

# Voice of Baptists

CHARLES PATTERSON  
RT 5 BOX 168  
LAFAYETTE TN

37083

*"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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## "NEITHER GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL"

Ephesians 4:27

By Harold D. Carver  
Buena Vista, Tenn.

A brief review of the identity and goals of Satan will be attempted before we discuss the text. First of all, Satan is not simply a myth. He is not simply a principle. He is not a legend. He is not a symbol or figure. Neither is he just a personification of evil. And no, he is not the "buggar man" so often used by adults to frighten young children into obedience.

In the second place, we may describe Satan as a real being (person) and consequently has a personality. He is a powerful and a destructive force. In John's Gospel we are told that he was a liar and murderer from the beginning. "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lust of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it". John 8:44.

His primary desire is to be worshipped. His primary purpose is to rob God of all praise, honor, and glory. The means he employs to accomplish this purpose is to deceive all mankind and bring them into the place of death unprepared to meet God. And to those who overcome Satan by an application of the Blood of Jesus Christ, his purpose and goal is to rob God of due praise and glory by diluting our fellowship with God and/or destroying our influence with mankind.

Satan is relentless in his quest to seduce the Christian with sin and spoil our fellowship with God. The Apostle Paul warns to put on the whole armour of God to defend against Satan. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be

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## LETTERS

Dear Bro. Massey,

Greetings in Christ Jesus. I am writing to express my thanks to you for sending me several copies of the "Voice of Baptists." I will give them to some of the church members and keep one for myself.

The articles in the "Voice of Baptists" are very timely and much needed in this day. Continue to be true to God.

Please pray for me that I will be a better pastor.

Elder H. D. Kearbey  
Jackson, Missouri

Dear Bro. Massey,

A hearty "AMEN" to your article "Knowledge of the Truth"! I enjoy the "Voice of Baptists" very much. I believe that all readers should pray for the staff that the Lord would continue to assist you in your writings.

Barry Witcher  
Lafayette, Tenn.

"I enjoy "Voice of Baptists" very much because it is truth. May God bless you and all the good people that help you."

Morris Denney  
Indianapolis, IN

## "I CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO"

In the study of the pastor we were talking together about the affairs of his church when there came a knock on the door.

"Come in," the pastor called out. The door opened slowly, enough to allow the head of an old, old woman to appear in the opening. At once the pastor called out, "Oh, Granny, how do you do? I'm glad to see you. Come on in."

The door opened just a little bit more and a smiling old woman entered the study.

Under his breath the pastor said to me, "She's very deaf, but she's a beautiful old soul," and then he introduced me to her. We talked for a minute or so and then the pastor said, "Well, Granny, what can I do for you?"

"And would you be doing something for the likes of me?" she answered.

"Why, Granny, you know that I would do anything possible for you."

"And you're meaning it, Mon?"

"Why, of course I mean it, Granny."

And then with added emphasis she queried again, "And you're really meaning it, Mon?"

Somewhat stirred, the pastor vehemently replied, "Of course I mean it Granny; anything that I could do for you I am happy to do."

"All right," she answered. Bending over she lifted the hem of her print dress where a pocket had been worked out, fumbling in it, soon drew out a ten-dollar note. Walking over to the desk of the pastor she put it down and said, "And will you be sending that for the likes of me as an added love offering to tell somebody the message of Jesus?"

Like a shot the pastor said, "I'll not

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## VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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P. O. Box 572

Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor

### STAFF WRITERS

James H. Smith, Nashville, Tenn.  
W. T. Russell, Bowling Green, Ky.  
F. W. Lambert, Westmoreland, Tenn.  
Harold D. Carver, Buena Vista, Tenn.  
Jerry A. Reynolds, Davisville, W. Va.  
Stephen M. Skinner, Springfield, Mo.  
Keith D. Frieze, Springfield, Mo.

### CIRCULATION MANAGER

Rufus L. Chandler, Huntingdon, Tenn.

### I CAN'T AFFORD

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do it, Granny. You've already given more than you ought to." Again in a low tone he said to me, "Proportionately she is the largest giver in my church and she has only a few dollars a month to keep body and soul together."

The old woman stood looking down at the piece of money on the desk and with a smile on her face said several times, as if to herself, "And that's the kind of a mon you are." And then, looking up, she added, "You'd be happy to do anything for me, and the one thing I ask of you, you say me nay."

"But, Granny," the pastor said, "you know you give all you can possibly afford to every Sunday, and you can't afford to give this extra money."

Raising her hand and pointing at him, she answered, "Can't afford to give it?"

"No," said the pastor, "you can't. The Lord only knows what you have given up these past months to produce this extra \$10.00 and I'm not going to help you starve yourself so that you can give it."

