

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

VOLUME FIVE

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APRIL, 1982

NUMBER ONE



OUR REDEEMER LIVES!

By J. H. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

All followers of other religions of the world are following a dead leader, but our leader is very much alive, and all those who are truly following Him know this very well, because He lives within all true followers. Job back there in the Old Testament said: "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;" Job 19:25. What a joy and blessed assurance it gives to know that your Redeemer lives! When we are serving our Lord we can and do have the assurance that He is living within us through the Holy Spirit. Christ is our life, and nobody really begins to live until they become acquainted with Him. John the Baptist said, "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" John 1:4.

HE DIED ONCE

"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. For in that He died, He died unto sin once; but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God." Romans 6:9, 10.

It was indeed a dark hour when Jesus died on the cross! That wicked mob howling and hurling insults, His beloved disciples turning back in fear and discouragement; the Father having to turn His back; and then the darkness overshadowing the earth, the earth quaking, and the rocks renting. What a sight to behold! But this had to be, for there was no other way for sinners; Jesus died for sin and sinners, and He did it so willingly, and so lovingly. But He died just once, this will never be repeated. Bloody sacrifices under the Law had to be made year after year, because they could never take away sins. These were just a shadow pointing to good things to come, they pointed to the coming of God's Lamb who would take away the sin of the

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A Pyramid Of Love

By Stephen M. Skinner
Springfield, Mo.

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." The Lord blesses His children with a great diversity of gifts and talents, which they are obliged to fully utilize to His glory. But what are the more important gifts? This was apparently once a point of contention among the brethren at Corinth. In I Corinthians 12 and 13, the Apostle Paul enlightens the brethren concerning the diversity of gifts, exhorts them to "covet earnestly the best gifts", and teaches them about "a more excellent way." The Apostle Peter, in the 1st chapter of his second general epistle, teaches us how to ascend to this "more excellent way."

Peter instructs the Christian to begin his ascent by "giving all diligence" (attention and care) to his pursuit of a more perfect service for God who gave to him His great gift of faith. The only acceptable way to serve God is fully and completely. God does not save men until they present to Him their heart completely, nor is He satisfied with less than their whole heart in service.

"Add to your faith **virtue**." The foundation for pleasing God is faith, therefore it is impossible to please God without faith. But faith without works is dead, so to faith add virtue which is moral excellency or manly, strenuous energy (i.e. energetic excellency). Although salvation is of grace and God himself must perform the marvelous acts of grace, there is in the plan of God a place for work, activity, and duty on the part of the servants of the King.

(Continued on next page)

PRIDE AND SHAME

Dear Bro. Massey:

When I read your note in the February issue, of the financial condition of the paper, my eyes brimmed with emotions of pride and shame.

Pride that you have in publishing the "Voice of Baptists," which I truly love to read. But shame, that so many of us **Baptists** should have to be reminded, we must finance the Lord's Work in order to accomplish its mission.

We are so fortunate to live in a land of freedom, of the glories to be enjoyed, of the right we have to live, speak and write. We need to look about at the opportunities we so casually acknowledge.

To your staff, I would like to say "thank you" and hope you can keep up the good work. May God bless is my prayer.

Marilyn Goodman
Lafayette, Tenn.

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FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

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*All operating expenses616.94

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*Does not include postal fees.

A separate account for this is kept by the local Post Office.

A PYRAMID

(Continued from Page 1)

"And to virtue **knowledge**."

Knowledge is the act, fact, or state of knowing; in this case about God and His ways. One of the duties involved here is continual Bible study. Knowledge was not added directly to faith (although that is the ultimate foundation), but to virtue which must be present to give a foundation for knowledge. Without a zeal to learn about the things of God the knowledge will not develop sufficiently. The knowledge qualifies or gives a cause for the virtue or strength.

"And to knowledge **temperance**" or self-control. The knowledge (based on faith and virtue) is not entirely useful to God's cause unless it is employed in reaching lost mankind. How can a Christian tell sinners about the gospel message without first exhibiting self-control as evidenced by a temperant life? Christians cannot live like the world and expect their message of grace to be heard. Self-control strengthens the Christian and makes a foundation for other Christ-like attributes.

"And to temperance **patience**", which is the ability to endure suffering without complaint. This refines the temperance in that the self-control must

be continual. Christians must be Christ-like seven days a week, through all temptations and trials, not just when it is convenient or when they are in season.

