

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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MAKING A CHRISTMAS LIST?

By Kenneth W. Massey

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35b

Usually at this time of year, most of us jot down the names of our family members, husband or wife, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, etc. Then, we spend time and money trying to find a needed gift that will express our love for each one of these favorite persons. Our gifts are all placed under the tree and, either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, we exchange gifts. Before we offer suggestions for your 1981 gift list, let's see what gifts we've been given.

GIFTS FROM GOD

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights....." (James 1:17)

God is the giver of all great gifts, good gifts and perfect gifts. All enduring gifts are His to give. According to our text, God is happier in giving to us than we are in receiving. God has offered His love as a gift. A great love that's deep and everlasting is the love of God. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) The human family has been offered the most treasured gift ever known, Jesus Christ the Saviour. Heaven found just the Gift you and I needed so much.

God freely gives us all things through Christ - the word of God is a gift, faith is a gift from God, God gives repentance, His grace is a gift, the mercy of God is great toward us, we have eternal life as his children, hope is our anchor of the soul, His Spirit is our witness that we are sons of the Father, the true churches are gifts from God for our earthly happiness; God's peace passeth all

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WHAT ARE JEWS?

By Jerry A. Reynolds
Davisville, W.V.

Romans 11:26 And so ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED....

Romans 2:28 & 29 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; the circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men but of God.

Romans 9:6-8 Not as though the word of God had taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:

Neither because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: But in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all who call upon him.

Romans 11:7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the ELECTION (chosen ones) hath obtained, and the REST (of Israel) were blinded.

(Continued on Page 2)

SEASONS GREETINGS

From the staff and editor of VOICE OF BAPTISTS, we send best wishes for all of you to have a blessing-filled holiday season as we commemorate the virgin birth of our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Your unsolicited support in producing this small aid for furthering the glorious glad tidings that "Salvation is come, Salvation is come," shall only be rewarded by Him Whom our souls love mutually.

To the unsaved, "Prepare to meet thy God." Life is brief, death is coming and eternity is vast and unending. Why not settle the account between you and God today?

To each staff writer and all of you who have contributed so many articles of good instruction, please accept our heartiest "thank you." The success of this little work must only be measured by God in the strictest sense, but all of your complimentary remarks must here be forwarded to my brethren fellow-helpers. Seventeen of you brethren have offered your labors in explaining Bible truths for this publication during the past year. May God bless you!

As we endeavor to continue this work, we make only one request, and that is for your prayers. This paper belongs to God and ever shall. May we all together be pleasing stewards in His eye."

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:13, 14

**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year**

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

(USPS 423-350)

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.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Watch Service

A cordial invitation is extended for everyone to come to Independent Missionary Baptist Church in Huntingdon, Tennessee December 31st. We will begin at 8 p.m. Our service will include a sermon by Elder W. T. Russell, pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church, Camden, Tennessee, special singing featuring the Cockriel Family of Bowling Green, Kentucky and congregational singing with a prayer to follow closing out 1981 and ushering in 1982.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

WHAT ARE JEWS?

(Continued from first page)

Gal. 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Gal. 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Gal. 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Rev. 2:9 ...and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, AND ARE NOT, BUT ARE THE SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN.

Rev. 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN, WHICH SAY THEY ARE JEWS, AND ARE NOT, BUT DO LIE; Behold, I will make them to come and worship (bow down) before thy feet, and to know that I HAVE LOVED THEE.

Matt. 3:9 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.

REPORT
FROM BRO.
ROARK

Financial Report

July, August, September

Old Union Baptist Church.....	\$1511.26
Fairview Baptist Church (Woodburn, Ky.)	85.00
Faith Baptist Church (Mich.)	300.00
Fellowship Baptist Church (Ind.)	418.00
Caldonia Baptist Church (Tenn.)	202.50
Fairview Memorial Baptist Church (Ky.)	134.50
Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Ky.)	100.00
Southside Baptist Church (Ind.)	50.00
Bethel Baptist Association (Ind.)	555.00
Bro. Leo Draper	25.00
Bro. Bernard Skaggs	50.00
Bro. Calvin Perrigo	50.00
Bro. and Sis. Dean Hauskins	100.00
Bro. and Sis. Wm. H. Lyles	40.00
Bro. and Sis. Robert Jackson	50.00
Bethel Baptist Church (Or.)	50.00
Hauser Baptist Church (Or.)	301.06
Total	\$4022.34

My most humble thanks to everyone who has helped us in so many ways. May God's richest blessings be yours.

