

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

HUNTINGDON, TENN.

JANUARY, 1983

NUMBER TEN



SPIRITUAL VISION

by J. A. Reynolds
Davisville, WV

Since all of our hopes lie in the unfathomable grace and mercy of the Almighty who has given us much reason to hope, we ought to always look longingly for the evidences of his leadership and guidance. I fear that we have been pulled down by the unspiritual religious influences around us to the point that we no longer ask for divine directives nor do we expect them as we go about our supposed service to God. Much seems to be done based on the weak wisdom of the human mind, from searching the scriptures for knowledge to choosing the man God would have to oversee the flock, and in many other dutiful activities all too important to be trusted to the best of our wisdom.

God has not only stamped his imprint upon our hearts and created within our bodies a new and sinless creation which is in all reality a child of God by birth, but he has taken up his abode within our hearts permanently for the purpose of being "along side" us to help, encourage, strengthen, give counsel, and beyond this to apply spiritual power as a verification of our witness of the truth to others. God certainly intended for us to have the aid of that Holy Spirit in our service to Him in this world. We try diligently to convince the unbeliever that there is indeed such a possession within us, who is also our possessor and our God, and we often do so with more learning in our minds and more speaking ability in our tongues than the saints who went before us were capable of. Yet if we could only have a portion of the success they had in persuading men, we would rejoice with great waves of heavenly joy.

(Continued on Page 3)



FOR GOD'S SAKE

by Kenneth W. Massey

"....God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Ephesians 4:32

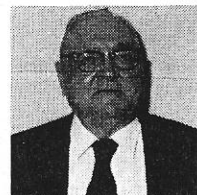
Why did God save you? The usual reply is, "So I can live forever in heaven!" We have become so independent in our present generation that we have become downright selfish in our thinking and in our conduct. Today's life-style is sometimes described as a "dog-eat-dog world," simply meaning it's every man for himself. That's carnal mindedness.

God saved you chiefly for Christ's sake! What's that do for the ego? Yes, he did arrange that all the saved will live in heaven, but God saves us first and foremost that the death of Jesus be not in vain. You see, He was a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, and worthy is that Lamb of all honor and preeminence in man's redemption.

"But hold on, it's my life and I'll live it as I please." Those words have no place coming from the mouth of one of God's children. We must realize that our lives are hid with Christ in God and we should live them as pleasing to Him. That ought to please us and it will more and more as the work of sanctification con-

(Continued on next page)

FAITHFUL SERVANT DISABLED



Bro. T. L. Campbell, member and a former pastor of Independent Baptist Church in Huntingdon, has become disabled to preach or attend worship services.

On Tuesday evening, November 16th, Bro. Ray Smith and I were privileged to spend a few hours with the Campbells in their home and reminisce his life as a preacher.

Thomas Lester Campbell was born January 8, 1899 in Carroll County, Tennessee. At the age of eighteen and while living in the Jackson area, he attended a revival in progress at Walnut Avenue Baptist Church. He would pick tomatoes until noon each day and then dress for the afternoon revival service. On a Tuesday afternoon in August, 1917, our friend was able to repent of all sin and trust in the Saviour for life eternal. Down the street a short distance a blacksmith was shoeing a horse and heard shouting coming from the direction of Walnut Avenue Church. He rushed toward the church and into the church finding Lester Campbell shouting the praises of God's salvation to him. The old blacksmith said to the young convert, "You are the only boy your age I ever heard shout when he got saved."

Bro. Campbell joined the church at Walnut Avenue and was buried with our Lord in baptism.

Then, on September 16, 1922, our brother was married to Miss Corene Joyner, daughter of the late Walter Joyner, a noted Baptist preacher. Bro. and Sis. Campbell have two children - Mrs. Lucille Allen of McKenzie, Tenn. and

(Continued on next page)

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

(USPS 423-350)

P. O. Box 572

Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor**STAFF WRITERS**

James H. Smith, Nashville, Tenn.

W. T. Russell, Nashville, Tenn.

F. W. Lambert, Westmoreland, Tenn.

Harold D. Carver, Buena Vista, Tenn.

Jerry A. Reynolds, Davisville, W. Va.

Stephen M. Skinner, Springfield, Mo.

Keith D. Frieze, Springfield, Mo.

CIRCULATION STAFF

Julie and Lance Massey

Huntingdon, Tenn.

POSTMASTER: Return all mail to Voice of Baptists, P. O. Box 572, Huntingdon, Tenn., 38344.

FAITHFUL SERVANT DISABLED

(Continued from Page 1)

Elder Harlan Campbell of Huntingdon, Tenn. Sister Allen and her family hold membership with Caledonia Baptist Church and Elder Harlan is a member of New Crossroads Baptist Church.

