

Voice of Baptists

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"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."
Isaiah 40:3

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SOWING AND REAPING

by J. H. Smith
Nashville, TN

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:7,8.

Reaping what we sow is an established law that no reasonable thinking person would dare to deny. Even if the Bible were to be blotted out of existence, we could know by the experiences of life that what we sow we must surely reap. Adam learned before he left Eden that he had to reap what he had sown. The king on the throne, as David, had to reap what he had sown; or the priest, like Eli, had to reap what he had sown; whether king, priest, prophet, preacher, or the lowest peasant, all must face up to the fact that we reap a harvest from the kind of seed sown. There is no text in the Bible that better proves the veracity of Scripture than the one, "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Some people might try to deny this, but their own works and the consequences prove them liars. D. L. Moody said that he preached on the text one time, and a man stood right up in the audience and said, "I don't believe it." But the preacher said, "My friend, that doesn't change the fact, Truth is Truth whether you believe it or not, and a lie is a lie whether you believe it or not." He said that when the service closed an officer was at the door to arrest that man for stealing, and he was sent to the penitentiary twelve months for the crime. So the man must have been convinced there in his cell that what a man sows he shall reap.

GOD IS NOT UNFAIR

Unlike men, God is not unfair in His

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WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

by Vernon Roark
Alvaton, Ky.

This question was directed to the most religious sect in that day. God called on those who were supposed to be His people then as now, to use the ability to reason, which distinguishes man from animal, to form his own opinion of who Christ is. He claimed to be both son of man, and Son of God. If He is not both, then He is the greatest imposter this world has ever known. It has rightly been said, actions speak louder than words, and our lives, and the manner in which we live them, tell more of what we think of Christ, than all the words in the English language.

Whose son is He? They said, the son of David. He ask, if David called Him Lord, how can He be his son? A fair question, no matter how complex, deserves an answer. In his humanity, received from His mother Mary, He was the son of man, and both Matthew and Luke trace his family lineage thru David. Also the fact that Joseph and Mary journeyed to Bethlehem, the city of David, to be counted, or registered by the Romans

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ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH

by Kenneth W. Massey

Baptists have an ancient and Scriptural origin. "The law and the prophets were until John; since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." (Lk. 16:16) This marked the beginning of people called BAPTISTS. What is a Baptist Church? A group or assembly of baptized believers joined together in the doctrine and fellowship of the gospel. There are three points to that definition that are indispensable - believers, believers baptized and joined together baptized believers. What are they joined together in agreement of? The gospel of Jesus Christ!

In these most permissive times when everything is believed and nothing is being proven, let us take Paul's advice and "Prove all things."

While some are teaching that salvation and entrance into the church kingdom are the same, others hold to the idea that the ultimate kingdom on earth is yet to be constituted. Some even teach that it makes no difference what church you attend. As long as you are sincere, there's no need to be concerned with denominational differences. Does it matter whether you go to heaven or hell? Do all denominations teach the same Plan of Salvation? No, they vary from teaching "there is nothing you can do to be saved if you were not personally elected for heaven" to "salvation by the righteousness of your own self" with God's true plan existing in the midst - SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD. That simply means that God provides the

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WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

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is proof of the matter, and proves His right to the throne of David.

David called Him Lord; In spirit, David recognized Him as both son of man and son of God. Wherefore I give you to understand that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed, and no man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Spirit. 1st Cor. 1:2, 3. It is impossible for our finite minds to comprehend how, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, John 1:14a. Jesus ask his apostles, "Who do men say that I, the son of man am"? (Matt. 16:13-17). They said, John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. But whom say you that I am? Peter said "Thou art the Christ, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD". Jesus informed them that this knowledge was not from natural sources, but by revelation from the Father. vs. 17. Eye hath not seen, nor ear

heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath REVEALED them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit heareth all things yea, THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD. 1st Cor. 2:9-10. So then the knowledge that Jesus Christ was, is, and shall ever be the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD is a work of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. Rom. 8:16. Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, (annointed), is born of God, (1 John 5:1). He that believeth on the SON OF GOD, hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God, hath made Him a liar, because he believeth not the record that God gave of His son. (1 John 5:10).

