

First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church
421 South 40th Street
Springfield, Oregon 97478

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
EUGENE OR
PERMIT NO. 679

“For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?” 1Corinthians 14:8

The Original BAPTIST OBSERVER



“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...” Jeremiah 6:16

Sounding Out The Faith July 2012 Issue



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

What is the difference in the way Abraham was saved and the way I was saved?

Romans 4
Text: Galatians 3:21

Introduction: God gave a law. Why? To Whom? Was He merely pranking? Where was it given? When?

I. What the Law Was Not For and Did Not Do.

A. Could not take away sins. Hebrews 10:1; 7:18

B. Could not give life. Galatians 3:21

C. Could not justify Romans 3:20

D. Could not give the inheritance as promised to the heirs of Abraham.

Galatians 3:29
Galatians 3:18; Romans 4:14 Then salvation or its consequent blessings cannot come by law.

E. It is not of faith. Romans 3:12. Foolish to try to mix them. Galatians 3:1-4.

II. Wherefore Serveth the Law?

Galatians 3:19

A. Define “Transgression”. It means that man came short.

Romans 3:23 Not necessarily breaking of law, but might have been. (Law before Mosaic, Exodus 18:16,20.) “But I thought breaking the law was what made them sinners?”

B. No law, no transgressions. Romans 4:15.

C. Law made the offense abound. Romans 5:20.

D. The law became a “yardstick,” a standard of righteousness. Romans 10:1-3.

III. Man Falls Far Short.

A. The law a curse. Galatians 3:13

B. The law was against the people and contrary to them. Colossians 2:14

C. Could not be subject to it. Romans 8:7.

D. The curse removed. Galatians 3:13

IV. Man is Justified Through Redemption in Christ, the Seed.

A. Christ is the standard.

B. Perfection demanded, but how? Romans 3:23-28.

TEXT: I Timothy 3:15; Matthew 16:18

INTRO: The church is a local, visible body of baptized believers, covenanted together under the headship of Christ, to execute and be governed by His laws.

Proof: It is a local congregation: (Plurality of churches) Romans 16:16; Revelation 1:4; I Corinthians 4: 17; I Thessalonians 2:4; (Location of churches) Romans 16:5; I Corinthians 1:2.

The word “church” is a rendition of the Greek word ECCLESIA and means “A called out assembly” by Christ’s authority.

(I) THE CHURCH IS OF DIVINE ORIGIN.

1. Christ is said to be the head. Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23; Colossians 1:18

2. The material for the first church was prepared by John the Baptist. Luke 1:17; Matthew 3:3.

3. The church existed during the day Jesus was upon the earth.

A. Matthew 18:16 - “Tell it to the church.”

B. Matthew 26:30-32 - “Flock” scattered before Pentecost. I Peter 5:2 - “Flock” is church.

C. Mark 13:34 - “House” before Pentecost. I Timothy 3:15 - “House” is the church.

D. I Corinthians 12:28 - “Apostles” set in church. Luke 6:13

4. Prepared material for Jesus to build. Acts 1:21-22; John 1:35-51

(II) THE DIVINE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH.

1. The church should meet regularly. Acts 20:17; Hebrews 10:25

2. The church should have an orderly way to conduct her business. I Corinthians 14:40; Colossians 2:5; I Timothy 3:15

3. The church should be a witnessing church. Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 3:10

4. The church should seek to glorify Christ. Ephesians 3:21; Romans 16:27

(III) SOME THINGS THE CHURCH IS:

1. Body of Christ. I Corinthians 12:3; Ephesians 3:6

2. Habitation of God. Ephesians 2:19-22

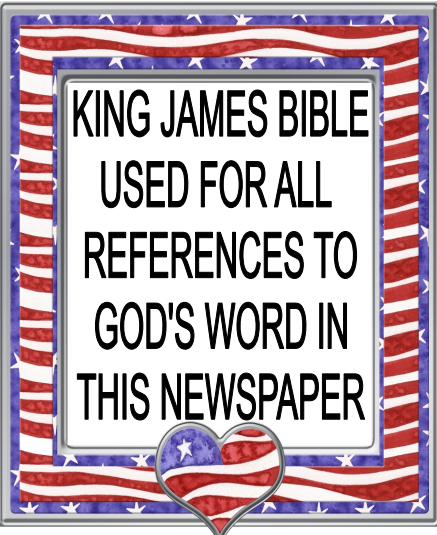
3. Bride of Christ. Ephesians 5:25-32; John 3:29

