

Voice of Daptists

"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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WISDOM

by J. A. Reynolds
Davisville, WV

Wisdom is waiting - surrendering that which could be had now in order to obtain that which is more lasting. Wisdom is the farsightedness which uses one to do this. Wisdom is the fear of reaping the consequences of one's own actions. Wisdom is desiring lasting honor, peace, and pleasure and the willingness to suffer humiliation, tribulation, and discomfort temporarily in order to obtain it.

To be able to be farsighted is indeed wise. The wisest man begins to be so when he sees himself in the fire of God's eternal wrath in future eternity. He dares not defer to reckon with an angry God lest he lose his soul for a few fleeting moments of pleasure. In fleeing from the wrath of an angry God he searches out the only avenue of escape from the penalty of his sins and finds it to be surrender into the hands of the Giver of all life and wisdom. The wise man searches out the enemy and finds it to be himself, for it is his own lust and sinful appetites that obscures the wisdom and light of God. He thus becomes willing to entrust himself to He only who is good, that is, Jesus Christ. This is not to say that the motivation of a penitent and believing soul never goes beyond the selfish motive of self-preservation as he makes his way to Jesus and salvation, for it surely does as he sees the holiness of God and his own utter wickedness, but such is the beginning of a wise man. When in his life the will and glory of God has become his only desire, farsightedness will still be his great virtue.

MISSIONS SEMINAR REPORT

by Steve Perrigo

Much enlightenment was afforded all in attendance for a special weekend of studying MISSIONS sponsored by Fellowship Baptist Church of Indianapolis. Speakers included Elders Darrell Hicks, J. A. Reynolds, John Thompson, Vernon Roark and James H. Smith. Great fellowship was enjoyed and expressed at the close of the service. Everyone seemed edified, educated and uplifted with an obviously greater zeal to promote God's work through mission efforts.

Missions is the responsibility of all churches. Perhaps, more churches will see the need and host a similar series of meetings in the future.

Tapes of this seminar are available. Write to: Calvin Perrigo, 415 N. Berwick Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46222.

The greatest wisdom of all times is found in Jesus "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2) who because of what he suffered obtained "a name above every name." (Phil. 2:9) The true disciple of Jesus is the wisest of all men in the earth. He believes the paradox that to lose his life in Christ is to find it eternally and he

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DISTINCTIVE JUDGMENTS

by W. T. Russell
Nashville, TN



THE RIGHTEOUS WILL BE JUDGED

In proof of this, I need only to state what the judge had to say to the righteous in Matt. 25:35,36, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." He will add these words, "For I was hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

It is evident that these good works will be referred to, not as a title to the heavenly kingdom, but as showing it or making it manifest. Believers are justified by grace through faith but fruits of the Spirit and good works are evidences of Christian character and will be so recognized at the judgment, and rewarded.

There is, however, evidence that there will be those at the judgment, not without fruits of the Spirit, but without evidence of Christian character (works). Hear Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:14,15, "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." Now God has not seen fit to reveal the state of condition of one without rewards in heaven, and I shall not place myself in question in this respect.

It will, no doubt, be made known on the judgment day the greatness of the system of salvation wholly and altogether by grace through faith, and it

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EVANGELISM

by Kenneth W. Massey

THE VALUE OF A SOUL

Text: "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36

Christ had a concern for the salvation of all men. He gave up treasures in heaven and became poor to die for everyone. His concern was so real and so deep that at many times the flood of manly tears could no longer be restrained, and rolled down His compassionate face. Have we the mind of Christ in this greatest of all concerns? Paul said, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus," (Phil. 2:5).

Jesus wept on account of lost souls. Paul, the brave soldier of the cross, besought men night and day with tears. Oh, for tear-filled eyes! Oh, for sleepless eyes, because of the imminent danger and doom of the unsaved!

Has your concern ended with your own soul?

