

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 APOSTLE PAUL'S MISSION

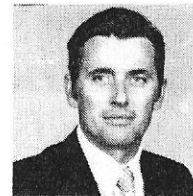
By J. H. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom I now send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith that is in me"
Acts 26:17, 18

Paul came on the scene at a very critical time, that is as far as the Lord's work was concerned. In fact, he was the ringleader of the bitter persecution against the Lord's church that brought about the critical situation that existed at the time he was converted on the Damascus road, the very time he is telling King Agrippa about in our text. God transformed this man, Paul, or Saul, his Hebrew name, and made a new man out of him, and called him to do a great work in which he would have to suffer and get a taste of what he had inflicted upon others; and he was suffering and had been suffering severely at the time he was standing before King Agrippa. But I don't believe, however, that he was suffering primarily because he had made others to suffer, but he was suffering for the Lord's name sake. As we note: "For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." Acts 9:16

God knows His business, He knows exactly what to do, when to do it, and He knows who to call to fill in any gap that may have been made, or any set back that somebody else may have caused; and Paul had certainly caused much trouble and suffering for the young church up to the time that he was saved, for the Bible says, "As for Saul, he made havoc of the church," Acts 8:3. If there ever was a demonstration of what God's marvelous grace can do to a man it was certainly shown in the life of this man, Paul. For by this grace he was turned around to follow a new course, and he became the greatest missionary of all times, except for Jesus Christ. Here is the work the Lord gave

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Foundational Doctrine

By Jerry A. Reynolds
Davisville, W. Va.

A modern trend in our country is churches which are Baptist in name and appearance that are largely unregenerate in their membership. There have always been sects of "Christians" who have intended to retain known unregenerated people among their members. It should not be so with Baptists, because their foundation principles demand that people be born again before they are Baptized. A few people have always been able to slip into Baptist churches without truly being saved, but only in this century have they become a majority in many churches of Baptist name. Only in this century has the vast majority of the churches called Baptist been composed of a majority of unsaved souls.

Most of those who have departed from the faith have liberalized their theology to some degree, but there are those who proudly boast of being fundamental Baptists and even some who boast of being landmark missionary Baptists who most certainly have departed from the true faith of God. Their error is so basic that they cannot perceive it. This tragedy of our times is made much greater by the fact that many saved people remain asleep among their dead fellows, so lifeless themselves that they cannot perceive that the one on either side is dead in trespasses and in sins.

Saved people are people who are said to be both alive and seeing. Lost people are both dead and blind. Through the Spirit of God there are means to determine with a fair degree of accuracy who is alive and who is dead, and who is blind and who can see. Of a certainty it is

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Oregon Ordination

Hauser Missionary Baptist Church of North Bend, Oregon has selected Bro. Larry Ross to be examined for the office of deacon. An all-day service is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 1982 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Vernon Roark and all the members extend a definite welcome to everyone, especially ordained brethren.

"For they that have used the office of deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

I Timothy 3:13

New Year's Resolution

"...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13, 14

My Pain And Agony?

By Arvella Stapleton
Toledo, Ohio

While sitting in my room today, considering the trying days just passed, I think of my dear Savior and the terrible agony He suffered. The insults and dishonor He bore, yet He did not complain! He opened not His mouth! How he must look upon us, His children, with such pity as we go along **THINKING** we are suffering for the cause of the Lord. Do we know the meaning of suffering for Christ? Have we really felt pain known shame or been in anguish?

Sometimes when I pray I ask God, sincerely from my heart, "Please Lord, let me do Thy will, give me work for Thee to do or a burden for the lost. Help me Lord to be close to Thee and use me as you will." Then...when I receive the work or burden that I ask for, I feel helpless and begin to call upon the Lord to please help me bear that burden, carry the load or take it away, because I cannot do that much for Him alone.

Now...do we really mean these prayers? "Yes! you say, from my heart I love God and will do anything He asks." Well, so do I, **while in the spirit and close to Him**, while I can feel His presence so near, even within me.

Not long ago, I found myself in the depths of despair. It seemed I was alone, no one cared for me, no one loved me, considered me or my feelings. Nothing I did was of any importance to anyone. It seemed that each new day brought more pain than the day before. Then came the final blow. I could bear it no longer. I ran to my room, my heart was broken, great sobs rent my body, I was all alone! No one understood what I was going through! No one felt the hurt of words, spoken or unspoken, that had brought on this last deep hurt! What had I done to deserve all this? How could I live in this world knowing how everyone felt about me? That my help was not needed nor appreciated, my presence not sought after, and most of all, I was not loved! How could I carry on for God when no one cared?