These first four fruits of faith: **virtue, knowledge, temperance, and patience**, all apply to self. The child of God must first take care of the condition of self. We certainly cannot bear any good fruits except that the increase be given by God, but self must be presented acceptably before God as a living sacrifice.

"And to patience **godliness**." Godliness is built on and refines patience (not a mere stoical endurance but a God-trusting patience). When we are saved our soul is born again in the likeness of Christ, but our life must daily be brought into subjection and be set aside (sanctified) as godly. Godliness involves not only self, but the relationship between self and God. "If you love me keep my commandments." Godliness then is to love God.

"And to godliness **brotherly kindness**", which comes from the anglicized Greek word "philadelphia", and is elsewhere interpreted as brotherly love. The only way we can truly love our brethren is through the love of God. The brethren are (unlike God) imperfect, and therefore more difficult for us to love. Satan will continually attempt to inhibit brotherly love by calling attention to those human imperfections.

The seventh (perfect number biblically) fruit of faith which is to be added to brotherly love is **charity**. Charity is love for all lost men. The author's mind sees charity beautifully exhibited when a soul seeks his salvation, and a church (who may or may not even know that individual) earnestly prays for that soul's salvation. Christians with charity see men as sinners needing God—without that vision people perish.

Charity is that more excellent way. Charity provides the goals for the saints of God, and directs them in fulfilling their purpose for being left in the world; to preach the gospel of Christ. The Apostle Paul stated that any spiritual talents and gifts he might have had were useless unless he had charity to direct those gifts. The saints are given by God the perfect goal—charity.

"If these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins" II Peter 1:8-9. The construction of the pyramid of love is difficult because satan can weaken it at any level, but its attainment

assures that the church will not be barren nor unfruitful.

The author would like to refer the reader to I Corinthians 13 to show what can be done with charity, and what cannot be done without charity. If the church that Jesus left in this world can love lost men (after the example of Christ), then all satan can do will not prevent the salvation of the souls of men. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." I Corinthians 13:13.

JUST A NOTE

For some reason there are those who think that I am in ill health and have been disabled. I am indeed grateful to everybody that are concerned about me and my health. But I am not in a bad state of health. I have a hearing problem that does give me problems, perhaps caused from sinus trouble, I don't know for sure. We went to Arizona for a few days, thinking that a dry climate might help to restore my hearing. But it didn't help a lot. When we returned I went to my doctor, and he put me in the hospital for four days and gave me a certain kind of test, that in his words, might restore my hearing. But that didn't seem to do much good. It might help yet. Anyway, otherwise my health, according to the last physical check is good. I might get sick by tomorrow, I can't say about that, but right now I feel well, except my sinuses and my hearing. I gave up my work at Mt. Calvary because I thought it was the right thing to do, not because I was not able to preach. I will continue to preach anywhere and at anytime that I have an opportunity. As I said I appreciate your concern and ask for your prayers.

J. H. Smith

GREAT RESPONSE

Your response to the financial needs of this little religious newsletter has been overwhelming. I fully realize now that the low ebb of affairs was never your fault, but mine, for failing to keep you informed. For this reason, you will be given a Financial Report each quarter - April, July, October and January. Thank you very much for your expression of love for God, His Word and our efforts here to accentuate "those things which are most surely believed among us."

"for God loveth a cheerful giver."

2 Cor. 9:7

MY SALVATION

By Stella Jenkins
Nashville, Tenn.

His love is like a light that shines
For all the world to see,
And one cold January night
His light did shine on me.

Conviction was upon my heart
Poured down like sheets of rain;
I knew to Him I had to turn
To ease the guilt and pain.

But I ran from Him I know not why;
Young hearts can't understand
And sometimes pride can hold you back
Like a restraining hand.

But then the pain it got so bad,
I thought my heart would break
I knew down deep inside of me
That first step I should take.

And then His hand reached down for me
I felt it standing there
I sought His face and His alone
Down on my knees in prayer.

I didn't care who saw me then
My pride was gone you see;
All I could think about was CHRIST,
That cross and Calvary.

I prayed to Him til I prayed through
He knew just what I felt;
And when I put my trust in Him
He saved me where I knelt.

He saved me, oh He saved my soul
Was all my heart could say;
Though only 12 years old that night
I feel the same today.

Praise God He still can do for you
What He has done for me;
Through all the ages of the world,
His love still sets men free.

