

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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NO. 3



PETER The First Apostle

by Kenneth W. Massey

"Now the name of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter."

Matthew 10:2

Peter was the son of Jonas. He was born in Bethsaida and brought up a fisherman. After marrying, he moved his family to Capernaum. Christ visited this home several times (Mk. 1:29-31).

The greatest event in the life of Peter took place in or around Bethabara when he was brought to Jesus by his brother Andrew. Andrew had told Peter or Simon as he was called at this time, "we have found the Messiah," which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

When Jesus beheld Simon, he said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone" (John 1:42). There is a difference between "the rock" in Matthew 16:18 and "the stone" in John 1:42. When Jesus declared to Peter that He would build His church upon "this rock," he was referring to Himself (Petra) and not to Peter (Petros).

Peter was immediately called into full service by Jesus. "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:18,19). Bear in mind that Peter had already been to Jesus, had been saved and baptized prior to this command. At this time Jesus chose twelve to become apostles. Peter heads the list as given in Matthew's account. The historians contemporary with Peter inform us that he was a large man and the eldest of the apostles.

As forewarned by Jesus, Peter denied the Lord three times as He was taken captive.

Peter not only denied knowing Jesus but cursed when the people were so sure that he did know Him. At the crowing of the cock, he remembered the word of Jesus, and he went out and wept bitterly.

Please do not think as some do that Peter's sin placed him in Satan's company. Remember the words of Jesus prior to the sin: "Simon, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" (Lk. 22:31,32). Did Jesus's prayer go unanswered? Thank God for the eternal prayer of our Advocate with the Father. Peter's faith became weak, but it didn't fail and he was convinced of his sin. Scripture is silent to a second salvation for Peter or anyone else for that matter. Jesus showed his forgiveness toward Peter in John 21:15-18 as

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ORDINATION

Maple Grove Baptist Church of Lafayette, Tennessee will meet Saturday, June 2, 1984 at 1:30 p.m. for the purpose of considering ordination of the following brethren: Bro. Ophia Carr and Bro. Willard Carr to the ministry and Bros. Dean Dyer, William McClard, Carl Kemp and Earl Claiborn to the diaconship.

The church is located three miles north of Lafayette, Tennessee on Highway 10. It is across the road from the Lafayette Baptist Orphans Home.

Elder Don Curtis, Pastor
Hollis C. McDonald, Clerk

"and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them."
Acts 6:6

LETTER FROM BROTHER SMITH

Dear Brother Massey and Readers of
Voice of Baptists,

We arrived in Ventura, California on Friday, April 20th, safely, and we are so grateful to the Lord who has manifested His wonderful presence in a remarkable way. We had no trouble on our journey. We did, however, have some rough driving conditions because of strong winds through four states, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. The wind reached fifty miles per hour at times in the desert of California; and the dust storms were rather bad at times. The strong winds held us back some because we were driving against it, and the car didn't get as good gas mileage as it usually does under normal conditions.

We have been staying in a motel since we arrived, but yesterday we signed up for an apartment. Surely it was in answer to prayer, the Lord gave it to us in answer to prayer. Apartments for low income people usually have a long list in waiting, but in this case somebody had applied for this one but died, and when Sister Mashburn had gone to check at this place, the lady in charge said, "This must be in answer to prayer," and Sister Mashburn said, "Well, I have been doing a lot of that." We thank God for these dear church members who have been searching all over for us a place. May the Lord reward them for their faithfulness.

We went to church on Sunday and Sunday night, April 22nd, and we had good feeling services; I preached and had good liberty in speaking. We request that all of you remember us in prayer, for God surely answers prayer when in sincerity. These people at Nyland Missionary Baptist Church are few but they seem very zealous for the Lord and His Word. We pray that the Lord will give us an increase soon. Anybody back there,

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VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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REVIVALS

June 3

McFERRIN AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH - Nashville, TN. Pastor Howard G. Taylor will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey of Huntingdon, Tennessee. Services begin at 6 p.m. on Sundays and 7 p.m. all other nights. **EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

June 8

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH - Maco Drive, Barbeeton, Ohio. Pastor Berlon Roy will be assisted by Elder Paul Bryson of Bowling Green, Kentucky. Services begin each night at 7:30 p.m. **YOU ARE WELCOME!**

ORDINATION AT INDEPENDENT

On Saturday, June 23, 1984 at 2 p.m., Independent Baptist Church of Huntingdon, Tennessee will meet in council to consider the propriety of ordaining Harold Webb and Tommy Crews to the office of Deacon.

