

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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IS THE NAME CHRISTIAN WORN TOO EASILY TODAY?

(Continued from Page 1)

Are We Christians?

How long can we wear the name Christian as we go to our churches and pray for our missionaries while we make it economically practical for the unwed father and mother to flaunt the very teaching of God. Are we a Christian county?

Can we feel proud of ourselves when breach of peace charges are more than that of possession of gambling devices and the sale of alcoholic beverages. How sets the Christian crown in our heads.

Turned Into Hell

The Bible says "The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all nations that forget God." This Scriptural warning has no "respect of person" even though some no doubt will wear the name Christian unworthily.

Let us not be so blinded by civic benevolence that we forget we are not to bid them "God speed." The mantle of acceptability should not be purchased so cheaply.

SUICIDE WATCH

Is it any wonder that teenage suicides are up year after year? The National Coalition of Television Violence reports that the average American teenager will see 800 suicides on television by age 18. That's one for every 28 hours of programming.

"TIS' WAY SCHOOL OUGHT TO BE HELD"

by Rick Jones
Paragould, AR

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

This is a positive statement sincerely recorded by a man after God's own heart, the patriarch David found in 133rd Psalms. It would be an affirmative action and a sure blessing we Baptist would do good to practice, in a day when "fellowship" is perceived as a formal social gathering which rarely exceeds the boundaries of the local community. Judah cried unto his brother Simeon (found in Judges 1) "Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites and I likewise will go with me into my lot." So Simeon went with him. Hence we have a scriptural example "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labor." Like the days gone by when Baptists flocked in droves to morally and spiritually support some old fashioned revival progressing under divine guidance. In other words coming up into some fellow-laborers' lot to help wage an effective battle in declaring to the world "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." So the "salvation which belongeth unto the Lord" may in the hearts of all become a know-so, heart felt experience God alone can give. We have such good examples of "fellowship" today, the kind "where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty." Assuredly we need lots more, to fulfill the great commission of Matthew 28:18-20. We must as Baptists endeavor to promote within our own ranks a great fervent need for we Baptists to encourage ourselves to have "fellowship of the Holy Spirit" within the realm of the brotherhood, so we can increase our warfare of a spiritual nature and run with patience the race set before us.

On March 26-28 I attended the "Old Union Ministers School" in Bowling Green, KY. What I had first, reservations about, I must now in honesty confess turned out to be three whole days of fulfilling "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." The first day of school was a facsimile of enrollment day but for some unexplainable reason I was eager to have it underway as I desired to see what strange thing hath drawn over ninety humble Baptist preachers to gather for such an event. The particular subjects chosen to speak on seemed more like "texts" preached upon. As the "Amens" of a bold, brisk and spiritual nature echoed from the brotherhood who had congregated to listen to the instructors who took their stand like old Ezra behind a pulpit of wood. Now each teacher imparted his lesson

in his own distinct manner as the spirit gave him utterance. While we all sat rejoicing and feasting on the spiritual nutrients, the God whom we have come to trust on the mission field was distributing for our hungry souls to consume. The second day school was in session it was filled with several good topics of interest to any old Baptist endeavoring to endure sound doctrine while upholding the "old path" as we are admonished of God to do in Jeremiah 6:16. Upon being dismissed for the lunch hour the preachers wives present assembled beforehand in front of the dining area in choir formation singing hymns of praise while we dined on a hearty prepared meal. When ever so suddenly the shoutings began which set off a series of praises followed by embracings and weepings of joy by various brothers and sisters, as the spirit graciously fell on us all while we were sitting. By now I was unable to sit idle at such exaltations of Christ. I rose beside myself in tears of jubliance, wandering about rejoicing in my own distinct manner. When one lofty mission brother abruptly lifted me off my feet rejoicing in the spirit as we both praised God for His goodness which leads men to repent. I must now confess, I have never been fed from both tables spread at the same time as I had that day during the dinner hour. And to think I was supposed to be in school! Now the evening service was quite a blessing in itself. I had never witnessed such a multitude of Baptists as I had that night. Once again the service was divinely visited upon. In spite of the crowd, space was made available as the Holy Spirit had free course to move as it often does when we humble servants of the church "let the redeemed of the Lord say so!" The final proceedings were equally as enjoyable, as the subject content always made reference to "what thus saith the word of God" and became enlightening material of instruction for these ignorant ears. I found the instructors of the school agreeable and positively in accordance with the following declaration. The task to teach some God called brother was a vocation our God reserved for Himself to undertake through instruction of the Holy Spirit so it was humanly impossible for any of them to do that, which they themselves are learning daily. More over the instructors like Apostle Paul simply instructed as Paul had to young Timothy, and they advocated similar admonishment as well.

