

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 PREACHER MUST HAVE A MESSAGE

By James H. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

Too many times we go to church to preach and not having a message to burden our heart, we find ourselves very uncomfortable in even trying to preach. I have had some of those times, and those experiences make me more aware of the need of being prepared to enter the pulpit. But somebody says don't bother about that because the Holy Spirit will give the message when we get in the pulpit. The Holy Spirit will also give us a message while in our study, and then we will have time to study on the subject and give ourselves to prayer about it. I truly believe that when the Lord gives us a message to preach that it is the one the people need, whether or not it is exactly what they want to hear. The main thing here is that the preacher have a message already in his heart, and if he has, he will have zeal to deliver that good Word to his people. We must have the Word burning in our own bosom, like Jeremiah: "But His Word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forebearing, and I could not stay." Jeremiah 20:9. If the Word is like a fire burning in our own heart as preachers, more than likely it will set fire to those that we preach to.

It is not the most lengthy message that is always the most effective. In fact length can sometimes put a damper on what we preached up to the time we should have stopped; especially if we just go on repeating ourselves. I have heard good sermons spoiled by repetition, get lifted up and then let down. A preacher should know when to stop as well as when to start; and I believe all of us who have been in the ministry very long realize what I am saying. We are always learning something. We don't get too old to learn; and some things that we observe along the way is a very good teacher.

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OREGON REPORT

By Vernon Roark

In June 1979, I received a call to pastor Hauser Baptist Church. The church was nineteen years old at the time, had but few members, and had been without a pastor for some time.

Being led of the Lord, I accepted the call, sold all my possessions in Kentucky and took my family to this northwestern community. Without the prayers and financial help of many in Kentucky, Tennessee and Indiana, who love the Lord and His Cause, it would have been impossible. To each of you, I send this report with my most humble prayer of thanksgiving to God for you.

By the grace of God we begin a new year here. We wish to report that God has blessed us with five new members. We have witnessed one profession and baptized one. The church is presently trying to obtain permits to build new Sunday School rooms, and repair the house of worship. We meet twice each Lord's Day and have mid-week prayer service and Bible Study. From each of us at Hauser Baptist Church, we thank each of you and pray that His richest blessings be yours. "Unto Him be glory in the

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GOD'S GREAT HAND

This article was submitted by a friend requesting that the author remain anonymous.

A beautiful young lady came to church every Sunday. Her husband would come with her occasionally, though he was of a different denomination. Quite often he would ask her to stay home from services - not go to worship God as she knew was right to do. He would most likely put her down or just plainly tell her not to go at all, insisting that she stay home with him.

Most often, Sunday was his day off, so this would be a very good excuse for her to stay away from God's House, thereby allowing Satan to gain one more victory.

She persisted! She loved God very much, and had been saved before she married. She wasn't perfect. As all who live in this world, she made mistakes. She tried hard to serve God and do His will raising her children in the ways of God. Years passed and she faithfully attended the Missionary Baptist Church where she held membership. It was a

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CALVARY WINS SOULS!!

Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Lexington, Tennessee has witnessed 26 professions since June of this year. The pastor, Elder James Moody, has administered baptism for all 26 of those saved.

Excavation for a new church facility has begun.

May God continue to bless this zealous church and humble pastor as they labor for God in quest of the lost.

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Kenneth W. Massey

QUESTION: "What is the greatest hindrance to your christian life?"

This question evolved from discussion in a recent Bible study at Independent Baptist Church.

ANSWER: For several minutes following this question, member after member spontaneously faced a moment of truth and expressed what each believed to be their greatest enemy. Some of those replies and the discussion that followed were:

1. **Lack of Service** - "to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17) Many christians are deprived blessings from the Lord, and the great blessing of His intimate fellowship because of refusing to answer the call of service. "Here am I; send me." (Is. 6:8)

2. **Self-Denial** - "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Gal. 6:14)

Once we exchange our earthly value into God's currency, we will lose lust for self and find a glorious life in the cross of Jesus.

3. **Impatience** - "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalms 46:10)

A lack of patience to the christian is the same as a malfunctioning balance staff to a timepiece. Our faith, Holy Spirit provided direction and doing good as we have opportunity is contingent upon proper timing. Patience is our keying on God.

OREGON REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

church, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end."