Our church extends a warm welcome for everyone to attend this service.



CHILDREN AND SALVATION

by Lory Poynor

Age or Point of Accountability

Christians and Baptists down through the years have often discussed the question of the "age of accountability." This has been a confusing and intriguing question to many people. It has caused hours and hours of discussion.

The term "age of accountability" means that time when a person comes to the realization of their individual need of Christ as a Saviour. When a person is born they are protected by the grace of God until they reach this place in their life.

No certain age can be set for this time. Teaching, background, maturity, mentality, accessibility to the gospel and many other things contribute to this particular situation in life. Actually it is not the age of accountability but the POINT OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

There is no such terminology used in the Word of God. The closest reference to this is in Romans 14:12 which reads, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

In the twentieth century mass evangelism, child evangelism and similiar programs have contributed much to the pressure placed on young people to be saved. These programs have many good points and serve a purpose. It should be pointed out clearly that it is impossible for a person to be saved UNTIL HE IS LOST. God came into the world to save sinners.

It is commonly taught by many that all a person has to do to be saved is to simply trust the Lord. This is **not** true. A person must first realize that he is a sinner before he is a "candidate" for salvation. It is impossible to be saved before being lost. Evangelizing (preaching and teaching the message of salvation) is important for young people. However they should not be left with the impression that simple trust is all that is needed for salvation. Conviction - knowing that they are a sinner - must precede trust.

Let us deal with the problem of the great number who make professions of faith in early youth and then when maturity comes to their life, they are aware that they are lost. These probably made professions of faith when they were in an AGE OF FEAR rather than at the point of accountability.

Children are afraid of the dark and afraid of being alone. They hear messages on hell and they do not want to go there. This is the way it should be. However the fear of hell is not necessarily the point of accountability.

They are not accountable until they know **WHAT** makes them a sinner and **WHY** they need salvation.

Parents, pastors and teachers should deal diplomatically and carefully with young people. Leading a person into a false profession is a dangerous thing. They may never live close enough to the teachings of the Word to come to the realization that they are lost and as a result the situation is never corrected in later life.

Children who are just "afraid of going to hell" probably do not realize that they are a sinner. The thought of hell frightens them, but conviction of their sinful condition is not present. Knowing that there is a God is not automatically receiving Him as Saviour.

What causes children to make professions of faith when they are not accountable for their sins? Basically there are few things that are responsible for this:

(1) Parental anxiety - Parents are well-meaning and they want to be sure that when their children reach the point of accountability that they trust the Lord as their personal Saviour. There are times when parents misjudge and see the "age of fear" for their children as the point of accountability. As a result they start encouraging and children take this as their immediate need for action in regard to turning to the Lord.

(2) Peer pressure - Children who have made professions of faith often start "evangelizing" other children who have not done so. When another person their age has made a commitment of their life to the Lord they feel that they will be "left out" of something that others their age have or are doing. Young lives must be handled with care and dealt with prayerfully.

(3) Allurement of wonderful things - Being able to be baptized and to partake of the Lord's Supper is what some young people look forward to after they are saved. They feel that since they have grown up under the teachings of the church that they are ready to launch out into this important time of life even though they have not felt conviction as a sinner.

(4) Drive to be accepted - Many a child feels that it will enhance his opportunities of special favors just by making a profession of faith. He is moved sometimes by emotions and he mistakes emotions for conviction. He is ever aware of making his life better, not just for personal gains but because he wants daily happiness with all his associates.

(5) The "right" thing to do - Many children who grow up in well established homes and churches feel that it is the right thing to do to make a profession early in life. It is the right thing to do if the child has full knowledge of the fact that he or she is a sinner. If

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PETER*(continued from page 1)*

He interrogated him and commanded him simultaneously.

This man, though impulsive and erratic at times, was a good leader. He took the lead in advising the church to select someone to replace Judas Iscariot.

We see a giant of a man standing up at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost and boldly preaching the gospel to the Jews. Shortly following, he and John were thrown in prison and Peter defended the same gospel he had preached (Acts 4:8-12).

