

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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THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST

By F. W. Lambert
Westmoreland, Tenn.

There are three historians of this great event: Matthew (Matt. 4: 1-11), Mark (Mk. 1:12, 13), and Luke (Lk. 4: 1-13). Following closely the thought let us note these general observations. The temptation of our Lord was immediately following His baptism, in which the Father audibly proclaimed Him as His Son, and the Spirit visibly accredited, anointed, and endued Him as the Christ. This event was hell's prompt response to heaven's challenge. Our Lord was Spirit-guided to meet the issues of the conflict. The scene of this particular battle was in the wilderness.

The time span of the struggle was forty days and the tempter was Satan himself. The implication is clear that no human being stood with Jesus. On the contrary, Mark informs us, "he was with the wild beasts."

Remember, He was "led of the Spirit" though Mark says, "driven of the Spirit." Luke said, "He was full of the Spirit."

Now we see Him in the wilderness as a result of the Spirit's placement, and He is all alone. He fasted for forty days and afterward hungered. Satan appeared and submitted three special temptations. In two of these he began with, "If thou be the Son of God." In doing this he acknowledged the Father's remark at the baptismal scene - "this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Jesus was triumphant over Satan in every temptation. He achieved victory by using the sword of the Spirit, the word of God. Satan also quoted scripture. Jesus recognized His adversary, "get thee behind me, Satan." Luke tells us that Satan left Him for a season, but he returned for the final battle. During the absence of Satan, angels came from God and ministered unto Him. Thus, we see three worlds interested in this great conflict with God and Satan as the warring parties. Please note that God did not create this field of temptation. In the sense of enticing to sin, God tempts no man. In His providence He often permits us to be tested with intent by Satan, as in the cases

(Continued on Page 2)



FEAR HATH TORMENT

By J. H. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." I John 4:18.

It is a terrible experience to be afraid, and I believe there has never been a time when there are more people afraid; and of course there are conditions that make people afraid, especially those who don't know the Lord and have His love to abide in their hearts. This perfect love casteth out fear, no fear in this love.

There are two kinds of fear, and we are commanded to have one of these fears and not to have the other. The Scriptures say, "Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13. The Lord has some mighty comforting things to say about those who fear Him. And I will just mention one verse that is a comforting thought: "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him" Psalm 103:17. The fear of the Lord isn't a slavish fear but a fear of love and reverence, we can fear God and love Him at the same time; unlike the fear of a slave who fears his cruel master, he serves because he fears punishment.

FEAR IS UNHEALTHY

Fear can cause many kinds of ills. It can cause heart failure, high blood pressure, mental blocks, nervous break downs; in fact it can cause an upheaval in the whole physical system. We have a tendency to fear, and it can overwhelm us. The worst thing of all fear can interfere with our fellowship with God, because it shows a lack of confidence in Him. All through the Bible we can see where the Lord said many times to His people, fear not, be not afraid, why are ye fearful? He said through

Continued on Pg. 2

THE AMAZING GRACE OF JOHN NEWTON

By Alex Haley

John Newton was born in London on July 24, 1725, to a pious and shy mother and an authoritarian father. To the boy's relief, his shipmaster father would spend only a few weeks at home between year-long voyages.

When John was seven, his mother died of tuberculosis. The shipmaster, practical man that he was, remarried before his next voyage; for John, however, the loss of his mother was devastating. He became stubborn, disrespectful and difficult, and soon was packed off to boarding school.

There he was confronted with a headmaster who wielded a cane and a birch rod. The experience "almost broke my spirit," he later confided in a letter. But more torment was in store.

At age 11, John was put to sea as an apprentice sailor on his father's ship. During this time he strayed further and further from his mother's religious teachings.

By his teens, he was an expert sailor, but his father apprenticed him to a merchant at Alicante, Spain. The 15-year-old disobeyed orders, fought with anyone who crossed him, and was sent back because of his unsettled behavior. As he later confessed, "I believe for some years I never was an hour in any company without attempting to corrupt them."