Stella Jenkins
January 14, 1982
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church



"Neither is there salvation in any other:
for there is none other name under
heaven given among men, whereby we
must be saved."

Acts 4:12

YOUR REMARKS

"God bless you in your efforts toward the forwarding of the gospel. Nothing we do in the great Cause goes unnoticed by our Lord."

Marvin & Freda Payne
Kansas City, MO

"I received the paper this week and enjoyed it very much. Hope you can keep the paper coming for I like it.

Virginia Copas
Bowling Green, Ky.

"Thanks so much for sending me "Voice of Baptists." I've enjoyed it very much."

Alma Tabor
Bowling Green, Ky.

"We would like to help support "Voice of Baptists" so we are enclosing a check. We enjoy reading the paper very much."

Harold & Bertie Strait
Indianapolis, In.

"We have received several copies of "Voice of Baptists" and enjoy them very much. We would hate to stop receiving it. We enjoy all the articles. Thanks so much."

Mrs. Herman Payne
Polk, Mo.

"Voice of Baptists" has been an inspiration to me each time I have read an issue. It provides a guiding light to help influence our lives in such a manner that is pleasing to our Saviour. Thanks for the hard work devoted by such faithful christian leaders.

Mary Bess Brown & Family
Naranja, Fla.

"I really enjoy reading every word in the paper."

John W. Frost
Darden, Tenn.

"I was so sorry to learn that the "Voice of Baptists" was having financial trouble. Enjoy getting the paper so much and I pray that it can keep coming."

Edith Daniel
Bowling Green, Ky.

"I enjoy "Voice of Baptists" paper so much. I am praying for it to come on."

Ollie Prince
Camden, Tenn.

Hope you can keep the paper going. I enjoy it very much.

Mary Goodall
Lafayette, Tenn.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a check from the mission fund of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

We pray that you get the financial help you need to keep the paper in circulation. We really enjoy reading it and I feel that it is read by a lot of lost people.

May God bless you in your efforts.

Mrs. Lou Ann Green, Church Clerk
Bethel Miss. Baptist Church
Toledo, Ohio

Please accept a small contribution for your publication. We enjoy reading the "Voice of Baptists" of those you send to True Hope Church each time. Thanks.

Kenneth & Janice Holt
Springfield, Missouri

Enclosed is a donation for "Voice of Baptists." I enjoy receiving the paper and would like to see it continue.

Linda Baumgartner
Forest, Virginia

We are enclosing a check to assist you in publishing the "Voice of Baptists." The church certainly appreciates what you are doing for our Baptist people. May God bless you and your family.

Webb A. Russell, Church Clerk
Madison Miss. Baptist Church
Madison, Tennessee

The church voted to send the enclosed check to help you continue "Voice of Baptists." May God richly bless you.

J. W. Lyons, Church Treasurer
Bethel Miss. Baptist Church
Indianapolis, Indiana

I want the little paper. A friend gives me a copy once in a while. Please send me the February issue that has the article, "Personal Economics" by Bro. Jerry Reynolds.

I have a son (Larry Joe Morgan) that is a Baptist preacher. He's in New Plymouth, Idaho right now. He has been in Oregon the past few weeks.

Mrs. Frances Morgan
Scottsville, Kentucky

We receive a bundle of "Voice of Baptists." I sure hope you can continue publishing. We enjoy reading it very much and sometimes we read and discuss some articles in Sunday School. We pray that God will make a way for it to continue. Enclosed is a donation. May God bless.

Mrs. Sadie M. Carter
Kokomo Miss. Baptist Church
Kokomo, Indiana

REDEEMER LIVES

(Continued from Page 1)

world. See Hebrews 10:1, and John 1:36. When Jesus was hanging on the cross, He said, "It is finished; and He bowed His head and gave up the Ghost." John 19:30. His suffering ended here as He bowed His head; and justice was satisfied, for this met the demands of the law. Sinners can be freed from the Law's penalty by trusting in Him; but you needn't look for any other way.

