

# 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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## WHAT JESUS BEGAN BOTH TO DO AND TEACH

by J. H. Smith  
Nashville, TN

*"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach."*

*Acts 1:1*

Luke, who is the writer of the Acts, is referring to the former treatise, which is the Gospel under his name, the Gospel of Luke; and he is addressing the same person, as in Luke, a man named Theophilus. He is stating here, in the Acts, that the former treatise is about what Jesus began both to do and teach. This mission of Jesus on the earth, in person, was what He began to do and teach; it wasn't all finished then. The record shows in the Acts that the work was continuing, and is still continuing, and will continue till He comes again.

### JESUS LIMITED HIMSELF

Our Lord didn't come to live forever in His body of humiliation; this he did that He might suffer for the sins of man, and it was all volunteer, and for a brief time. He laid down His life, and then took it again (John 10:17-18). After He had suffered the death of the cross, God the Father highly exalted Him and gave Him a name which is above every name (Philippians 2:8-9). No power, or a combination of powers could bring Jesus Christ to such a low estate. "He made Himself of no reputation," or He emptied Himself; "And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:7,8). This is what we mean by the term, JESUS LIMITED HIMSELF.

What Christ began to do and teach, as recorded in Luke, was limited to the little country of Palestine. There is no record of Him ever going outside of that small country, and the most of His mighty works were done in and around the Sea of Galilee. There He taught and did signs and wonders, and there

He called His first permanent disciples. But all that He did and taught, there and elsewhere in that little country, was just the beginning. It hasn't ended yet; He just limited His earthly mission.

Jesus limited His earthly mission to His own people, the Jews, and He commissioned

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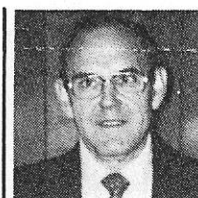
## OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL



March 28-30, 1984

OLD UNION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH is happy to announce the date for the Twelfth Annual Ministers Seminar. It shall begin Wednesday, March 28, 1984 at 9:00 A.M. and continue for three days.

(Application Form on Page 2)



## BETTER BIBLE STUDENTS

by Keith D. Frieze  
Springfield, MO

Many young converts and God-called ministers start out serving the Lord with great zeal. They try to study and understand the Bible. They want to learn about being a Christian. Soon they get confused and discouraged because there is so much to learn. No doubt they ask themselves, how do I go about solving this problem? Where do I start?

There is no set pattern for each individual to grow in GRACE, WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, and UNDERSTANDING of the Lord's Word. There is a certain approach that can be used; fervent prayer is a must to start with. Prayer is that avenue whereby we get in touch with God, to be led by His Spirit to rightly divide the word of truth. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," James 5:16. Prayer will not substitute for knowledge as also knowledge is insufficient without prayer. God gives us his divine word in print, a heart to feel with and a mind to exercise. He intends for us to use them. Knowledge is acquired through our own efforts, but wisdom and understanding comes from God. Wisdom is the proper application of the knowledge we have acquired of his word. One must learn to study to attain a knowledge of God's word. There is an extreme difference in just reading the Bible and studying. A young Christian can read God's word and not understand it unless he truly studies with a prayerful heart.

Perhaps the lack of method or organization in study habits causes one to lose interest. Each person is different, but setting up some systematic way of approach can render great results. One main thought to keep in mind when studying the Bible is, WHO IS DOING

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**YEARLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Balance March 17, 1983 ..... | \$1,068.84 |
| Total Contributions .....    | 4,582.65   |
| All Operating Expenses ..... | 4,117.47   |
| Cash on Hand Feb. 15 .....   | \$1,034.02 |

**ANNUAL BIBLE STUDY**

February 14 thru March 22

7:00 P.M.

Each Tuesday & Thursday Evenings

at

WEST END MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

440 West Main Gallatin, Tenn.

Teacher

ELD. W. T. RUSSELL

Subject

BOOK OF CORINTHIANS

Everyone Welcome

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."* Hosea 4:6

**BETTER BIBLE STUDENTS**

(Continued from Page 1)

THE TALKING, TO WHOM ARE THEY TALKING, AND WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT. This is an excellent rule of thumb.