For sometime after receiving the burden to preach, Bro. Campbell kept this conceived within himself, but finally acknowledged it and was ordained October 3, 1948. His ordination was necessitated by Mt. Comfort Baptist Church calling him for pastor. Those seated in the presbytery were: Elders E. F. Prince, John Hedges and J. Robert Paschal with Deacons W. H. Brewer and H. M. Bond. Bro. Prince was pastor of New Crossroads on that occasion and he served as moderator.

Bro. Campbell entered immediately and diligently into the Master's field and never ceased pressing forward until poor health came. He has served seventeen churches as pastor with his last pastorate being Caledonia Baptist Church.

He has also served as a very dependable trustee of the Lafayette Orphans Home for more than twenty years.

While we were visiting, Bro. Smith asked him, "Bro. Campbell, where did you preach your first sermon?" He thought for a moment, smiled widely and said, "down in the field."

His greatest advice to all ministers were the last words of our visit. Those words being, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

The Campbells live on a nice farm four miles south of McKenzie, Tenn.

FOR GOD'S SAKE

(Continued from Page 1)

tinues in us. "For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mk. 8:35).

TO AVOID HELL

I think no rational minded one relishes the thought of entering a burning hell to remain forever. Glorious is the consolation that the saved shall never taste the death of that awful place. Yet, God's salvation for you was not intended that you might just avoid hell. "God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Hell was not even created for you but for the devil and his angels. Lest they prepare to meet God, ungodly men shall be cast into that eternal night. "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake" (1 Jn. 2:12).

YOU DESERVED IT

Many have decided that a loving God will not permit any to go to hell. Actually, man is thinking - "look, God, you made us and put us here, now you are obligated to care for us." What nonsense! God didn't make a sinner. He didn't make sin nor make anyone commit a sin. We would all already together perish in hell but for His longsuffering mercy toward us. Then, another fellow comes along and says, "I don't reckon I have ever sinned. I try to be a good neighbor, honest in my dealings and refrain from speaking evil of any. So, I expect to go to heaven some day." For whose sake will that man go to heaven? For Christ's sake? It's obvious that Christ has had nothing to do with him. He's going to heaven for his own sake? I tell you, nay. "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Lk. 14:33).

SAVED SHALL

"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Mk. 13:13).

"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake" (Phil. 1:29).

Notice dear Preacher friends the words of Christ to Paul, "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake" (Acts 9:16).

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

"For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" (2 Cor. 4:5,11).

The apostle Paul by the inner strength was able to rejoice in sufferings. "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you (Colossians), and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church" (Col. 1:24).

May our sufferings come for Jesus' sake, for the gospel's sake, for the sake of the church and never for our sake. If you grieve today because someone offended you personally, that doesn't count. If you're suffering on account of the church's mistreatment to you, put it down. But if you are hated by someone because you belong to God and are trying to walk in the steps of Jesus, mark this up - "Blessed (happy) are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake" (Lk. 6:22). Paul said to the Corinthians, "We are fools for Christ's sake" (I Cor. 4:10). Let's be sure we never become fools for our own sake!

SUBMIT YOURSELVES

Jesus Christ obeyed the laws of earth while living here, and we must not think ourselves above it. No, it's not perfect now; it wasn't then. Neither are we perfect. Our submission to earth's law is recommended by the apostle Peter, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;" (I Peter 2:13). "NOW I BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, FOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S SAKE, AND FOR THE LOVE OF THE SPIRIT, THAT YE STRIVE TOGETHER WITH ME..."

Romans 15:30

GREAT REPORT

Bro. Marvin Payne sends the following report: Our meeting at True Hope Baptist Church just closed. Bro. Junior Ingram assisted our pastor, Bro. Joe Sprague. Three were saved during the revival; nine joined the church by baptism and five joined by letter from other Baptist churches. We had the baptismal service at the river last Sunday. It was a beautiful day. True Hope Church is located in Springfield, Missouri.



JOHN THE BAPTIST

Part II

by F. W. Lambert
Westmoreland, TN

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea"

Matt. 3:1

John preached, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." There is too little preaching on the bible doctrine of repentance. Baptists of the right sort, those like the one whom we are studying, will preach often on repentance. We must call on lost sinners to repent, and we must call on wayward Christians to repent and come back to God.

Repentance signifies that a man comes to himself under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. The prodigal son thus came to himself. The Bible says, "And when he came to himself, he said, how many hired servants of my father have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger" (Lk. 15:17). The lost sinner must turn about. He must turn away from sin and self and turn to Jesus Christ.