And then he repeated with emphasis, "You can't afford to give it."

She stood there for perhaps a minute with a smile lingering on her face and then she said, "I can't afford not to give it. He has done so much for me. I love Him so."

Getting up from behind his desk, the pastor walked over to her, put his hand on her arm, and with a catch in his voice said, "All right, Granny, I will send it. I only wish that I had a church full of members like you, and God's will would be done upon the earth."

She stood there for just a moment longer and then said, "And thank you, Mon. I'll be going." And the sweet old face turned away from the two men in the

study. The door opened and she was gone, but she had left behind her the breath of heaven, and the two men said things to each other that brought fresh realization to them of the great joy there is in the sacrifice of giving so that the message of Jesus may be told around the world.

Go thou and do likewise. You can't afford not to.

—Copied

## HE CARES

By John Hedges

Sometimes the burdens are heavy,  
the way seems awful dim.  
Then comes a ray of sunshine,  
to those who trust in Him.

He knows all the heartaches and pain,  
that we bear;  
He went to the cross of Calvary,  
just because He cares.

Trust in Him Who loves you,  
and look beyond the sky,  
to that sweet home eternal  
where none shall ever die.

Someday I'll soon be going  
to my beautiful heaven fair,  
Tis not because of fate or chance,  
but by the Man Who cares.

## JULY REVIVALS

### JULY 5

New Crossroads Miss. Baptist Church — Huntingdon, Tenn. Pastor Clarence Carter will be assisted by Elder Harold Carver. Everyone is invited to attend services each day at 10:30 A.M. and 7:30 P.M.

### JULY 12

Independent Miss. Baptist Church — Huntingdon, Tenn. Services each day beginning at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Preaching by Pastor Kenneth Massey. **EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

### JULY 19

Haysville Miss. Baptist Church — Lafayette, Tenn. Pastor Bobby Gann is to be assisted by Elder James G. Beal. Services each night at 7:45 p.m. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

### JULY 26

Darden Miss. Baptist Church — Darden, Tenn. Pastor Cletus Dukes and all the members extend a cordial welcome to all. Elder Kenneth Massey will serve as Evangelist. Services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

## WHAT MANNER OF A MAN IS THIS?

By Arvella Stapleton  
Toledo, Ohio

About twenty five years ago, James and his family were worshipping in the Missionary Baptist Church we visited and where we later became members. He was in his mid-twenties; not a spokesman in church, nor obvious in any manner. He was very friendly, jovial and well-liked by all.

James is a conscientious worker who cares and provides well for his family. There is much to be said about James' character that I cannot put into words. James uses his time well, is faithful to attend church, careful to worship and fulfill his duties, is always cheerful and wherever needed, ready to lend a helping hand.

The day the Missionary Baptist Church we now attend was organized, James joined on credit of letter. Since that day, James has truly been a soldier of the cross and a pillar in the church. You might ask, what has this to do with anything today? It has **all** to do with our lives today. **THINK...**

Every possible service James could render to this church—James has. When the doors were opened for services, James and family were there. When money was needed, James gave all he could afford. When the building needed care, cleaning or repairs of any kind, James was there. When the pastor needed help or someone to talk with, James was there. When any of the church members were sick or in special need, James was there. When the Church had special services, such as: revivals, singings, youth gatherings, picnics, etc., James was there to help where needed, and happy to do all he could to make it a success and pleasure for all others.

Above and beyond the things before mentioned, — What of the time, when a friend of ours was in the hospital? The friend had no one except his wife, children and one brother-in-law, nearby to visit him. Who sat by his bedside when the friend had the amputation and throughout his convalescence? Who gave aid and comfort twelve years ago when this happened and is still visiting, sharing, helping this dear friend, by plowing his garden or building a special riding lawn mower, so the friend may cut his own lawn?

What of the countless people he

visits that are not members of the church, no matter the denomination? Some are widows or widowers, whose lives would be lonely. Most of their chores (that they can no longer perform) would go undone if not for James. These are just a few examples. I could give many more.

James would never tell you of these people that he sees on a regular basis. As long as I have known James, he has never bragged or so much as spoken of any of this.

As you know, the Bible says, what we do in secret will be known abroad. Are these the kind of words you would like to have spoken of you now or at judgement when you stand before God?

Many years ago, when the church needed Deacons, James was chosen. Does James fit the qualifications of a Deacon, then and now?

What manner of a man is this?

James is not a man of great swelling words, but a man of faith and works, filled with the spirit, and loved by all who know him. Thank God for this man. My prayer to God is, that he will always continue to worship and serve as he now does, that God will always use him in the capacity he has chosen for him. Please, God, may many more of your children see the responsibilities you have for them; and be willing and happy to carry them out as James, that your church may prosper in this world, souls will be saved and blessed beyond measure.

"Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and his ways past finding out?"

Your sister in Christ,  
Arvella Stapleton

## AUGUST REVIVALS

### AUGUST 2

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church - Nolensville Road, Nashville, Tenn. Pastor James H. Smith will be assisted by Elder Paul Bryson. Everyone is invited to attend services each evening.

### AUGUST 2

Parkwood Baptist Church - Ewing Lane, Nashville, Tenn. Elder Thomas Armstrong will be serving as evangelist. Pastor Eugene Brown extends a welcome from the church for everyone to visit. Services nightly at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday evening services at 6:00 p.m.

### AUGUST 2

Faith Baptist Church - 921 East 10th St., Bowling Green, Ky. Pastor C. B. Huddleston assisted by Elder Kenneth Davis. Services each night 7:00 p.m. EVERYONE IS INVITED!

## A LETTER FROM PARSON JONES

Attendance at church last Sunday was mighty porely. I don't reckon I oughta grumble cause I had a bunch of sick members and when you add to that all my shut-ins we don't have a site of pew-fillers. So I went ahead and preached to what I had. Only thing was the echo in the near empty church hurt my ears. My madam said I needed to get out and ride awhile and let the fresh air clear my head. It done the trick. Our little ride not only cleared my head, it made me feel right good inside. What I saw made me rejoice I saw miracle after miracle.

Ole Hezekia who had been deathly sick that very morning had roused up and was riding down the highway with his fishing poles. No, nothin but a miracle could have rescued old Hez from the jaws of death in such a short time.

Now there was Rufe's brother, Rufe told me Sunday morning that his brother's back was in fowl shape that they was afraid a operation was gonna be necessary. Well, we remembered him in our prayers and lo and behold at 2 o'clock there he stood at the driving range hitting golf balls. If that wasn't quick recovery I don't know what is.

All told, about 20 of my sick folks had roused up and was taking nourishment in one form or another. But what really made me happy was to see so many of my "shut-ins" out riding around and enjoying the world. Hezekiah's paw, who don't attend church cause he can't stand crowds, was headed for the drag races. Sister Nell's mama, who was too weak to get outa the house was in town shopping. Ellie Nickelsinger's sister, who can't come on account of her kidneys stood in line two hours to get into the show. It was a show about "The Miracle Worker". I thought it was right appropriate, seeings as how a miracle had happened to her.

Yes sir, it thrilled my heart to see what I saw. I ought to have a packed house next Sunday with all my sick folks being healed and shut-ins being set free. I just hope they don't overdo themselves before next Sunday and have a relapse. I gotta go now and play with my smallest youngun. He is gonna be the farmer and I'm gonna be the goat. Tin cans will be easy to eat after what I've swallowed.

Donated by W. R. Overton

## THE MARK OF TRUE REPENTANCE



By J. A. Reynolds

A penitent heart in consideration of wrong done is one of God's conditions in order to obtain forgiveness of sins. As they who have experienced repentance unto the forgiveness of sins well know, that depth of repentance is not easily reached, and when experienced it leaves one in a changed state not to be easily led back into the sinful living just repented of. There is in this day we live a lot of repentance being claimed which is manifest to be far too shallow for the wise in heart to accept as genuine. Yet he who doubts the penitence of the wrong doer is assailed by many who declare that he has no right to such doubts about his fellow man. It is needful to realize that true penitence, the kind God honors, is accompanied by such a loathing of self because of sin that the penitent soul dares not think that he deserves anything but a just punishment for his wrongdoing.

The king of Nineveh in commanding penitence and prayer unto his people added, "Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not"? The uncertainty expressed by the king is indicative of a desperate fear in pleading for the mercy of one who ought to deal out justice, but for his goodness and the genuine penitence of the condemned, but who forgives instead.

Righteous Job, who had none other like him in the earth according to God's own testimony, when at last he saw the relative greatness of his master when compared to himself, replied "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." He had so little to repent of, we (who put ourselves in little danger of the subtle sin of self-righteousness) would suppose, and yet he uttered "I abhor myself" as he repented of his sin.

The wayward son who wasted his inheritance with riotous living was returning, desperately hungry and determined

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## NEITHER GIVE TO DEVIL

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able to stand against the wiles of the devil", Ephesians 6:11. Having put on the whole armour of God as admonished by Paul, the text gives the best advice for a successful defense, **NEITHER GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL**. Do not give him a starting point in your life. We will now consider some points regarding this principle.

