

# 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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## GOD BE THANKED

by Kenneth W. Massey

***"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." Romans 6:17***

Jonah declares, "Salvation is of the Lord," and Paul boldly affirms that it is "the grace of God that bringeth salvation." Thank God for salvation by grace. Only God saves! Only God can make a sinful creature into a new creature.

The Scriptures show that the grace of God flows toward the sinner, and begins its operations upon him even when there is nothing good in him. It works in him that which is good and acceptable, and continues to work in him until grace is completed bringing the believer into glory. Therefore, we conclude that God's grace is offered to men in spite of their sinfulness. He does not save us because of our goodness, but rather because of His own goodness. "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Eph. 2:8).

This doctrine of salvation by grace has become a target for the carnal minded philosophers and religious legalists. Their chief dart has always been and continues to be, "If God's grace abides with the regenerate, then he may live a riotous life and still be saved and go to heaven." I did not part ways with those people at this point, but had previously parted ways about man's total depravity. Is there a single germ of good in the best sinner? "They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Ps. 14:2,3).

Oh, I realize this teaching depends totally upon God for mercy, and without

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## DEVELOPING BIBLE STUDY HABITS

by Michael T. Adamson  
Plainfield, IN

I have often heard fellow church members remark that they have difficulty studying the Bible, whether it is preparing for Sunday school, Bible study, or researching a point made by the preacher in a sermon. Here is, hopefully, a few guidelines that will make this task a little easier for those who are casual students, as well as those who are dedicated to the study of the Bible.

First, it must be realized that no one, however dedicated or knowledgeable, will ever understand every passage of scripture. There are some passages that defy the comprehension of the human mind. This realization should not deter us from our studies though, for this understanding, of our own inabilities, enables us to better embrace the infinite wisdom of our heavenly Father.

Second, your own Bible is the best source of information you can have. The individual references, tying a particular passage of scripture to another passage, found elsewhere in the Bible, do far more towards promoting an understanding of the meaning of the passage, than any commentary will ever hope to.

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## ELDER LAMBERT RESIGNS PASTORAL WORK



After fifty-three years of serving as a faithful pastor to twenty-one Baptist churches, Elder F. W. Lambert offers his resignation from Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Sumner County, Tennessee and from all pastoring service. This was Elder Lambert's longest tenure with any church, serving thirty years. He followed the late A. J. Sloan to this church in 1952.

Elder Lambert began his illustrious and most successful pastoral career with Union Camp Baptist Church in November, 1929. Since that time he has continuously served at least one church. For several years he served four churches simultaneously, giving one Sunday a month to each church.

He is making it plain that he has no plans to retire from preaching, just pastoring. Any church desiring to have Bro. Lambert visit and preach should get in line now. He is planning to visit first those churches he has served through the years. You might want to hurry and notify him for he told me, "I am not taking any appointments beyond the year 2000."

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## VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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### ELDER LAMBERT RESIGNS

(Continued from page 1)

This noble servant has preached thousands of gospel sermons, baptized thousands of God's dear children and answered thousands of requests to come and hold memorial services for many of our precious loved ones. His love for truth, compassion for lost people, and sorrowing with the bereaved have marked him as an outstanding preacher. The entire staff of this little paper salutes you, Elder F. W. Lambert, and we send our "Congratulations" for a job well done.

Elder and Mrs. Lambert reside on their beautiful farm located on Highway 52 just east of Westmoreland, Tennessee.

\* \* \* \* \*

*"The church at Jerusalem was a Baptist church, and the church at Samaria was a Baptist church."*

*Campbell-McCalla Debate, p. 377*

*"If all the man-made churches in the land would as frankly and proudly recognize their founders as the Christian Scientists do Mrs. Eddy, it would not be hard to locate them. But most of them are ashamed to do it."*

*-Baptist Flag*

*"Correct your brother's faults if you can, but don't forget that you have some of your own that need attention."*

*"When you hear a television preacher denouncing all the churches you may put it down that his is a religious guerilla."*



## THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Eugene Brown

This being my first time to write an article for this paper, I count it a privilege and joy to share with you some of my convictions as to what the work of the Holy Spirit includes. However, for lack of time and space as well as my limited knowledge, I'm sure I could not even begin to touch upon the vast scope that pertains to the work of the Holy Spirit. Books could be written and still more could be said.

