

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

VOL. 7

HUNTINGDON, TENN.

APRIL, 1984

NO. 1



A RIGHT WAY - A WRONG WAY

by the late F. L. Ray

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death."
Proverbs 14:12

Jesus saith unto him. I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the father, but by me.

One of the greatest of all false doctrines, the most widespread and saddest, is - If a fellow is religious he is all right - that he is saved - a true Christian and will go to Heaven when he dies. Lots of people will say, "Why, one church is just as good as another. They are all alike and working to get to the same place." It is true that all the saved are going to the same place. We are living in an age of much deception. Paul, Christ, and other men of God give us some statements concerning this present evil world. II Tim. 3:1, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." I Tim. 4:1, "Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Again, Paul says, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse deceiving, and being deceived," II Tim. 3:13.

Jesus says, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many," Matt. 24:11.

The Lord said, in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Each man, woman, boy and girl should seek the truth, and know the truth concerning their souls' welfare, and eternal destiny.

Do we merit salvation upon our good works and self righteousness? Or upon the goodness and righteousness of the Son of God? Let the Bible tell us. "And they sang

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JOHN THE BAPTIST The Forerunner

by Kenneth W. Massey

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me." Malachi 3:1.

John the Baptist was of the priestly race, his father Zacharias was a priest of the course of Abia, or Abijah (1 Chron. 24:10). Elizabeth, John's mother, was of the daughters of Aaron (Lk. 1:5).

His birth was divinely appointed. John came in fulfillment of prophecy. "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness" (Is. 40:3). This was no coincidence; no ordinary birth or life.

God named John (Lk. 1:13) and also titled him "the Baptist." His name was not John Baptist nor was his father's name Zacharias Baptist. The title was given before he ever baptized to signify special authority and the only heaven ordered baptism on earth at that time. The people were startled by this baptism for Jews because they were familiar with heathenism and their baptism of proselytes. But let me remind you that John baptized only those who confessed aloud that God had already forgiven their sins. Then, when the Pharisees and Sadduces came to his baptism, he charged them as being a generation of snakes and asked, "Who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" John required repentance for sins and faith in the Lamb of God before baptism.

John's baptism was not sacramental but declarative. He said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance" (Matt. 3:11). He was not baptizing people hoping they would repent of their sins later. This was clearly explained in the eighth verse of the same chapter, "Bring ye therefore fruits meet for repentance." Therefore, before baptizing a person John required fruit befitting a true penitent.

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AND I SAW GOD

by Danny Chandler
Belmont, WV

"And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend . . . and he (Moses) said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." (Exodus 33:11-20) "And the Lord passed by before him and proclaimed, the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." (Exodus 34:6-7)

Moses was no doubt one of the most humble and most righteous men that ever walked upon the face of the earth. Yet, we can see from the context of the above passage that he felt he needed to see something tangible to strengthen his relationship with God. Perhaps he was prompted by natural curiosity, but I tend to believe that he, like all of us, wanted a mental picture of God to which he could ascribe all the divine characteristics. God, being the kind and loving God that he is, agreed to Moses' request because he considered Moses as his friend (vs. 11) and friends are honest and open with one another. Therefore, God told Moses, "I will make all

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SERMONS DAY 1984

On Saturday, May 5, 1984, Victory Baptist Church will host a special day of preaching and singing and fellowship among ministers and churches.

The service begins at 10:00 A.M. Lunch will be served at noon.

Featured speakers include Bro. Bill Allgood, Bro. Paul Bryson and Bro. Rex Hunt with special singing by the Reid Family Singers.

The church is located on the Johnny Cash Parkway in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

APRIL REVIVALS

April 8

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH – Santa Paula, Calif. Pastor Kent Parsons will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services each evening at 7:30.

April 27, 28, 29

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH – located in Natchez Trace State Park. Bro. Edd Tubbs is pastor of the church. YOU ARE WELCOME!

April 27, 28, 29

EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH – Mixie, Tenn. Bro. James Hidgon is pastor of the church. Elder Kenneth Massey will preach in these services. The church and pastor extend a cordial welcome to everyone.

APPRECIATION DAY



W. T. Russell

On Saturday, April 28, 1984, Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church of Camden, Tennessee will host a special day of appreciation for their pastor, Elder W. T. Russell.

This day will commemorate fifty years of preaching the gospel by Elder Russell. Elder Russell holds church membership with Fairview Memorial Baptist Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky. His pastor, Elder Billy Moran will preach on this occasion. Special singing and comments from various ministers will be included in the day's activities.