Next his father arranged for John to learn

Continued to Page 3

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TEMPTATION

Con't. from pg. 1

of Job and Peter. We are never tempted in a good sense, nor allowed to be tempted in an evil sense beyond our ability to bear or to resist. Always the decision and the responsibility are upon the tempted one. He himself must yield in order to fail.

Israel as a nation was not only tempted to fall in the wilderness, but also tempted God. There is a definite correspondence between Israel's forty years and Christ's forty days. Back there, Moses and Elijah fasted forty days. Christ's forty days of fasting and His triumph over Satan's temptations prepared Him to accomplish His great lifework - OUR REDEMPTION.

Can a man do without food for forty days? That has been objected to against the credibility of the Bible. Yes, it has been proven by people who did it. Was this a real temptation of our Lord? In other words was it a case of "being able to sin" or "not being able to sin." This is a vital question and worthy of an answer. The temptation of Jesus was real, it

was not a sham battle. There is no stronger proof that Jesus was really a man than his resistance to Satan's offers. Jesus had battles with Satan in Gethsemane and while on the cross. Why should Jesus be tempted? He was the second Adam. The first Adam was tempted in a garden full of fruits, and by his fall converted it into a desert. The second Adam, Jesus Christ, was tempted in a dessert, and by his victory converted it into a garden.

Christ hungered as a man, and fed the hungry as God. He became hungry as a man, and yet He is the Bread of Life. He was athirst as a man, and yet He says, let him that is athirst come to me and drink. He was weary and is our rest. He pays tribute, and is a King. He was called a devil, and casts out devils. Prays and hear prayers. Weeps and dries our tears. Was sold for thirty pieces of silver, and redeemed the world. Was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and is the good shepherd. The devil may tempt us to fall, but he cannot make us fall. Jesus could not, as the son of man, become the Judge of the world except he had triumphed in real temptation as a man. In other words Jesus became an example to his people in their hours of trial.

"If thou art the son of God command these stones to become bread." Here, first of all, it is important to note the mood, "if thou art." We must not let the "if" mislead us. Satan knew who Jesus was, and He knew of his right to call on the Father and His power. If Satan can ever get you to do one thing he commands, he will call on you for many things. Jesus was hungry and Satan was hitting him where it hurt the most. Notice our Lord's quick reply, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Deut. 8:3) Jesus is saying, I am here and hungry under divine appointment as the Spirit has brought me. My father will supply my needs, and I will never resort to a miracle for my needs but only for others.

The passage in Deuteronomy clearly shows that God often placed his people in trying circumstances "to humble them, to prove to them, to know what was in their hearts, in order to see if they would trust him and obey him." Life is not a matter of food and clothes and shelter, but of fearing God and keeping his commandments.

Then, the devil taketh him into the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, if thou art the son of God, cast thyself down: as it is written, "He will give his angels charge over thee, and they shall bear thee up in thy hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, again it is written, "Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God. And what a scripture the devil did quote. The highest expression in the whole Bible and in all of literature for the security of one trusting in God - "He will deliver thee from the snare of the fowler." (Ps. 91:3) Satan tries to

make scripture contradict one another. Let us stick to the King's highway and we will find no lion there. Now the scene changes some - Jesus to Jerusalem. Satan, in one moment, shows Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. The Prince of this world was pulling out all stops to get Jesus over on his side. He said to Jesus, just fall down and worship me, and all these things will I give thee. It is true that Satan's power is never supreme. That God's providence overrules all. There are limitations but God ties Satan to a stake. Finally, we hear Jesus utter, "Get thee hence, Satan, it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (Matt. 4:10) So the battle ended and the slogan of the saints became, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

FEAR

Con't from pg. 1

Moses, to the Israelites, there at the Red Sea, when they were afraid, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will show unto you today." Exodus 14:13 The Children of Israel were not prepared for anything when they were frightened to death. So the Lord had to still their fears with His Word. You might be surprised to look into a Bible concordance and see how many times the Lord had to speak to His people to still their fears; but they still fear, afraid to take a step in the dark. I repeat, that fear is unhealthy, both for the physical and spiritual being, it is a great hindrance to the progress of the Lord's work.