Jesus warned us in Matt. 24:5. Many shall come in my name saying I am Christ, and shall deceive many. There are professed christians today who deny the virgin birth, the record God gave of His Son. Their are many who deny the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation, and therefore make God a liar. There are those who call on sinners, whose minds have been blinded by the God of this world, to make a decision for Christ, or to accept Christ, and deceive countless thousands, yea millions. While man must make a decision based on revealed truth (the bible, testimony of others), and accept Christ as the promised saviour, this alone is not salvation, but vessels thru which the Holy Spirit brings conviction. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (privilege) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. Which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the WORD of God which liveth and abideth forever. (1 Peter 1:23) The knowledge of Jesus Christ, the son of the living God, is a work of the Holy Spirit, in the heart of man, thru His appointed means, viz. repentance and faith. I know in whom I have believed.

What do we think of Christ? There are many ways, in reality, that we deny Christ. In Matt. 6:25-34 Jesus taught us to not to worry about food and clothing, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you. Matt. 10:38. He that taketh not his cross and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. A cross is the symbol of suffering. Are we willing to suffer for his name sake? In the 15th chapter John verse 16, Jesus said, "ye have not chosen me, but I have

chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go, and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the father in my name He may give it you. Could our lack of concern for the lost of this world be hindering our prayers? In Jude 3 we find that we are to earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered (intrusted) unto the Saints. Does "contend" mean to always be defensive, or does it also mean to be offensive? The whole armor of God consists of offensive weapons as well as defensive.

Jesus said to the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2) I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. His warning was to repent, and do the first work. Remember, actions speak louder than words. What think ye of Christ, who's son is He? May the Father of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, thru his word by the Holy Spirit, help us that our actions will be synonymous to our profession.

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grace sufficient to save when man exercises faith in the Saviour. Therefore, it is not of ourselves alone or by our own righteousness, but it is God's gift only receivable when trust of the heart reaches Christ.

A great God has provided a great plan to redeem a lost race, and He has chosen a people (Church Kingdom composed of many local churches all agreeing in doctrine and practice) to be caretakers of His Plan and carry its divine message to every creature in every nation.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The word "kingdom" is used in different ways and we should determine the context and proper meaning prior to application.

1. Universal sovereignty of God

"For Jehovah Most High is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth." Psalms 47:2

"Jehovah hath established his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all." Psalms 103:19

There is only One True God, and He is sovereign over all the universe.

2. Theocratic Kingdom of Israel

God selected Abraham for service and entered into a covenant with him, promising that he and his descendants should possess the land of Canaan and should be a blessing to all nations (Gen. 12). This same people was formed into a nation and as a nation became God's covenant people. This arrangement resulted from the redemptive act of God in leading them out of Egypt under the

leadership of Moses. The nation then became a Kingdom under the leadership of a King, but this was done over the protest of Samuel. Samuel reminded the people that the true King of Israel was Jehovah and they should be careful not to allow the human King to stand in the way of their loyalty and service to Jehovah. (1 Sam. 8)

3. The Spiritual Kingdom Founded by Jesus

Jehovah promised David that his descendant should ascend his throne and reign for ever (2 Sam. 7:12,13). This promise was fulfilled in Christ. So the Kingdom of Israel found its fulfillment in the Spiritual Kingdom (Church) founded by Jesus Christ. Thus, we conclude that the Old Testament theocracy finds its whole significance in relation to this Spiritual Kingdom and was for it providential preparation. When Jesus came to earth, He came as a Saviour-King. His coming fulfilled that promise made to David as mentioned above. Notice, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him (Jesus) the throne of his father David: And he (Jesus) shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:32,33

The Everlasting, Spiritual Kingdom was instituted by Jesus during His ministry on earth. This was the Kingdom prophesied by Daniel - "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Daniel 2:44

Jesus and John the Baptist both came preaching that the kingdom was at hand. This kingdom was not a political kingdom. It is not a social kingdom. IT IS A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM. It was not kingdoms, but kingdom.

In Revelation 11:15, the King James Translation renders, "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." The later usage of the word "kingdoms" was supplied by the translators for it did not appear in the Greek New Testament. Every reference in the Bible points out this kingdom in the singular number. The organic kingdom of Christ is one. Jesus Christ is the only Law-Giver and Ruler in his own Kingdom.