Some seem to think that the Holy Spirit has only been around since the day of Pentecost. However, we find the Holy Spirit at work in creation. "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," Gen. 1:26. We as Baptists believe in the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Each have distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

True, the Holy Spirit came in fulness on the day of Pentecost, but before then we have record of the Spirit being with or upon His people. Jesus spoke of His departure and that He would pray the Father and He would send another comforter. "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is Judged," John 16:8,9,10,11.

### HE CONVINCETH US OF SIN

If it were not for the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we would not have known we were lost. He reveals that to us. In the case of the 10 virgins, I believe that the five are representative of people when they come to the age of accountability. They said to the five wise, give us of your oil for ours is gone out. Did they lie about the matter, or did they loose their salvation? Remember, oil is representative of the Holy Spirit. To me it is simplest to say these virgins came to the age of accountability. Jesus takes care of a person until they reach that age as far as their salvation is concerned. When they become accountable, that light goes out as far as the protecting hand of God is concerned. They did not lose their salvation; they had merely been made aware of their lost condition by the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

### HE REVEALS WHEN WE ARE SAVED

There seems to be gross neglect today in this truth or fact, easy, quite,

mass evangelism. Jesus asked his disciples, saying "Whom do men say that I the Son of Man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some Elijah, and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, but whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 16:13-17.

You have heard of the "way that seemeth right," haven't you? Well, today in our production line decision-making, here is the "almost" or "nearly" right way. Where instead of the Father in Heaven revealing that you are saved, the preacher takes it upon himself to profess the sinner himself and the person goes through life deceived and being told by the preacher there is no feeling to salvation; you just have to take it by faith. How wrong; the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace. Can you feel love? You can feel hate, you can feel joy as well and peace is what every real child of God receives.

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night inquiring how to be saved. After Jesus, the Son of God, gave Nicodemus instruction about the new birth, he compared it with the wind. "The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest the sound thereof but cannot tell from whence it cometh or whither it goeth. So is everyone that is born of the Spirit," John 3:8. Can you feel the wind? Most definitely, you can feel it and see the effects of it. At this point I feel the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the sinner is being replaced by the work of flesh and blood. They get the crowds, there is no doubt, and to our own deception, it has come to the thinking of most, "Anything that works must be right." But really is that true?

### HE GUIDES US

In the case of Philip going to the Eunuch, no doubt he waited and watched as people passed by. But when the person came by that he was directed to speak to, he was prompted by the Holy Spirit. It brought about results. (Acts 8:26, 40).

Another work of the Holy Spirit: one was directed to go to the street which is called Strait and to the very house he should go (Acts 9:11). We are taught that He will guide us into all truth.

### HE SEALS

"Grieve not the Holy Spirit, Whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption," Eph. 4:30. If it were not this way, you could have it and never

know it, then lose it and never know that either. So we are sealed, kept by the power of God. The preaching must be in the power of the Spirit (I Cor. 2:4). The list could go on and on. The Spirit:

1. Liberates us, Rom. 8:2-15
2. Indwells us, Rom. 8:9
3. Quickens us, Rom. 8:11
4. Leads us, Rom. 8:14
5. Witnesses us, Rom. 8:16
6. Helps us, Rom. 8:26
7. Intercedes for us, Rom. 8:26,27

The Holy Spirit never leads in contradiction of the Word of God. He always leads in direct harmony with the Word of God.

## THIS WORLD

by Mrs. Lonnie Robinson, Sr.  
Huntingdon, TN

The people will say, this old world;  
It is not the world, it's the people in it.

If we had as much time and love,  
As we have hate and go,

What a better place this would be,  
Everyone should surely know.

Sinners don't have time to think,

Christians don't have time to pray;  
What are we going to do,  
That awful judgment day?

