

# 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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## FALSE CONCEPT OF GOD — DESTRUCTIVE

by J. A. Reynolds  
Davisville, WV

In the course of personal evangelism there is a type of person that we often encounter. He says, "I'm not ready to be saved yet; when I get ready I'll be saved." What he usually means is that he intends at some future time to make some commitment such as he has formed in his mind, supposing it to be that which is necessary to secure his salvation. Changes are he is much in error regarding the conditions of God's salvation, and as he will not go to hear God's word preached in the meantime, when he finally decides that he needs salvation (provided he lives that long) he will likely be deceived. As he will not give himself time to allow for any discovery of error along life's pathway, he is nearly as certain a captive of hell as if he had already gone there.

Another type of person often encountered is one who has surrendered nothing, repented of nothing, and suffered no change by God's power and yet because he believes that he has "accepted Christ as his Savior" he is confident that he is safe for eternity.

As preposterous as these people's ideas of salvation seem to us who really understand the way of salvation, the present world is full of such misinformed souls. What doctrine is it that is bringing people to such horrifying notions regarding eternal safety?

A century ago Baptists, and almost all other "evangelical Christians" in addition, preached about a wrathful God

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## EVANGELISM

by Kenneth W. Massey

### THE WINNER'S SOUL AND LIFE

Scripture Text - "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." Psalm 51:12,13

### THE ASSURANCE OF A SAVED SOUL

The primary and basic prerequisite for soul-winning is that the soul-winner have in his deepest soul an experiential knowledge of Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour. Those who doubt their own salvation do not make good witnesses for the Lord. Great confidence in God (John 4:29) and conviction of the truth (Phil. 1:15-18) should characterize the testimony of the soul-winner. The blind cannot lead the blind without direful results. The world has millions of deceived and thousands of deceivers. Could the Lord use one more true disciple willing to lead sinners to that precious Lamb? Will you pay the price? This world full of sinners is looking for help from someone who is saying: "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Tim. 1:12)

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## SALVATION OF SINNERS

by F. W. Lambert  
Westmoreland, TN.

God's love to man led him to devise the way of salvation. Our redemption is solely of his grace; it is executed by Jesus Christ, who is the Messiah, the everlasting God. Whose satisfaction for our sins is perfect; who is, the great Mediator between God and man, and our glorious Intercessor in heaven, in whom redemption is complete. The condition of man by nature, and under the law of God, is now, I trust, distinctly and vividly before your minds. Depravity of heart, of which all are partakers, is while it remains, a total disqualification for heaven. And sin against the law, which we have all committed, renders salvation by obedience to the law impossible. Thus we are cut off from life and hope. Where shall we look for deliverance? To what resource may we flee? There is, thanks to our Heavenly Father, a remedy. It is provided by the infinite grace of God, and presented to us in the Gospel of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. "In whom we have redemption, through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" Eph. 1:7. "The riches of his grace" - this is the principle upon which our salvation proceeds. It is grace - the free, unmerited favor of God.

Our blessed Lord and Saviour, was to make in due time, on behalf of men and in human nature, full satisfaction to all the claims of divine justice. Thus the sword of God's wrath was stayed. "By his death we are reconciled to God" Rom. 5:19. He has given his word to enlighten us, his Holy Spirit to sanctify us, and all the means of grace necessary to guide us safely to heaven. This is enough! The foundation upon which we

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### EVANGELISM

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#### THE SEPARATENESS OF A CONSECRATED LIFE

All those who aspire to win souls must be set apart by divine consecration. The person who lives for this world will not be as successful in bringing in the sheaves as the child of God who is living today with a prospective view of that world without end. "Consecrate yourselves to day to the Lord." (Exodus 32:29)

Separation from the world's mind, method and way is another prerequisite to victory in spiritual harvesting. "Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2) "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Cor. 6:17). "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). "In the world, but not of the world" is Christ's standard for us.

#### THE OBEDIENCE OF A YIELDED LIFE

"And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him" (Acts 5:32). "And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find" (John 21:6). There is no salvation in obedience, but there is much joy and power. To be a winner worthwhile, we must adopt Christ's map of the world and be willing to go anywhere with him. May we say with Peter, "At thy word will I let down

the net" (Luke 5:5). Our lives in the hands of God should be "as the clay is in the potter's hands" (Jer 18:6), to be molded as pleases him.

#### THE COMPASSION OF AN ASPIRING LIFE

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6). Christ had enough compassion for a lost world to leave heaven's throne and take up Calvary's cross for our redemption. Surely, as we live and move and have our being in Him (Christ), we ought also to have great compassion toward our fellow-men. Jesus prepared Peter for Pentecost when asking: "Lovest thou me more than these?" and Pentecost was in promise when Peter answered, "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee" (John 21:15-16). We should know something of Paul's longing and burden of heart when he said: "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh" (Rom. 9:2-3).