Your Brother In Christ

P.S. Sister Roark was hospitalized for several days after suffering a heart attack. A large hospital bill was incurred, but Bro. Roark reports that your assistance has enabled him to pay all medical bills.

ARE WE
LIKE GOD

Early one morning an American soldier was making his way back to the barracks in London...He spotted a little lad with his nose pressed to the window of the pastry shop....The hungry boy stared in silence...

The soldier's heart went out to the nameless orphan as he stood beside him.

"Son, would you like some of those?"

"Oh yeah, I would!"

The American stepped inside and bought a dozen, put them in a bag....walked to where the lad was standing....and said simply:

"Here you are."

As he turned to walk away, he felt a tug on his coat. He looked back and heard the child ask quietly,

"Mister,...are you God?"

We never are more like God than when we give.

"God so loved the world that He gave...."

Objections To The
Doctrine Of
Perseverance

By Kenneth W. Massey

1) One objection to this doctrine is based on the ground that it denies man his freedom. This objection is founded on the idea that freedom means that character never becomes so fixed that it is certain that one will never change fundamentally from right to wrong or wrong to right. According to this conception of freedom there could be no assurance against one being put out of heaven. Moreover, God would not be free for we are told that God cannot do evil, such as to lie, nor can he even be tempted to wrong. Only the redeemed of God know the true meaning to freedom.

2) Another objection is that this doctrine encourages one to a life of sin. It is often said, if one has the assurance of final salvation, then he is at liberty to live as he pleases. Don't forget, this doctrine of perseverance is predicated on the presupposition that one has been regenerated. If the deepest longing of one's heart is for a life of sin, then, of course, he will have a life of sin. That is inevitable. But the fact that HE LONGS FOR A LIFE OF SIN is evidence that HE HAS NOT BEEN REGENERATED.

3) Another objection is that the Bible teaches what is popularly called "falling from grace"; that is, that one may be saved and then fall away and be lost. There is not one single Biblical example or doctrinal teaching in the word of God to support this flimsy theory. Sometimes the opposing doctrine is stated as being that one must "hold out faithful" or he will be lost. I agree whole-heartedly; for if one ceased to have faith, he would be lost. But will a truly regenerated man cease to have faith? It is not a question as to whether persistence in faith is necessary or not; it is rather the question as to whether there is anything in God's relation to the christian and in the nature of the new life begotten in regeneration that guarantees the persistence of the believer in faith. To cite passages in the New Testament that teach the necessity of perseverance in faith to final salvation is altogether a different thing from showing that the New Testament teaches that one may be a christian and then fall away and be lost. With this in mind we maintain that the passages claimed to teach apostasy would come rather under one of the following heads:

a.) Passages that teach that persevering faith is necessary to final deliverance from sin. Under this head we would put

NEWS FROM COLORADO

"The Colorado Missionary Baptist Church celebrated their first anniversary, September 27, 1981. We enjoyed a very nice service and dinner. We would like very much to thank those who have helped us financially. Those being Fellowship Baptist Church of Indpls., Ind., Lafayette Baptist Church of Lafayette, Tenn. and Longview Baptist Church of Gallatin, Tenn. Also, the Houchens Foundation, Sister Leo Draper, Sister Dorothy E. Dillman, Bro. Pete Driver and Elder Henry Smith. A special thanks is sent to everyone who came out and helped us one year ago in our organization and the many who have prayed for us and continue to do so. The help of each one combined has made it all possible."

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,
Colorado Missionary Baptist Church

BULLETIN

The Elk Creek Missionary Baptist Church has called Elder Benny Maggart for pastor. Elder Maggart began full-time work with the church September 13.

Elk Creek Church is located on Denmark Road in Stewart County, seven miles north of Erin, Tennessee.

Elder Maggart and his wife, Linda, have moved to Erin. Anyone in this area would be most welcome. If you desire a visit please contact Elder Maggart. His address and phone: P. O. Box 271, Erin, TN 37061, Phone (615) 289-4887.