As the sobbing grew deeper and my sorrow all consuming, my strength seemed to be totally used up in my pain and agony.

Then...I felt His great love envelope me and felt His presence all around me. It seemed I could feel His hand on my shoulder, as the still small voice spoke to me, "My child, fear not! I am with thee! Remember, when I was in the world, they hated me. If they hated Me, they will

hate you also." Then I cried out, "OH LORD, PLEASE HELP ME NOW!"

The crying continued but I felt so relieved, loved, peaceful, and blessed. After a while the crying stopped and I began remembering the words I had read in the Bible.

"Fear not...be not dismayed...when all men revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven...Lo, I am with thee, even to the end of the world!"

In my thoughts I began to wonder...What was His life on earth like to Him? He had no friends to walk and talk with, no home to live in and share a family life with loved ones, not even a place to lay His head. Oh what a picture! So alone! He was hated, despised, spat upon, and cast aside! He was the man of sorrow, acquainted with grief, filled with tears as He sought out the lost ones of this world, even those who hated Him. He offered His life on the cross that we may live with Him after this life in heaven. Such wondrous love, so freely given and so often rejected.

What pain and agony He suffered that we may have the right to become children of God. Do we really know how it is to suffer for the cause of Christ? Do we take up the cross and follow Him? Do we trust Him completely? Are we truly His and Christ like in all we do?

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD—I PRAY WE WILL BE.

FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE

(Continued from Page 1)

only the saved who are capable of doing this and even these can sometimes be deceived in the matter. Through proper teaching and testimony the saved people, who hold membership in such dead churches, can be caused to realize that they are "unequally yoked together with an unbeliever." People who are so bound in such organizations are having their potential influence and power wasted or, what is worse, used in the promotion of Satan's cause. Still many remain where they are even after they realize that half or more of their church is dead. They could not possibly worship God as they ought, for if that portion of their congregation should at one time be filled with a great overflowing of the Holy Spirit the remainder would have to find a way to quench it, leave the assembly, or be broken by the power of God. Normally they will quickly find a way to quench it. Still many of God's children remain in Babylon in spite of the evidence that they do not belong there. Even after they see the terrible death they are in the midst of

many cling to the impossible hope that God will honor the service they try to render from such a position. Others will hope to convert the unsaved majority and thereby accomplish the impossible task of making a virgin out of a harlot. They should climb out of the quicksand by means of a helping hand when offered, and from a solid footing then try in turn to rescue their friends.

No church which is composed of a large percentage of lost men is built by Jesus Christ. The very "rock" on which He said "I will build my church" is missing. Many would say "that rock is Peter". However, not many who profess to be Baptists would make that claim. Most of them would rather say "that rock is Christ". Although it is in good Bible harmony to say that Jesus is a "rock", more than that must have been meant in Jesus' teaching in Matthew 16:13-20. There must be an explanation for the manner in which "upon this rock I will build my church" is joined with that which was said before it. Ignoring it will not make it go away and it is to our advantage to determine the meaning of every passage of Holy Scripture in its context. In this teaching Jesus was speaking to his church his one and only church at that time. He first asked, "whom do men say that I am?" They answered that there were many differing opinions among men. Then he asked, "whom say ye that I am?" Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God". Jesus then replied that Peter knew that fact by revelation from God the Father, and that He likewise knew Peter, and that was the rock upon which he would build (future tense) his church. Even so, since that time Jesus has built his church in many localities by beginning in the same manner. Each member and Jesus Christ must have a mutual knowledge of one another which comes not by the teaching of flesh and blood men alone but by revelation from God. If a church be so begun and continues in the teachings of her Lord "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." If it is not so begun it lacks the "rock" and cannot be the Lord's church regardless of how many other of his teachings it may purpose to maintain. The quickest way for people who have the church to lose the church is to lose the foundation. The gates of hell will never prevail against the church, but those organizations which are mixtures of children of God and children of the Devil cannot be the church of the beloved Christ. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his." (II Timothy 2:19)

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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Will You Help?

November 19, 1981

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We at Victory Missionary Baptist Church are in the process of building a new church.

The Lord has put this move into the hearts of the members.