Repentance involves the will. "I will arise and go to my father," said the prodigal son. It is not enough for the lost man to say, "I will repent." He must not only decide to do so, but he must actually do it - he must repent. God has never saved a man against that man's will. John says, "and the Spirit and the bride say come." (Rev. 22:16)

Jesus Christ preached repentance. Matthew records this account, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17) Then, in Matthew 11:20, "Then began Jesus to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not." It is better for the sinners to repent than to live eternally in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone. Cities, states and nations need to repent. Let the Baptist message be to people everywhere, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:5). John's doctrinal preaching included the sinner's trust in Christ and Paul attests to that fact, "John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus" (Acts 19:4).

The doctrine of salvation by grace

through faith in Jesus Christ is taught throughout the entire bible. Abram was saved by believing on the Lord - "And he believed in the Lord: and he counted it to him for righteousness" (Gen. 15:6).

The wise man knew that trust in the Lord brought salvation - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Pro. 3:5).

Notice the teaching of Jesus, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (Jn. 1:12, 13).

The gospel of John was written to teach man than in order to have eternal life they must believe on Jesus Christ, the son of God. "And these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God" (Jn. 20:31).

Baptists like the one God sent preaches that salvation comes to the sinner when he trusts in or believes on Jesus Christ. Not when he reforms, not when he is baptized, not when he becomes a member of the church, not when he dies, but when he believes with all the heart the free gift of salvation is received. John refused to baptize sinners - "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" was the imperative John gave the unsaved who sought baptism before repenting and believing on Christ. John practiced baptizing only penitent believers - those who brought forth fruits of salvation. He never baptized a baby, and no doubt he would have been appalled by any parents requesting him to baptize their baby. He knew that baptism could not change a child of the devil into a child of God. Such a doctrine for regeneration is what started the unscriptural practice of infant baptism. After the Ethiopian eunuch had believed on Jesus Christ and thus was saved, he said, "See, here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized?" (Acts 8:36) Phillip who was the same sort of Baptist as John, replied, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest" (Acts 8:37).

Missionary Baptists must ever preach and practice the baptizing of born again, blood-washed children of God only. We must never try to keep up with the religious denominations of the world by baptizing unsaved persons for the purpose of reporting more baptisms than others. Some years ago, a Baptist of the wrong sort wanted to baptize a sinner, and justified his wish by saying, "He can be saved later."

John knew and preached to the people that the day of God's wrath would

surely come to the wicked people. That day is coming, and who will be able to stand? The Baptist said in Matthew 3:7, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" The world goes on in sin, blaspheming God, rejecting His Son, cursing, lying, murdering, committing adultery, and ignoring God. Yet, God still holds out the hand of mercy. But the day of His wrath is coming. The John whom God used to write the revelations said, "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:15-17) None will stand in that day of wrath that lies ahead except those who are washed in the blood of the Lamb. The wicked of all ages will fall under the avenging and almighty hand of the Lord whose love is spurned by so many. Yes, the day of His wrath is coming!

SPIRITUAL VISION

(Continued from Page 1)

What do we lack that they seemed to have? We know for one thing that they had far more spiritual power from God working for them. Why do we not have it? Probably, it is because we do not ask as they did. Our prayers are lacking. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13) It is common in this present day to hear many earnest Christians complaining that they cannot pray as they ought for lost souls. Thank God that there are some who have the spiritual sense to discern that their prayers are not effectual and to be dissatisfied with themselves because of it. While there is no doubt that we all need to pray more often, the greatest need is the ability to pray the prayers which move the heavens toward the salvation of lost and dying men. Certainly we cannot pray such a prayer without the Spirit of God also interceding, but we already know that God is pleased with such prayers.

Our generation is not the first and only one that has experienced a spiritual drought. During the last decade of the eighteenth century, when our nation was but barely formed, a great wave of spiritual coldness swept over the nation while the Godless principles of infidels

(Continued on Page 4)

SPIRITUAL VISION

(continued from page 3)

rose rapidly in popularity. This continued until God in his mercy sent revival throughout the country beginning in Kentucky in the year 1800. The pioneer Baptist preacher, John Taylor, wrote of the conditions in Kentucky in the spring of that year before the revival commenced. Of the Bullittsburg church he said, "Many feared they would never hear the joyful tidings of the conversion of sinners, or see many more people baptized." "For five years only one man was baptized." "Of his own condition Mr. Taylor wrote, "Death itself about this time would have been a relief to me and great gain." "My own heart was so barren and hard that I wished myself out of sight, or lying under the seats where the people sat, or trodden under their feet." (Page 502, Volume I of Spencer's Kentucky Baptist History) According to Spencer, Mr. Taylor's lamentations told the story of the whole country at that time. Yet in less than two years it had been for the most part revived and revitalized with the same marvellous power that had swept the eastern regions in the middle part of the eighteenth century.

