

# Voice of Laymen

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***"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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## "HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES"

By Kenneth W. Massey

***"AND THE LORD SAID UNTO THE SERVANT, GO OUT INTO THE HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES, AND COMPEL THEM TO COME IN, THAT MY HOUSE MAY BE FILLED."*** **Luke 14:23**

The attitude in most churches to day seems to be, "If you will come to our meeting house, we will give you the gospel." In New Testament days, the early church held meetings in each others' homes to render praise and worship God, and then went forth taking the gospel TO the people. The Lord sent the twelve apostles, He sent the Seventy, He sent the church at Jerusalem to all nations, and today, He is sending you and your church and me and my church to reach out to all the generation lost and bound for hell.

### "Hardshell" in Practice

John the Baptist, the first gospel evangelist, never stood in a beautiful pulpit, but preached on the banks of the Jordan, "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus Christ did the most of His preaching on the hillsides, in homes, or in the streets. Paul's evangelism was carried on, mostly, under God's blue canopy.

Does your church extend its' efforts of gospel presentation beyond the church sanctuary and after the revival closes. Did you ever see some good christian woman rush to all the unsaved during the revival invitations and then make prayer requests when they refused to come? It confuses the sinners when that same good lady hardly speaks to them the Sunday after the revival closes. How do you feel when going to a revival service and hear the preacher compassionately empty himself in sermon to the unsaved, only to discover that as far as anyone knew, there were no sinners in the crowd. The revival had just been in progress for a week. The church members were having a great time singing praises to God, and being fed on the eternal truths of God's Word, but would return home each evening to flip on the television or read the paper until bedtime. These same people will say to

each other, "wonder what's wrong," or "we need to change pastors" or "call another evangelist next time." Then one will say, "it's the fulfillment of the Scriptures." That's old faithful for all the

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## SOUTHSIDE BIBLE SCHOOL

Beginning Friday evening, November 7, 1980 at 7 p.m. and continuing thru Saturday following, Southside Missionary Baptist Church will host another annual "Bible School." The church address is 1850 E. Sumner Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana.

On Friday night, Elder Billy Moran will teach "Man" - Original, Fallen and Redeemed States. Saturday morning, Elder William House has the subject, "What a Child of God May Gain or Lose." Elder Calvin Perrigo will teach Saturday afternoon, "Pastor to Deacon Relationship."

Everyone is invited to attend. Anyone needing lodging may contact Bro. Larry Patterson, 350 Maxwell Road, Indpls., In. 46217. Telephone (317) 783-2443.



## THE BIBLE PLAN

By F. W. Lambert  
Westmoreland, Tenn.

The Plan of Salvation has been the same in all dispensations. Those who believe in salvation by ceremony necessarily believe, that as the ceremonies change from one dispensation to another, the plan of salvation changes also. These ceremonialists think that the people who lived under the Old Testament law were saved by keeping that law. Since these ceremonies have been done away, and we now have baptism and the Lord's Supper, they think, of course, that we are saved by being baptized and partaking of the Lord's Supper. There are others who think that the people in Old Testament time were saved by observing the law of Moses. But when Christ came to earth, they think, all that was changed to salvation by grace under the present dispensation. The truth of the matter is that people have been saved by GRACE in all dispensations, and the Law never saved anyone. Law condemns but does not save! The law showed us two things, the need of a Saviour and in shadow or type showed how this Saviour saves.

Paul tells us in Hebrews 10:4, "it was not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." Those Old Testament ceremonies **did not save**, but they pointed to the Saviour. They were like signboards on a roadside. The signboard points to a city or town, but it will never carry one to that town or city. Follow the directions of the signboard and you will reach the place toward which the signboard points. One would never get anywhere trying to ride a signboard. So those who observed the ceremonies of the Old Testament had a clear revelation of what Jesus would do

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## VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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## YESTERDAY - TODAY - TOMORROW

As you walk about daily - working, going to school, doing housework or just minding your own personal business, what are your thoughts all about?

Do you look to the past, remembering all the good things that have happened to you - do you ponder the wonders of God - or do you dwell on some personal sorrow or slight that has been inflicted upon you thru no fault of your own? Do you pray for those who dislike you or cause you to feel hurt or left out?

Have you thought mostly about today? What will I do today? Go shopping, visit a friend, relax, watch T.V., clean house or go to work? Is God in these plans for today? Or do you look to the future? Tomorrow - I will visit a friend in need. Tomorrow - I will telephone some lonely person just to say hello - Tomorrow I will speak to a lost soul - Tomorrow I will....

Yesterday is past and gone forever. What we did, maybe remembered. Hopefully it will have been something for the Lord that he impressed us to do. That will last. If you spoke to some lost soul about his lost condition - prayed for his salvation or deliverance, then it is everlasting.