To love sinners enough to give them our own salvation (if that were possible), demonstrates every aspect of our lesson: consecration, obedience and compassion.

#### SALVATION OF SINNERS

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stand is glorious, deep, broad, eternal. A deliverer, who should redeem the world from sin, was the first and the great promise of God to man. Gen. 3:15. This promise of mercy was made immediately after the fall, and while our first parents, though covered with shame of their sin, yet lingered in the garden of Eden for a while. A saviour was to come in the fulness of time, but four thousand years were destined to measure their weary circles, before he should appear upon earth. The grace and wisdom of the divine arrangement were however, such, that delay inflicted no injury on any human interest. God was pleased to make from the very beginning of time, pardon for sin, as if it had already been offered. His great sacrifice had not yet been made, but its merits were not on that account the less available. Abel, Noah and Moses were as really and truly saved by the virtue of his sufferings received by faith, as were Paul, Peter, and John. The promise of God, which constituted the life and power of the old dispensation, as its fulfillment now does of the new, was repeated in various divine communications to the patriarchs. Abraham was assured that the coming Saviour should spring from his family.

Gen. 22:18.

It was successively renewed and reaffirmed to Isaac, to Jacob, and to David. Fathers, prophets, and saints - all were instructed in the "Oracles of God" - finding herein ample grounds to sustain their faith, and fully confirm their knowledge of salvation. "I know said Job." Has Jesus the Christ come? Can his person be distinctly and certainly identified? YES, the intervening space slowly wore away. The HOUR came. Sacred records assure us, that wise men from the East, guided by an extraordinary "star" at this juncture, visited Jerusalem to learn where the child Jesus should be born. And having received the answer, they at once proceeded, and successfully, in search of the new-born King. Simon that holy man and Anna, and many others of the pious Jews, were waiting in constant expectation to see the Christ. This was the consolation of Israel to which they looked.

In Bethlehem, Jesus was born. There he was worshipped by angels and saints. He grew up as a carpenter, and cousin of John the Baptist. John was sent. He was "the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" Mark 1:3. When Christ stood in the place of the sinner there were two things he was obligated to establish. If he was himself a sinner, he could not take the place of a sinner, but must answer for himself. Therefore, to qualify himself to stand in the sinner's place, it must be that he was born holy. That he himself started without the taint of depravity; that the power of the Holy Ghost overshadowed his mother, and therefore, the holy one born of her should be called the Son of God. Then he must be able to show that he kept the Ten Commandments without any failure. And this perfectly spotless life must be exhibited in the light of infinite purity and holiness. If it could be discovered one speck of nonconformity, one failure to keep the whole law and in all of its parts, justice was there and decided, "you are not in condition to pay a ransom for anybody else. It is as much as you can do to attend to your own case." Having thus shown his own conformity to the law and justified his claim that he was a suitable surety for the condemned man, then he must show that when he died for the man, he died the man's death. It is certainly true that Jesus Christ did not come to die to show me how to die. He did not come to die with me, but he came to die to show me how not to die. Isaiah says, "All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" Isaiah 53.



Paul says, that - "for a good man some would even dare to die, but God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5. He gave his life a ransom for all.

"He who knew no sin was made sin for us, that we in him, might be made the righteousness of God" 2 Cor. 5:21. Our iniquities were laid upon him. He gave his life a ransom - to buy us back from captivity to sin and death. David appears to be actually looking upon the awful scenes which marked the sorrows of Jesus, when, a thousand years before their occurrence, he in describing the sufferings of Christ expresses himself thus - "My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me." "All they that see me laugh me to scorn. They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying - He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him, let him deliver him if he delight in him." "They pierced my hands and my feet." "I may tell all my bones." "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." Psalms 22. "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." Psalms 41:9. Let us see how that prayer was answered. I read another passage in Zech. 13:7 referring again to the pierced hands and feet. And it gives the answer to that prayer. "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered." Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. Matt. 27. The sixth was twelve o'clock, and the ninth hour was three o'clock. Now, from twelve o'clock to three o'clock there was darkness over all the land. Three hours. Not an eclipse of the sun. That darkness did not result from any sympathy. It was devil darkness. The pit of hell opened and there issued forth from it the dark sulphurous blackness of hell. And it enwrapped the Son of God for three hours. It was the hour of the power of darkness, and in those three hours occurred the greatest tragedy that the earth ever knew.