Let the Holy Bible serve as the primary source for study, because God's word is the basic origin of our belief. There are certain references that will aid in study: a Bible with good reference guides, a dictionary, Bible dictionary, and a set of Bible maps.

**SPIRITUAL REASON AND PURPOSE**

The Bible teaches us that we can obtain spiritual strength and growth from prayerful study of God's word. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," II Timothy 2:15.

These verses teach us that we can study and approve ourselves unto God. This kind of workman will not be ashamed, as he will be able to rightly divide the word of truth. Also God will not be ashamed of us, since His holiness is thus glorified in our hearts as the dwelling place of His Spirit. The presence of His Holy Spirit assures us that we have approved ourselves unto Him.

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear," I Peter 3:15.

Since we are saved we should give place to God in our hearts. This allows our spiritual nature to overcome our carnal nature. With the Holy Spirit of God in his heart, the Christian is qualified to give an answer to every man that asks about the hope of his salvation. God wants us to give an answer to everyone among the heathen who inquires honestly. There will always be some who inquire for dishonest reasons. We are to answer in the

Spirit of meekness, not in arrogance or boasting. This Christian answer will show respect toward the man who asks earnestly and also show reverence to God. We must remember SALVATION is a GIFT of GOD, not of works lest any man should boast.

"But evil man and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." II Timothy 3:13-15.

After we have learned these things through study and experience, we are required to put them into practice. We are the only BIBLE some people read. Our Christian influence must reflect the image of our Saviour's love toward mankind. What good have we done if we fail to practice what has been studied, taught and preached. I praise God that he has made me a CHRISTIAN. My greatest desire is to be a better one.

**"THAT'S NOT MY JOB"**

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

**OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street, Route or RFD \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Ministry \_\_\_\_\_

Are you ( ) Ordained or ( ) Licensed

Do you now pastor a church? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If so, give name of church \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please relate your experience of salvation and God's call for you to enter the ministry.

Tuition fee is \$20.00.

Mail all correspondence to: Dr. C. R. Hayes  
Route 3  
Bowling Green, KY 42101



## DAVID King of Israel

by Kenneth W. Massey

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward." 1 Sam. 16:13

". . . they anointed David king over Israel." 2 Sam. 5:3

David was born in Bethlehem, the youngest son of Jesse. He was born 1085 B.C. and lived to be 70 years old.

Samuel describes David's appearance as follows: "Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to." 1 Sam. 16:12

The two verses at the top of the page inform us of David's anointings as King of Israel. First, he was anointed by Samuel and re-anointed by the elders of Israel at Hebron.

His selection was of divine appointment. Samuel viewed all of Jesse's sons, some of which were of large stature. After seeing all that Jesse presented, Samuel asked if these were all of his children. And he said, there remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. We are taught an outstanding lesson in God's selection of David - "for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7

There was an evil spirit sent by God upon Saul so that the providence of God in changing kings in Israel might be accomplished. Saul's servant suggested that David, an excellent player of the harp, be brought to play for the king. David came and Saul loved him and his playing. For as David played Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

At this time the Philistines gathered their armies to battle against Israel. David's three oldest brothers had gone to battle with Saul against the heathen army. Jesse sent David to carry an ephah of parched corn and ten loaves to his brothers and he also sent ten cheeses to the captain.

Every day for forty straight days, Goliath, a giant of a man, would stand up and challenge all the men of Israel to select a man to meet him in battle. The losing army would become servants to the winning army. No man of Israel had stepped forward to meet Goliath. Actually they were all afraid. While David was visiting the army, Goliath made his challenge afresh with David listening. The shepherd boy asked, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" Eliab, David's oldest brother, accused him of coming down

there just to see the battle. But David asked another question, "Is there not a cause?" Word soon reached Saul that David was not afraid of Goliath and he sent for him. David convinced Saul that God would deliver the Philistine into his hand and was given liberty to go with the blessings of Israel.

David slew Goliath that day by the hand of the Lord. Saul immediately became angry toward David out of jealousy.

A conflict continued between Saul and David as long as Saul lived. Saul's son, Jonathan, loved David like a brother and helped him dodge death from his father's hand. David had an opportunity to kill Saul but showed mercy by sparing his life (1 Sam. 24:4).