4. House of God. I Timothy 3:15

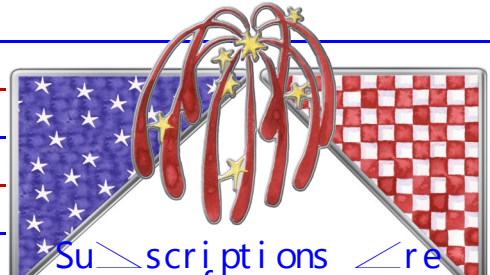
5. Temple of God. I Corinthians 3:17

6. Sanctuary. Hebrews 8:2

7. Chaste virgin. II Corinthians 11:2




INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
DIVINE ORIGIN & PURPOSE	1
YOUR ADVERSARY	2
THE WORD	3
COUNTERFEITERS & COUNTERFEIT-ED	4
COUNTERFEITERS & COUNTERFEIT-ED	5
JUDGMENT SEATS	5
WHERE TO TURN	6
BAPTIST CHURCH AUTHORITY	6
LETTER FROM HELL	7
WORLD DICTATOR	7
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE	8



Subscriptions are free.

However, there is significant cost for printing and distribution. We appreciate this ministry and consider part of our offering to help publish the truth of God's word.



YOUR ADVERSARY

Text: I Peter 5:8 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Introduction: All men should know this adversary that walks, that seeks whom he may devour and know how to deal with him. As we study this monstrous creature, let us think of three things about him: his origin, his works, and his doom.

I. Origin of This Lion **1.** He appears to have been the head of one of the three orders of God's created angels. (Ezekiel 28) - A. Angelic minister in the realm of the spirit. (Jude 9) "Michael," means "One like God," he was chief. (Daniel 10:3; Revelation 12:7) - B. Angelic minister in the realm of intelligence. (Daniel 8:16; Luke 1:26-27) - Revealer of secrets. C. Angelic minister in the material realm. (Ezekiel 28:13-14) "Lucifer," "the shining one" is the head or chief. **2.** He became the roaring Lion, "Satan". (Isaiah 14:12) He was exalting himself to be equal with God, above other angels. (Ezekiel 28:11-19) **3.** When this creature became a roaring Lion, he became a destroyer. (Luke 10:18) This fall brought on the destruction of the perfect, original creation.

II. The work of This Roaring Lion. (Galatians 5:19-21) **1.** Author of all sin in both the saved and the unsaved. (Genesis 3) **2.** The names of this roaring lion shows the nature of his work. A. As a "Liar," the father of all lies. (John 8:44) B. As an "accuser," a false witness. (Revelation 12:10) Accuses day and night. (Job 1:6-9) God's people have an Advocate. (I John 2:1-3; Hebrews 7:25) C. As the "god of this world," he blinds the spiritual truth. (II Co-

rinthians 4:4) D. As the "Prince and power of the air," he seeks to control the air waves, television, and space. (Ephesians 2:2) E. As the "Tempter," he is always tempting. (I Thessalonians 3:5; Genesis 3:1-5) F. As a "Deceiver," he makes all things appear beautiful now, never showing the results. (Revelation 12:9) G. As the "Wicked One" everything he promotes one to do is wicked. (I John 2:13) H. As the "Adversary of the True Minister," he is described as the king of beasts, because of his nature to devour and destroy the sheep. (I Peter 5:1-9) **3.** God's Word tells us how to deal with this roaring Lion. A. Make no deals with him. Many have no opposition from this Lion, because they have agreed to his terms. B. Depend upon Jesus to destroy his works. (I John 3:8) C. Resist this Lion on all fronts. (James 4:7) D. Leave no room for this Lion in your life. (Ephesians 4:27) E. If in a moment you are overcome, turn to prayer immediately. (II Timothy 2:26, II Corinthians 12:8-9) F. Uniform yourself with the armor of God. (Ephesians 6:10-17)