So I now offer thanks again to my God for moving "Old Union" to allow me the privilege to attend a fulfillment of Psalms 133:1. I would recommend my comrades of the "brotherhood of Baptists" whensoever possible please attend. For I found it not only to be uplifting and spiritual, but an educational experience as well. Matter of factly, I think school ought to be held that way! So in concluding let us all labor to endeavor and

fervently pray for all Baptists to "forsake not the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Amen.

VOICE OF BAPTISTS:

Dear Bro. Massey,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and prospering spiritually.

We have just ended our Fall revival here at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, and God was very good to us. We witnessed four conversions and had six additions to our church. And, just before, in October, one young girl was saved, and she and her brother joined the church and were baptized. There is no way we can ever thank God enough for His goodness. Elder Paul Bryson was our helper in the meeting and we all appreciated his concern and efforts on behalf of the lost.

On Thanksgiving night we had a service that not many will ever forget. After beginning with some stirring songs, a young lady about 21 years old came to the altar. In only about five minutes she stood and said, "I have been saved." This was only the second time she had been to our church. I don't remember ever hearing so much shouting and praising the Lord. Later in the service a young boy was saved and it all repeated itself. It was a good place to be!

Yours in Christ,
Elder T.E. Foster

**"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!"**
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

HUMOR

One very cold December, Ramsey, a newspaper reporter attending an associational meeting, was staying in the same hotel as most of the messengers.

On the morning of the first day, he came down to breakfast to find most of the assembled preachers gathered around the blazing log fire in the dining room. As Ramsey sat shivering in the cold, he suddenly shouted, "Last night I dreamed I was in hell."

"Really?" said one of the churchmen. "What was it like?"

"Not all that different," said Ramsey. "Couldn't get near the fire for preachers."

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

CHURCHES

Friendship M.B.C. - Columbus, IN
Clarksburg M.B.C. - Clarksburg, TN
Victory M.B.C. - Hendersonville, TN
Freedom M.B.C. - Speedway, IN
Crossroads M.B.C. - Camden, TN
Old Path M.B.C. - Paragould, AR
Bethel M.B.C. - Albany, OR
Lyons M.B.C. - Louisville, KY
Old-Time M.B.C. - Elizabeth, WV
Calvary M.B.C. - Bolivar, MO

INDIVIDUALS

Wendell & Opal Patterson - Pleasant Shade, TN
Herman & Gwineth Payne - Polk, MO
Mrs. Vallie Barrett - Huntingdon, TN
Otis & Helen Dearing - Alvaton, KY
Elder & Mrs. W.E. Massey - Lafayette, TN
Willard & Genevieve Carter - Macon, GA
Elder & Mrs. Rex Hunt - Fountain Run, KY
Elder & Mrs. Don Curtis - Westmoreland, TN
Dixie Ellis - Lafayette, TN
Ruby Tuck - Gallatin, TN
Wm. & Delois Scruggs - Detroit, MI
Mr. & Mrs. Otis McMillan - Buffalo, MO
Leon Hodgin - Lexington, TN
Mr. & Mrs. John Blount - Westport, TN

FRIENDSHIP

A friend is someone who knows all about you and loves you anyway.

