

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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UNDER-SHEPHERD TO SHEEP

by Kenneth W. Massey

A shepherd has under his charge a flock, for which he must care, and for whose needs he must provide. The Chief Shepherd of the sheep is Christ Jesus, but an earthly shepherd has been added for the smaller needs of the flock. He is called in the Scriptures a pastor, bishop or elder. In the sense that he shepherds under the Chief Shepherd he may be called an under-shepherd.

I would like to list for your consideration a few things imperative concerning the pastor's relationship and work with the church.

NO GREATER LOVE

Any pastor harboring a pre-eminent love for the things of life and this world will never reach the potential God intended. We may not all be able to preach like Sloan or Ray, but we can all love the Cause of God with all our hearts, all our minds, all our souls and all our strengths. The entire work of a pastor is contingent upon this one thing - "lovest thou me?" The Saviour asked Peter that same question three times. Peter was apparently not the eloquent speaker Apollos was, neither was he bold as the little man, Paul, but he could love God and His Church just the same.

You and I may not have the natural ability of a Calvin Gregory nor the education of B. H. Carroll, but love covers a multitude of inabilities and misgivings.

If pastors love God, they will love His flock. To love the church is the supreme qualification of pastors and an attitude that's visible and felt. Men who live by the gospel are sometimes accused of preaching for money and that's a bitter charge in view of John's statement, "the love of money is the root of all evil." Notice, he did not say "the need of money" but the "love of money." None are more misplaced than those filling the pastor's office for filthy lucre's sake. Preachers can truthfully say, "While we

(Continued on Page 4)

John the Baptist

Part III

by F. W. Lambert
Westmoreland, Tenn.



The Doctrine of Heaven and Hell

John said in Matthew 3:12, "and he will gather his wheat into the garner." John knew that some day the blessed Lord would gather all His people into heaven, the place prepared for them, not one grain of wheat would be lost. John preached the Baptists message of the perseverance of the saints. This was the doctrine of Jesus Himself, who said, "And I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (Jn. 10). It is a God-dishonoring doctrine that teaches

(Continued on Page 3)

REPORT FROM BRO. ROARK



Dec. 27, 1982

Dear Brethren,

As this year comes to a close, my efforts to serve as pastor of Hauser Missionary Baptist Church comes to an end. Though it hasn't been easy I am thankful for the privilege of working with the finest people in this world, His Church. Since you all have been so concerned with the work here, I felt a need to make a full report of my weak effort these past forty months.

When we arrived, the Church was at a low ebb, with about nine or ten in attendance. To reward her for nineteen years of labor through much trial and tribulation, God has blessed us with many Spirit filled hours of service, and a slow but steady increase. The church has had five professions of faith, with thirteen additions to the church, of which six were by experience and baptism. Of this number, one has been excluded, to have

(Continued on next page)

WEST END BIBLE STUDY

Elder W. T. Russell will teach from the Book of Isaiah beginning Tuesday evening February 15th at 7:00 p.m.

West End Missionary Baptist Church of Main Street, Gallatin, Tennessee will have this annual winter study. All the members and Pastor W. E. Massey invite all churches and ministers to share with them in these lessons.

Lessons will be taught each Tuesday and Thursday evenings continuing through March 18th.

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

(USPS 423-350)

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BROTHER IN DISTRESS

It has been brought to my attention that one of our senior ministers of the gospel has been so over-taxed by hospital bills that he is in need of our support. The man is Bro. H. B. Eaton who has served God for more than sixty years in the ministry. His companion has suffered a fall breaking her hip and being hospitalized for weeks. She must now enter the nursing home in Scottsville, Kentucky.

Please join in with me and help relieve the stress of this burden from our brother's shoulder. Send your contributions directly to: Elder H. B. Eaton, 407 Main Street, Scottsville, Kentucky 42164.

REPORT FROM BRO. ROARK

(Continued from Page 1)

stopped attending and charges against them are pending. On Feb. 6, 1982, the Church ordained Bro. Larry Ross to the office of deacon, with the help of ordained brethren from Bethel Church, Corvallis, Or., Calvary Church, Santa Paula, Ca., Oak Forrest Church, Allen Co. Ky., Denver Church, Denver Co., and True Hope Church, Springfield, Mo. We sincerely thank these Missionary Baptist Churches for their help, and the Lord richly blessed us with two days of wonderful services and good fellowship. Also, the groundwork was laid for annual fellowship meetings. On Sept. 3-4-5, Hauser Bapt. Church hosted the first meeting. Three churches responded with messengers and one other church

attended, but did not take part. After much discussion, the West Coast Missionary Baptist Assn. was formed. Rules of decorum, and constitution were adopted, as was the New Hampshire Confession of faith. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all, with good preaching, singing, praying and fellowship. Our prayer is that this effort will abound to the glory of God.