WHY WE SHOULDN'T FEAR

The Lord is Master of every and all situations. He may let us get into some tangled places in life and then come to our rescue, like He did after He fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fish, when he constrained the disciples to get into a ship and go to the other side of the lake while He went into the mountain to pray. "But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with the waves; for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, "Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid." Matthew 14:22-27. Jesus could have gone with them in the first place and prevented their getting into this dangerous situation, but like He did other times He let them go to their extreme and then came to rescue, comfort and cheer. The Lord wants us to learn some lessons as we go along the way, and the disciples learned one good lesson in this experience.

Even death shouldn't frighten us, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

Psalm 23:4. If the Lord can make us unafraid of death, why fear anything else. However, the sinner has reason to fear, because there is a vast eternity out there for him to face, and in sin he must face it without a glimmer of hope. How dark it will be, and ever so terrifying! When I was a sinner I was afraid every day, and at night I would go to bed afraid to go to sleep, afraid I might die before awaking in the morning; and I was afraid that the Lord might come that night and find me unprepared for such an event. I shall always remember how frightened I was. But when Jesus saved me I could go to bed in peace, unafraid. What a difference it makes to be saved, saved, saved! And can rejoice even in the face of death.

The Lord's promises should keep His child from being afraid, if we would believe and take Him for what He says; but when we fear it just shows a lack of faith in His promises. Jesus said, "Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do." Many of God's children have met with a violent death by their enemies, but that was all that their enemies could do. God can, and will raise His children from the dead; Jesus has the keys of death and hell, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:18. Jesus has conquered death and He will raise us to die no more; Bless His dear name!

FEARFUL SIGHTS ON THE HORIZON

As I've stated before, the sinner, Christ rejecters, have a reason to fear. You may be having a good time now, but the time will come when you will be horrified to death. The Bible speaks of some terrible sights to come upon the world, and bad times are here now and seem to be getting worse by the day. Jesus spoke of times that would be just before He returns, "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for after those things coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Luke 21: 26, 27.

Mercy is offered to sinners now, but the great day of God's wrath is coming and there will be no mercy offered then; no mercy, but men crying for the mountains and the rocks to fall on them to hide them from the face of Him whom they have rejected, and whose mercy they have spurned. The prophesy in Revelation sees men of all ranks and classes crying in fear, "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, every free man, and every bond man, hid themselves in dens, and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the shrone, and from the wrath of the Lamb; For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:15-17.

When we preach on subjects like this there are people who say, you are just trying to scare somebody, you are trying to make us afraid. Well, as I have already stated, sinners have a reason to fear, and if you would look into the Scriptures you can see that for yourself. I am not saying that we can scare people to repentance, but you need to know these things as a warning to stop and think. It takes the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit to bring sinners to repentance, but God does give warning signs, fearful signs to head people off and give them a chance to think, to think even about what they have heard from the Word of God; if a sinner gives enough thought to the Word it will bring conviction and repentance to salvation.

As stated in the text, "Fear hath torment" but fear experienced in this life is just a little taste of what sinners will experience in a burning hell, where there will be weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:41, 42.

JOHN NEWTON

Con't. from pg. 1

the plantation business in Jamaica. Before leaving, the youth went to visit his mother's relatives in Chatham, England, and, in one of the twists of circumstance that filled Newton's life, met and fell in love with Mary Catlett, not quite 14. Mary reminded him of his mother. So smitten was John that he prolonged the visit and missed his ship.

Months later he was impressed into the British navy. In 1745, midshipman Newton set sail for the East Indies on the H.M.S. *Harwich*. The voyage was to last five years, but a storm hit and the *Harwich* had to anchor off Plymouth, England. Newton was put in charge of a boat going ashore, with instructions to see that none of the crew deserted. Lovesick and headstrong, John himself escaped. Afraid to ask for directions to Chatham, he walked for two days before he was arrested by a military patrol and returned to the *Harwich*. There he was put into irons, stripped and flogged as a deserter, then transferred to a ship that ranked lowest in the maritime world—a ship engaged in the slave trade. "From this time I was exceedingly vile," he later confessed.