All friends, ministers, churches and acquaintances are invited to attend this day of worshipping God while at the same time showing respect and honor to one of God's most faithful ones.

Services begin at 10:30 a.m. with lunch to be served by the host church.

For travelers from the east, directions are as follows: Going west from Nashville on I-40, exit at the Camden-Parsons exit; travel Hwy. 631 north approximately 12 miles to a church sign which will point you to the next sign and then on to the church.

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

1 Tim. 5:17

I SAW GOD

(Continued from Page 1)

my goodness pass before thee." So actually what Moses was going to see was an "image" of the righteousness of God.

Before I proceed on with this line of thought, let me digress for a moment and say that it was no doubt man's degenerate nature that had brought him to the point where he felt he could confine the limitless nature of an invisible God to the limited visible form of a creature. According to Romans 1:21-23 man had at one time known the glory of God but chose through his own evil imagination to corrupt it by assigning it an image or form. Now, it is one thing for God to choose to manifest himself (as he did to Moses) in whatever form he might see fit, but it is quite another for man to confine God to any form. When one thinks of the measureless wisdom and power of the Almighty God, is it any wonder he would become angry when man would erect an image of some created thing and say, "This is God." It was this very thing (the building and worship of the Golden Calf)

that had brought on God's anger and except for the intercession of Moses, surely would have been the destruction of all the people.

We know from the scriptures and from our own personal experience with God that he desires to have fellowship with man, and that he desires to reveal to us his righteousness and his glory. But, to the unregenerated man whose "foolish heart was darkened," how can he see these righteous characteristics of the invisible God that he may desire them? I find it truly an humbling experience to realize that God was **willing** to leave behind his glory and take upon himself the form of one of his own creatures that he might make manifest to all men everywhere his righteousness. I say to you, **Behold Jesus Christ** "who is the image of the invisible God," (Col. 1:15) and "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God (is) in the face of Jesus Christ." (II Cor. 4:6) Is not the man Jesus Christ an expression of the exact same thing Moses saw while in the cleft of the rock? Is not Jesus Christ the goodness of God and all men everywhere? When they behold him are they not beholding all that can be beheld of God?

I find it a very sad thing that the darkened imaginations of men cannot see the glory of my Saviour's face. Oh! my prayer is that all men might see and fall down before him in adoration. I suppose the problem is rooted in pride, because man is unwilling to believe that one so humble and meek, so "long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" could actually be "God with us." The natural judgments of man are such that he tends always to judge a book simply by its cover. If all a man can see of Jesus is the outer covering "there is no beauty that we should desire him," but if one looks deeper to the character and holiness of the man Jesus, he will see the very nature of God.

I will close this article and leave you with this question, "What do **you** see in the face of Jesus Christ?" Judas Iscariot saw a piece of merchandise that could bring him a little profit. The High Priest, Caiaphas, who was fearful that "the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation" saw a political advantage in using this man Jesus so "that one man should die for the people and that the whole nation perish not." King Herod saw a man to entertain him because he desired Jesus to perform a miracle for him just for curiosity's sake. John the Baptist, on the other hand, beheld something entirely different, for when he saw Jesus coming toward him he proclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." The apostle Nathanael when he first met Jesus, after he had doubted that anything of any value could come from Nazareth, looked upon Jesus and said, "Thou art the Son of God, thou art the King of Israel." Reader, your eternal destiny depends on what you behold in the face of Jesus Christ.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

(Continued from Page 1)

Our sinless saviour was immersed at the hand of John the Baptist and was there declared by the dove and the Voice to be the Son of God, Redeemer of man.

This humble servant performed no miracles but with unique courage was a powerful preacher of the gospel.

Jesus gave John this commendation, "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist" (Matt. 11:11).

Let's use the words of Jesus to strike a death note to the advocates of universal church. Jesus further states about John . . . "notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matt. 11:16). If the kingdom of heaven represents the universal church, then John the Baptist was unsaved and at the same time called by Jesus as great a man as had ever been born. Reasoning concludes that John was in the family of God but not a member of the church. Notice the testimony of John himself - "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled" (Jn. 3:29). The bride is the church (saved and scripturally baptized); the bridegroom is Jesus Christ and the friend of the bridegroom (best man) is John the Baptist.

Herod, the tetrarch, thought John the Baptist was Elijah resurrected from the dead. He sent for John only to be charged by him as an adulterer. Herod had taken Herodias from his own brother Philip. Immediately John was put in prison for the sake of Herodias, but wasn't killed for Herod feared the multitude who counted him a prophet. Oh, what a prophet, and more than a prophet was this self-denying man!