FINANCIAL REPORT

MAY - AUGUST, 1980

Hauser Baptist Church (Oregon)	\$ 568.83
Old Union Baptist Church (Ky.)	1,187.49
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (Ky.)	433.60
East Side Baptist Church (Tenn.)	150.00
Fellowship Baptist Church (Ind.)	416.00
Meadorville Baptist Church (Tenn.)	54.50
Independent Baptist Church (Tenn.)	63.00
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Nelson (Tenn.)	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Thornton (Ky.)	50.00
Amos Conner (Ky.)	5.00
Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Carter (Tenn.)	45.00
Elder & Mrs. Don Curtis (Tenn.)	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Harold McClary (Ky.)	100.00
Elder Melvin Stinson (Ky.)	35.00
Elder Joe Tom Stinson (Ky.)	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Shockley (Ky.)	20.00
Bro. Nathan York (Ind.)	50.00
Bro. ? (Fellowship Baptist-Ind.)	20.00
Elder Kenneth Davis (Ky.)	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Law (Ky.)	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Brown (Ky.)	5.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jackson (Okla.)	25.00

\$3,333.42

Total Received last year \$9,009.33

To: Hauser Baptist Church during last four months (Independent Baptist Church - Tenn.)
200.00

GOD'S GREAT HAND

(Cont'd from Page 1)

very small church, worshipping in an old store building when she first began. They later bought a nice church building where she continued to take her children while teaching them about Jesus in her home.

There was much contention at home, since her husband believed that salvation comes through water baptism, and by living good enough you will be saved at the end of this life's journey. Well....these were very trying years. But God's Great Hand is always strong enough to carry out His plans and in this young lady's life - He Was There!

The children were growing up now. Through God's mercy and grace they were saved and prepared to meet the Lord. This devoted mother and wife's heart was still saddened because the husband she loved so much was not saved nor even thought the church she attended was the "right church." He truly believed she was all wrong. No doubt this brought many unhappy experiences into their lives. Yet, she firmly followed God and continued in church. A few times, on special occasions, he came to church with her (probably to see for himself what was going on over there or to be able to say exactly what was wrong with it).

Then, he had a heart-breaking experience! He came under conviction! He had no one to turn to! No one to ask for help! In desperation he turned to his wife and asked her to pray to God for him. She told him he would have to pray to God himself. But he said, "I cannot, I'm not close to God like you are. It's different with me." She told him to ask the Lord for salvation, and together they would pray for God to supply their needs.

He knelt in his living room with his wife and family in the early hours of morning - pouring out his heart to God. God in His love reached down His Great Hand and marvelously saved him!

NOW! Salvation was his at last. You might think this story ends here - BUT NO!!

This christian lady wanted her husband to join the true church and be baptized. But he needed time, although he attended faithfully and told everyone his experience of being born again.

Then came vacation just a short while after he was saved. He took his family back home to visit friends and relatives. On the way, he stopped at the home of some relatives and told them he knew there had been a change in his life. He told them, "I am saved, I am born again." The first thing each one would ask him was, "did you join the church? Were you baptized?" He said, "No! I am not a member of any church, but I am saved"! I am born of God! When he leads me, I will join the church and be baptized."

Thank God for His Great Hand of leadership. May we always follow His instructions and the impressions of His Holy Spirit regardless of what our family or friends want us to do.

This young man's testimony of salvation - being born of God without benefit of baptism is a witness to each friend and member of his family that doesn't know God's plan of salvation.

Immediately after vacation, he joined the church, was baptized and is always telling his experience of salvation.

Praise God for His Great Hand that leads and guides us every day of our life, if we will let him and if we will follow him.

* * * *

**"THE TRUTH SHALL
MAKE YOU FREE."**

- Jesus

* * * *

Dear Church Members:

Are you an active member?
The kind who would be missed?
Or are you just content that
Your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay away
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind who just belongs?

Do you ever work on committees
To see there is no trick,
Or leave the work for just a few
And talk about the clique?

So come to meetings often
And help with hand and heart;
Don't just be a member
But take an active part!

Think this over,
You know right from wrong,
Are you an active member,
Or do you...just belong?

ALCOHOL FACTS

•Latest surveys reveal that 110 million Americans (age 15 and above) consume alcoholic beverages. This is 71% of that segment of the population.

•Drinking alcoholic beverages is the third leading cause of death in the United States, right behind heart disease and cancer; though, ironically, alcohol can cause both these diseases.

•There are now over 11 million alcoholics in the United States, and we are producing new alcoholics at the rate of about 1200 per day. Tennessee has at least 200,000 alcoholics.

•Drinking driving is the no. 1 killer of young people today. Suicide is second.

•The National Institute on Alcohol and Alcoholism estimates there are 3.3 million problem drinkers among youth in the 14 to 17 age range. (About 1 in every 5.)