The female slaves on board were at the crew's disposal. John Newton, not quite 20 and now a militant atheist, indulged his sexual appetites as often as he wished. He was a far cry from the studious child who had sung hymns at his mother's knee.

In Sierra Leone, he left the ship to work for a slave dealer, a white man named Clow. Clow's common-law African wife hated John; when he fell desperately ill, she denied him food and water, and had her own black slaves torment him. Miraculously, Newton survived, but only to live in virtual bondage for more

than a year on Clow's plantation. His life had reached its nadir.

Newton's father had urged a ship-owning friend in Liverpool to ask all captains of his slave ships working along the African coast to search for John and to bring him home. In February 1747 the ship *Greyhound* put in at a port in Sierra Leone, and Newton—through a series of divine interventions, he would later say—was found.

The *Greyhound* was on a long trade cruise, returning to England via Brazil. Seeking something to do, Newton began reading *The Imitation of Christ*, by Thomas á Kempis, a classic study of spiritual life that included warnings of God's judgment. Disturbed by the book's message, he flung it aside. It was March 9, 1748, the turning point of Newton's life.

In the dark, early-morning hours of the next day, the *Greyhound* was struck by a sea so heavy that part of her side was stove-in. "Pumping's useless! Nothing can save this ship, or us!" a veteran sailor exclaimed. But Newton and others did pump from 5 a.m. until noon. "If this will not do, the Lord have mercy upon us!" Newton cried out, startled by his own words.

The *Greyhound* did survive, and when she finally limped into Liverpool she carried a different John Newton from "the blasphemer" who had been plucked from the African coast. As he later explained, "I began to know there is a God that hears and answers prayer. . . though I can see no reason why the Lord singled me out for mercy." (for the rest of Newton's life, he prayed and fasted on each anniversary of that fateful March morning.)

Troubled Conscience. Newton rushed to Chatham to see Mary, and after a voyage as first mate on a slave ship, John Newton, 24, married Mary Catlett, 20.

For the next four years, John captained slave ships. At first he had no scruples about slave trading, which was considered respectable and essential to Britain's prosperity. But as his new faith steadily grew, he wrestled with his conscience. Twice each Sunday he ran conducting his white crew in prayers as the chained Africans lay closely packed, some of them dying, on the opposite side of the ship.

During his next two voyages to Guinea, buying and selling blacks, he tried to act mercifully toward them. Then in 1754, while Newton was sitting at home drinking tea with Mary, he suffered a minor stroke. He recovered, but it was clear that his days at sea were over.

A Growing Flock. Newton was appointed the official Liverpool tide surveyor in 1755. With time on his hands, he studied Latin, mathematics and the Scriptures. He also wrote hymns and began to preach occasionally as a lay evangelist. Increasingly he felt the call to enter the ministry.

JOHN NEWTON

Con't. from pg. 3

In 1764 the new Rev. John Newton, 39, was appointed the curate of Olney, a little village on the bank of the River Ouse in Buckinghamshire. Newton loved his Olney parishioners. "Brothers and sisters" he called them. Many were poor, uneducated lacemakers. Not only did he wear his old sea coat on his rounds to the sick and needy, but he also told stories from the pulpit of his seafaring life, his great sins and his own unworthiness to preach the Gospel.

Moreover, Newton dared to replace the conventional psalm-singing with the singing of hymns that were simple enough to be understood and felt by the plain people. When Newton published *An Authentic Narrative* in 1764, a graphic first-person record of his past debauchery and rescue, so many people flocked to his church that a new gallery had to be added.

After 15 years, Newton of Olney was reassigned to St. Mary Woolnoth, a distinguished church in London. Though his new position brought him great influence and social status, he never lost the image of himself broken and wretched on the coast of Africa, hating God and his own soul. His constant message, even to London's elite, was that he himself was living proof God could save the very worst.

