferences seemed beneath his dignity, but his interest remained in those things which would further his lifelong mission rather than in the pleasing of men. He had buried two beloved wives and several children in far away lands, and was to be of his own

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REAL CHURCH GROWTH

By Kenneth W. Massey

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it:"

Psalms 127:1

Quite often I hear someone say, our church isn't growing!" Then another member of that same church will say, "that's ok with me, I don't like a big church anyway."

Should our churches be small and kept small? Should they be large and growing? Can a church be so small that it's light is so dim people fail to see it?

Let's hear the Lord on this matter - "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel (to necessitate because of their need, Gr.) them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23). That sounds like the Lord wants everyone to come. Not only come and be saved, but occupy the spiritual house He has provided for His children in this world.

There are some motives used to stimulate increased numbers in attendance and membership growth that I will not recommend. There is but one scriptural motive to realize real and lasting church growth - "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31) While some may even deceive people just to lure them into the church for a great demonstration of numbers, others are admittedly receiving sinners

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VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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TEMPTATION

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Lord's Kingdom. I find reason to seek deeper knowledge and understanding of his word. This helps a person to better express himself. This kind of temptation is for good not evil. I am thankful to God for this opportunity.

Now we look at Satan's evil temptation. Let us take, for example, a young Christian going away from home for the first time, perhaps to college, to the armed forces, or maybe to a new job. Here we find that person facing life unlike they had been previously trained at home, away from the close ties and influence of the home or church. They are tempted to yield to unlawful deeds by immoral people, such as intoxicants, drugs, sex, etc. The devil will use his power to say or do any thing in form of flattery or hurtful remarks to embarrass or humiliate in order to get that christian to indulge. He will use people to make such remarks as, you are a long way from home, nobody will know or find out. You can straighten up your life and live for God when you go home. After all this is the way we live out here. You will have to do as we do to be a part of us. If that christian says no, I do not wish to do that, they will say, oh you are too good to be one of us. Once you yield it may be easier next time, but if you stand your ground and resist Satan, it helps to make you stronger to turn him down the next time. Yielding to this kind of temptation is evil.

Someone might say, not knowing the scriptures, how can JESUS understand our feeling? He is pure, sinless, perfect and just. He lives in heaven where he can not be tempted personally of Satan. Look at Heb. 4:15 "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Our Saviour, while here on earth,

was tempted by Satan. Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-12; Luke 4:1-13. There were three temptations put before him. However, these temptations cover every possible way which we can be tempted.

The first temptation was in the realm of PHYSICAL APPETITE. The devil had overcome Adam and Eve by this same temptation. Adam and Eve were not hungry, but Jesus was very hungry. This made it much more difficult for Jesus. However, he would not use his power to satisfy his own need. He replied in the words of the Old Testament. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, shall man live." Deut. 8:33

Man has been found using the strength that God gives him to satisfy his own physical needs, rather than to serve and glorify God.

The second temptation had to do with VAIN GLORY. Satan took Jesus to the holy city, and setting him on the pinnacle of the temple, said "If thou be the Son of God, cast thy self down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." Notice Satan this time quotes, but misapplies, a statement from the scriptures. Ps. 91:11-12. Jesus resists him again by quoting from the Old Testament. "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God". Deut. 6:16.

Man will do most anything to gain applause and attention from people. These things always end in failure and loss and not in eternal gain. Jesus never used the power which God gave him to the glory of self but always to the glory of the Father.

The third temptation dealing with HOLY AMBITION, was a quick and easy way to become king of the world. Again the devil taketh him unto an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them: and said unto him "All these things will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Jesus again resists him by using the word of God, Deut. 6:13 "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." These things Satan offered were not his by ownership or title, he had, through subtle and deceptive means, stolen them from God. Satan tempted Jesus, suggesting that he take a short cut to win and build his kingdom. No suffering in the garden, no drinking of the bitter cup of sin for man, don't go through false trials, rejection and crucifixion. Satan wanted him to compromise, worship the devil and take the easy way.