The Jews expected that the Messiah would drop down out of the skies, overpower his enemies, break the power of the Roman yoke and establish a great kingdom to rule over the earth. Some yet

reject the King and His Kingdom for that very reason.

Kingdom without a King Idea - Some are believing that since the King is absent, the kingdom is not yet; and the kingdom will not be until the king comes. I agree, there can be no kingdom without a King. To have a Kingdom we must have people, laws, and a King. Jesus Christ came and established His Kingdom of people who had been saved and then baptized by John. He gave to it His laws. Pilate asked him, "Art thou a king?" Jesus replied, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." He lives and reigns in our hearts by faith. The KING is present in the person of His Holy Spirit!

Some believe that the Kingdom Age has been postponed until the second advent, but listen to Paul speaking in the present tense centuries ago: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:9-11

Jesus announced the kingdom of God as being at hand as He entered His public ministry. As He died on the cross, the inscription hung over His head, "THE KING OF THE JEWS." Since the Bible declares that "he is not a Jew that is one outwardly, but is one inwardly (spiritually), the title is true. He is our King! Christ in you the hope of glory.

"UNTO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH BY CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL AGES, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN." Eph. 3:21

ORDINATION

Fairview Memorial Missionary Baptist Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky will convene on Saturday, May 14, 1983 at 10:00 A.M. (CDT) for consideration of the ordination to the office of deacon the following brethren: Michael Collins, John Demunbrun, Paul Elmore, and Dallas Wheat.

Fairview Memorial extends a cordial invitation to the churches in Siloam, Wiseman, Bethel, and Southwestern District Associations and other Missionary Baptist Churches of like faith and order to send their ordained brethren to assist in this work.

FORCING WRATH

by Marvin D. Payne
Ventura, CA

"Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife." Proverbs 30:33

Solomon observed that certain actions lead to predictable results in this verse from the book of Proverbs. If one desires butter, he must churn or agitate the milk. If he doesn't desire butter he will not churn the milk, as he is aware that in doing so, he will most surely end up with butter. The churning of the milk causes it to change in both texture and taste. He must exert energy to produce the end result - butter. This exertion of energy will necessarily involve thought and premeditation. He is aware of the end result. The wringing of the nose will produce a nosebleed. Few, if any, enjoy nosebleeds and will therefore avoid wringing of the nose, knowing full well that it will bring discomfort and annoyance. Again, this is not an accidental action, but one involving thought and premeditation. We would consider a man a fool who would wring his nose to bring forth blood, as there is discomfort both in the means and the end. There would be no profit in such an action. The forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife. Both wrath and strife are undesirable and unprofitable in any endeavor in which we are engaged with others. The wrath is forced, not spontaneous. It again requires some thought and premeditation. It is inconsistent to think that forced wrath will produce peace, harmony and unity. We know from experience what the end result will be, as we did with the first two examples. Nonetheless, some will exert much energy to force wrath and yet cannot understand why strife would ensue. They look for even the least hint of wrath, force it and expect to produce a comfortable result. When this occurs over and over a clear pattern emerges which ought not to be disregarded. Wrath so forced can make even the most patient and long suffering individual impatient and irrational. Wrath can often lead to quick decisions not based upon reason and acts and words inconsistent with the general character of a man. This, however, is a predictable result whenever wrath is forced. Those who make a habit of forcing wrath will often use the predicted results to justify themselves before other men. "Just look at what he

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dealings with us. He will not take sides with wrongdoing, neither will He withhold good from those who do good. He has given a fair warning about what will happen when men follow the course of sin. God might allow a person to go for some time, maybe for years, but harvest time will come, it cannot be avoided. "And be sure your sin will find you out," Numbers 32:23. God hasn't created any situation to make us suffer, we create that ourselves; sin is to blame for it all. When God had finished His work of creation, "And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31. But when by one man that God made good, sin entered the world, trouble, sorrow, and death entered also. So don't blame God for our plight.

It seems to be a natural tendency for men to blame somebody for their miseries, and if they can't find anybody else to blame they will lay charges to God. Men curse God for things they bring upon themselves. A man gets drunk, drives down the highway on the wrong side of the road, rams into somebody and gets all broken up, then lays in a hospital bed and curses God for what happened. But in fact, he is just drinking his own medicine, he is just reaping what he has sown. God has been fair enough to tell us what will happen as a result of sinning against Him. He wants us to obey and reap a good harvest, and rejoice over His goodness. He has put the proposition right before us. He said to ancient Israel, "I set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." Notice what a merciful God says in another place, "As I live saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel." Ezekiel 33:11.