Thirty centuries ago King Solomon wrote, "Where there is no vision the people perish . . ." (Proverbs 29:18). We need only to read the sixth chapter of Isaiah to see the effects on a servant of God of a vision from God. We can see the conditions under Eli the priest when "the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision." (1st Samuel 3:1) This was before God raised up Samuel in Israel to remedy that problem, a prophet of great vision. Israel had fallen into great trouble under Eli's ministry because of that lack of vision. The whole story of God's people throughout the Bible is that they were a people who "endured, as seeing him who is invisible." (Hebrews 11:27) Surely it is so to this present hour! Jesus promised his disciples "Yet a little while and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me" (John 14:19). Am I to believe that this vision was intended for only the Apostles and their contemporaries? I will not so bow to the favorite doctrine of Alexander Campbell! Baptists have always believed in a living, communicating God. Some will yet say, "But we have the complete scriptures now and no further need for such vision." We cannot even discern the mysterious depths of God's book until "the day dawn, and the day star arises in our hearts" (2nd Peter 1:19). Too much human interpretation has left many folks with a mind full of

knowledge which they are powerless to use because the heart-understanding is lacking. What beauty and glory arises from the Book and what power emanates from it when the "day star" enlightens our hearts!

Certainly our Baptist forefathers did not so limit the power of God to bring spiritual vision to our hearts, as many do in this day. Many examples could be given from the pages of history to prove this point, but one will suffice. From the writings of the old pioneer, John Taylor, the following is extracted. "I had gone to a meeting at the North Fork of Elkhorn, the third Saturday in January (1822), very cold weather. I staid all night at Brother St. Clair's, slept in a small upper room, when I dreamed I was fishing, with another man, in very clear water, about middle deep. We saw a number of large fishes which we endeavored to take with a gig. Though they seemed gentle, we caught none of them. A number of small fish began to skip out of the water, and using their fins as wings, came flying over our heads in abundance. When we became anxious to catch some of those very small fishes, striking at them with my hat, I only caught one of them. The fins of this little captive looked the color of silver, and while fluttering, being entangled in the lining of my hat, I awoke. Being very drowsy I turned over and soon dropped to sleep, and, as soon, got to fishing again and several others with me. Being very intent on success, we came to a water wherein was a vast number of very large fishes. Being very gentle, they were basking under a dark scum that was on the water. Only their tails could be seen, waving near the surface of the very clear water. I grasped two of them, near the tail fin, one in each hand, and their weight was such that my whole strength could scarcely draw them out of the water. Laying them by, I prepared for another draught. Laying hold of only one, I now found it more difficult to draw it out of the water, owing to a great number of smaller ones connected with it, all of which came out together. Though my comrades were engaged in other places, I said to one of them near me, 'These small fishes will make a fine fry.' The idea was, the others were for future use. I awoke from this second dream with feelings very different from the first. I sprang from my bed, with an agonizing tremor through my whole soul and body. I could scarcely hold a joint still. The place seemed as dreadful as when Jacob saw the ladder. A while I would walk the room, and a while be on my knees, or sitting, weeping out my soul in prayers to God, for a revival of religion

among us." "I know not whether I was ever more solicitous for my own salvation than to see a revival of religion at poor old Clear Creek church. All my prayers seemed to run particularly to that point." "I had not experienced such encouraging impressions as now for a space of twenty years. The balance of the night was spent in awful anxiety and joyful hope."

Spencer continues (page 65, Volume I), " 'Your old men shall dream dreams,' came into the mind of the faithful old servant. When, a few days afterwards, the messenger of the church (Clear Creek) came to inform him of the call, he felt that the message was from God, and he arose and went. . . . A revival commenced almost immediately, and continued more than a year. 'More than 160 were baptized.' "

Such was the success of an old saint who was given spiritual vision from God. Should we not ask for and desire such vision as would prevent the people from perishing? It might not come in a dream, nor in the manner we expect, but according to the infinite wisdom of an all-powerful God whom we serve; but let it come! Let it be intense. Until our heads become waters and our eyes a fountain of tears that we might weep day and night because of our fellow-citizens who are dead in sin, let the vision be before us. Then shall we pray as we ought and God will answer our prayers.

READER WRITES

I enjoy the little paper, "Voice of Baptists," that comes to our church - Calvary Baptist - when I'm lucky enough to get there before they are all gone. A neighbor and I sometimes share.

Enclosed is a small check to help the paper continue to be published.

Mary E. Slagle
Bolivar, MO

PASTOR NEEDED

The Colorado Missionary Baptist Church of Denver, Colorado covets your prayers in behalf of their search for a pastor. Bro. Ottis L. Jones went to this area as a home missionary three years ago, and under his leadership the mission was organized into an independent Baptist church. May the Lord bless Colorado Church and Bro. Jones as they seek God's will for them.