Look how man is doing today. The

deceiver says, just accept him and join the church. You are all right, good enough. This is a short cut to hell people are taking. Following and obeying the Spirit of God in conviction and repentance from the heart bring everlasting peace and security. Conviction of the Soul is the important thing to make one know he or she needs to repent of their sins toward God and be forgiven of sin through the shed blood of our Saviour. Read what Paul said happened to him when the commandment came. Rom. 7:7-14. Jesus tells in John 10:1, "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." Jesus would take the long, hard way which involved torture and death. It would be a fight to the finish. Heb. 9:22 tells us "without shedding of blood is no remission." Now can you better see that Jesus understands our weaknesses and sufferings because he was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Where the first Adam failed the second Adam won. He defeated Satan that the human race could have a way of escape from the law of sin and death and eternal wrath of God. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" Rom. 6:23."

WHO CAN BE TEMPTED?

Any human being can be and is tempted. Humanity faces temptation every day. "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." James 1:2. Read on through verses 4 to see the reason. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1:12

WHO HAS THE POWER TO TEMPT?

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempted he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:13-15. This tempting is for evil and not good.

In the sense of enticing to SIN God cannot be nor does he tempt any man WITH EVIL. In the sense of trying, testing, or proving our faith, love, devotion to him, he is always tempting us as he did Abraham. Genesis 22:2. God led Israel into the wilderness, in answer to their prayers, a three days journey to try and prove them. There were 600,000 men, besides women and children, who left Egypt. Because of their unbelief only

two of that number were allowed to enter the promised land. God said "your Fathers did tempt me in the wilderness." God didn't yield to their evil temptations.

In God's providence he often permits us to be tested with evil intent by Satan, as in the case of Job and Peter. In this providential permission Satan has always had great limitations. It is not sin to be tempted of evil, only becomes sin by yielding to temptation.

TEMPTING GOD TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

Man tempts God when he puts him to the proof simply to see if he will keep his promises. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE me now here with, saith the Lord of host, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10. God requires his children, individually or collectively, to meet his conditions. When christians give him the glory, honor and praise, God will bless everytime. (Another reference Rom. 12:1-2)

We are never tempted in a good sense nor allowed to be tempted in an evil sense beyond our ability to bear or resist (I Cor. 10:13 reference)

Permit me to say, regardless of what talent or gifts any christian may have, unless God helps that person in Spirit and Grace their efforts are vain. Please pray for me.

REAL CHURCH GROWTH

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into their congregations in order to meet the budget and hoping these will be saved later. THAT'S PIETY BECOME HYPOCRISY!

Unless your church is experiencing growth from new converts, it is not fulfilling its mission. Those who start a new church, and then spend all efforts to gain members from other churches are spiritual parasites. The strength and life of a true New Testament-like church is to plant the seed, water the seed, and then stand still and watch as God sends His Salvation to redeem lost souls from sin.

MAKE EVERY EFFORT

"He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

2 Cor. 9:6

Quarter or half-time church is not found in the Bible. The religious world refers to those churches who just meet every now and then as "Part-time Baptists."

Several years ago, more churches than preachers forced churches to have

services on alternating Sundays. No church should be without services every Lord's Day until all of God's servants have been actively employed to labor in His vineyard. We need to get the seed of God out of the barn and into the hearts and lives of those dying and going to hell without God.

Your church and mine should have a good Sunday School followed by a sermon of truth from the eternal Word of God with another service that evening. If you look for every excuse to cancel services, instead of adding on more services, you are sowing sparingly and ye shall reap sparingly. Perhaps, no other service is more vital to the life and growth of your church than the mid-week prayer service. If your church doesn't have one, you are certainly on the way down.