**I. THE DEVIL STRIVES TO GAIN THE MASTERY OVER MAN.** He is not timid, bashful, easily insulted, and will come into personal contact with us even against our will. At first glance he may be difficult to recognize as he is a "wolf in sheep's clothing". Satan does not usually present himself as a "saloon-keeper" or "ruffian" type as one might suppose. He is a great pretender who has transformed himself into an angel of light. "An no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light", II Corinthians 11:14. Not only is he often undetectable as he is very pleasant to the eye, but he is an intelligent and discerning creature.

He will study our personality as the botanist explores the flower through the microscope. He might also be likened to the military commander who enters new territory. "He will usually spread a map upon the ground, and upon his knees he ponders it until he is familiar with ALL it's features; he becomes acquainted with the rivers, with their bridges and fords, the villages and their position in relation to adjacent towns. He then plans his method of attack". So it is with our spiritual enemy. Our spiritual adversary has his plan and strategy. He watches his victim, acquaints himself with his words, demeanor (especially temper), actions, the company we keep, our pleasures and recreations and especially our habits. He then constructs his assault accordingly. The devil sternly resolves to conquer and we find such evidence in his confrontations with both Eve (Genesis 3:1-6), and Job (Job 1:, 2:).

**II. MAN IS TO SUCCESSFULLY RESIST THE DEVIL.** Even though he is a real being and powerful he is a defeated foe through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The Bible also teaches that God will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able to stand. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it, I Corinthians 10:13.

If we aren't careful we may **GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL** by:

1. Allowing our hearts to become empty of good things. The heart that is not filled with good thoughts and desires is left empty for the enemy to enter.
2. Becoming too insensitive to the spiritual world around us. We may fall under the influence of the great adversary by yielding to spiritual indolence (laziness). Industry and watchfulness distinguish all real Christians. As soon as they become indolent they cease to be on their guard against the enemy of souls.
3. The Christian may provide favourable opportunity to Satan by their attention being absorbed into worldly business. Surely this age is characterized by "worldliness" and "materialish".

We must be steadfast in our resistance of Satan because one sin makes room for more. One sin keeps up the devil's interest. It is like a "nest egg" left there to draw a new temptation. By allowing one sin we tend to disarm ourselves against standing against the next encounter with sin. We should be steadfast because we may be sure that the devil never means good, but always evil. The more we yield to the influence of Satan, the further he will press his authority, and the more complete will be his dominion over us.

Finally there is no substitute for persistence and steadfastness against Satan because actually the child of God is never obligated to yield to him. He can only conquer if we allow him too. We must resist the very beginning of temptation; we can't give any quarter to Satan. Give him an inch and he will take a mile; give him a corner and he will take the house, and give him an opening and he will fill the tent. Watch and pray steadfastly that you enter not into temptation.

### III. HOW TO RESIST THE DEVIL.

1. The first step is directed to the unbeliever. Sinner friend you must first be saved before you can successfully resist the devil. You must first have your heart washed free of sin by the blood of Jesus Christ. When we get saved we have God's Spirit living within us. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world", I John 4:4. When you are saved then you can have the same promise which Jesus Christ gave to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness".
2. Having been saved by repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ, our lives must be filled with repentance for our continual sins of the

flesh. We must be cleansed of our sins in our lives. "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day", II Corinthians 4:16. "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness", Ephesians 4:23-24. We must pray and repent daily. Unconfessed sin is a place for the devil.

3. We must concentrate on the need to overcome Satan. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:", I Peter 5:8. We must at all times be spiritually alert to the wiles of Satan.

4. We must continually resist the devil. We never reach the place in this life that we can afford to let down our guard. "Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world", I Peter 5:9.

In summary we may say that Satan is a defeated foe, but one that must be regarded as an imminent threat every moment of our lives. Jesus Christ defeated him in the world, in his life, and finally in his death and resurrection. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you", James 4:7. Praise God we can do all things through Jesus Christ which strengthens us.

## THE MARK OF TRUE REPENTANCE

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to beg for a place in his father's house as a hired servant that he might only obtain enough to live.

We can easily see that the true penitent dares only ask for what he **MUST** have; but God gives him much more than he asks for, full pardon, and blessings beside.

Far too much has been preached by comparison of the great-heartedness of God and of his people, and far too little has been taught of his, and their, severity. The result of this unbalance is a lot of people who behave before God and his saints like incredibly spoiled children. Again and again we observe modern day prodigals returning from their riotous activities. They come in and say "I'm sorry" with a chip on each shoulder which will immediately fall off if one brother expresses a sign of disbelief. They look around, this way and that, at those to whom they have done wrong and after a moment express their thoughts, "Hey! Where is my fatted calf?"