Would it be embarrassing for the question to be asked you, "When were you instrumental in leading a soul to the Lord?" We wear the name **missionary**, but what kind of a mission are we pursuing? Is the world so full of the gospel sounds that all we must do is sit tight and wait for our promotion, and let God pronounce judgment? Our commission is yet in force! Our mission field "the world" is yet existing! Our bait for fishing for the souls of men is unchanged! That bait is the glorious and everlasting gospel of

Jesus Christ! Unless sinners are brought to repentance and converted from their sins, the churches will receive no new life-sustaining members. Do you believe that Christ has power to save all sinners? Do you really believe it? Do you believe it enough to ask God for a special burden in behalf of some poor lost soul, and then do everything in your power, according to God's purpose for your life, to bring that person to the foot of the cross? Does sleep ever flee our eyes because of our concern for the souls around us? Is your next door neighbor a child of the King? Pulpit power has decreased rather than increased. And you ask, "What is the reason?" "No man can be an herald of his Lord's compassion and passion if he does not himself shape it." Less scholarship and more **concern** would soon see a turn of the tide. Fewer jealous hearts and more zealous hearts for souls astray would be a welcomed force. Some of the most theologically ignorant people I have known were some of God's greatest soul-winners because of their genuine love demonstrated by the concern of their appeal. Questions: 1) Compute the value of a soul; 2) Will God help us bear burdens for lost souls?

WISDOM

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fears to think of saving his life for himself for fear he will lose it in eternity. Paul declared, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (I Cor. 15:19) Yet he declared, "In all these things (tribulations and persecutions) we are more than conquerors." Even while his lot was to be "appointed to death" (I Cor. 4:9) Paul's faith in the glory to come never wavered for he was ever looking at the "things which are not seen (which) are eternal." (2 Cor. 4:18) If Jesus leads the Spiritually wise man into pain and heartache he rejoices that he is made like his master. He knows all the while that the suffering will make him more like Jesus in eternity also. Wisdom will always make such a trade. A fool will live for now and die in eternity.

Worldly wisdom is also waiting, and for the same reasons, but only for a more lasting earthly reward. Such wisdom teaches men to abstain from fleshly lusts that for the moment are compelling, but with time produce sorrow and misery. Many fools have ruined health, welfare, family, friends, and all that makes life good to satisfy momentary appetites. Wise men live beneath their means in order to secure a sound financial future. Wise men are careful to make friends, which often requires keeping one's obli-

gations to the extent of momentary discomfort. Wise men are careful to bear the pains of fulfilling obligations to family—honoring father and mother, preferring brothers and sisters above self, denying self to provide for and teach children, and love the wife as one's own body.

Fools are they who satisfy present desires without regard to future reward. Some are too lazy to bear the pain of work and so they ensure their future poverty. Others are willing to work but are so fond of momentary worldly pleasures that they reach the same goal in excessive indebtedness. Either of these foolish characteristics can also ruin relationships among family and friends. Worries of self-induced financial difficulties brought on by foolish impulsiveness can also become health hazards. Excessiveness is the mark of the unwise. No man who over-indulges intends to ruin his health, marriage, family, friendships, financial security, etc. when so doing. He is simply gratifying his selfish lust without regard to the consequences. What he wants is what he strives for. What it will do to him in the long run is seldom considered.

Sometimes the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God come into direct conflict. At such a juncture the wisdom of the world must bow to the wisdom of God. Many great men, wise so far as the wisdom of this world, cannot perceive the wisdom of God in the gospel of Christ. Often men with great foresight regarding the temporal needs of humanity fail to consider that all of our lifetimes are but a few moments on the scale of eternity. Although a man might benefit several milleniums of his own race with temporal wisdom and is honored for doing so throughout all future generations, yet if he dies without preparation for eternity he is still a fool. "Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (I Cor. 1:20) Man's wisdom prepares for later earthly life, future generations, etc., while the wisdom of God prepares for never-ending eternity. Many non-christian philosophers have searched and found out much of the same temporal wisdom that is found in the Bible, but never by their own means have any found the wisdom of God. Only by the revelation of Jesus Christ can it be known. Christians should not discard wisdom pertaining to the things of this world which the Bible teaches unless temporal consideration brings them in conflict with the eternal.

Wisdom is seeing, waiting for, working for, forsaking other things for, and finally getting that which is worthwhile.

Distinctive Judgments
(Continued from page 1)

"I be thoroughly understood what Paul meant in his letter to the Ephesians, "For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto (with a view to) good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" Eph. 2:10. Also, that the righteous have been made righteous in Christ, not having their "own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" Phil. 3:9. It will be revealed that from first to last their salvation has been of grace — that God was just in justifying them through the atoning sacrifice of the cross; and thus the honors of justice as well as the riches of mercy will be illustrated in their acquittal on the great day.