•The proportion of high school students who reported ever having been drunk increased from 19% in 1966 to 45% in 1978. The proportion of high school students being intoxicated at least once a month rose from 10% in 1966 to 19% in 1978.

•The cost of alcohol problems in American society has now risen to a record \$61 billion in 1979, according to the American Business Men's Research Foundation. Largest economic cost (\$28

billion) is in the area of lost production of goods and services. \$18.2 billion was spent in the area of health care on alcohol-related illnesses in 1979.

•The cost of alcohol problems is at least \$4.41 for every \$1.00 collected in total tax revenues from beer, wine and whiskey.

•In the United States during the decade of the 1970's wine sales increased 66%; beer sales increased 38%; and distilled spirits increased by 23%.

•Average per capita consumption in Tennessee (15 years and older): Beer....25 gallons per person
Whiskey and Wine....2½ gallons per person

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

"I've been intending to write you for sometime to tell you how much I appreciate and enjoy the "Voice of Baptists." I look forward to getting each issue. I certainly enjoy all the good messages each one of the good servants of God writes from time to time."

Mrs. Grace Yates
Ridge Farm, IL

"Thank you so much for your efforts and articles in "Voice of Baptists." It is truly a blessing to be able to read the word of God explained as it was intended."

Sharon Witzler
Toledo, OH

"Enjoy reading the "Voice of Baptists," don't think I ever lay it down until I have read it all."

Mrs. Fount Moran
Indpls., IN

"We enjoy the paper very much, distribute the bundle each month. Pray that it will be enjoyable to others."

Elder C. B. Huddleston
Pastor, Faith Baptist Church
Bowling Green, Kentucky

"Bro. D. C. Barton sent me two issues of the "Voice of Baptists." I sure was glad to receive them. It was like getting a letter from home. I get so hungry to hear some old-time gospel."

Elder Thurman H. Tillman
Cullman, AL

NOTICE!!

Please notify us of any surplus papers being received by your church. In view of the fact that the demand for the paper continues to grow and our resources are limited, we hope you will help in trying to utilize every copy of each monthly issue. Thank you for all your assistance.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF "VOICE OF BAPTISTS"

1. THE TRINITY OF GOD - God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit. One God in trinity, and trinity in unity.
2. THE INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURES - The SCRIPTURES are the infallible, plenary, inspired, verbal word of God.
3. THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF CREATION - That creation of earth, man and all things is the production of something from nothing by God, true and eternal.
4. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN - The Bible uniformly represents Satan as the Person who entices man to sin.
5. HEREDITARY, TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN IN FALL OF ADAM - The entire creation of man is sinful by nature, being descendants of Adam.
6. THE VIRGIN BIRTH AND DEITY OF CHRIST - God's only begotten and holy Son.
7. CHRIST'S BLOOD ATONEMENT FOR FALLEN MAN - The sin-debt, owed by man to God, was paid by the blood of Christ.
8. BODILY RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND HIS ASCENSION BACK TO THE FATHER - Completely conquered death giving assurance to all men, and is now sat down at the right hand of God to mediate and intercede.
9. THE PERSON AND OFFICE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - Reproving the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.
10. SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST - God's grace entitles, enables and enlivens the sinner to the new life in Christ.
11. JUSTIFICATION BEFORE GOD BY REPENTANCE AND FAITH WITHOUT ANY ADMIXTURE OF WORKS - "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he hath saved us."
12. SEPARATION OF GOD'S CHILDREN FROM THE WORLD - "Ye shall know a tree by the fruit it bears."
13. WATER BAPTISM (IMMERSION) TO BE ADMINISTERED TO BELIEVERS ONLY AND BY DIVINE AUTHORITY AS GIVEN BY OUR LORD TO HIS CHURCH.
14. A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS A LOCAL, VISIBLE BODY OF BAPTIZED BELIEVERS OBSERVING THE GREAT COMMISSION.

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DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

(Continued from Page 3)

15. THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A CHURCH ORDINANCE, AS IS BAPTISM, AND IS TO BE ADMINISTERED TO BAPTIZED BELIEVERS IN SCRIPTURAL CHURCH CAPACITY ONLY.
16. ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER - Harmony of God's preserving the believer in Christ with the believer's persevering through faith in Christ.
17. ESTABLISHMENT BY CHRIST OF HIS TRUE CHURCH DURING HIS PERSONAL MINISTRY ON EARTH - That Christ took saved and baptized people, and thus organized them into a little government with His Word as the only Law and Himself as the only Lawgiver.
18. A GOD-CALLED MINISTRY God impresses the hearts of some saved men to devote their lives to prayer and ministration of the word of God.
19. WORLD WIDE EVANGELISM WAS GIVEN BY CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH - We are debtors to carry the glorious gospel to every creature on earth.
20. PERPETUITY OF THE DOCTRINES OF BAPTIST CHURCHES FROM THE FIRST ADVENT OF CHRIST UNTIL HIS SECOND ADVENT - Though the Lord's true churches have gone by names given them by their enemies in other days, they have always been known by their doctrines.
21. THAT ALL SCRIPTURAL CHURCHES SHOULD BE HELD AS EQUAL UNITS AS TO THEIR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES IN ASSOCIATED CAPACITIES - No big or little churches with one lording authority over another.
22. THAT ALL ASSOCIATIONAL ASSEMBLIES ARE SERVANTS OF THE CHURCHES.
23. THAT WE BRAND AS UNSCRIPTURAL: OPEN COMMUNION, ALIEN BAPTISM, PULPIT AFFILIATION WITH HERETICAL MINISTERS, UNIONISM, FORMALISM, UNIVERSALISM, CAMPBELLISM, CATHOLICISM, CHARISMATICISM, PENTECOSTALISM, DEISM AND ALL OTHER RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHIES OF MEN.
24. THE PERSONAL AND BODILY SECOND RETURN OF CHRIST.
25. THE BODILY RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, BOTH OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.

26. THE REALITY OF HEAVEN, WITH DIVINE ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL HAPPINESS FOR ALL THE REDEEMED OF GOD.
27. THE REALITY OF HELL, WITH EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT OF THE INCORRIGIBLE WICKED.

THE PREACHER'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

PRESSURES OF THE TIMES

In all the hustle and bustle of the times, and the pressures of life, makes it harder for a minister to get his mind on his study and meditation, so that he can have a message on his heart at all times for his people, and for the glory of Him who has called us. However, all of this is a great challenge to the man of God. We are not to give in to all the pressures of the world that are so prevalent in our day, but rather repel them. God hasn't called us to keep up with the Jones, or to get into a "rat race". If there is anybody who should keep himself unspotted from the world, it is a minister of the Gospel. The very first qualification for the minister given by Paul, to both Timothy and Titus is: "A Bishop must be blameless." I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7. And I fully believe that all who hear us preach are truly expecting us to be just that.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A PREACHER?

Is it the preachers beaming personality, his ability to socialize, his sense of humor to keep all the young people in high spirits and doing their own thing? Or is it the man's preaching that you are primarily interested in? What is a preacher supposed to do anyway? There are some things a preacher can do, and should do in addition to his preaching from the pulpit; but his highest and most noble duty and responsibility is to give himself to prayer and the ministering of the Word of God. See Acts 6:1-4. God's preacher should be social in his relationship with people, Jesus was. He mixed with the multitudes, He went in and ate with them at their feasts; but He did it to win the people to Himself, and not to entertain them, or to be entertained. And I am quite sure that our Lord approached the people with a pleasing personality, He wasn't a grouch. As to His sense of humor????, Maybe you might be able to bring me up to date on that. I am rather sure that He wasn't like the Chaplain of Bourbon Street, wasting a lot of precious time telling Jokes. Certainly a preacher can go too far with his jokes, especially the dirty ones, and injure his ministry.

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL



March 25-27

Dear Churches:

A wonderful fellowship and study time for God's servants has been scheduled at Old Union Baptist Church for this, the ninth year in succession. Would you like to help? Why not send your pastor and all ministers in your church to this year's session? The tuition is \$20 per person, which includes free lunches and compensates the teachers for their expenses.

For further information, you should write to: Elder Paul Bryson, Route 9, Box 84, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101.

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE WORD OF GOD

I have known a few people that you could preach any subject from the Bible to, and they would love it; and there are people still that love to be fed on the Word of God, any subject, just so it is from the Bible. But there are those who had rather just hear what will make them feel good at the present, something juicy. They had rather not hear anything that would reprove them of their sins, or anything of a doctrinal nature. God has given us a system of teaching in His Scriptures that would mold and fit His people for just what He wants of them; but this teaching has to be taught, heard, and applied in order for it to accomplish the end which He has in it for us. Jesus prayed for His disciples thus: "Sanctify them through Thy Truth; Thy Word is Truth." John 17:17. Sanctify means to set apart. God's people need to be set apart, they must be different, and it takes God's truth to set them apart, to make them different from the people of the world. If something is wrong in the life of one of God's children and the preacher doesn't declare from the Word of God that it is wrong, then of course the person will go right on doing the same thing, thinking that there is nothing wrong in it.