We go to church on Sunday,

There's many you might know,  
Have got to hurry home,  
To watch the TV shows.

As we sit on the stool of do nothing,

and watch Satan enter in,  
Why then will we wonder,  
What makes so much sin.

While the war-clouds hover over us,

and we tremble with fear,  
We should stop and think,  
That God is always near.

If we would do half as much for him,  
as He does for us,

We would not be so worried,  
and would know the One to trust.

So may we stop and think,

and may we stop and pray,  
That He will always guide us,  
thru every passing day.

## CONTEND FOR FAITH

by Kenneth W. Massey

"... set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us." Luke 1:1

"... ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3

An extension of the "faith" used in Jude entails system of religious (Gospel) truth itself.

Jesus promised His presence (by the Holy Spirit) when His Church teaches all things whatsoever He has commanded. If any church fails to do less than Jesus commanded, she can expect a withdrawal of His presence, therefore of His power.

Liberalism has not been quarantined to social and civil matters, but has increasingly crept into the religion of those sitting in the church pews. Not many decades ago, a majority of the members in any Baptist church would have defined "church" as a visible group of baptized believers meeting together to worship God and carry out His commandments. Today, a poll would show the majority in many places believe "church" is an invisible kingdom containing all the saved ones. Which do you believe? I realize that belief in one, Jesus established church leaves a lot of folks without the right founder on the right foundation for the right function and failing to bear the right fruits. But when a Baptist becomes love-sick for these branches that slight the doctrines of Christ, that same Baptist learns to attach very little importance to these all-important principles. Religious liberalism, in fact, hurts other denominations but little, but it kills a Baptist outright, and wherever practiced a few years, removes Baptist churches and surrenders the field occupied by them into the hands of the Liberalists.

Certainly it is more peaceful to follow the religious course of least resistance. But is it more pleasing to Him we serve? Some for fear of being called radical rights have thrown up the white flag. No one enjoys being called a rebel, and least of all, a rebel without a cause. Let me remind you that God has not entered us into a "Popularity Contest" with all the "isms" of the day. Our duty is to speak the truth with love, and I'll assure you that this presentation of the pure doctrines of the gospel of all grace will bring you into war. May God help us to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

## SERMONS DAY NOV. 20th

On Saturday, November 20th, the Independent Missionary Baptist Church of Huntingdon, Tennessee will host a Sermons Day.

Pastors Eugene Brown (Parkwood Baptist - Nashville), W. T. Russell (Crossroads Baptist - Camden), W. R. Overton (South Carthage Baptist Church - Carthage), and Tom Armstrong (Mt. Juliet Baptist Church - Mt. Juliet) will deliver the sermons this day.

Worship is the main purpose with building a greater fellowship between churches and preachers throughout the southeast region an added incentive. We cordially invite and welcome everyone to attend. Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Building.

Jesus Christ established one church, gave it all truth void of error, and sent it to bear the glorious gospel. If Calvin, Luther, Knox, Wesley, Campbell, Eddy, Smith or anyone else is the founder or reformer of your sect, you have given that person an honor belonging only to God's dear Son.

In this age of "easy believism" in Christ, many churches continue to lose power with God. Salvation is of the Lord. When preachers or pastors exalt themselves to the place of declaring whose saved they immediately establish themselves as deceivers. God uses men to warn sinners to flee the wrath to come, but only His Spirit makes the word effective and only His Spirit may declare forgiveness to the penitent believer.

## GRANDPA WAS A PREACHER

Since Grandpa had only a little formal education, he enjoyed ribbing the college people. Because of his uniqueness, he was invited to speak at a large college gathering. He congratulated the institution on its vast storehouse of knowledge, and told them he had figured out how they had collected so much. He said, "From my observation, this laudable accomplishment has been achieved because the freshmen bring in so much learning and the seniors take out so little."

**GOD BE THANKED***(Continued from page 1)*

His sovereign grace we should all perish in our sins. This doctrine of total depravity brought into the light of grace toward man gives all honor to God. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (Jn. 12:32).

Paul plainly states, "If Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God." (Rom. 4:2).