I have traveled approx. ten thousand mi. here in a little over three years, to preach and to promote a closer bond of fellowship among true Baptist Churches, and to try to help those without a pastor. There are other churches I haven't visited yet and God willing my hope is to visit them soon. I have a great desire to see the work here progress to the glory of God and the salvation of lost souls. Therefore, if at all possible, I will work toward that goal until God so directs me to another field. My immediate plans are to remain here at Hauser until a pastor can be found. Even though I feel my work here is finished, I hope to stay until God sends someone else to help the church. Long periods of time without a pastor have hurt every Church in Oregon that I know.

With this report, I send to every church and individual, who has contributed to my needs, my deepest heart felt thank you, for your prayers and support. May God richly bless you is my prayer. I ask you to continue to pray for Hauser Church, and for me, that He will lead me to that place, where I may be the greatest help in His great cause, and His glory.

Your Brother In Christ,
Vernon Roark

SERMONS DAY

March 5, 1983

FAIRVIEW MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Fairview Memorial Missionary Baptist Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky will host a Sermons Day on Saturday, March 5, 1983.

Elders Harold D. Carver, W. T. Russell, Charles Patterson, and Kenneth Davis will deliver sermons.

This service is a follow-up to the service held by Independent Missionary Baptist Church in November of 1982.

We sincerely hope that you can come and worship with us and enjoy a day of fellowship. The service will start at 10:00 A.M. and lunch will be served at the church.

Fairview Memorial is located at 1150 Fairview Avenue.

THE PERFECTIONS OF OUR LOVE

By Richard Perrigo
Wadsworth, Ohio

Matt.: 22:37-40. Jesus said "thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy mind. This is the first commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these hang all the law and the prophets.

While these statements were made to the sect of Jews called Pharisees, the statement applied to the saved in the application of God's love manifested in us. We know if we have been saved we are born "a new creature in Christ Jesus." We have, as Paul says "died to sin" and by that cast off the "old man" or former condition we were in, and risen in the likeness of our Savior. By that, we through the grace of God have been changed inwardly. The casting off of the old man is "passing from death unto life", thereby being then free from death. This body is still subject to destruction, but our hope and faith is that one day this soul and body will be united with the Lord; a perfect soul and body. While we live in this world we are still subject to the trials, temptations, and obstacles the devil puts in our way, so we must understand how to handle these things when they come about. The knowledge of salvation is the key to learning. After a person has been saved and "knows it", joy, peace, gladness and fulfillment have a part in the individual that brings to remembrance the love God has for us. In John 3:16, (a very frequent quotation) "for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life," the example of God's love and longsuffering toward us is manifested by the offering of His only Son. By this example how does our love compare? We have to be willing to give up everything for salvation, or else we don't have it. The rich fool was not willing to part with his worth and follow Christ, although he had kept all the commandments from his youth (Matt. 19: 16-23). The promises of Jesus is more valuable than all the world's wealth, for he told his disciples "everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake shall receive a hundred fold, and (the bonus) shall inherit eternal life." (Matt. 19:29) So the "Giving up" or "forsaking" is

(continued on page 3)

JOHN THE BAPTIST PART III

(Continued from Page 1)

that God will damn a portion of His own children in a burning hell. It is only the unsaved who will burn in hell - the children of the Devil.

Thank God, all the saved will someday be gathered by the Lord into heaven. He describes, according to Revelation, Chapter 21: We will dwell with Him and He will be our God and we His people. He will wipe the tears from our eyes. Death will be banished. None will ever die in heaven. Crying, sorrow and pain will be foreign to heaven. All these former things will have passed away. Let us who are saved look forward with great anticipation to the day when the heaven will open like a scroll and our wonderful Lord will call both His sleeping and waking saints to be with Him. The toils of life will seem as nothing when we come to the end of the way.

The Baptist said, "But he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." There is an eternal hell where the wicked will be punished forever. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment" (Matt. 25:46). Luke says, "In hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments" (Lk. 16:23). All accountable beings who die without Christ as their Saviour will be in hell forever where there is torment, remembrance, wickedness and the Devil.

JOHN BAPTIZES THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Jesus Christ walked many miles to receive heaven's baptism at the hands of this God sent missionary Baptist preacher. It was the only baptism authorized by the God of heaven. God the Son set His stamp of approval upon Baptist baptism by submitting to it in accord with the Father's will. God, the Holy Spirit, sanctioned baptism by His presence at the baptism of Jesus. God spoke these words, "And, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him." (Matt. 3:16) God the Father was pleased with Baptist baptism and expressed His pleasure at the baptism of Jesus when He said, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."