Salome, daughter of Herodias, danced for Herod and in return he promised an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. She was instructed by her mother to request the head of John in a charger. This was done and the head of the first Baptist preacher was brought before an adulterer and an adultress for them to witness the silent tongue of their accuser.

His disciples were given his body for burial. No sermon nor epitaph in memory of this great man was given, but God has his record and shall read it aloud on that great day.

"Be ye steadfast, unmovable" is an exhortation that bespeaks backbone and nerve, and Paul knew it would require these to meet the issues of the day."



MY TRIP TO CALIFORNIA

by J. H. Smith

I left Nashville on January 13th, by plane to Los Angeles, and from there by a small plane to Oxnard, California, where Brother Doyle Lipe and his wife met me and took me to their home where I stayed for about half of the time of one month that I stayed in California. Though I was a stranger to them, they received me very warmly and made me welcome. The rest of the time that I spent in Ventura it was with Brother and Sister Tom Mashburn; all of these people of the Lord treated me very kindly, and I appreciate it very much. I pray that the Lord will bless them for their kindnesses and hospitality. When we are away from home, and feeling a little lonely, it is such a blessing to have somebody to receive us so graciously.

Nyland Missionary Baptist Church had extended to me a call a few months back and I told them that I would come and preach for them for awhile, and then I could determine whether I could accept the church. It is not easy to accept a call that far away at our age, but I did tell them that I would pray much about it and give them an answer one way or the other. Since I returned home Annie Laura and I have put ourselves to much prayer, and we believe that it must be the Lord's will for us to go. It hasn't been an easy decision, and we have done some agonizing about it. I think about my wife, that is natural, for she isn't in good health, and we are settled down here and can live fairly comfortably; but one thing a preacher needs to remember, and that is to not feather his nest too much, because the Lord might tear it apart.

Nyland Church is very small in number and struggling for existence, and somebody needs to help them. While I was with them we held a week's meeting, I preached from one Wednesday night to the next. We had some good spiritual services, the Lord manifested His wonderful presence, and we could rejoice in the Lord. The highest attendance we had was nineteen people. I also preached the four Sundays and Sunday nights and Wednesday nights while I was there. I don't think I ever preached to a people that were more receptive to the Word of God, they just seemed to be hungry for the Word, and that makes preaching a pleasure. I don't find where the Lord ever said just go and find the big number, but He does say, "Who hath despised the day of small things?" Zechariah 4:10.

My home church, McFerrin Baptist

Church, where Brother Howard Taylor is pastor, and New Bethel Baptist Church, where Brother H. C. Vanderpool is pastor, helped me financially to make the trip to California, and I do appreciate this very much and pray God's blessings upon these dear churches; and I am grateful to all who prayed for me on the trip, and for my wife while she stayed at home.

We will try to be ready to leave for California by the first of April, after the minister's school is over at Old Union Baptist Church, where I am one of the speakers. We intend to maintain our place here, close it up, so that we will have a place to come back to when the Lord gets through with us in California. We won't try to move any household furnishings with us but look for something furnished on the other end.

We earnestly request the prayers of all God's people for us in the move, that might be the last, who knows?

(Remember Bro. & Sis. Smith in your prayers and with your finances - EDITOR)

YOUTH DAY '84

Meeting In

NATCHEZ TRACE PARK

(State's Largest Park)

SATURDAY, MAY 26

10:00 A.M.

THEME:

TEENAGE DATING - MARRIAGE

Bud Hulsey, Speaker

BRING YOUR LUNCH
SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE

Sponsored by:

A group of West Tennessee Baptists

BE THERE!

"Could I climb to the highest place in Athens, I would lift my voice and proclaim - Fellow Baptists, why do you turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth, and take so little care of your children to whom one day you will relinquish it all?"

RIGHT WAY – WRONG WAY

(Continued from Page 1)

a new song, saying, thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation." Rev. 5:9.

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" Rom. 10:4.

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Rom. 3:28.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH SERVICES

A lot of people go to Sunday school and then go home or elsewhere. Sunday school is good and should be attended by both parents and children. But just Sunday school is not enough, all church services are important, and there is blessing for all who will attend. Then we have those who go on Sunday morn but not on Sunday night.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING

I love the church that Jesus bought, she is this dark world's light: I always go on Sunday morn but not on Sunday night.

I love to sing the Gospel songs and worship in daylight, that's why I come on Sunday morn but not on Sunday night.

I love to hear the Gospel horn, it gives me such delight; it thrills me every Sunday morn but not on Sunday night.

