

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. 9

HUNTINGDON, TENN.

DEC., 1986

NO. 1



Seasons Greetings

"...behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Luke 2:10

The greatest joy this side of heaven must surely be the joy of knowing the dear Saviour way down deep in your soul.

As my wife, Judy, our daughter, Julie, and our son, Lance and I prepare for the yuletide season, we are reminding each other of the true purpose and spirit. I don't know for certain when Jesus was born, and I really do not concern myself with that date. The fact remains that HE WAS BORN in Bethlehem of Judaea, and much celebration was offered by the angel and a multitude of the heavenly host. They praised God, and said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

I feel we should use every possible occasion to sincerely worship, honor, adore and exalt our blessed Redeemer. No doubt many will misuse this blessed time of remembrance with their worship of Satan through evil spirits, bottled or otherwise. Surely none will deny that Christmas has become entirely too commercialized. Perhaps others will squander necessary monies for unneeded purchases and pleasures. And I reckon a few will strap tight their purse strings and help none. But why don't you and I give someone the greatest gift from men, and tell the sweet story of Jesus and His marvelous love to save and make the vilest sinner clean.

As we love Him because He first loved us, let us remember the new commandment He gave - "as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." If observing the birth of Christ will remind us to love God, love and help the unsaved and love one another, I think it would surely please the Father.

From our house to your house we send our best wishes
for you a blessing-filled Christmas,
The Masseys
Kenneth, Judy, Julie and Lance

WEST VIRGINIA MISSION REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It is a pleasure to once again write to you and tell of God's wonderful workings here in West Virginia. It has been six months now since we started having services in a local community building, and to say that all has gone well would certainly be misleading. We have had our hearts encouraged as visitors have come and listened and even expressed a desire to learn more, but then we have become disappointed as they never returned. On one occasion we received a phone call from a lady who said she had been listening to our radio broadcast and she was sure that our mission was exactly what she and her husband were looking for and that they would see us for sure on Sunday morning. With each Sunday that passed we became more sorrowful and less expectant to see them. There have been a few times when the room was nearly full, but more times when I have preached only to my family. Even though I am in my own home community there is at times a loneliness that comes over me that can only be dispelled by the comforting of the Holy Spirit. I know that these disappointments are not peculiar to me, but they are common to all who have taken up the pathway of Christ. I do, however, ask a sincere interest in your prayers.

There are some very bright spots in this work that makes it all worthwhile. God has seen fit to give us some very faithful listeners and for them we are most thankful. My wife's parents have hardly missed a service since we started and a young couple named Lowther have been very faithful along with their 2 children ages 9 and 12. One Sunday morning a man came who was just passing by and saw our sign. He is now coming faithfully and has met a lady whom he intends to marry, and they want the ceremony at the mission since that's where they intend to

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VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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IDAHO MISSION REPORT

Elder Vernon Roark
Parma, ID

Dear Brethren:

We wish to take this opportunity to let you know of our continued though weak efforts to serve the Lord here in Idaho. So far we haven't seen much visible results to report. We are still having about the same in attendance, but as yet, there still seems a lack of concern for the Lord's work. I am trying to preach every Lord's day, but with few to preach to.

I don't know how to properly thank each church and individual who has so abundantly supported us with your prayers and your bountiful gifts. I pray that our wonderful Lord will richly bless you, according to your love toward us. The bible tells us that by love shall men know that you are truly His disciple.

Brethren, I still feel that it is the Lord's will that I remain here for awhile yet, but I will admit discouragement is on every hand. I talk to members that aren't going to church anywhere, and they don't seem to care. I wonder how long the Lord will put up with the way His people here are living. Please pray that I will just have faith to carry on, and leave everything up to Him.

Again, I thank each of you for your concern. God bless each of you is my prayer.
Your Brother in Christ,
Vernon Roark

IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER

Someone asked me the other day, if I had my life to live over, would I change anything? "No," I answered, but then I began to think...