We feel we will be better able to serve the Lord in this new building as we have outgrown our present building.

We ask for your prayers and your financial assistance. Should you feel led to send a donation please send it in care of:

David Schliecher, Treasurer

105 Hillview

Hendersonville, TN 37075

May the Lord richly bless you for your help in spreading the gospel.

Done by order of the church October 4, 1981

Your Brother and Sisters in Christ:

Victory Missionary Baptist Church

Douglas Collins

Church Clerk

"Freely Ye Have Received

FREELY
GIVE"

Matt. 10:8

"Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over..."

Luke 6:38

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

Acts 20:35

**MATCH YOUR LOVE
WITH YOUR GIFTS**



HONOR HIS WORD

By Kenneth W. Massey

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me....." Rev. 14:13a

The text was recorded by John the beloved Apostle while exiled on Patmos toward the close of the first century. John had first heard that excellent Voice as he accompanied Jesus into Mt. Herman several years earlier.

Voices from the gloryworld have brought the greatest comfort ever received by mortal ears.

As we begin a new year, I'd like to call your attention to a brief focus of the impact heavenly voices had on the ministry of Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

John the Baptist, while baptizing in Bethabara beyond Jordan, beheld Jesus coming unto him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." John said, "I knew him not." That is he had never seen him (Jesus) in the flesh. How did he recognize Him? A revelation of the Spirit is the only answer. Then, a confirmation followed. As John baptized Jesus, the Spirit in the form of a dove lit upon Him, and for the first time, God spoke to Jesus and all present, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. The Spirit's appearance was a direct answer to God's promise to this Baptist preacher, "Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost."

So, the ministry of Christ was fully launched by baptism at the hands of God's man with the Spirit's anointing and the Father's firm approval.

REST AND REFILL

Amidst the toilsome but happy journey of Jesus's life on earth and continuing steadily toward Golgotha, He became tired in the way and longed for that communion with the Father that He once enjoyed. So, He invited Peter, James and John to come away from everyone and travel with Him into the mountain. While there, and as He prayed to the Father, the fashion of His countenance was altered, and his raiment white glistering. Two men, Moses and Elijah, talked with him. They, too, appeared with him in glorified bodies. There is a great message in this Transfiguration Scene but I must pass over it for now.

Peter exclaimed how good it was to be there and suggested that they build three tabernacles - one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. About that time a cloud overshadowed them and a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son: hear him." God was rebuking Peter for making another equal with His Only Begotten Son. But I believe more than that God was speaking to Jesus in reply to His prayer. Divine communion filled the Saviour with new determination.

Thus far we have considered two of the three occasions that God's speaking to Jesus is recorded in scripture. I think all preachers have experienced similar timely reassurances.

Early in my ministry I wanted to quit and almost did, but God spoke to me with that sweet silent voice of His Spirit. Perhaps, some preachers undergo some let down in the middle years of their ministry, but they, too, find their mountain for rest and refill in that Voice of refreshings.

AS EVENTIME CAME

Now winding rapidly toward the close of His three-years-plus, earthly ministry, Jesus rides a little colt into Jerusalem to the cries of the people, "Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord." That was probably the greatest exhibition of praise ever offered our Lord while on earth. Shortly afterward, Jesus said, "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified." He sometimes referred to Himself as "The Son of man" and at other times as "The Son of God." He was both God and man, and the two were so thoroughly interwoven as to become one man. Notice this conflict of Jesus the God with Jesus the man: "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour." Finally, Jesus the God won and with the boldness of a conqueror declared, "Father, glorify thy name." Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." What was going on in this conversation? Jesus was telling the Father to disregard His feelings in favor of finding glory. God was replying to Jesus saying, my name has been glorified in all of your work on earth, and now it shall be glorified in a greater way as you die and then rise from the grave to live forever.

APOSTLE PAUL

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him to do, "Delivering thee from the people, (meaning the Jews) and from the Gentiles, unto whom I now send thee."