OBJECTIONS continued

such passages as Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:13; 1 Cor. 15:2; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21. Other passages of like import could be found. These show that it takes a faith of persevering, conquering power to save.

b.) There are other passages where the thought probably is that perseverance in faith is evidence of regeneration and Godly character. "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." John 8:31 Other scriptures include Hebrews 3:6, 14; 4:14; 2 John 9.

c.) This thought stated in another way means that those who have faith only in name and profession fall away and thereby manifest the superficial character of their faith. See Matthew 13:20, 21; Mark 4:16, 17; 2 Peter 2:20-22; 1 John 2:19.

d.) There are other passages where the writer is emphasizing the lack of development in christian character or the loss of reward. See 1 Cor. 3:14, 15; Hebrews 5:12 - 6:8; 2 Peter 1:8-11.

MINISTERIAL TUNEUP

1. **Rise early.** To make this easier, go to bed earlier the night before. An adult needs only six to eight hours' sleep. Indeed, statistics reveal that, all things being equal, more sleep than this may increase the chance of premature death from heart disease.

2. **Upon rising drink two glasses of water.** This flushes out the stomach, kidneys, and bladder, and prepares the gastrointestinal tract for breakfast. It also hydrates the system, this decreasing thirst at mealtime. Repeat well before dinner and supper.

3. **Personal devotions.** A person should feed the soul before feeding the body. Commune with your Maker when the mind is fresh and there are few distractions. Systematically pursue some Bible topic and a programmed reading of Scripture. Don't neglect meditation.

4. **Exercise.** For those in a predominantly sedentary occupation such as the ministry exercise is an absolute necessity. Most calisthenics are of limited value; exercising the big leg muscles is of more benefit in protecting the heart. Jogging, cycling, or swimming is excellent, but walking is good enough for most people. Walking requires no expensive clothing or equipment, and almost everyone, unless crippled, can walk. Walk at least three miles a day, six days a week. Walk fast and breathe deeply.

5. **Bathe.** A bath or shower, especially after perspiratory exercise, is important. Bathe daily to cleanse the pores. The steward of the body temple should keep it immaculate.

6. **Family worship.** The home, like the body, is a temple, and the father is its officiating priest. It is a cliché, but true nonetheless, that the family that prays together stays together - right into heaven.

7. **Breakfast.** This should be the main meal of the day. The stomach has rested during the night and is in the best condition to handle food. A substantial breakfast provides energy for the morning's activities without the need for coffee at ten o'clock or the cigarettes craved by some people whose breakfast has consisted of a hot drink and a sweet roll.

Children, too, do much better at school if they consistently eat a substantial breakfast, and older persons are less nervous through the day after an ample breakfast. Of course, a big meal in the evening will make it difficult to eat a good breakfast the following day. One nutritionist advises: "Eat breakfast like a

king, dinner like a prince, and supper like a pauper."

8. **The morning work.** Having observed and practiced the previous suggestions, a person will be popping with energy and able to do more than merely earn his salary.

9. **Dinner.** The noon meal should also be substantial. A brief after-dinner walk will aid digestion.

10. **The afternoon work.** Complete the day's work assignments and upon arriving home...

11. **Complete the day's exercise.** The exercise suggested in number four is best taken in two stages - before breakfast and before supper.

12. **Supper.** Eat a light supper, including such items as fruit, possibly a little whole-wheat bread, and a low-calorie warm drink. Do not drink much, if any, liquid after supper.

If practical, older and sedentary workers could well manage on two meals a day - breakfast and a second meal around two or three o'clock in the afternoon. Such a regimen is admittedly difficult in today's culture. Many, however, eat but two meals a day in actuality, since they merely snack for breakfast. They eat the wrong two meals, with a big dinner and a large supper at night. The big evening meal is more likely to contribute to obesity also to prevent refreshing sleep.

13. **The evening.** Make good use of the evening hours. This is the time for family togetherness. Home should be the most attractive place for children. Make it so!

Be sure evening worship with the family is short and interesting, and adjust it to the needs of all. Encourage the participation of each one. This is the time to review God's providences for the day and to thank Him for the day's blessings.

14. **Personal devotions.** Just before going to bed, personally pray and commit yourself to God for the night.

15. **Retire early.** Make it a habit to retire early enough to get your six to eight hours of sleep so that you can be refreshed and up early for the next day's routine.

System and regularity are health-promoting and make life much more enjoyable.