I'd go through storm and rain, do anything that's right; to be at church on Sunday morn but not on Sunday night.

I hope the faithful few keep on engaging in the right; I'll do my part on Sunday morn, but not on Sunday night.

Too bad some day we all must die! I hope that morn is bright, for I want to die on Sunday morn, but not on Sunday night.

I know that Christ is coming soon, and he will find me right; if he appears on Sunday morn, but – not on Sunday night.

The Holy Spirit sent this poem, it set my heart aright; you'll see me there Sunday morn and also Sunday night. E. M. SNYDER

IF I WANTED TO I WOULD

If I wanted to elevate and purify the spiritual atmosphere of my church, I would attend the Midweek Prayer Service.

If I wanted to let people know that I was vitally concerned about my church, I would attend the Midweek Prayer Service.

If I wanted to emphasize the value of prayer in the eyes of the world, I would attend the Midweek Prayer Service.

"Hard times should not be an excuse for withholding your contributions from the Lord's cause, but they might be a good reason for curtailing your useless and hurtful indulgences."

SEASONS

by Arvella Stapleton

Kingsport, TN

As we look to the land at this time of year, we see trees without leaves, fields plowed – not yet planted and grass, brown and withered; but we look around knowing what is coming forth from dreary days of winter past. Soon the trees will bud, fields confidently seeded – planted in faith, meadows and hillsides carpeted in soft green will come alive at God's comment. The birth of spring is beautiful to behold. The blossoms of fruit trees, lilies of the fields and roses of great splendor speak of the goodness of God as he prepares yet another season for us.

In the deep recesses of man's heart, as the Holy Spirit begins to draw him, making him aware of his lost condition, he is like the first moments of spring. He is weary of trudging the ground so brown, withered and lifeless, weak from lack of food for his soul, sorry for his life of uselessness, disappointed that love is not abounding in his heart, trembling at the words of God spoken by ministers and saints, "Repent or ye shall all likewise perish," overcome with grief, brokenhearted and longing to reach out to God for the saving of his soul. Then he cries, "What must I do to be saved?"

As he looks to the church and saints of God, what does he see? Is it a tilling, planting, nurturing, growing, loving and testifying church and people or a group claiming to be God's own – dragging into services half-hearted, sitting in pews yawning and longing for the minister to close the service so that they may once more be on their way, a people never taking time to read and meditate on God's Holy Word, nor going into a closet of prayer; not really praying in church – just muttering the same phrases service after service? What effect must these two kinds of churches and people have upon the lost and how must God feel about each of them?

As Christ Jesus rode into Jerusalem the disciples layed their garments upon the young colt and they spread palm branches in the pathway before him. They shouted and cried, "Hosanna to the son of David, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna to the highest." The Pharisees cried out, "Lord, cause these to stop crying out, Lord let them keep silent." Jesus said, "I tell you if these keep silent, the rocks and mountains would shout praises and honor to God."

Now as we go forth in the land blessed by God, let us walk in faith, his word hidden in our heart, our mouth ready to praise him and give account to the lost of the hope we have within us, ever looking to God the author and creator of all truth.

May our lives be as the spring: budding, leafing out, ready to receive God's promises

– then as summer: earth blooming radiantly, having been tilled by man and nurtured by God, maturing in the fruits of the spirit.

When harvest time is come, our barns will be full, larders filled to overflowing, cellars stocked with all the goodness of God's blessings. Only then may we stand, telling others of God's plan of salvation, share with them the blessings stocked in our soul and rejoice as the lost come out of the bleak winter past. They will confidently come forth in faith as they see and hear the seeds of God's word planted by God and his children. They will repent as God nurtures and cares for the seeds planted in their hearts and gloriously receive the fruit (God's gift of salvation) that God gives in abundance by his mercy and grace.

Let us be servants of God knowing that we are his husbandmen, tending his fields and spreading his seed to the glory of God the Father, his son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. May we go forth to the harvest confident that God will give the increase and know our loved ones will see, hear, believe and be saved.

REVIVAL

May 27

JARED BAPTIST CHURCH – Jared, TN. Pastor Kenny Hensley will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. YOUR PRAYERS AND PRESENCE ARE REQUESTED.

"A faithful defense of our Lord's churches and their divinely revealed doctrines is the great need of our age. In the trend toward liberalism we have left our moorings."

– J. N. HALL

EASTER

"Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." Ring it out, Easter bells! Peel it forth, glad anthems of the church! Let the flowers tell in symbolic beauty their message that life has conquered death. Let the church join in the great affirmation of her faith, "I believe in . . . the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting."

– W.H.J.