TO OPEN THEIR EYES

The blindness referred to is not confined to Gentiles only, but also to the Jews, for men can be extremely blinded by a religion, and I am sure that Paul knew this very well, because he had been so blinded by a false religion that he had committed violent crimes against God's people. See I Timothy 1:13

Men live in sin and die in sin, because their eyes are blinded to spiritual values, neither can they see themselves as they really are before a holy and righteous God. Sinners don't realize the sinfulness of sin till they are convicted, they live on in sin because they love it, not knowing that there is such a better life as is revealed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And of course Satan makes it his business to keep his victim in such a state. "But if our Gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost; In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." II Corinthians 4:3-4. Satan is the God of this world, and he is a powerful force, keeping a blindfold over the minds and hearts of sinners, lest they hear and have this glorious light of the Gospel to shine into their hearts. How pathetic! And still a sadder situation in our times when sinners steer away from the Gospel, they just don't want to be exposed to this powerful message of the cross; the world with its many attractions, and the devil using these, are deluding, and deceiving the young people of our day to live lives away from church, away from God; and worst of all, if they persist in this way, away from God, away from Christ, they shall with a blind still over their eyes stumble off into a burning hell, where all of their pleasures will forever be over.

TO TURN THEM FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

The way that Paul turned people from darkness to light was by the preaching of the Christ, and of course that is the only way we can turn people from darkness to light. For those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death there is a bright and shining Light to turn to, for in Him is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. (I John 1:5.)

Everything that sin and Satan has to offer is all darkness. Sin's way is darkness from one end to the other. Sinners walk in darkness because they do not have the light of life, a life of sin just

continues to cast shadows in their path. But there is a marvelous light that can penetrate this darkness, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." II Corinthians 4:6. One of the grandest thoughts I have ever thought about is for a blind man, who has never seen light, who has never seen the sun, the moon and the stars, and all the beautiful things of God's creation, but suddenly his sight is restored, and he sees the light. What a grand experience! And this has happened to some people in the past. But our subject is not physical blindness but spiritual blindness, and this is far worse and more dreadful than a man being physically blind.

The turning from darkness to light is attributed to the Power of God, we don't get out by our own efforts. In fact, those who try to get out by self effort get in deeper. The Psalmist spoke of this kind of condition as a horrible pit, and he said, "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit" Psalm 40:2. God by His marvelous power had brought him out of this horrible condition; and the Psalmist goes on to say in that wonderful verse, "And set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." What David is saying is, that God brought me out and fixed me so that I couldn't slide back in. God delivers us from something to something, something much better, that is. Paul says in Colossians: "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." Col. 1:13.

FROM THE POWER OF SATAN UNTO GOD

Satan is a power, he is a reality, and in his crafty way he goes about in the earth, man's habitation, to deceive and destroy the souls and lives of all that he can. Satan, the old devil, is the master of all those who do not belong to God, we cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). This devil is a liar and the father of it, (Matthew 8:44) He takes men in a snare, a trap, and there is no way for them to get loose, except God reaches them with His Truth. By the Truth is God's way of drawing sinners away from sin and Satan, that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil. This was what Paul's mission was about, and he instructed Timothy as to how to conduct his ministry so that sinners might get out of Satan's trap. Here is what he said, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose

themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." II Timothy 2:24-26.

THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Sin is a problem that cannot be ignored, God will never overlook it, sin has to be dealt with. The Bible tells us much more about sin and its consequences than it does about heaven. So there must be an urgency on man's part to take a serious look at himself and realize his need for forgiveness of his sins. He need not look and then try to cover up, for that will not prosper. The Bible says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Proverbs 28:13. God demands a confession, and a forsaking of sin before He will forgive, before He will grant mercy and pardon.

AN INHERITANCE AMONG THE SANCTIFIED

By Paul's preaching of the Gospel, the good news, men's eyes were opened, many were turned from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God, and all such persons received forgiveness of sins, and obtained an inheritance among the sanctified by believing in the Christ whom the Gospel revealed. In his preaching he exalted Jesus, the Saviour; to the Corinthians he wrote: "For I am determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." I Corinthians 2:2

It is such a soul stirring thought to me that when a lost sinner, one who deserves only to be cast into hell, hears God's Message, how that Christ died for our sins and rose for our justification, and he believes this Message to be the Truth, repents of sin and puts his faith, his confidence, his trust in the Son of God, at that point, right at that time he becomes an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:17)

Here are some words of an old song that I use to hear quite often: "My Father is rich in houses and lands, He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hand! Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold, His coffers are full, He has riches untold. I'm a child of the King, A child of the King; With Jesus my Saviour I'm a child of the King." "My Father's own Son, the Saviour of men, Once wandered on earth of the poorest of them; But now He is pleading our pardon on high, that we may be His when He comes by and by. I'm a child of the King, A child of the King, With Jesus my Saviour I'm a child of the King."