In March, 1807, Parliament passed Wilberforce's bill abolishing the slave trade on British ships. That same year, on December 21, the Rev. John Newton, 82, spoke his last words: "I am a great sinner. . . and Christ is a great Saviour."

Newton was buried beneath his church of St. Mary Woolnoth, and a tablet was placed on the church wall, with an inscription he had written himself: "John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy."

My research brought me to St. Mary Woolnoth. I stood on the very rostrum where the Rev. John Newton had held his congregation spellbound with stories of the sea, his sins and God's great mercy. As I looked out over the empty pews, the organist played the melodies of Newton's hymns. One glorious tune swelled up all around me. The verses were written at Olney—a minor autobiographical lyric that critics say is a poor example of Newton's work. But that hymn has traveled the world, bringing a message of hope and forgiveness to all people of all faith.

I sang to myself the simple words I had learned as a child in a black church in the American South. You know them too:

*Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*



OUR WORSHIP

By Kenneth W. Massey

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24

There are many expressions of worship, but only ONE to be worshipped. The first four of the Ten Commandments teach us explicitly of God's desire to be revered by man as the one and only God.

Jesus summed up all the commandments in these two - "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" and "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

When the Israelites thought Moses stayed a little too long on the mount, they quickly turned from the true God and formed a gold god shaped like a calf.

MISTAKEN WORSHIP

It is impossible to serve God and mammon (our wealth or riches) simultaneously. We will indeed serve one more than the other, and that precludes the worship of the other. The Scriptures demand a spirit-filled life as prerequisite to any true and sustained worship to God. "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." 1 Chron. 16:29.

When we go to the house of God to worship the building, the pastor, or specific duty or responsibility, or to attract attention to self, God is not pleased and we leave with an unspiritable emptiness.

Some church services are so filled with man's desire to be worshipped that many feel they must demonstrate for the others. This tends to create a carnal spirit and has an intimidating influence upon those who would be true worshippers. I've been in revivals when only sick church members were objects of prayer requests. I've heard testimonials that never included the name of Christ.

"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

TRUE WORSHIP

To offer true worship we must see the unveiled glory of God by the eye of faith. Our worship must encompass thought, feeling and deed. Mediation for worship is the reflection of our thinking about God and spiritual things. The Holy Spirit further enables us to give our minds to a hold disposition that we might feel

His tender embrace. At this point we are ready to enter into full worship by giving praise and thanksgiving through song ("serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing." Ps. 100:2) We need to give our undivided attention to the sermon that God may speak to us through His servant. Since worship means giving something to God, the cheerful giving of our money to God's work is an important act of worship. The giving of our time to attend to the necessary things of the church should bring us to a worshipful spirit. Haven't you rejoiced and felt your soul magnify God while attending to some little job at the church?

The greatest one single act of worship must be the giving of one's life to God's service. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1

COMMENTS

It is utterly impossible to please God in worship while believing and teaching a false doctrine. "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." (2 John 9) I read an article the other day that said, "Baptists teach the only thing that matters is being sincere." That's one of the biggest lies ever told! Baptists, in fact, teach strongly the opposite - all sincere people will die and go to hell if they fail to repent and believe the gospel. But we do emphatically teach sincerity for true worship.

Why do we sing? To worship. Why do we pray? To worship. Why do we preach? That the saved more perfectly worship and the unsaved will be saved and begin to worship. Let us remember to worship the god about Whom we sing, pray and preach rather than worshipping the songs, prayers and sermons.

One Sunday morning a few months ago, I telephoned my dear friend, Brother F. W. Lambert, who is no longer able to preach and pastor churches. He said, "I can't preach anymore, but I am getting dressed to go to my church to worship the God of my salvation and hear my pastor preach.

LET US ALL GO AND WORSHIP HIM THAT OUR SOULS LOVETH.

**I WAS GLAD WHEN
THEY SAID UNTO
ME LET US GO INTO
THE HOUSE OF THE
LORD.**