We may as well be utopian socialists if rejecting man's total depravity and God's marvelous grace. There is definitely no combination of God's grace plus man's good works taught in His word as a means to procure salvation.

Now, we may be asked, "Doesn't *this doctrine constitute a belief in unconditional salvation?* or in other words, election from eternity?" The answer is emphatically no! We must discern the difference between an attitude of man's heart and man performing a righteous work. If man is elected to go to heaven, why repent or be baptized or try to live a good life? Then, on the other hand, if man could help God save him, then Jesus didn't need to die. Why is it so hard to understand that Jesus paid the full price for all sinners, with the terms of salvation only requiring man's disposition of repentance to God and faith in His Son? No price for man to pay. No works for him to perform. God did the saying; man did the submitting to gospel demand. Can man save himself?

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil?" (Jer. 13:23). The sinner dead in sins is made alive by the power of God. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." (Eph. 2:1).

**FORM OF DOCTRINE**

While some believe "that form of doctrine" is salvation by water baptism, Paul contends that "it is of faith, that it might be by grace." The word "form" actually means type, manner or pattern. Salvation by God's grace enabling man to repent and trust from the heart in the Crucified One is the original and only form of doctrine ever delivered any people in any age.

Since man, because of his sinfulness, would not nor could not come to God on his own, God carries out on earth the plan wrought out in heaven saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He did not say, "You must come through the church to find me!" He did not say, "You must come through the water to find me!" He said, "No man cometh to me

except my Father which sent me draw him." When God calls and man hears with an intent, sincere and honest ear, God supplies grace sufficient for him to be saved. **GOD BE THANKED!**

**BIBLE STUDY HABITS***(Continued from page 1)*

Third, it is of the utmost importance that you do not pull the scriptures "out of context." This is probably the greatest single error any student can make. Specific verses of scripture, pulled at random, can be used to endorse any number of debatable doctrines we encounter in our world today. The same scriptures, kept "in context," only affirm the doctrines intended. The Bible does not contradict itself. To imply that it does infers that God inspired an imperfect work, through its writers.

Fourth, the use of reference materials can be invaluable if they are kept in their proper perspective, which is, the expression of another person's or group's beliefs. Many bible commentaries, bible dictionaries, and dissertations on specific topics, contain much background information that may not be included in the Bible, some of which may be factual and some that may be speculative. Always, when I study, I view the authors of these types of reference materials as the second person conversing with me on a particular subject.

We turn to these reference materials for two primary reasons: #1 - to find support for our existing beliefs on certain topics or passages of scripture, and, #2 - to establish a belief on certain topics or passages of scripture.

It is important to remember that the endorsement of personal beliefs, or the opinions expressed, by reference materials are, in themselves, insufficient to firmly base your own personal beliefs. The eternal question "WHY?" must be asked each time you turn to reference material for consultation. "Why does the reference material agree with my own beliefs?" "What does the author base his opinion on?" Or, "Why does the author take this position on this particular topic?" It is far too easy to accept the opinion of others, blindly adopting their beliefs as our own, without ever understanding why we believe what we believe! Most certainly, a necessary attribute of a belief, is the ability to defend that belief which, at times, relies on factual historical data combined with scriptural references.

Fifth, utilize the knowledge of others, well founded in the faith, at every opportunity. Their guidance and coun-

sel will better enable you to grasp difficult passages and doctrinal beliefs.

Sixth, keep an open mind to different beliefs from the ones you may have established. It is entirely possible, with all your studying, that you might fail to acknowledge one point of reference that might cast a completely different reflection on a principle or doctrine. Remember to ask "WHY?", and prove that alternate point of view, before you change your own.

I pray these few guidelines will be beneficial for those who earnestly desire to study the Word of God. Paul's command to Timothy assuredly applies to all of us when he said: II Timothy 2:15, Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

## PSALM OF THANKSGIVING

O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him who alone doth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever:

The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever:

*The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

To him that smote Egypt in their first-born: for his mercy endureth for ever:

And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever:

With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever:

And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever:

But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 136:1-16