His courage is demonstrated as he point-blank quizzed Ananias and Sapphira about lying to the Holy Ghost. On one occasion he was commanded to never teach in the name of Jesus again. His reply was, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Peter had the privilege of helping to organize the first Gentile church - Samaria. After the power of the Holy Spirit had fallen upon this infant church, one named Simon the sorcerer offered money in exchange for the same power. "But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money" (Acts 8:20).

It was this same man that God sent to the Gentile, Cornelius. He was reluctant about going, but God finally convinced him that it wasn't his place to question, but rather to do His will. His going was victorious to the glory of God and the salvation of Cornelius and his household.

Herod had James killed and locked Peter up. Then the church prayed to God for Peter and the miraculous power of God brought him out.

Sometime after this, Paul confronted Peter at Antioch for requiring the Gentiles to be circumcised. Actually Peter was requiring both law and faith for salvation. Many today are doing the same thing as they command works and grace essential to regeneration. "For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified," Gal. 2:16.

Now notice Peter's attitude toward Paul after their confrontation: "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." (2 Peter 3:15,16)

Jesus told Peter of his forthcoming martyrdom (Jn. 21:18,19) and history reveals that Peter died by crucifixion about 70 a.d. The apostle Peter should be remembered most for his perseverance during years of great persecution.

LETTER FROM BROTHER SMITH*(Continued from Page 1)*

who reads this, having people in the area, relatives, friends or whoever, let us know about them and we will try to make contact. We don't have a telephone yet, but as soon as we do we will report the number.

Both of us are doing fine, I think, after resting up some. The Lord has been so good and gracious to us in so many ways; we just want to praise His good Name forever. How can people get by without His hand to guide and sustain. "Bless the Lord, O, my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name."

Prayerfully yours,
Henry and Annie Laura Smith

CHILDREN AND SALVATION*(Continued from Page 2)*

he is not able to understand that he is a sinner, it is the wrong thing to do.

Trusting the Saviour must be a matter of the "heart." Head knowledge is not sufficient. When questions arise from young children, they should not be ignored. They should be answered in the light of the Word of God and saturated with prayer. Not knowing when the point of accountability will occur in the life of a young person, parents and teachers should instruct them so that they will know what to do and how to react when that moment comes.

Evangelizing with youth is one of the most important fields of sowing the seed. They should not be pressured; they should be properly informed. Pray fervently that the Spirit of God will direct them into pure redemption when they have reached the point of accountability.

LETTERS

I wanted to drop you a few lines and let you know how much I enjoy the paper. Pray God will keep blessing you and your family in your work.

Jerry Shrum
Lafayette, TN

Our church is sending the enclosed check as a donation to the paper. We sure don't want it to stop.

Fellowship Baptist Church
Indianapolis, IN
Billy R. Gregory, Treas.

Please find enclosed a check for the paper. May God bless the paper to His glory.
Calvary Baptist Church
Bolivar, MO

I'm still enjoying the "Voice of Baptists" and never too busy to read the good gospel news from all who write. Enclosed is a little help for the paper.

Mr. & Mrs. Fount Moran
Beech Grove, IN

Sending the enclosed money for the "Voice of Baptists."

Terry Foster
Belton, MO

We sure do enjoy the little paper. It keeps in touch with the churches and preachers. I enjoy the great letters also. May God bless you.

Robert & Ruby Jackson
Ochelata, OK

I am sending a donation to the "Voice of Baptists." We look forward to it each month and enjoy reading it so much.

Tom & Beulah Mashburn
Ventura, CA

Our church wishes to send the enclosed check for support of "Voice of Baptists."

We have always enjoyed the paper and our prayers are with you in this work for the Lord.

Grace Baptist Church
Detroit, MI
Chesley Sutton, Treas.

Someone put my mother, Dorothea Parish, on your mailing list and we are enjoying your paper. Want to make a small contribution.

Jimmie Klingeman
Wheaton, IL

The members of Faith Missionary Baptist Church look forward to receiving your paper each month.

Enclosed is a check to help defray the costs of publishing the "Voice of Baptists."

Our prayers are with you.

Faith Baptist Church
Franklin, IN
Alberta Kirby, Clerk

The members of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church have voted to send the enclosed donation to the "Voice of Baptists." We enjoy the paper.

Friendship Baptist Church
Columbus, IN
Bobby Brown, Treas.

I sure do enjoy the paper - "Voice of Baptists." Am sending you a little donation today.

Ollie Prince
Camden, TN