Tomorrow - well that is something

else to ponder. Just what can we do tomorrow. As you already know tomorrow never comes. So....How can we help some lost soul, sick friend, lonely widow, helpless child - tomorrow? All our plans for tomorrow may never come to pass - Think not what you will do on the morrow - for who knows what a day will bring.

TODAY is the day of salvation. Look out on the fields for they are already white unto harvest, and the laborers are few. What harm if I wait until tomorrow to visit my friend? As God's children we need to move now - go to that sick friend - give aid and comfort as God gives to you. Say a few kind words, help with the chores, share your blessings and hold their hand in times of need. Oh, how my heart yearns to tell of the loneliness, the aching for someone to talk to, just a friendly "hello and how are you today" from someone who really cares, when the days are so long and the pain creeps in and you're not able to be up and about the daily work as others are. How you feel like such a hindrance to all because you need so much help yourself. Think how you would feel if you were the "shut-in". Then give aid and comfort accordingly.

What of the lost one out there on the road not prepared to meet God? Will tomorrow be soon enough? What if God calls him home today while you are getting ready to go tomorrow to talk with him about his soul? Where will he spend eternity? How will you feel after the memorial service? How will you be able to stand before God on judgement day? How will it feel to know that you had God's words impressed upon your heart to speak to him and you put it off until tomorrow? Oh how sad - Who will be the loser?

Take the time **TODAY! Go Now!** Tell your friend you love him. Give of yourself, your time, share your blessings from God - Most of all speak to that lost soul NOW about Jesus. How much Jesus loves him and wants to save all who will come and trust in Him now. Never grow weary in well doing for we shall reap if we faint not. God's promises are true and faithful. Trust in Him NOW!

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## BIBLE PLAN

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for the sinner, but the ceremonies were never able nor intended to save the sinner. They were shadows of the work of Christ. It is a great mistake to take the shadow instead of the substance. There are some who think that all the Jews were born in a saved or covenant relationship, and that since all Jews were born children of God it was necessary for the Jew to fall from grace, so to speak, before he could be lost. Such an idea confuses the Jews as a nation, and the Jews as individuals. The Jewish nation as such was indeed God's people. But each individual Jew repented for himself, believed for himself, and must be regenerated for himself just exactly as all of us must now do in order to be saved.

John the Baptist said to the Jews who came to his baptism, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance, and think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father. For I say unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." (Matt. 3:7-9)

Thus we see that being children of Abraham did not help them in their personal salvation, but only benefited them as a nation. When Nicodemus came to Jesus for instructions (John 3), he told him plainly "marvel not that I say unto thee, ye must be born again." Did Nicodemus, a moral and upright Jew, need regeneration? Jesus said he did! If Nicodemus must be born again, it follows that all Jews needed the new birth. If they all needed the new birth, then they were certainly not born in a saved or covenant relationship with God. They were not natural children of God. It has been true all the way back. Most assuredly it has been the same way all the way because Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Art thou a master of Israel and knowest not these things? We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen. If I have told you earthly things and ye believed not, how shall ye believe if I tell you of heavenly things?"

If this language does not mean that it was surprising to Jesus for a teacher (master) in Israel to be unlearned about the new birth, it teaches nothing. The only way Nicodemus could have known anything about the new birth was by the Old Testament teachings, and by experience. If the Old Testament taught the new birth, then it is no new thing.



## **SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

The 132nd Annual session of the Southwestern District Baptist Association will be held with Bethel Baptist Church, October 10-12, 1980. Bethel Church is located two miles north of Huntingdon on Highway 22. Sermons will be delivered as follows: Friday morning-Elder Kenneth W. Massey; Saturday morning-Elder Harold Carver; Sunday morning-Elder E. F. Prince.

Elder Harold Carver served as Moderator last year with Bro. Ray Smith serving as Clerk, and Bro. Larry Johnson as Treasurer.

## **WISEMAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Wiseman Baptist Association will convene for the 89th annual session October 24, 1980 at 10 a.m. New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1088 Old Dickerson Road, Goodlettsville, Tennessee, will serve as host church. Annual sermons will be preached by Elder Everett Scruggs (Introductory - Friday morning), Elder Bobby Gann (Memorial - Friday evening), and Elder James (Pete) Porter (Doctrinal - Saturday morning).

Officers serving last year were: Moderator, Elder Howard G. Taylor; Clerk, Elder H. C. Vanderpool; Treasurer, Elder A. G. Gregory.