If I had my life to live over, I would have talked less and listened more. I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded. I would have eaten popcorn in the "good" living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace. I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth. I would have never insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had been teased and sprayed. I would have burned the pink candle sculptured like a rose before it melted in storage. I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television—and more while watching life. I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband. I would have gone to bed when sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day. I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime. Instead of wishing away my nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was my only chance in life to assist God in a miracle. When my child kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later—now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you"...more "I am sorry"...but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute...look at it and really see it...live it...and never give it back.

This article was copied from Pulpit Helps.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GOSPEL SINGING

McFerrin Ave. Baptist Church of Nashville, TN would like to invite everyone to this year's Watch Service. There will be congregational singing, special numbers and quartet singing by the Victory Quartet of Huntingdon, TN.

WAS JUDAS SAVED?

(A few weeks ago I received a letter requesting an answer to the above question. This request was anonymous so I will make reply here.)

No one should question the statement - Judas Iscariot died separated from God, without Christ and without hope. Jesus said, "woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born." (Matt. 26:24b)

Now to say that a man bound for heaven should never have been born would be most unreasonable. Next we must ask ourselves if Judas was saved at one time, and then lost at the time of death. I do not believe the Scriptures teach Judas was ever a child of God. Notice, "Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spoke of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve." (John 6:70, 71) There is not one verse of scripture in all the Bible to prove that any person was ever saved by God's grace, and then so apostatized as to be lost at death and for eternity.

Some think that John 17:12 teaches that Jesus had kept all the disciples God had ever given him except Judas. I read just the opposite in this scripture. All were kept that were given Jesus. Judas was numbered with them, but was never one of them. Listen to Jesus, "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, HE THAT EATETH BREAD WITH ME HATH LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME." (John 13:18)

On the evening of the betrayal, Jesus observed the passover with His brethren. He said, "one of you shall betray me. Peter asked which one? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly." (John 13:21-27)

What is meant by "Satan entered into him?" I think it means Satan was so fully in Judas that he could now go through with the betrayal.

In harmonizing all scriptures pertaining to Judas, I conclude that he was unsaved when Jesus chose him as an apostle, that he was unsaved when he took the sop, that he was unsaved when he took the thirty pieces of silver, and that he was unsaved when he hanged himself. Matthew did say, "he (Judas) repented himself." Surely that repentance was sorrow for self, because we know that Godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation.

Editor

HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE

By Phocian Gibbs
Philippians 2:16

"Holding forth the word of life"

There has been committed to our trust the sacred duty of holding up Christ to a lost and dying world. Christ is referred to as "the Word" John 1:1-5 and 1:14, "and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth."

First, we are to hold him up in our lives. Christ says in Matt. 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." So many people claim to be Christians and yet live like the world. That kind of life does not make the right kind of impression on the sinner.

When one is saved, (born again) they are eternally saved. The influence they have and enjoyment of salvation depends on how they live and what they do.

David says in Psalms 34:3, "Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." I believe salvation brings about a change in the heart and life of an individual. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17.

Second, we should hold up Christ in our preaching. When Christ is preached, it reaches the lost. "For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and Spirit and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb. 4:12. Paul tells us in I Cor. 2:2, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified."

The gospel, which includes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is the power of God unto salvation, Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. For it is the power of God unto salvation."

Third, while Church membership and the ordinances of the church are not essential to salvation they are necessary to the enjoyment of our salvation. Christ tells us to come ye out from the among the world and be ye a separate people. Paul tell us, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil." Eph. 6:11.

Baptism represents the burial and resurrection of Christ, Rom 6:4-6, Col. 2:12. "Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised him from the dead."

The Lord's Supper represents the death of the Lord. We are to keep it in memory of His death. the bread represents His broken body, "And He took bread and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, Saying, this is my body which is given for you: This do in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19 And then in the next verse, "Likewise also the cup after supper, saying this cup is the New Testament in my blood which is shed for you."

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HIS OFFERINGS

'Twas a common congregation,
Not many rich or poor,
And they settled back in their places
When the sermon at length was o'er.

'Twas a missionary sermon,
And the pastor tried, indeed,
To touch the hearts of his people
For India's great need.

He asked for a large collection
To send the precious Word,
And he raised the mute petition,
"Touch their pocket-books, O Lord!"

But, 'twas only a begging sermon,
One hears so many now!