It is inferred from 1 Cor. 6:2,3, that the saints will be joint assessors with Christ in the rest of the judgment that will follow: "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that ye shall judge angels?"

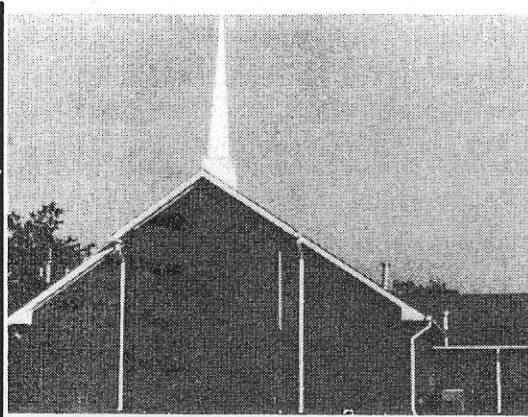
THE WICKED WILL BE JUDGED

We read of the "revelation of the righteous judgment of God," and this "revelation" is connected with what is called "the day of wrath," Romans 2:5. The principles of justice will be strictly followed when the wicked are judged. All will be done in perfect accordance with righteousness.

DIFFERENT DEGREES OF GUILT

The wicked will be held responsible according to the light they have had and how they have reacted and made use of the light. This is according to the teaching of Christ, who says, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." Luke 12:48. Responsibility is in proportion to blessings received and opportunities enjoyed.

(a) Heathen nations will be judged by the light of nature. Paul speaks concerning them in these words: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" Rom. 1:20. The argument of the apostle is, that man must infer the existence of God from the works of creation, and that their conception of a Supreme Being renders idolatry excusable. If then Idolaters are without excuse, they must stand guilty before the judgment-seat. How much men may now know without the Bible is not the subject of discussion. The point is, that the heathen, because they can infer the being of God from his works, are without ex-



Victory Baptist Church

**TENTH
ANNIVERSARY**

We at Victory Missionary Baptist Church will be having our Tenth Anniversary Service on Sunday, October 30, 1983. We would like to invite all sister churches to come and worship with us. Bro. William Overton, the former pastor, will be preaching at the 11 o'clock hour. Dinner will be served after the morning service and the Reid family will be the featured singers along with other groups in the afternoon. Hope to see you all there.

SERMONS DAY

Mt. Juliet Missionary Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee will host the next Sermons Day on November 5, 1983, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served by the host church for everyone. Sermons will be presented in the morning by Elders Alton Lewis and Kenneth Massey and in the afternoon by Elders Billy Moran and B. D. Carter. EVERYONE WELCOME.

"The fellowship is the greatest ship ever built and yet it's the one that springs the most leaks."

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." 1 Jn. 1:7

cuse. This being the case, they must be adjudged guilty and incur the consequences of their guilt. If they are without excuse, justice demands that a sentence of condemnation be pronounced on them. The comparative severity of this sentence we may now know, but of its certainty we are fully assured. It is written, "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law . . . In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel." Romans 2:12-16.

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**READERS
REMARK**

May our Lord bless you in your work for Him. The paper is truly a blessing to me.

H. B. Kearbey
Jackson, Mo.

We would appreciate your sending us ten monthly copies of your fine newsletter. Our church has voted to begin sending you a monthly donation. We look forward to reading our first issue, hopefully in August.

Darrell W. Jennings
Liberty Baptist
Detroit, MI

Enclosed find our check for helping print the "Voice of Baptist." We look forward to getting the paper and enjoy all the good comments from the good writers. May God continue to bless you in your labor for Him.

Gilliam Johnson
Freedom Baptist
Speedway, IN

Please send paper "Voice of Baptists" to my new address. I do so appreciate the writers of the paper.

Mrs. Otis Berry
Glasgow, KY

I sure do enjoy reading the "Voice" and look forward to receiving it each month.

Lou Ann Green
Toledo, OH

I appreciated the articles on pastor and church relationship. Others did, too.

Katye L. Swanson
Albany, OR

Sending a donation to help with the paper. I look forward to each month's issue. I still enjoy reading it from front to back.

Alda B. Johnson
Lafayette, TN

I enjoy the "Voice of Baptists" very much. I am sending a contribution and wish you would send the paper to two relatives.

Fred H. Carr
Westmoreland, TN

Please accept the enclosed donation for the paper. We enjoy the paper very much.