A friend is willing to share his heart with you, when others have taken yours out. He puts a warm arm around your shoulder after others have given you a cold shoulder.

You may consider yourself blessed and above average if you have five true friends in a lifetime.

President Lincoln was once taken to task for his attitude toward his enemies. "Why do you try to make friends of them?" asked an associate. "Am I not destroying my enemies, when I make them my friends," Lincoln replied.

No one is rich enough to do without a friend. Thank God for that Friend that sticketh closer than a brother!

"A friend loveth at all times" Pro. 17:17

-KWM

LIFE'S MOST DANGEROUS DRIVE-UP

One of the interesting phenomena of our day is the development of the drive-up banks, drive-up Dairy Queens, drive-up grocery stores, drive-up cleaning establishments, drive-up film shops and many other types. All of these are good and are designed to give the public quicker and better service.

However, there is one drive-up which cannot be placed in the above category. We have reference to the drive-up parent - the parent who drives up and dumps his child or children in front of the church for Sunday School and breezes on his way to do something which he feels is more important.

Whom do we think we are kidding anyway? Are we so conceited as to believe that we have outgrown the need for instruction and companionship that is afforded by the Sunday School? Are we so naive as to believe our children fail to notice our attitudes and that it won't be long before they will confront us with the declaration that they, too, have outgrown Sunday school? Are we so blasé as to believe we can pull the wool over the eyes of Him who has made us primarily responsible for what we teach our children by precept and example?

Are you a drive-up parent? If so, we invite you to become a drive-in parent - one who drives in and comes in with life's most precious possession, your own child.

-The Plains Baptist

TEXTBOOK REFORM COMING IN CALIFORNIA

California Superintendent of Schools Bill Honig has stated that he will push to eliminate bias against religion in the state's school textbooks.

In remarks to a convention of Christian educators, Honig said that California would lead the way in textbook reform. If Honig follows through on his promises, the textbook market for the entire nation could very well be affected, since California accounts for 11 percent of all school textbooks sold.

However, skeptics are quick to point out that Honig will have to prove himself on this latest issue. Just last year he rejected science texts that watered down their teaching on evolution and faulted textbook publishers for giving in to pressure from religious groups in the creation-evolution debate.

Comments on Seeing

Continued from page 1

perhaps strange to his learning surrounded by circumstances he has never encountered is indeed a question to ponder. How he can know the Lord's will for a people for whom his heart is not burdened and have the vision of oversight for a church the Lord has not directed him to pastor is a question which only God can answer (and He has!). I am a little larger than a chigger, although I often feel about as insignificant, but I am considerably farther away from some of my judges than a quarter mile and so at least as difficult for them to see and hear. Imagine my surprise each time that what I or my church is or is not doing or ought or ought not to be doing is learned by me for the first time from sources many miles distant from my situation. I could not see what they saw in me and my church before they attempted to enlighten the folks who reported their observations to me nor could I see it afterward. How pitifully nearsighted and hard-of-hearing I must be! Or else their vision and hearing is not as good as they believe it to be.

I could not help but envy the Brethren in this moonlight scene for the peacefulness of their situation and the way they seemed to enjoy their leisure. It seemed upon reflection that much of my ministry had been a labor closer to the regions of Sodom and Gomorrah than to "God's Country." "With much wisdom is much grief and I have learned many things I wish I was ignorant of which vex my soul, but the principal thing about wisdom is it giveth life to them who have it. Moreover, the preacher was wise and he still taught the people knowledge. He sought out acceptable words for that purpose. Simplicity may be bliss but it does not preserve the simple. God gives wisdom to those who seek for it."