And a look of saddened patience
Stole o'er the people's brow.

As they gave their dimes and nickels
With a have-to-do-it air,
Instead of the look of helpful joy
God's people ought to wear.

'Way down in front on the free seat,
Sat a shabby little boy;

No mother's pet and play-thing,
No father's pride and joy.

Poor child! He had no mother,
And he was a drunkard's son,

Known to the congregation
As "drunken Lacy's John."

Of course he had no offering,
So the deacon passed him by,

"Let us ask a blessing on it,"
Said the pastor, with a sigh.

Oh wait, said the barefoot laddie,
As he started to his feet,

"And ask one on my offering too!
The deacon passed my seat!"

So, back went the good old deacon,
And his face wore a friendly smile
As he passed the box to the little lad,
Who was standing all the while.

I haven't much to give, he said,
But I'll give all I can.

And I'll go out to India
And preach, when I'm a man.

And from his ragged jacket
He drew his treasured pence,
And carefully he counted them
Just twenty-seven cents.

There, that is every bit I have,
Said the shabby little lad,
But I know that God'll bless it,
Cause I gave Him all I had.

Here, deacon, pass that box again!
Called honest farmer Door,
We haven't done the best we can;
We want to give some more.

And so the contribution box
Went round the church once more
And dollars now went dropping in
Where nickels dropped before.

Men all unused to giving.
Gave now, and softly smiled;

Because they gave to Jesus,
Led by a little child.

-Cont. by D.L. Wadley

(the above clipping was given to Charlie Ellis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Othell Ellis, R. 4, Lafayette, by the late Elder A.J. Sloan in 1953.)

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Churches:

Victory M.B.C. - Hendersonville, TN
Bethel M.B.C. - Albany, OR
Friendship M.B.C. - Columbus, IN
Old Time M.B.C. - Elizabeth, TN
Mt. Olive M.B.C. - Buffalo, MO
Crossroads M.B.C. - Camden, TN
Colorado M.B.C. - Denver, CO
Mt. Lebanon M.B.C. - Alvaton, KY
Oak Grove M.B.C. - Lexington, TN
So. Carthage M.B.C. - So. Carthage, TN
Mt. Calvary M.B.C. - Nashville, TN
Bethlehem M.B.C. - Goodlettsville, TN
Old Path M.B.C. - Paragould, AR

Individuals:

Elder Don McDonald - Detroit, MI
Mrs. Devealr Kinnaird - Woodburn, KY
Mrs. Zula Lowe - Indianapolis, IN
Elder W.R. Overton - Hendersonville, TN
Elder Jerry M. Crain - Lebanon, MO
Mr. David E. Klingeman - Wheaton, IL
Mrs. Wardean Perdue - Lafayette, TN
Mr. Marlon L. Brown - Veedersburg, IN
Robert & Ruby Jackson - Ochelata, OK
Buie Massey - Pleasant Shade, TN
Elder Charles A. Gentry - Carthage, TN

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WEST VIRGINIA REPORT

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come. Since March we have had a total of 45 visitors, and of those 45, there are 12 that come on a "faithful" basis. We thank God for them. On the 1st Sunday in September we began having an evening Bible study in addition to Sunday morning service. The first night we had 14 present, and of those 14, there were 5 who came for the first time. We are thankful for the number but more importantly we are thankful for the great witness of the Spirit that was there and for the hunger and thirst for truth that was expressed. There are many churches around here that do not have a Sunday night service and I hope that some from other places will attend our study. I know that many of the things I preach concerning heart felt salvation and sound Baptist doctrine are new to the listeners and I hope that through this Bible study I can build "line upon line and precept upon precept." May God help us in this effort.

We request earnestly that if any reader knows of anyone in this area who we could visit and share God's truth with, please let us know. Brother Blain Ashley from Liberty Church in Barberton, Ohio gave us the name of a man and his wife that he knew 16 years ago. We went to visit them and they have come to Bible study and intend to come to the revival. If people know that you care enough about them to send someone to see them and then you carry that concern to God in earnest prayer, it can have a very favorable effect on their attitude toward the truth.