David became king in Israel and reigned for thirty-three years over all Israel and seven years over Judah. He was a man after God's own heart. David ruled well until lust resulted in adultery. It is a tragic story to tell of his sending Uriah, husband of Bathsheba, home from the battlefield to cover David's sin and when he refused to go in unto his wife, David ordered him to the frontline where he was killed. Nathan told David a parable that accused David. He didn't recognize that he was the guilty person and became very angry. Then, Nathan said, "Thou art the man." David and Bathsheba's baby died just seven days after being born.

God refused to let David build the temple, but he gave him a son who could build it. That son was Solomon. David's last words are recorded in 2 Samuel 23:1-7. He called Solomon to his bedside and charged him, saying, "I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God. . . ." 1 Kings 2:1-3.

"SO DAVID SLEPT WITH HIS FATHERS, AND WAS BURIED IN THE CITY OF DAVID." 1 Kings 2:10

### A YOUTH'S ONE-TIME VISIT

I refused a date to the movies, choosing rather to go to the Wednesday night prayer meeting.

When I arrived, I looked for several people who were important to me.

I looked for my Sunday School teacher - but he wasn't there. I looked for the familiar faces of a couple of deacons whom I knew - but they were not there. I looked for several of the members who seemed to be real spiritual and who had greeted me warmly at the Sunday morning services - but they were not there.

Perhaps, these Christian friends do not think the Wednesday night services are so very important. I guess next Wednesday night I'll go to the movies.

**Was this young man from your church?**

## LETTERS

We enjoy reading "Voice of Baptists" very much and get a blessing each time we read it. Enclosed is a small check.

Ron & Linda McCurry  
Bolivar, MO

Decided it's about time to send you another small gift on the "Voice of Baptists." We enjoy it and thank you for it.

Plamon & Mildred Willoughby  
Drake, KY

Here is a small contribution for the "Voice of Baptists." To you and the staff, we enjoy reading the paper each month. Keep up the good work.

Gordon & Peggy Dunaway  
St. Clair Shores, MI

We enjoy "Voice of Baptists." Thanks for sending it.

Mr. & Mrs. Benton Tuck  
Gallatin, TN

I sure enjoyed the December issue of the paper. I am enclosing a check to help keep the paper going.

Frances Morgan  
Scottsville, KY

I love all of God's creation. I love the Bible and am trying to live like God wants us to live. I am 82 years old. Most of the people say they want to go to heaven to see their fathers and mothers. I know how they looked. I crave to see Jesus my Saviour.

Ollie Prince  
Camden, TN

The paper continues to be a cool cup of water to me.

H. D. Kearbey  
Jackson, MO

May God bless you and your staff. May the hundreds of lost out there be eager to hear the message of Jesus and be saved.

Jack & Marilyn Goodman  
Lafayette, TN

We receive the "Voice of Baptists" each month in our home. I truly appreciate the contents of the paper. The brethren that write the articles have been most helpful in my studies. It's my prayer that the Lord will continue to bless this work and it may ever live. The paper speaks loudly, keep it up. Enclosed is a small donation.

Charles Patterson  
Lafayette, TN

## JESUS BEGAN

(Continued from Page 1)

the twelve apostles to go only to the Jews, as we note: "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not; But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matthew 10:5-6.

Jesus Christ did all that He came to do in person; He didn't do all that He could have done, as far as His power to do is concerned. He could have healed all the sick and afflicted, but He didn't, just one here and there. He came to do the Father's will, and He finished that. He said to the disciples: "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34). His ministry upon this earth was very brief, about three and one-half years; but that time was filled with preaching, teaching and doing mighty works; and at the end He went to the cross and died for sinners. And while hanging on the cross he said this: "It is finished; and He bowed His head and gave up the Ghost" (John 19:30). He also said just before the cross, as He prayed to the Father: "I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4).

### HE GAVE AN UNLIMITED COMMISSION

Though Jesus's work was limited in time and space on this earth, He made preparation for His work to continue while He is absent. And we have in the book of Acts the record of His work continuing, through the agency of the Holy Spirit and His church. He said several times that He would send the Spirit, and He, the Spirit, would empower the church to continue the work of witnessing to the uttermost part of the earth: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

When the Lord returned to the Father He sent the Holy Spirit, as He said He would, and we have the account of His coming on the Day of Pentecost, as recorded in the second chapter of Acts.