HE EVER LIVES

The hardest place to overcome for unbelievers who have never heard the Gospel before, is that point we come to in preaching, that Christ rose from the dead. The apostle Paul ran into this problem when he preached in Athens, there on Mar's Hill, as we note: "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter." Acts 17:32. I was once witnessing to a young man, a Japanese, and he seemed to be taking in every word until I came to a point where I told him how Jesus Christ died for our sins on the cross, and that He rose from the grave the third day. At that point he wagged his head, as if to say that is hard to believe. And he asked me: "Do you believe that?" and I answered: "I most surely do." This young man did, however, finally overcome his doubts as the Lord kept dealing with him through the Holy Spirit, and sometime later he told us that he had gotten saved. Some of those who heard Paul at Athens said, "We will hear thee again of this matter." That was encouraging, at least.

It is a little strange how that men will listen to the truth of how God created the world and everything in it, and how He made man out of the dust of the earth and gave him life by breathing into him; and then have doubts about God raising His Son from the dead. I don't know the answer as to why it is so hard for sinners to grasp that great Truth, unless it be that the devil knows that this is essential to man's salvation, and he makes a very strong effort to keep people from believing it. It is true, of course, that if Christ had not risen from the tomb we would be without a Saviour. Here is what the Bible says, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." I Corinthians 15:17. The Word also says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9. When we get saved we believe the whole Gospel story: "How that Christ died for our sins according to

the Scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." I Corinthians 15:3, 4.

I have already mentioned the fact that it was indeed a dark hour when Jesus was hanging on the cross, but it was a glorious day when He rose triumphantly from that tomb! The great stone that was placed at the mouth of the grave could not hold Him, the guards that were placed there to make the tomb sure, as they thought, feared and became as dead men, Matthew 28:4. Here is what Jesus said about His resurrection after He had ascended into heaven; "I am he that liveth, and was dead, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:18.

While we lived in the old city of Jerusalem I went several times and viewed the old tomb, believed by many to be the place where Jesus was buried; it is a place that has been hewn out in a great rock, and it is large enough for people to walk into it. I did that several times, but of course it is just an empty tomb. Jesus came out of there after having stayed three days and three nights, as the Bible says, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:40. If Jesus had stayed longer than the three days and three nights in the earth the promises of God would have failed. But let me say that God keeps His Word and I believe the very minute that three days and three nights expired Jesus came forth. He left an empty tomb, and it is still empty; but my Lord is reigning yonder at the right hand of the Majesty on high. No burial will ever have to be for Jesus again. And because He ever lives He can make intercession for us. We have a living Saviour who is able to save unto the uttermost, there is no limit to His power to save, and the Bible says, "But this man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25.

CONCLUSION

Jesus is living and reigning; but does He live in your heart? What are you going to do with Jesus? Where will you spend eternity? Christ suffered hell Himself to deliver you from hell, but He won't save you by your rebellion. He has made the way for you, and He will never alter or fix that in any way to suit you. You must meet His terms, or forever be lost. Maybe you say, well, if I go to hell I will

have lots of company. Yes, you will, but you won't enjoy anybody's company. You won't be able to get your mind off of your own suffering, and all of your companions in that place of torment will be suffering as you will be. Come to the Saviour just as you are, repenting of all your sins, putting your faith, your trust, your confidence alone in Jesus Christ, and He will save you, make you fit to serve Him while you live, and then take to home to glory when you are finished here. I am so glad that He saved me when in my youth! I want to serve Him and love Him here in this tabernacle till it be dissolved and then go to be with Him where I can love and serve Him in a perfect way.

"WATER BAPTISM"

A four night religious discussion of the above topic will be held May 10, 11, 13 and 14, 1982 in Manslick Road Church of Christ, 4724 E. Manslick Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

The exact propositions and disputants are:

"The Scriptures teach that water baptism is for (in order to obtain) the remission of past sins."

Affirm: Donnie V. Rader

Deny: Kenneth W. Massey

"The Scriptures teach that one is saved before and without water baptism."

Affirm: Kenneth W. Massey

Deny: Donnie V. Rader

Each session will begin at 7:00 p.m. E.D.T. Pray for me that truth may be presented and defended to the honoring of God, enlightening of the unsaved and edifying of God's children.

GET YOUR TUNE-UP

1. Adjust your lights so others may see your good works and glorify your Heavenly Father.
2. Set your timing so as to be on time.
3. Adjust the brakes on your tongue; it's in a slippery place.
4. Tune up your heart and have the peace that passeth all understanding.
5. Align your direction that you may be able to travel up the straight and narrow road of life without a wreck.
6. Tune your mind so as to think on pure, holy and noble things.
7. For a quick start and a sure victory, be ready always to do the Lord's will.

—Selected