Please pray for us that we may have the health and opportunity to continue the work here for the fields are truly white to harvest.

Yours in the Master's Service,
Danny and Cindy Chandler
Nathan and Nicole

HOLDING FORTH

(Continued from Page 3)

We are to observe the Lord's supper in the Lord's house. We read in Luke 22:29-30, "And I appoint unto you a kingdom as my father hath appointed unto me. That you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

To be saved (born again) and unite with the Lord's Church and follow the Lord in baptism, live a humble devoted Christian life in tops in this world.

Sinner, if you read this, I trust you may turn to God by way of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. Call on God and be saved with an everlasting salvation. "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13.

WISDOM OF WINNING SOULS

by Paul D. Oldham

"He that winneth souls is wise." Proverbs 11:30.

It is the wise who take the long look. How foolish to think only of today with its passing pleasure of profit. Essau is the classic example of one who thought only of the pleasures of today. He sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Whatever faults Jacob had, he did take the long look.

Abraham took the long look, by faith, he became the father of the faithful and one of the great men of all time. His nephew, Lot, took the short look. Lot, foolishly looked at today only. He moved into Sodom. Here he saw for a time prosperity but in the end he saw the ruin of his home, his wife turned to a pillar of salt, his possessions burned up.

Lot looked at the seen and temporal and Abraham looked at the unseen and spiritual.

All around us we see people who live for today only. Their interest is centered on food, clothing, jobs, business, pleasure of body and of the world. These pleasures, even though they may be harmless, are to be enjoyed for a moment, day or year, then gone.

The wisdom of winning souls, can be seen in the light of the worth of a soul. The greatest work to be engaged in is in winning the lost. Jesus said, "For what shall it profit it a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mk. 8:36-37. The most valuable thing that any person has is their soul. As Christians and members of the Church of the Lord, we need to have a Heaven born concern for the unsaved.

The fact of Hell should cause us to see the wisdom of winning the lost. The most horrible fact in the world is the fact that there is a Hell. Jesus spoke more of Hell than any other speaker in the Bible. He tells us that there is fire unquenchable, that men are tormented day and night, there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, etc.

People today are greatly concerned about the underprivileged and suppressed minorities but we need the greatest concern for lost souls. People who are already condemned because they have failed to believe in Jesus Christ, and who if they continue as they are will some day lift their fruitless cries in a Devil's Hell.

The wisdom of soul winning can be seen in the light of the disappointments and unhappiness of this world. In this world, homes have failed, governments have failed.

Disease, suicide, crime and heartless conscienceless wickedness, characterize our generation.

The world offers no peace to human

hearts aside from Jesus Christ. The Christian may be disturbed in body and mind but has peace in his heart, "therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God." This peace the world does not give nor can it take this peace away.

The sufferings of Christ as described in the gospels, prove the worth of a soul. Jesus said himself that he "came to seek and save that which was lost."

The Glories of Heaven further inspire us to soul winning and convince us of the fact that we are wise to win souls. The long look of soul winning does not pay much in dollars and cents but it will in spiritual blessings and in the glories of heaven, Dan 12:3. "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

Man works through life to gain his fortune whether it may be large or small and suddenly death comes and he must leave it all and go on a journey from which no man returns.

The fame of this world is fickle. Man may be a lifetime in building his influence and reputation and then lose it all in a week. Herbert Hoover was elected president in 1928 by a large majority, the world was at his feet. But four years later, he was defeated by a great majority. His fame was short lived.

The soul winners reward will not be lost. The person won shall eternally be with God. There are many things which should inspire us to soul winning.

May God grant us as preachers, individual Christians and churches a greater love for lost souls. May we seek to be truly wise, in the respect of being willing to be used of God to win the lost.

(first published in the "Baptist Progressor" Dec. 1963.)

1986 ALMOST GONE, Only God Knows What 1987 Holds

The Voice of Baptists has had a good year. We thank God for the opportunities He has provided. I'd like to urge the staff writers to keep up the good work. Three things we must have to be a successful paper - God's approval, creditable articles and sufficient finances. Though sometimes we have been lacking in the latter two, never have we felt deficient in His auspice. It is our desire to keep moving onward in this work.

Editor