III. The Doom of this Lion **1.** This Lion hates two books of the Bible more than others. A. Genesis - It tells the beginning of his work among men. B. Revelation - because it tells of his doom. **2.** This Lion's humiliation is told in Ezekiel 28:16, and witnessed by Jesus. (Luke 10:18) **3.** At the end of the great tribulation, he and his angels are to be dealt with. (Revelation 12:9-10) **4.** This Lion is to be cast into the pit for one thousand years. (Revelation 20:1-3) **5.** After the one thousand years, he will be loosed from the pit for a season. (Revelation 20:7-9) **6.** This Lion's final doom. (Revelation 20:10; Isaiah 14:15)

LETTER FROM HELL

I ALWAYS HAD THE CHANCE I KNOW BUT MANY TIMES I PASSED IT BY, TO CHOOSE THE PLACE THAT I WOULD GO, WHEN LIFE WAS DONE, AND I WOULD DIE.

I NEED NOT DO IT NOW I THOUGHT FOR I'M HAVING SO MUCH FUN. EACH TIME CONVICTION STIRRED, I FOUGHT OLE' SATAN AND I, WE ALWAYS WON.

MY HEART WAS HARDENED, I COULD NOT SEE THAT I WAS LOST IN SIN, OR THE SAVIOR THERE PLEADING WITH ME, ASKING TO COME IN.

THE YEARS SPED BY, AND SOON WERE GONE, BUT STILL I CHOSE TO WAIT. SOMEDAY, SOMEDAY, BEFORE MY LIFE IS DONE, I'LL CHOOSE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

BUT THEN ONE NIGHT DEATH CAME TO MY DOOR, AND LOOKED AT ME WITH A NOD OF HIS HEAD. "NO!" I CRIED. "IT CAN'T BE ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, FOR I HAVEN'T MADE MY CHOICE." I SAID.

"YOU FOOL!" HE SAID, "YOUR LIFE IS DONE, I'VE NO MORE TIME TO WAIT, YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE, BUT IT WAS WRONG, FOR YOU IT'S MUCH TOO LATE."

AND THEN HE QUICKLY TOOK ME TO WHERE I AM TODAY. I'LL SUFFER HERE ETERNALLY. FOR MY CHOICE, THIS IS THE PRICE I PAY.

DEAR FRIEND, THERE'S TIME LEFT FOR YOU, ACCEPT THE SAVIOR, HE'S PLEADING TO COME IN. DO IT NOW, YOUR LIFE MAY SOON BE THROUGH, AND HE WILL CLEANSE YOU OF YOUR SIN.

MAKE THE CHOICE, DON'T HESITATE, DON'T WAIT TO FIND YOU WERE WRONG. DO IT NOW, PLEASE DON'T WAIT, FOR ETERNITY IS OH SO LONG.

SISTER JUDY MICKEL

WORLD DICTATOR

THE COMING WORLD DICTATOR

Dictator is one invested with absolute powers of government.

Introduction: All of us understand what is meant by a dictator. The time is coming when one man will rule the world. There is much planning to bring about a world federation. Christ is God's remedy for individuals and for nations and will one day rule the world. The master imitator, the devil, will rule first through his "christ," the antichrist.

I. When Will This World Dictator Start His Rule?

A. When the Holy Spirit in His present office work is taken out of the world, the antichrist will start his rule. II Thessalonians 2:7-8

B. When the church (the light of the world, the salt of the earth) is caught up to meet the Lord in the air, then the antichrist will start his rule. Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6:2

II. What Kind of a Personality Will This World Dictator Be?

A. He will be a man. II Thessalonians 2:3; John 5:43

B. He will possess super-intelligence. Daniel 8:23

1. He will be able to solve difficult problems.

2. He will possess the wisdom of man plus the wisdom of Satan. Ezekiel 28:1-10

C. He will be a great orator. Daniel 7:20; Revelation 13:2

1. World leaders must be good speakers.

2. There is power in the human voice.

D. He will be a super politician. Daniel 11:21

1. His spirit is seen today.

2. The way is being prepared for him (regimentation).

3. People still believe campaign promises.

E. He will be a wizard in economics. Daniel 8:25

1. This is a needed characteristic.

2. People want prosperity.

3. Nations are following in the steps of the prodigal son.

a. Nations in economic distress will follow leaders promising prosperity.

b. Hitler was a product of German demand.