## **INDEPENDENT CHURCH WILL HOST SINGING SCHOOL**

Bro. Donnie Evans will teach a six-night Singing School November 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd, 1980. These dates are Fridays and Saturdays of three successive weekends.

I believe you will feel very comfortable with the teaching methods of Bro. Hines. Bro. Hines is married to Hilda Hines, and they have two sons, Greg and Jonathan. They live in Hendersonville and hold membership with McFerrin Missionary Baptist Church of Nashville, where Bro. Hines is a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

Our church at Independent, in Huntingdon, is sending this special invitation for all churches to join in with us for this school. Services begin each evening at 7 p.m. On Sunday afternoon, November 23rd, beginning at 2 p.m., a singing will be held at Independent Church to highlight the school.

## **WITNESS OF JEHOVAH**

By J. A. Reynolds

Great Jehovah you are three  
in all of past eternity  
How marvelous that one of You  
would void what Satan tried to do.

Satan's hatred is his meat  
until before God's Judgement seat  
The wrath of God will not be spared  
to send him to the place prepared.

How did it come to be that he  
sought to rise to Deity  
Mightiest of angels, O Lucifer,  
Beauteous Prince among the stars

Thus did sin originate  
and so is man in fallen state  
Because the fallen devil lied  
and man obeyed him and he died.

The living Word did condescend  
being fashioned in the form of men  
Who killed Him in their devilish pride  
and so your justice satisfied.

Holy Spirit bears the news  
and every human heart He woos  
When time is best the call is sent  
and men are summoned to repent.

Those who hear the piercing word  
and die to sin are raised to God.  
By cleansing blood and Spirit power  
they live forever from that hour

The broken men who trust in God  
and hate their sins are washed in blood  
Escaping Satan's destiny  
forever in the fiery sea

Satan tried ten-thousand ways  
to keep men wasting precious days  
Not seeking blood to make them clean  
but trying myriad ways of men

Among the latest he has tried  
Jesus' person is denied  
Michael never sought the praise  
to Deity he was not raised

No such did Michael ever claim  
but this is Satan's wicked game  
To have men forfeit light and life  
To worship him and call him Christ.

One archangel tried to rise  
to be a God. He would devise  
To have creation worship him.  
Jehovah damned him for that sin.

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## **WAKE UP WITH GOD**

I met God in the morning, when my day  
was at it's best,  
And his presence came like sunrise, like a  
glory in my breast.

Then I started my day, but my work was  
never done,  
I became so troubled, that the devil had  
won.

So I thought back to the morning, where I  
had left bed,  
I was in such a hurry, I left God and went  
ahead.

So I started to remember, other people  
were sore distressed,  
but the one that seemed to shock  
them...brought to me...a peace and rest.

As my burdens are heavy, and I come to  
the end of my road,  
He seems to always be there, to share my  
load.

He said he would go away, and it might  
be a second, and it might be a few moons,  
but then he will come again, and for me it  
want be too soon.

So sinners wake up out there, and open  
your eyes,  
for just as sure as you are living, you are  
going to die.

From now on when I wake up, and start  
my day,  
I mean to talk to Jesus, and let him lead  
the way.

So I think I know the secret...learned  
from many a troubled way;  
you must seek him in the morning, if you  
want him through the day.

A Child Of God

## **BUILDING PROBLEMS**

A certain congregation was about to erect a new church building. The building committee, in consecutive meetings, passed the following resolutions: (1) We shall build a new church. (2) The new building is to be located on the site of the old one. (3) The material in the old building is to be used in the new one. (4) We shall continue to use the old building until the new one is completed.



**"HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES"**

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lazy christians. Satan is ever-present to justify to me why I shouldn't do this, that or the other. When we fail to personally further the gospel of Christ to the "highways and hedges", we are taking the same practical stand as our "hardshell" Baptist brethren take doctrinally. They are openly opposed to missions, and perhaps a few of them belong to our churches.

As long as we are living to serve a living Christ and proclaim a life giving gospel, we should travel to sinners and point them to the Christ of Calvary.

**First Things First**

"Go and teach (make disciples) all nations" Every church should be engaged in going after the lost, first and continually. Don't go on your own, but go with Christ and a prayer in your heart. Can you imagine how it would affect your service next Sunday, if half the members influenced a sinner each to attend?

The pastor some feel need to be replaced might come alive and be a flame of fire in directing the unsaved toward the precious, spotless Lamb of God.

Some churches spend more time concerned with the election of a President, "homecoming days," "revival socials," or trying to synchronize procedures of all other churches with those in their church. Did you ever see a new pastor that was more concerned with changing the customs and traditions of a church to his way than preaching the gospel? If these should ever require much of our time, they ought never to be placed in front of the Number One all-important work - REACHING THE LOST WITH THE PRICELESS, BLOOD-BOUGHT GOSPEL! Does your church have special visitation hours to enter homes of those blinded by the God of this world? They need our help, our prayers, our pleas, scriptural instruction in what one must do to be saved.