Christ Jesus directed His work in person while He was with His church on the earth, but He ascended to heaven after His resurrection and sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high. "We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on the heavens," Hebrews 8:1. There our Lord, as High Priest and mediator, is directing His work, and so His doing and teaching is still in progress and will continue till He comes

again. The former treatise, as Luke mentions, is what Jesus began to do and teach, that implied that there was more to come, and that is what we find through the book of Acts.

### THE PROGRESS OF HIS WORK THROUGH THE ACTS

The Lord said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me," Luke 24:48, Acts 1:8. He said, "But tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." He said in Acts, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me." This power came on the day of Pentecost and the church witnessed to a great host of Jews, and three thousand were saved, baptized and added to the church. The promise of the Father, that Jesus spoke of, was fulfilled on that day; the Gospel spread, not to the Jews only, but spreading its wings around the world. Our Lord's doing and teaching made its way from Jerusalem to the great city of Rome, the record shows in this great book of Acts. The account ends with this book, with the great apostle Paul preaching there in Rome. It was there that he gave his life for His Lord whom he served in the Gospel.

The church had a great day at Pentecost, and for some time after, but God's children must have been so attracted by these great blessings at Jerusalem that they didn't move from there as the Lord commanded in Acts 1:8. So He permitted persecution to come and scatter them, and then they went everywhere preaching the Word. Saul of Tarsus, who later became Paul the apostle, made havoc of the church, and by this great persecution the church was scattered. The Bible says, in this great book of Acts: "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word," Acts 8:3,4. This is what Jesus wanted, what He commanded; and what He began to do in His personal ministry. We move by listening to the Still Small Voice, or we invite trouble to move us out into fields of labor for the Lord.

The Lord's work seemed to be such a small thing when Jesus called His little band of disciples, just ordinary men they were, not the high and mighty. But when God's power took hold of them and they preached His Gospel, men's lives were transformed. Even men who were so wicked that they persecuted the saints of God became humble, repented of their sins, and became faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. They didn't reform themselves, but they were transformed by the power of God. And the end is not yet.

*"Come now, and let us reason together."*  
The Church is the divinely created custodian of God's teachings in the world.

## EVANGELISM

by Kenneth W. Massey

LESSON: "Fitness of the Worker"

- All personal workers must be saved and have confidence in their Saviour and Salvation.
- All saved people were called in the moment of salvation to become "soul-winners."
  - The Great Commission was given to the infant church at Jerusalem. "Go ye (members) into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
- Winning souls requires special fitness:
  - an unwavering purpose;
  - an absolute commitment;
  - the Power of God;
  - a life above reproach;
  - a working knowledge of the Scriptures;
  - a devoted prayer life;
  - a loving and compassionate approach.

We have before us a brief outline of qualifications for the life of the person who would become a worker for God. You may gain the wealth of the world and all fame, but what would be your greatest achievement as you lay dying and looked back over your life? TO HAVE BEEN A FISHER OF MEN AND LED JUST ONE SOUL TO THE SUNNY SHORES OF SWEET DELIVERANCE WOULD JUSTIFY LONG LIFE ON EARTH.

### An Unwavering Purpose

The motivation behind this purpose needs very little more than to simply say, "God is honored and glorified every time a soul comes out of darkness into the marvelous light of his SON. To rescue a friend from drowning would be admired by all; to give blood for a dying loved one is noble; to offer and donate a kidney to a person dying is admirable; but what greater cause is there than taking one dead in trespasses and sins to the SOURCE of ETERNAL LIFE. What will you wish you had done with your life 100 years from now? Let us honor the purpose of soul-winning to the point that we will not fail in relating our joys of salvation to others, and let our sinner friends know that what Christ has done for us and for others, he will gladly do for them. May God help us to assist lost people in facing a moment of truth about their eternal soul's destiny in a burning hell without Christ.

### An Absolute Commitment

No one ever became a faithful worker for the Lord by devoting their spare time to his work. If employees only went to their jobs once a week, they would constantly need retraining. A continual service for God brings about greater fitness. Do not resolve in your heart to do nothing today that you can postpone until tomorrow. We need to never put off until tomorrow anything that needs doing today. Will you throw yourself to God for use in his Army?