Jesus, the head of His own church, had Baptist baptism which was heaven's baptism. He organized His church out of material prepared by John the Baptist. These charter members of His church had Baptist baptism. Jesus commissioned this Baptist church to make disciples, to baptize for Him and teach the baptized disciples (Matt. 28:19, 20). This is a world-wide and age-lasting commission. Our Lord has promised to be with

His church always, "even to the end of the age."

The "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5 is Baptist baptism. God's churches everywhere must be constantly seeking to win the lost to Jesus Christ and to baptize them with the same baptism which Jesus and the apostles were baptized.

John was invited by Herod to preach up at the palace. Herod had heard John preach. Some might have said to John, stay off the seventh commandment, Herod is living with his brother's wife in open adultery. It takes courage to rebuke face to face. He came to facts "it is not lawful for you to have Herodias." They put him in jail and he lost his freedom and finally his life on earth. But John lives on in the better land and will stand as the friend to the bridegroom in that great wedding day.

THE PERFECTIONS OF LOVE

(continued from page 2)

done through desire for something we desperately want, knowing we cannot achieve it, or buy it or do anything but ask diligently. That is part of why the rich fool could not accept what Christ said. He wanted to achieve it through works, or by living a good life. We have evidence of that by his statement, "What good thing shall I do." Many people cannot see God's love being manifested through salvation. God's people should be displaying their love by their testimonies, and life.

God's people ought to call to remembrance their salvation from time to time to help them understand their service to God. In Heb. 10:1-10, Paul makes reference of the law being a shadow of good things to come" meaning Christ, "but not the very image" meaning it could not replace him or clearly show us God's love. As we know a shadow is only a shape of something made from a real object set in front of a light, or a mirrored image without substance. Therefore sacrifices were only a symbol of Christ's suffering to bring to remembrance how, (as we have control over this world's animals and select the best to sacrifice) God also selected the best. His best was His only Son and He showed His compassion upon the world by allowing His Son to suffer this world's pain and agonies that He might show us strength and hope through Him. Paul's explanation of this is in Heb. 10:6-10; "In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, lo, I come to do thy will, O God. Above when he said sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither

(continued on page 4)

Correspondence

Dear Bro. Massey:

I enjoy reading the "Voice of Baptists." I am keeping all of the papers. You would laugh if you were to see the stack with a ribbon tied around them.

Ollie Prince

Camden, Tenn.

I sure do enjoy the paper. Just finished reading it.

Elder H. B. Eaton

Scottsville, Ky.

Enclosed is our contribution from a few voluntary members of Calvary Baptist Church to help in publishing the "Voice of Baptists." Our pastor, Bro. Stephen Skinner, is one of the staff writers.

May God richly bless you and the staff and all who strive to "contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Mrs. James Williams

Bolivar, Mo.

Some members at New Hope Baptist Church gave me some money to support the "Voice of Baptists." I always enjoy the articles. We pray for you and your labor and ask an interest in your prayers.

Elder Richard Crain

Half Way, Mo.

May God bless you in your work. I enjoy the paper so much.

Mary E. Goodall

Lafayette, Tenn.

I look forward to receiving my copy of "Voice of Baptists" each month. Enjoy all the good articles that are written by you and all the other good servants of God. I especially enjoyed the one in the December issue by Bro. Harold Carver, "Are You Ready for Christmas?"

Grace Yates

Ridge Farm, Ill.

Enclosed find a check for \$90.00 to help support the publishing of the "Voice of Baptists." We are delighted to receive it each month, and it is certainly a blessing to us here. Keep up the good work.

Freedom Baptist Church

Speedway, Ind.

We enjoy receiving and reading the "Voice of Baptists" very much. May God richly bless you and your staff in your endeavors. Enclosed is a contribution to the paper.

Mr. & Mrs. Leland Hargis

Lafayette, Tenn.

UNDER-SHEPHERD TO SHEEP

(Continued from Page 1)

do not preach for money, we could not continue to preach without money." God will supply the needs of those who make an effort for Him.

FEED, FEED, FEED

Did you ever see anything to compare with a mother's concern for being sure her child was properly fed? Two loggers couldn't have eaten all the food my mother wanted me to eat when I was growing up. Pastors must feed the spiritual flock as David fed his father's flock. Gospel preaching is a chief source of food for the soul. The lambs must have milk while the sheep should receive and digest the strong meat of his word. How many would reach adulthood if they never ate any food? Pastors should load the plates of the sheep with an abundance of food for their spiritual growth. Giving a balanced diet will require dependence upon the leadership of the Holy Spirit. No man can preach who fails to study the word of God. The pastors digest the word first and then offer it to the sheep.