-Copied



MAKING A LIST

(Continued from Page 1)

understanding; our homes, families and friends are God given and one day heaven will be our home. Thank God and praise His holy name for all His spiritual blessings. "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." (Psalms 126:3)

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

"Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee:" (Acts 3:6)

1. All of God's children should **give** God the glory.
2. **Pastor to the church** - the pastor is under no obligation to **give** all the children candy, men a new tie and women a pin, but he owes them all the unadulterated, pure word of God, and his prayers.
3. **Church to the pastor** - Give audience to the great teachings of God's Word, and pray that His word may have free course in the hearts of hearers.
4. **Member to Member** - Give brotherly love wrapped with christian affection, always praying one for another.
5. **Sunday School teacher to student** - Give them Godly instruction in all things.
6. **ALL MEMBERS AND PASTOR TO WORLD** - Give them the glorious gospel of Christ and be soul-winning witnesses.
7. **WORLD TO CHURCH** - "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live."

Isaiah 55:3

In addition to the above list, may we **give** respect to the aged, benevolence to the needy, strength to the weak, sympathy to the bereaved, comfort to the suffering, compassion for all men, our time to the Lord, our means to His Cause, and our lives in defense of truth.

Finally, **give** a call or visit to some dear friend and spread love and joy in the true spirit of Christmas.

REAL GIVING EXPECTS NOTHING IN RETURN!



"COME, SEE A MAN"

By Kenneth W. Massey

Scripture Lesson: John 4:1-30

I think the sweetest words in that passage are found in the fifteen verse, "Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw." These are the words of the Samaritan woman to Christ.

But that's not my line of thought this morning. It makes for a wonderful text. Today I desire to connect with those things that I have preached during the week.

Let's notice the twenty ninth verse, it has a special ring about it. "Come, see a man that told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Now God calls preachers, and he sends them through the church. They have a definite work and responsibility. It's their duty to feed the sheep, feed the flock. They're to strengthen the church, and by the help of God they are to build them up in the most holy faith through the oracles of the word of God. It is their duty to preach to the unsaved that they might understand the way of salvation. But in addition to what the preacher is to do, there is a work for every born again convert. Now here is a babe in Christ in our lesson. Just saved and a new member of the family of God. What did she do? She entered immediately into Samaria and said, "Come, see a man." I thought about as I was studying for this lesson an event that took place a few years ago in Bowling Green, Kentucky during a revival meeting. A young married couple came to the service one night, and while the invitational song was being sung I could not help but notice the young lady as she raced down the aisle to the altar. She could hardly come fast enough. I watched her bow and rise all in one motion, and then turn and speed back to her husband throwing her arms around his neck. I learned later that she had run to a lost husband and had beckoned him to come to the Saviour she had just met. She had bowed, was saved, and instantly began her missionary life for God. He didn't come that night. After the service, I met both of them and invited them to come back the next afternoon for a two o'clock service.

The next day as I arrived for the service I saw someone standing under an old Hawthorne tree in front of the churchhouse. People had hitched their horses to this tree in the yesteryears. I suddenly recognized the person as the husband of the young woman saved in the

previous service. He came up as I got out of the car and said, "Preacher I want to talk to you a minute. He said, I was too proud to go to the altar last night, I just couldn't bring myself to going in front of all those people." I said I understand that and remember when I felt the same way. So he said, I came down here early this morning just after sunrise and tried the door, hoping it would be unlocked. Thinking that I would go to the altar and fix things between me and God. I tried the knob on the door and sure enough it opened. Then, bowing in the altar, I prayed and prayed, but found no relief. Finally, I got up and went out starting for home. This man was a tenant on a farm that was owned by one of the members in the church. It was nearby, and he had walked. As he went along the road and before approaching his humble house, he resolved within his heart, "I will not enter the door of home again carrying this heavy burden of sin." So he threw himself into the ditch crying for God's mercy. It was there he met the man Christ Jesus. While he stood in the churchyard telling that story, the people began gathering in and God's power was manifested in the saints' rejoicing as they entered the house of God for service. This man joined the church relating his experience of salvation and took up his cross to follow the Lord. His wife had a great influence on him. The very moment she was saved she entered diligently into the work of the children of God. Jesus Christ, the greatest preacher who ever lived in this world, told the message to the woman at the well and she said, Sir, give me this water. He did, and she ran back into Samaria and told the people, "Come, see a man that told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" Why he knew more about her than she knew about herself. Lost friend, he knows more about you than you know about yourself. He knows exactly where you're hiding and where you stand. He knows how to help you and is willing and ready to help you. It's just my duty this day to point you to Jesus Christ because I know this man that knows the man who has forgiven all sins, and that's God, the Father. You that have been saved have the same sweet consolation in your heart.

(This is part of a sermon preached during revival at Independent Baptist Church July 15, 1980.)