THE HARVEST WILL BE LIKE THE SEED SOWN

The farmer who sows wheat will reap wheat, he will not reap watermelons. A man who sows to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, he will not reap something good from such a life. Today people are calling good evil, and evil good, sin isn't sin anymore with lots of people; but the fruits of our deeds will surely tell what is evil and what is good, for God has fixed it that way; we cannot deceive God, we only deceive ourselves, against which our text gives a warning, "Be not deceived."

Men never learn, but it does seem

that when we look back into history of what has happened to some men who thought that they could sin and get by with it, we could learn that we cannot do the same and get by with it. But time rushes on, and history repeats itself. There are great men today who are saying we are going the way of ancient Rome, that this nation that has been so prosperous will eventually destroy itself with the great resources which God has provided for us. I can't say for sure that such predictions are correct, but I am safe in saying that our country will reap what it is sowing; in fact, that is already in the process. We have sown wind, and we are reaping the whirlwind (Hosea 8:7). The whirlwind, the tornado, can become very violent, as we very well know. Stormy conditions are surely prevailing in our land today, both literally and figuratively; such is effecting individual lives, homes, churches, society in general, and the world all over. Yes, sow the wind, and we reap the whirlwind. It would be well to observe what we are sowing, for we shall reap just what we have sown.

SOME BIBLE EXAMPLES

I have headed this part, SOME BIBLE EXAMPLES. I put it this way because it would take too long for me to write about all of them, and it would make quite a volume to do so. In fact, if a person wouldn't take heed to the warning to a few examples, he wouldn't take heed to a whole book of them. I believe that the Jews are still suffering as a result of their rebellion. We find in the Bible in so many places how that they had to pay for their sins, and as I said, they are still paying; but we are not exempted, we are not exceptions. The apostle Paul warns the Corinthian Church, thus: "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer." Now, he says, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." I Corinthians 10:9,10. Why are these written? For ensamples, or examples, so that we would profit by this and not repeat the same things. They sinned against God in the wilderness, and they paid for their sins. The United States of America is paying for its sins; homes are paying for its sins, many of them are torn apart, and children are victims of circumstances; society is paying for its sins, criminals are roaming the city streets, robbing, raping, vandalizing, murdering, and the good Lord only knows what else. Bible reading and prayer has been taken out of homes, out of public schools, and very little of its contents are being preached in churches,

especially anything that reproves of sin.

King David must have thought that he could get by with committing adultery, but his sin caught up with him. God sent Nathan, the prophet, to him and told him of his sin, "Thou art the man," II Samuel 12:7. Notice now the terrible harvest David had to reap: "Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them to thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." II Samuel 12:10-12. Men and women think nothing of living with other men and women out of wedlock; in simple terms, they think nothing of committing adultery, but this is a gross sin against God and the human body, and those who commit such will pay with bitter pain.

Ananias and Sapphira thought they could lie to God and get by with it, but they had to pay with their own lives. They sold a possession, and evidently they promised the proceeds to the Lord, but they kept back part of it, thinking nobody would find it out. But God knew about it, and He had Peter to deliver the sad news, "Thou hast not lied to men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words, fell down, and gave up the ghost." Acts 5:4,5.

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did! Do you know what he said? I can't understand why he dislikes me etc., etc., etc." are common comments in this vein. We too often ask only "What happened?" and willfully disregard the question of "Why did it happen?" Many hear **what** happened, listening to every detail, but don't wish to "be involved" when someone tries to explain **WHY**. Whenever we do listen to only one facet, we are involved in some way. If one does not desire to be "involved" in any way he ought not to entertain the speaker of the first part from the beginning. Strife will cease to exist or at least lessen if wrath is not forced in the beginning. Do not profess a hatred of strife on the one hand, while willfully promoting it with the other. Strife is never profitable, except to our foe, the Devil, who clearly understands the old saying, "Divide and Conquer." May we not only memorize such proverbs as the above by Solomon, but observe the truth of them by our actions.