4. Antichrist will control the world's commerce. Revelation 13:17

F. The antichrist will be a military genius. Revelation 13:4.

1. He will be able to control the military machine of the world.

2. Doubtless, he will head an international army or police force.

G. He will be a religious man.

1. He will claim to be God and demand worship. II Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:15

2. He will work miracles. II Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 13:13-14 (like Elijah on Mt. Carmel)

III. Who Will Follow This World Dictator?

A. "All the world wondered after the beast." Revelation 13:3,7

B. The antichrist will receive what Jesus refused. Matthew 4:8-9

IV. How Long Will This Dictator Rule?

A. His reign will be short (7 years). Revelation 13:5

B. He will be destroyed by the brightness of Christ's coming. II Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:20

It may seem strange to some to ask the question about such a commonly used expression, but really! Have you ever wondered just what is "Church Authority", in Baptist polity today?

I heard one pastor tell another pastor one time, while discussing "Church Authority", "Your liberty ends where my nose begins." Another has said, "The church doesn't have a mind, the pastor is the mind of the church." Still another has said, "Baptists don't need the Bible, it's the will of the majority expressed in a vote at any given meeting." Such whimsical notions remind one of a bouncing ball. It depends on what court the ball falls, as to who has "Church Authority" in the conclave of some today. For example: If it's right for an ambitious man in a given state to start a Bible school, own a monthly paper, set up a library, employ and dismiss faculty members, grant awards and grant degrees, etc. Of course, all this is done by "Church Authority"?-?-? Why is it wrong for another sister church and pastor, in the same state, equal in authority to do essentially the same thing? Could it be, that a position of a super power is being sought, instead of being satisfied with the Lord's autonomous

body at home? Is it possible in our day, for New Testament churches, in any given state to meet as equals in associated work, without someone trying to usurp their own authority by importing muscle power from without to aid their own ego?

Yes verily: True Baptist churches and pastors have always, since the days of Christ and His apostles, found their own Christ centered level of fellowship and associated work and let the rest go by the way of the wind. History is replete with our Baptist forefathers who knew how to burn but never to turn from the "Authority" that Jesus lodged within His churches and is there resident. The "Authority" of our Lord's churches has been abused, excused, and refused by the machinery of men as is evident in some Baptist circles today. But the "Authority" to teach, preach, baptize and send forth missionaries and to do all things commanded of our blessed Lord is still the business of our Lord's autonomous bodies. There are many today who will never seek immunity from this law by being crystallized in a council, association, or conventionism. They know this patent truth is to be sacred and not to be relinquished. There seems to be three main branches of government, or

polity, that stands out in religious circles today: Congregational, Presbyteries and Episcopal. Congregational means with all the members of a congregation exercising their equal rights by voting. Presbyteries is a government by presbyters or elders. Episcopal is to be ruled by the bishops. True Baptists are congregational which the Bible sustains.

1. The Church at Rome received members. Romans 4:1.
2. The Church at Corinth excluded members. I Corinthians 5:13, II Corinthians 2:6, II Thessalonians 3:6 The Corinthian Church was governed by majority vote in the case of the incestuous man. "Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many." The word "many" means "majority". This church held to a congregational polity.
3. The whole church voted in the electing of an apostle. Acts 1:26
4. The whole church acted when ordaining the first deacons. Acts 6:2-6
5. It was the whole church, no more or less, that acted in sending forth missionaries. Acts 13:1-2, 14:26-27; Philippians 4:15 Let us meditate more, brethren, upon how we use the words "Church Authority".

WHERE TO TURN
WHEN YOU ...

HAVE HEALTH PROBLEMS:

MATTHEW 9:20-22
II CORINTHIANS 12:7-10
I CORINTHIANS 15:51-58
II KINGS 5: 1-14

HAVE FINANCIAL CONCERNS:

MATTHEW 6:30-33
PROVERBS 19:1
I KINGS 17:8-16
ECCLESIASTES 5:10-15

ARE SEEKING GOD'S WILL:

LUKE 11:9-11
JOHN 15:1-10
JAMES 4:7-10
II CHRONICLES 7:14

LOSE A LOVED ONE:

JOHN 14:1-3
JOHN 16:33
PHILIPPIANS 4:6-9
PSALMS 23

DANGERS IN GOOD
ECONOMIC TIMES:

MARK 10:17-24
LUKE 12:15-21
PROVERBS 11:28
ECCLESIASTES 5:19

Though the Bible is still the best seller among books, even God's people have varied opinions as to how we have received the Scriptures.