What were the elements of the horrors of that darkness? In the first place, whoever enters into that darkness is first forsaken of God, and from out of the darkness we hear the cry - "My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me?" I venture to say that from the sin of Adam to the close of the judgment scene no man ever entered that darkness until God forsook him. Why should God forsake Jesus? That question insists upon an answer. What had he done to separate

himself from the father? The loneliness that comes from being God-forsaken is the most terrible loneliness in human experience. When God forsook Jesus, it meant spiritual death. Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body; spiritual death is the separation of the soul from God. The second element of that darkness was penal, in that the one who enters it is smitten by the sword of divine justice. "Save me from the sword," said Christ in prophecy, and the Father answered, "Awake, O sword, and smite him." Why should the sword of divine justice smite Jesus? It smites only sinners. Jesus was born holy. Jesus kept every precept in spirit and letter of the divine law. In him was no guile. How could the sword of divine justice smite him? God made him to be sin who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. If the sword of divine justice smites him there, and cannot smite him through sin of his own, it must be that he has assumed the place of sinners. It must be because, as the prophet said, "God hath laid on him the iniquities of us all." Yes, I mean all liars, thieves, adulterers, of all generations; sins of white and black. Was there ever on earth, in the whole volume of time, such a scene? If we could have only seen it, when God laid on him the iniquity of the world, when the sin of the world was put on him. O sinners of every nation and tribe and tongue and kindred, of every degree of guilt, come bring your sins with you, and lay your sins on the sin-bearer. Oh, the towering mass of iniquity, black as hell, bearing down the Son of God. The sword of justice hits: "Oh, save me from the sword," and the father cried, "Awake, O sword, and smite the shepherd." That is the second element of the horror of that darkness. The third element is, that it was not only penal, but it was sacrificial. When the sinner brings a lamb and it is bound to the altar, and he confesses on the lamb his sin, and stands back, and the sins so confessed upon the head of that lamb are accounted to the lamb, and the innocence of the lamb accounted to the sinner, then the robed priest without any pity, sinks the sacrificial knife through the heart of the lamb and catches the hot blood, smoking, and carries it into the holy of holies, and sprinkles it upon the mercy seat to make atonement. "When thou hast made his soul an offering for sin, who through the eternal spirit offered up himself, sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not." "A body hast thou prepared me." Heb. 10.

And that body when seen, made John cry, "Behold the lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world." In that

## REVIVALS

AUGUST 14 - CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH of Camden, Tenn. will have revival. Pastor W. T. Russell will be assisted by Eld. Kenneth Massey. Services twice daily at 10:30 AM and 7:30 PM through Saturday night. EVERYONE IS INVITED!

AUGUST 14 - NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH of Henry, Tenn. Pastor Ronnie Stewart will be assisted by Eld. Landon Long. Services at 10:30 and 7:30 each day. YOU are welcome!

AUGUST 21 - BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, 879 Orchard St., Toledo, Ohio. Pastor Darrell Hicks is to be assisted by Eld. L. W. Smith. Services nightly. Everyone is invited to attend.

## ORDINATION

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Henry, Tennessee has voted to meet Saturday evening, August 6, 1983, 7:00 PM for the purpose of considering the ordination of Bro. Edward Malone to the office of deacon.

All ordained brethren from sister churches are invited!

## NOTICE

Any church or person knowing of the availability of new or used "SONGS OF INSPIRATION," first edition, please notify editor. Our church, Independent Baptist, is in need of 100 copies.

dark day, payment was made for sin once for all time and all sinners. Another necessary element of that darkness was this: whoever takes the place of a sinner, whoever suffers the penal sanction of the law as a sinner, must also suffer the pains of hell, if he dies the sinner's death. In that darkness, and on the cross, Jesus cried, "I thirst." But the thirst that comes with "milk-sick" is not to be mentioned in the same breath with the awful thirst of hell. Into that accursed state, the stream of life, the fountain of living waters, never flows. The inhabitants of that land never draw the buckets of salvation from the well of God's mercy. It is a hungering and thirsting that is forever indescribable.

Jesus himself endured the pains of hell. The last element of the horror of that darkness is more dreadful still. It is the awful fact, that whoever is forsaken of God, whoever is smitten by the sword of justice, whoever experiences the anguish of the pains of hell, must pass under the

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# FALSE CONCEPT OF GOD - DESTRUCTIVE (Continued from Page 1)

of unyielding demands. Men were told that they were under obligation to please God, serve and worship Him, and whatever His Omnipotent Majesty demanded of them for his pleasure was thought to be right and good. Men could only appeal to him for mercy and undeserved pardon from due punishment, and if he heard and answered their earnest plea, find salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ. Such preaching and the Spiritual power that accompanied it wrought the Protestant reformation bringing about an end to the dark ages and wrought universal revival in the western world. Truly some "went to seed" on the subject of God's sovereignty and in time fell into the heresy of fatalism while giving a bad impression of an unmerciful and tyrannical God to the minds of many hearers, but at least God was not presented to be the fool that many regard him to be in this day. When God was presented to be a sovereign and arbitrary elector the majesty and holiness of the Father were preserved. Men trembled at the word of God and God looked to such men as fit subjects to become his dwelling place on earth (Isaiah 66:1,2). The fear of God which was and yet is "the beginning of wisdom" was much impressed upon the minds and hearts of the hearers. Although it is apparent that many evils sprang from exaggeration of this particular attribute of God, they were not so damaging to the eternal welfare of the human race as are the evils of the false concept of God that is prevalent now.