"Never in my life have I intentionally depreciated the value of any one whom God has called to minister his word, nor do I so now. Why should I lift my hand or tongue against God's anointed? God forbid that I should do so. God has chosen on the base and lowly esteemed things of this world to bring to nothing those things the world highly esteems that no flesh should glory in His presence. Praise the glorious wisdom of God! His foolishness is wiser than men! I am willing to accept my backwoods brother as an equal or a superior for what God makes out of him. I, too, share his origins. Of that I am not ashamed, and I will never forget, but God filled my heart at an early age with an unquenchable thirst to seek out the truth and to understand not only my allowed portion of God's marvellous ways but to understand men, their ways, and their reasonings that I might better help them. When in the last year of my formal schooling God called me from

my ways to preach His word, He did not diminish that desire but graciously redirected it, I hope, for His glory. I have tried to use it in that way to all humility. I am sure that I have made mistakes, as we all do. I wish my Brethren would all accept me for what God has made of me as willingly as I accept them."

As I stood on the shaded side of that clearing pondering these thoughts, I heard the whittler say, "Old Blue is treed." As they arose to go to the tree I revealed myself to the hunters and begged their permission to tag along. With typical friendliness these gracious men of God welcomed my company with seeming delight that I would learn something from their expertise.

When we arrived at the tree lights searched its limbs long in vain for the coon. Old Blue and his fellow hounds steadfastly affirmed that he was there. A more puzzled expression never adorned the face of two men as at long last one said, as he spat on the ground, "never knew Old Blue to fail before." "Maybe he treed the wrong thing," I ventured. "What," they asked defensively? "The chigger," I suggested. Silence on their part ensued, as I began to speculate aloud. "A good dog is at least as loyal to his master as a good church member is to his God-appointed pastor. He wants to do the right thing and he believes that his teacher generally knows what that is. When he overheard you discussing the chigger you thought you saw and heard he got interested in it and forgot the coon. It's funny you could see and hear that chigger a quarter mile away by moonlight but you can't see him up this tree with a light. Such 'funny' things always happen when men of God start noticing chiggers, or mites, or maybe motes. You know, from a distance a chigger can be imagined to look like a raging lion even as a mote can look larger than the beam right in front of your eyes. You really didn't intend to cause Old Blue and his fellow hounds to start treeing chiggers, did you?" My heart was dancing with delight as the message went home to their understanding, just as it is now dancing with delight as I pen this fictitious story in the hope of a similar success in real life. The parable I partly borrowed and invented, but the facts it conveys are not fictitious. For God's cause and glory may it testify.

MARRIAGE NOTE

The marriage rate in the United States is at its lowest level in nine years, apparently because baby boomers are marrying later and less frequently. Provisional data shows the rate fell 3% between 1984 and 1985. Marriages fell from 2,487,000 in 1984 to 2,425,000 in 1985.

National Center for Health Statistics

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS' SCHOOL

Fifteenth Annual Session

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1987

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Devotional

9:45 a.m. H.C. Vanderpool-Christ-Before The
Christian Era

10:30 a.m. Intermission

10:45 a.m. J.H. Smith - Faith Missions

11:30 a.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Calvin Perrigo - According To The Pattern

1:45 p.m. Intermission

2:00 p.m. Billy Moran - The Ceremonial Rituals
of Baptists

2:45 p.m. Announcements and Benediction

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1987

9:15 a.m. Devotional

9:45 a.m. Don Curtis - Works Are Essential

10:30 a.m. Intermission

10:45 a.m. Dexter Bacon - I Will Give Thee For A Light

11:30 a.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. H.C. Vanderpool - The Perpetuity Of
Teaching God's Word

1:45 p.m. Intermission

2:00 p.m. J.H. Smith - Backsliding

2:45 p.m. Announcements and Benediction

7:30 p.m. Worship service open to the public -
Speaker to be chosen by the School.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1987

9:15 a.m. Devotional

9:45 a.m. Calvin Perrigo - The Baptist Ordination
Service

10:30 a.m. Intermission

10:45 a.m. Billy Moran - The Blood atonement

11:30 a.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Presentation of Certificates

1:30 p.m. Announcements and Benediction

Alternate Lessons:

Harold Carver - Becoming Fishers of Men

Paul Bryson - The Class of 33 A.D.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Tim. 2:15

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

2 Tim. 2:1,2