If there are words in the Bible which are there by man's authority we can put no confidence in them, neither can we distinguish between God's words and man's, except they be specified by the writer, as in I Corinthians 7:6. God gave Paul permission to write those exact words, giving them equal authority with the rest of the Bible because they weren't in the Old Testament.

There are basically four theories as to how we received God's Word:

1. THE IDEATION THEORY
God gave to men the idea and left them to write as best they could. (Naturally, they would make some mistakes).
2. THE ASPIRATION THEORY
It teaches that God inspired the writers in the same manner in which Poe, Longfellow, Shakespeare, and others were inspired. They saw things in their daily activities that caused them to concentrate, speculate, and aspire to write of high morals and truth.
3. THE SUPERINTENDENCE THEORY
Some theologians teach this as the Scriptural position, but the Scripture proofs fall under the heading of the Dictation Theory, in that the Superintendence Theory is referred to as Verbal Inspiration.
4. THE DICTATION THEORY
The Scriptural position, holding that God revealed by the Holy Spirit the exact words the writers were to write. This is Verbal Inspiration.

- I. WHAT THE BIBLE IS.
A. It is a Divine library of 66 books, divided into Old and New Testaments, 27 books in the New and 39 in the Old.
B. It was written by about 40 different writers on three continents, in three languages over a period of about 1400 years with an interval of about 400 years between the last of the Old Testament books and the coming of John the Baptist. The first five books were written about 1300 B.C. Revelation was written about 96 A.D.
C. Languages: Ancient Hebrew, Syriac-Chaldee (Aramic in minor portions), and

Koine Greek. (language of the common people)

II. WHAT ARE THE RULES OF INTERPRETATION FOR RIGHT DIVISION OF GOD'S WORD?

A. WHO was speaking? About WHAT was he speaking? WHEN was he speaking? WHY was he speaking? To WHOM was he speaking?

III. HOW DID MAN RECEIVE THE OLD TESTAMENT?

A. The prophets spake the words given them by the Holy Spirit. II Peter 1:20-21

1. These words were not the prophets words, but God's words. Many times, the prophet did not understand the given prophecy. I Peter 1:10-11

B. There was only one word that could exactly express God's will. God gave His prophets these exact words with the admonition not to add to or diminish from them. Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5-6

1. If these words were not exact words they could not convict the world of wrong doing. II Kings 22:9-13; Psalms 19:7-11

C. By what authority did the prophets think they were speaking and to whom did they attribute their words? Exodus 24:3; Joshua 3:9

1. Samuel was convinced he spoke God's words. I Samuel 15:1-2, 22-23

a. Saul got into much trouble because he attributed God's commands to be in Samuel's words instead of God's. I Samuel 5:24

2. Job believed the Scriptures to be word for word from the mouth of God. Job 22:22; 23:12

3. David believed God's words were in his language. II Samuel 23:1-2; Psalms 12:6

a. This is how we find distinct personality from the different writers of the Bible. God spoke using each individual's vocabulary.

4. Jeremiah believed God spoke through him. Jeremiah 9:15; 13:15

5. Amos believed it to be God's words, not his own which he spoke. Amos 3:1

6. Micah also testified of the same. Micah 4:4.

D. Jesus always exalted the authority of Old Testament Scripture. Matthew 22:29-31, John 5:39; 10:35

E. What authority did the New Testament writers give to the Old Testament Scriptures? John 2:22; Acts 4:24-25; II Timothy 3:15; Acts 1:16; II Peter 1:20-21

IV. HOW DID MAN RECEIVE THE NEW TESTAMENT?

A. God-inspired man spake by the inspiration of God. II Timothy 3:16-17

1. The word "inspiration" comes from the Greek word theopneustos (English pronunciation theh-op' -nyoe-stes)

2. Theopneustos is made up of two Greek words.

a. "Theos" - The supreme Diety, a Diety, a magistrate.

b. "Pneo" - A primary word, to breathe, to blow.

3. "Theopneustoe" then means God-breathed.