Lewis & Mary Law
Scottsville, KY

We receive your paper every month and really enjoy reading it. Love your writers. Enclosed is a check to help.

Curtis & Lillie Pardue

DISTINCTIVE JUDGMENTS*(Continued from Page 3)*

(b) Those living under the written law of the Old Testament will be judged by it. We have strong testimony of this fact in the case of the rich man and Lazarus. Note that the rich man in hell entreated Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his "five brethren," insisting that if one should go to them from the dead, they would repent. Abraham's answer is full of meaning in this respect: "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" Luke 16:31. It is plain from this example that those who lived under the light of the Old Testament economy enjoyed advantages unspeakably greater than did surrounding heathen nations, who were, nevertheless, without excuse. "As man as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law" Rom. 2:12. A fearful condemnation awaits those who would not hear Moses and the prophets. If the heathen are without excuse, much more inexcusable are those who neglected Old Testament advantages. The day to them will be a terrible day.

(c) Those living under the Christian economy will be judged by the gospel. Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" John 12:48. It has been stated that the judgment will bring to light different degrees of guilt, but it is my opinion that the highest degree will be exhibited in connection with the abuse of gospel privileges. The language of Christ concerning Chorazin and Bethsaida justifies this view: "But I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you." Of Capernaum he said, "But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee." Matt. 11:22-24. In perfect accordance with the spirit of these passages it is written: "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God!" Heb. 10:28,29.

The sentence of condemnation pronounced at the judgment on the rejecters of Christ will be supremely fearful. It is written, "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha (accursed, the Lord cometh)" 1 Cor. 16:22.

Who knows what is meant by "the wrath of Lamb," Rev. 6:16,17. The Lamb of God, the Lamb that was slain, the Sufferer of Calvary, will be the Judge,

and when he pronounces on them who have rejected him the sentence, "Depart, ye cursed," the scene will be inconceivably awful. God were it for them whom Jesus condemns had they never been born. Through eternity there will be heard no words more terrible than these: "The wrath of the Lamb." The judicial decisions of the last day will fix in their final state all the millions of Adam's race. The wicked we are told "shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 25:46.

FALLEN ANGELS WILL BE JUDGED

Naturally, matters pertaining to the human race are of deeper interest to us than angelic beings. Still we must not ignore what the scriptures have to say about angels, for from them we learn that, "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" and that "the angels who kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6.

Here two great truths are stated: that these angels sinned, and that they are kept in custody till the day of judgment. To the latter truth, there seems to be reference when certain demons said to Jesus, "Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" Matt. 8:29.

It is evident from this statement that all demon-possessed individuals that we read about in the New Testament, and those cast out, were nothing more or less than possessed with demonic angels or spirits. Therefore the natural inference from this question is that these evil spirits were looking for a period of torment, but did not suppose that it would come so soon. There have been many conjectures as to the origin of sin among angels, the reasons of their revolt from the divine government, the circumstances connected with the revolt, and the number engaged in it. Only the judgment will reveal the facts bearing on this subject, but by the light brought forward at the judgment, and the entire moral universe will see that God was righteous in his dealings with them — righteous in holding them as prisoners of his justice for many centuries, reserving their formal trial and public condemnation to the judgment of the great day.

When it is said that the "saints shall judge angels," we are only to understand that they will concur in and approve the sentence which the judge pronounces. The fallen angels will, like ungodly men, know the justice of their doom, and sink in self-accusing agony to hell, to suffer

the consequences of their rebellion.

The more we contemplate the transactions of the day of judgment, the more shall we be assured that of all days it deserves to be called "the great day."

JUDGMENTS

As to the judgments of God passed upon the members of the human race, we find ourselves thinking with Paul in Romans 11:33, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out.

We can be certain of the judgment passed upon Sodom because of their wickedness.

God passed judgment on the first inhabited earth by the flood, preserving seed for repopulation.

God passed judgment on Ananias and Sapphira, ending their lives for lying to the Holy Ghost.

Men stand liable to God's judgment in natural death today. "There is a sin unto death. I do not say that he shall pray for it." 1 John 5:16.

JUDGMENT WITHOUT MERCY

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses; Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he (Christ) was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the spirit of grace?" Heb. 10:28,29.

JUDGMENT WITH MERCY

"Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. There as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." Romans 5:14-18.