NEVER CANCEL A REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVICE! It's nice to cooperate with other churches on special occasions, but have your own service first. Should we cancel our local church service to attend the annual association? As much as I love the fellowship and worship with the brethren and sisters of all the churches, my answer is "no". Could we have an association in the first place without the churches? No, so we must keep our doors open for to serve God in the local church first and then attend associational services as we have time.

Some members will hinder a church from having full-time services with a full-time pastor by saying, "we can't afford to pay any more." That's probably a cover-up for either not wanting to pay any more or not wanting to go to church any more.

A FULL-TIME PASTOR

"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." 1 Cor. 9:14

Paul is simply saying in the above verse that every preacher should live on the gifts that God's people leave for him at the altar.

Every church that expects to fulfill the great commission of Matthew 28:18-20 must divest the Lord's servant from secular work and thereby free him to enter wholly into God's work. A full-time pastor can study to feed the flock of God. A full-time pastor can shepherd the flock of God. A full-time pastor can spend more time reaching out to sinners. THE MORE TIME YOU SPEND ON ANYTHING THE GREATER THE DIVIDENDS. Why don't you go to your jobs but one day a week? Why don't you close your stores six days a week? God's business is the most urgent in the world. The work is exceeding and great. Why

should we think less time with His work will reap greater harvests? God help us to be about our Father's business.

The church that makes a sacrificial effort in supporting a pastor on the field will be blessed more than those who fail to further their giving. Please help me embarrass those members who say, "he's no better to work for a living than I am," and those pastors or preachers who say, "you don't have to give me anything - I'm not preaching for money." Let me respond to the lay member's patented remark by saying, I've seen a few pastors that those same folks wouldn't want to try to follow for more than one year. Now, to the preacher's remark. We should never discourage people from giving to a worthy cause for they shall miss blessings. This same man knows the church will give him something and he still holds his good job, too. So he looks big in the eyes of the church members while the full-time pastor would be made to look like a thief. If that man didn't need nor want the offering, why didn't he quietly return it to the church treasury without a grandstand act?

How much do you appreciate your pastor? Support him with your prayers, church presence and do your part to help make him God's man every hour of every day. If he doesn't want it, seek out another man. God will help you find someone.

GO AFTER THE LOST

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15

Regardless of what else you may need to leave undone, leave it all but win the lost at any cost.

Dear churches, please don't spend all of your precious time trying to round-up delinquent church members. They may have never been saved. Some members never miss a church service. They feast on every sermon, Sunday School lesson and Bible Study. Some of these same people develop a bad case of spiritual indigestion. They are ever taking in, but never giving off. As we

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BETHEL ASSOC.

The twenty-fourth annual session of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association will convene with Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, located at 222 E. Epler Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana. Services will begin Friday evening, September 18th at 7 p.m. Annual sermons will be delivered as follows: Bro. Tim Binion, Introductory; Eld. Billy Moran, Memorial; Eld. Calvin Perrigo, Doctrinal.

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grow, our lights should shine more brightly to our unsaved peers. Is the membership of your church really and actively concerned with the lost any time other than revival time????????? If the answer was "no", your church can improve its work for the Lord.

Last week, I watched young members witness to sinners and bow by their side in prayer to God.

Some folks accuse preachers of having a one-day a week job. That totals 52 days in the year. Now let's see what kind of job the church member has who cares little or nothing to help sinners after revival has closed. Allowing your church a four-week revival each year, Bro. Joe Church-Member puts in only 28 days per year. Well, what do you know, that's only a shade over half as much as the lazy preacher.

It's not comical but very serious that we look on the fields that are white already to harvest.

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for America and the lost world is, that they might be saved."

THE HONOR THAT COMES FROM GOD

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choice buried in the unknown depths of the Indian Ocean where no man could honor his sepulchre. The smiling faces of God and many redeemed Burmese people in eternal rest together with himself was thought to be reward enough.

Sometimes men of great spiritual stature seem petty about some things, but we must realize that they are human beings and their interests are not pleasing men. They, therefore, are what they are without any pretence.