It is my heart's desire that none of you yet believe that sinners must hear a preacher from the pulpit in order for God's Holy Spirit to convict them of their sins. God wills that every born-again believer in Christ be a missionary in leading someone to the Lord. You may not be able to give a cent to the church, you may not be qualified to teach Sunday School, play the musical instruments, serve as deacon, but, if you have been delivered from the bondage of Satan and sin by God's redeeming grace and united with the Lord's church, you surely must be able and willing to relate to all others what God hath done for you. "The Lord

hath done great things for us whereof we are glad." Psalms 126:3

**One Soul Priceless**

There is no way for any of us to place a price tag on one soul. It is valued more than the combined wealth of this nation and all other nations. "What would it profit a man, if he should gain the whole world and lose his soul? Or what would you give in exchange for your soul?"

Never in my ministry have I seen anything that gives more life and power to the influence of a local church than to have the soul-saving spirit of God camped in her midst. What blood is to the natural life of man, so is salvation of sinners to the life of a church.

What is the worth of witnessing in the "highways and hedges?" First, it is the initial obedient act of the church to God. Oh, it is my prayer that you are not going to church just for the purpose of reaching your children and grand children as they come accountable to God. God pity such selfishness! Yes, they need to be saved, but what about those up the road or across the hollow with no spiritual guidance. Do you ever go there? What's the value! A church on the move for God invading the devil's territory acquainting his children with the good news, "Jesus saves, Jesus saves" will have little or no time for useless disputes among the membership. Why has our nation been so successful in preventing destructive battles in our beautiful country? The answer is simply - we have always carried the fight to them. Christian soldiers, we need to take the fight to the devil's territory.

Witnessing for the Lord will result in salvation of sinners, increase your growth in His grace and set a good example for your peers and friends. Some of the happiest and most successful preachers I have ever known preached in brush arbors, courthouse yards, prisons, and anywhere they could get a hearing. Witnessing draws people to the house of God. God likes a full house. Not just a full church house, but it would thrill the God of heaven to save every person living and all yet to be born. Some are too hasty to measure success by a full house. I've seen some corrupt large crowds. God said, "you go, and I'll go with you." What a comfort! Glorious churches, dear preachers, our field is wide open in the "highways and hedges." During the past summer, I have witnessed large and small crowds, some with sinners present, but so very little power with God or the sinner. Why? The going has ceased. We are waiting as though we were members of Jerusalem Church and the date being about 33 A.D. New churches are

something of the past unless there is a split. That's hardly mission enterprise in the eyes of God.

Will you pray for me to glorify God and His Son, Christ Jesus, in the streets, lanes, highways, hedges, pulpits, grocery store, barber shop, school, or where my steps may take me.

**DO NOT DISTURB**

Before I could push the door bell button the sign almost pushed me right off the porch: "Sleeper, Do Not Disturb." I stood a minute looking at those four words, wondering what to do. I had a message for the man inside, but he was in no mood to receive it. He was asleep and wanted to be left alone.

As I walked back to the car, I was reminded that there are always people who do not want to be disturbed. Here was a sleeper who wanted to sleep. In the hospital was a suffering soul who wanted to suffer alone. In the hotel was a man resting who wanted to rest. In the library was a student who wanted to study. on the scaffold was a worker who wanted to work. A thousand voices are calling, "Do Not Disturb!"

Jesus took a text and began to preach but someone called out, "Let us alone!" Some people who come to church want no disturbing Gospel preached. They seek the sentimental, and shun the fundamental. And on and on they go in their darkness, crying, "Do Not Disturb."

But people need to be disturbed! They need to be awakened to the folly of their sinful selfishness. They need to be reminded of the tragic end of the path of flesh-gratification. They must be disturbed about their own indifference, neglect, and coldness.

America needs to be disturbed about the gradual decay of her basic freedoms, and the gradual growth of governmental greed. The church needs to be disturbed about the puny power she is able to bring to bear upon a hell-bound generation. Individuals need to be disturbed about the blinding effects of sin. Jesus was the divine Disturber whose disciples turned the world upside down. Can Christians do less today?—Selected.

**WITNESS OF JEHOVAH**

(Continued from Page 3)

O Michael, good angelic Prince  
you have not sinned before or since  
You bow and worship God, the Son  
the lowly Jesus, Holy One

How we regret that wicked one  
has done this deed to dim the Sun  
Hiding life in precious blood  
of Jesus Christ, Jehovah God!