B. By what authority did we receive the New Testament?

1. Jesus spoke by the authority of God. John 12:48-50; 14:10, 24; 17:8, 14

2. John the Baptist believed Jesus spoke the words of God. John 3:33-34.

3. The writer of the book of Hebrews thought God spake by the mouth of Jesus. Hebrews 1:2

C. How did the inspiration of the Spirit function?

1. The Spirit taught things God's people were not ready to receive while Jesus walked here on earth. John 16:12-13

a. Paul said he spoke the words of God. I Thessalonians 2:13; I Corinthians 14:37

2. The Holy Spirit brought perfect recall of the things Jesus both did and taught. John 14:26.

CONCLUSION: If the word of God was not straight from the mouth of God, it could not be quick and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword. Hebrews 4:12 Neither could it be the standard by which all mankind will be judged. John 12:47-48

COUNTERFEITERS & COUNTERFEITED

This is an article that was written by L.H. Boswell in 1948 while he was pastoring the Bend MBC in Bend,OR. This writing is just as true today as it was in 1948. It is sound Bible truth whether you are in Oregon, Washington, California or anywhere else. It has been stated, printed and promoted in the name of Missionary Baptist Church fellowship that God will overlook His precepts and doctrines if the pressure in a particular "locale" becomes too strong to stand against. To say, like some writers do, that just because you are in a different location it's alright to accept unscriptural baptism is absurd. If baptism is unscriptural in the west it is the same in the south. If accepting unscriptural baptism makes a church unscriptural in the west the same applies in the south. The greatest weakness among our churches today is rationalization of some of the identifying doctrines that have kept Baptist distinctive and given us hope there is a true church today. It seems that some today want to say that a church can practice anything she pleases and still belong to the Lord. They need to examine what the Lord said to the seven churches of Asia closely and find out they are wrong. Revelation Chapters 1-3 Introduction:

The devil is a usurper! In the beginning he aspired to dethrone God and take his

place. Failing in this, he evidently decided to rob God of all the glory he possibly could. Hence, he began on the human race by tempting Eve to doubt God's Word and accept his instead. When he fails to completely set aside that which is TRUE, he does the next best thing (for himself). He sets up something **like** the truth, yet which is, indeed, erroneous. In other words, when he can't get men to DENY the Truth, he gets them, if he can, to admit heretical doctrine to be EQUAL to Truth. Counterfeit churches and alien (counterfeit) baptism are good examples of what I've been saying. Webster defines the word counterfeit: "To make fraudulently or unlawfully, with intent to deceive. Something made fraudulently to resemble the genuine; an imitation."

I. COUNTERFEITERS AND COUNTERFEITED

A. The devil found that he could not destroy the Church which Jesus set up and commissioned to make disciples by preaching the gospel (Romans 1:16), baptize them (the disciples), and teach the "made" "baptized" disciples ALL things He (Jesus) taught them. (Matthew 28:19-20) So, he did the next best thing. He made a counterfeit church! But he was too smart to set up a church with no connection at all with the True church. What did he do? He craftily entered one of the true churches, the one at Rome, and introduced doctrines of his own, which were contrary to truth, but carefully veneered with enough of Truth to beguile the innocent. He taught the Rome church that, in case of necessity it would meet God's approval to sprinkle (especially a sick man who was about to die) instead of baptize. He carefully, cautiously led that church step by step into heresy so deeply

that she could NOT extricate herself. Today, it is the Roman Catholic Church. You see plainly that he counterfeited the church by adulterating her doctrines.

B. A concrete example of this principle may be seen in money counterfeiting. A crook may take genuine coins and melt them down and adulterate them with inexpensive metals, re-cast them, and pass them, for a time, and to some people, for genuine coins. That's what the devil did to the church at Rome. Or, again, a crook may take metal that hasn't been used in coins and make it into coins with the exact metal proportions of genuine coins, seeing they have the right metal content. They lack the authority of government. If the government were to recognize as genuine all coins, regardless of who coined them so long as they contained the right metal, and all currency, it would be "out of business" in less time than it takes to tell it. Why? Because the economical stability of the government is based upon its ability to redeem at face value all its incoming currency and coins.

II. BAPTISM AND THE CHURCH

A. Since a True church must be composed of scripturally baptized disciples (Acts 2:41), and since nothing but a True church can scripturally baptize (Matthew 28:19-20), the two are united in such a way that neither can exist long without the other. This is a self evident fact, and admitted by all True Baptists in all ages.