Jesus commanded the Apostle Peter to "feed my lambs, feed my sheep, feed my sheep." The pastor's preaching should be rendered with love for the welfare and growth of the local body. In the run of a year most pastors will preach sermons that teach, sermons that encourage, sermons that rebuke, sermons that warn, sermons that remind and all of these are feeding the flock of God.

All under-shepherds should preach "thus saith the Lord" and let the chips fall where they may.

LEAD THE CHURCH

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken to you the word of God" (Heb. 13:7)

A pastor is by virtue of his office recognized as the spiritual leader of the church so far as men go. Sometimes, pastors may go too far in expressing their opinions, but let it be remembered that God allows them to go farther than anyone else in the church. Why? God has hand-picked that person to carry His message. He has entrusted to him the highest office in the church, and lest we forget He holds us (pastors) more responsible than anyone else in the church. Read the address to the seven churches in Asia as recorded in Revelation.

In addition to God's Word and His Spirit, the pastor is also God's leader as an ensample to the flock. Many churches

have refused to accept the leadership of their pastor and they suffered as a result. The pastor is to rule in accordance with the law of Christ, and when he does it is as though he has been invested with divine authority. Should he fail the law of Christ, his rule is illegitimate and not to be followed. The influence of pastors should grow as they obey the will of Christ, and set an example worthy of imitation. "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock." (1 Peter 5:3)

CARING FOR THE SHEEP

If pastors love the sheep and are willing to shear the sheep when needed, they ought also to care for the sheep individually.

I remember being sick right after joining the church (age eleven) and my pastor, Bro. W. T. Russell, came to see me. He made me realize that I counted in his sight and to the church. That has helped me try to be a caring pastor.

The pastor should visit the sheep in their homes and give them opportunity to confide in him or share a burden or perhaps iron out little problems before they become big ones. A shepherd must live in the same field as the sheep. That's the only way to know their needs.

Comfort was offered by Jesus Christ while on earth and the Holy Spirit continues that comfort, but the pastor also is to provide a certain comfort. Comforting words soothe the wounds of life and encourage a quicker return to God's service. Pastors should care for all the sheep, not just a few. It grieves me that some of our sheep will not come to the trough for the feedings. It saddens me when some of our members can no longer come because of the infirmities of the flesh. An honest pastor will try to preserve the little sheep with a thin coat as much or more as the fat sheep with a full coat.

The pastor moved by ardent love to feed the lambs and sheep is worthy of honor. He will then care for the flock with a tender and gentle hand.

No pastor can faithfully serve a church as he should without taking all the members' burdens to the Lord in prayer.

THE PERFECTIONS OF LOVE

(continued from page 3)

hadst pleasure therein, which are offered by the law; then said he, lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." God's people must realize that salvation is by grace, through faith in Christ Jesus, and not of works. (Eph. 2:8)

Peter mentioned in his first epistle (I Pet. 4:18) "If the righteous scarcely be saved, (meaning barely being worthy of it) where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear." Since salvation is by grace through God's love being made manifest in his son, let us examine our love and how we ought to be.

In the first epistle of John we have record of some explanations, and descriptions of righteousness, sin, and love and how each are manifested. John was writing for the purpose of perfecting love through faith and knowledge. The first chapter describes the different nature of fellowship. "If we say we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth," I John 1:6 He also adds the other example; "but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:7).

Love is the key to everything from God, and our every thought ought to be through love. Going back to our theme, Matt. 22:37, the first and second commandments should be enough to fulfill the rest. If we have a complete and thorough love of God and his people we can be perfect in God's eyes. In I John 3:16 he writes, "Hereby we perceive the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." Our lives ought to be a sacrifice one toward another on a daily basis. John further describes from verse 17 through 24 the difference between the love of God and the love of the world.

After being able to perceive God's love there needs to be a test taken of ourselves by which John says "to try the spirits whether they are of God". The entire 4th chapter of I John is showing how to try the spirits and know which is which. "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. (I John 4:6) Even in ourselves we find that same statement true in that our fleshly parts seem to be away from God and our spirit combatting those feelings. By that same reasoning we can judge others; "ye shall know a tree by the fruit it bears".

If we try ourselves honestly and search for the hidden mysteries of God through the Spirit, then we have peace, through love. John further explains in chapter 4:17-18; "Herein is our love made perfect". . .and perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment". We know the difference between ourselves and God because of love.