One marvelous characteristic which adorns those whom God honors is an humbleness which enables them to cause their inferiors to feel comfortable in their presence. They need not vindicate themselves or "pull rank" on other people in order to prove their superiority. Yet we who are inferior when privileged to sit at the feet of God's teachers should not be exalted by their invitation to come up higher. Often such men will treat the most lowly and ignorant of us as an equal. All the while we are so treated we should never forget that such treatment is a product of HIS HUMBLENESS and not of OUR WORTH lest we be deceived and exalted and behave ourselves proudly under the penetratingly perceptive but patient and reserved consideration of one who is more honorable than ourselves in the sight of God.

PEACE AFTER THE STORM

As I sit here by this window looking out at the sky,

Seeing the everchanging clouds we know we must try...

To look on our life as swiftly fleeing away,

The chances are good we may meet our Lord today.

There's beauty in the clouds that are passing above,

As there's beauty in a life that has been changed by God's love.

This morning the clouds are a dark wintery grey,

Like the gloom of this hospital room where we stay.

Lord there is so much that we can't understand,

But we know our problems are common to man.

We only say "Lord give us strength just for this day..."

To keep looking to you for there's no other way."

We try not to ask "why the dark clouds roll over our soul?"

When we only won't peace like a river to roll.

That sweet peace is still there it's just veiled for a little season,

We are not to question our Lord for in this He has a reason.

Behind the dark clouds away up there on high.

The light is now coming through as the greyness passes by,

So it is with our soul when our dark moments have flown -

The peace that passeth all understanding breaks forth with a song.

Mrs. Douglas C. Barton

REVIVALS**AUGUST 9**

Lafayette Baptist Church - Lafayette, Tenn.

Pastor Kenneth Davis will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Kenneth Massey. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Ridge Grove Baptist Church - Henderson Co. Pastor Weldon Chandler will be assisted by Elder Rufus Chandler. YOU are invited!

AUGUST 16

Bethel Baptist Church - Toledo, Ohio Elder Bobby Gann will serve as evangelist. Pastor Charles Stapleton invites everyone to attend these services each evening at 7 p.m.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church - Benton Co.

Pastor Leaburn Mitchell will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services daily at 10:30 & 7:30. EVERYONE WELCOME!

New Hope Baptist Church - Carroll Co. Pastor Clarence Carter will be assisted by Elder Harold Carver. Services at 10:30 A.M. & 7:30 P.M. EVERYONE INVITED!

AUGUST 23

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church - Henderson Co.

Pastor P. H. Brooks will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services 10:30 A.M. & 7:30 P.M. A cordial invitation is extended to everyone.

SOUL'S MIRROR

I took a good long look one day
To see how my soul was dressed;
I said, "Dear me, you look so bad,
Your wardrobe's such a mess;
I must go shopping right away
To get the things you need."
I knew the price that I would pay
Would be in prayer upon my knees.
I thought, "Oh well, there are lots
of places

That I may find the things I seek";
So, I decided that I would shop
Just one day a week

Time went by and still my soul
Was dressed in meager fare.
I thought, "Dear soul, I must spend
More time in the shop of prayer."
The shops of greed and selfishness
Were no places for me to go
To find the things my soul would need
To be in **God's fashion show**.

I could not shop at the **house of pride**
Nor in the **den of thieves**;
I could not buy the things on sale -
The very best my soul would need.
I must shop in the House of Prayer
To clothe this soul of mine;
My soul's attire must stand the test.
So, on your shopping spree
Don't forget, the soul's attire
Will be found upon the knees.

-Billie Smith, Ohio

POLK CO. ASSOC.

Beginning Tuesday, August 11, 1981, the one hundred fourteenth annual session of the Polk County Missionary Baptist Association will meet. Mt. View Baptist Church of Polk, Missouri will host this year's sitting. Bro. Wilburn Foster was chosen to preach the annual sermon.

Services begin Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. with an evening service on Tuesday.