B. A church that recognizes alien (man-made) baptisms loses her identity. A church is a church, not by the name she wears, but by the lineage and doctrines she maintains. If a bank recognizes counterfeit money as equal with the genuine, she forfeits her charter and is soon bankrupt. What good money it has is still good, but the bank as

an institution is disfranchised. Why? Because she raises the value of counterfeit money to the level with the genuine; or putting it the other way, it lowers the value at least in its estimation, of the genuine down to the level of counterfeit. Thus, losing her authority to issue currency and operate as a bank. If that bank should issue currency under that condition, it would be counterfeiting money! That, likewise, is true of the church that recognizes manmade baptism; it loses its authority to baptize and that which she does administer for baptism is alien, counterfeit, unscriptural, and we

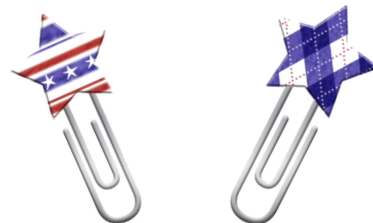
should NOT receive it!

III. BAPTISM AND THE SCRIPTURES

A. Baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Romans 6:3-11) The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is the Gospel. (I Corinthians 15:1-4) Hence, baptism is a picture of the Gospel.

B. Galatians 1:6-9 pronounces a CURSE upon any who would pervert the Gospel. (preach another gospel) Thus, if a church recognizes as genuine an organization which perverts the gospel by teaching

that one's salvation depends upon his works of righteousness (even baptism), it becomes partaker with that organization of its evil. (II John 10:11) The same penalty is applied, without a church so doing, they are ACCURSED! They have no authority as a church and consequently can't administer Scriptural baptism.



JUDGMENT SEATS

TEXT: II Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10,12

The Bible declares that everyone must meet Christ in judgment. (Philippians 2:10-11) It speaks of at least three future judgments. THE SAVED will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ in Heaven, during the Great Tribulation period. THE NATIONS will be judged at the end of the Tribulation period when Christ comes with His saints to set up His earthly reign. THE UNSAVED will be judged at the end of the thousand year reign of Christ.

The Bible states that the Father hath committed all judgment unto the Son. Through His incarnation, Jesus earned the right to judge man, by conquering death, hell and the grave. In His humanity, He experienced every temptation and pain that man will ever experience. Therefore, man cannot excuse himself because of his human weakness because His Judge, "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin," (Hebrew 4:15) The purpose of this judgment is to see what the believer has really accomplished after he was saved. Judged according to motive, quality, ability, opportunity and influence. (I Corinthians 3:13-17)

(I) ONE WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING

TO THE MOTIVE OF HIS WORK.

Work not motivated by divine love is of no value whatsoever. (I Corinthians 13:1-3) Paul says that regardless of how gifted one may be, or how much he may sacrifice, his service is useless without divine love.

One may attend all worship services, study the Bible, pray, give and use his talent. The greatest sin that God's children commit is neglecting opportunities. The Bible says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is a sin." (James 4:17)

(II) ONE WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THE QUALITY OF HIS WORK.

We live in a day when quantity is stressed at the expense of quality. Quantity is of no value whatsoever, if quality is ignored. One's work must be done according to the rules of the Bible. The Bible states that no man is crowned unless he strives lawfully. (II Timothy 2:15)

(III) ONE WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY.

Jesus knows what each one is capable of doing if he would surrender his life. He will judge him accordingly: as Jesus gave of the talents illustrating one's ability. (Matthew 25:14-30)

(IV) ONE WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING AS TO HIS OPPORTUNITIES.

One will answer to Jesus for every opportunity he had to witness to the lost. (Ezekiel 7:19) One will answer to Jesus for every opportunity he missed to attend worship services. (Hebrews 10:25)

(V) One will be judged according to his influence.

Statistics tell us that one directly influences twelve people, either for good or bad. The influence of this generation will determine what the next generation will be. Our influence is like a pebble dropped into the center of a calm lake. The ripples grow larger and larger until they reach the shore. Our influence continues to grow until it reaches the judgment Seat of Christ. Although many children of God live as though they will never have to face their life's activities, the day is very near when they must meet Him in judgment. This was the most solemn thought the Apostle Paul had, he said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the LORD, we persuade men." (II Corinthians 5:11) What will your life look like when your heart is exposed at the judgment?