The idea of "easy" salvation has gained popularity since the late nineteenth century to the point that such is thought by the general public to be normal evangelical Christian doctrine. In this concept of God He is stripped of his majesty and holiness and presented as a magnanimous, soft and gentle old man. The concept that most of the people have today of God comes much closer to the Santa Claus myth than to the Jehovah of the Bible. How could men fear such a god? He wouldn't lift a finger to harm the filthiest and most abominable worm of a man who ever lived and died. This concept of God has slowly evolved in the public eye over more than a century as men-pleasing preachers tried so hard to show that "God is love" that they resorted to hiding his wrath and justice from the people. It is true that "His mercy endureth forever," but only toward the penitent and believing. It is just as true that after much longsuffering His wrath endures forever toward the impenitent and unbelieving.

Now we have reaped some of the fruits of such corrupt preaching. We live in a society where many of the people and leaders have no concept of justice. Criminals brazenly demand mercy as one of their rights, and many are ready to give them what they demand in the name of mercy. Mercy demanded and so received is not mercy. It is perverted justice. God will soon punish such an unjust nation as this.

Meanwhile, many men are outraged when they hear the true gospel, that men must "strive to enter in at the strait gate" or else go the broad way to destruction. They are defiant when they hear that they must come to God trembling with fear, broken in heart and bruised in spirit, and pleading for mercy. What kind of God would demand such things? Only the jealous God and Father of our merciful Lord, Jesus Christ! Little do men realize that they are the victims of a gradually but cleverly perverted gospel which has reduced God to a servant and pleaser of men. Modern evangelism has God ever ready and waiting in line at all times to receive anyone who decides to try him as one of their many attempts at peace and happiness in life. This theme is repeated again and again in modern sermons, testimonies, and religious songs. While it is true that a longsuffering God was withholding his wrath from us all the while we dwelt in the ignorance of sin, it is repulsive to me to think of a man-serving Christ that waits among sins and vanities until one happens by chance to try Him as a solution. Christ condescended to die on the cross for all sinners, but he condescended no further! He condescended beneath the feet of sinners and bore our sins upon himself in order that he might destroy them, but he did not condescend to the level of sin! From the cross he was exalted to the side of the Father where he will one day sit in unmerciful judgment against all those who have not truly worshipped him. He has not moved since. It is the sinner who must move, drawn by the Holy Spirit out of and away from sin, being made to despise it in the process, down the suffering pathway to the cross where from that lowly place he may view the nail-scarred but risen and glorified Christ while believing in Him. His heart must make this journey with the Holy Spirit WHEN the Spirit draws him or he can never make it at all. We will not embrace the doctrine that God's purpose is only to love and to serve man. Rather, we believe that man's purpose is only to love and to serve God. The ministry of Christ was indeed a service to man, but in all of it never did he cater to man's will. He always used himself to bring men into

conformance with God's will, saving them in the process, and ACCEPTING THEM as His own.

It is no surprise to me that in our day homosexuals have their own churches, ungodly but shameless people publicly boast that they are "born again" while continuing their vile lives, and criminals are using to their advantage ignorant men of influence who have no concept of justice. If Jesus is patiently waiting in line to save men at man's decision and all one must do is "accept" Him, PRAY TELL ME WHY NOT?

Many modern evangelists are against the excesses as the preceding paragraph describes as vehemently as I am, but if one such should ask what caused such a state of affairs, I bid him look in the mirror. Such things are the natural result of his erroneous doctrine. Of far more concern to me than the so-called "homosexual churches," "born again" sex symbols, etc., are the multitudes of decent but deceived people such as were described in the first two paragraphs of this article. These are programmed against the true gospel; they will be eternally lost; and the following generations will become as Sodom.

## SALVATION OF SINNERS

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power of the devil. And there is no escape for Jesus, if he takes the sinner's place. He must meet the devil. He must for the time-being be under the power of the devil. "This is your hour and the hour of the power of darkness." Now is the crisis of this world. "Now shall the prince of this world be cast out." John 12. "Because the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Heb. 2:14,15. Now there are seven sayings of Jesus on the cross. Words were used and we know what the words are - every one of them. The scripture says that at the end of the three hours of darkness, "When Jesus had cried out with a loud voice," then he said, "It is finished." When he cried out with a loud voice, he came upon the serpent, and according to Genesis 3:15, he put his heel upon the head of the serpent, and the serpent bruised his heel, while he crushed the serpent's head.

**HE IS OUR  
SAVIOUR JESUS  
PAID IT ALL!**