



June/July 2020

The Baptist Pillar

*Under the Authority of
Bible Baptist Church
Brandon Mb.*

We are pleased to announce that the Baptist Pillar is starting back up. We have been on hold for a few years, but believe more than ever, that a good source of solid doctrine is needed. Over the years we have accumulated well over 1000 articles by many solid men of God. Our dear Pastor Reaves, who has gone home to be with the Lord, had contributed many articles, as well as many others who have since departed. We will draw on the many articles that we have in the archives, as well as have new articles in the months to come.

For those who have inquired about the Baptist Pillar website being down, unfortunately the format seems to be obsolete. To have the entire list of articles redone in a new format will be very time consuming. We plan on having access to the current Pillar papers through our church website at Brandonbbc.com . If anyone wants the entire archived list of articles, we are able to put them on a flash drive and send them to you. Please contact us at brandonmb.bbc@gmail.com or call us at 204-726-5806 and let us know if you would like one.

As always, we agree with the articles that we use in general, but not necessarily all of the author's view points. We at Bible Baptist Church stand on the Word of God being perfect, but men having flaws. As such, the things that men believe are also sometimes flawed. Please let these articles be an encouragement to you and please feel free to share them with others.

If there are any questions regarding our stand on any of these doctrines, please feel free to ask.

Anyway, enjoy the read, and as always...

KEEP ON KEEPING ON

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BBC Brandon Update

Dear Friends

We have embarked upon a new adventure, as I am sure you all have, in response to the Corona Virus. The government here doesn't seem to believe in freedom of just about anything anymore. It would seem like there are many places in this world where this is the case. However, God did not tell us to serve him when the government allowed it, but to do so, no matter the cost. We have had to get creative here in Manitoba, as I am sure many others have also. Just last month we sent out over 25,000 pieces of literature in the mail, and have been holding small Bible studies with those that have responded. We do thank God that we are still able to gather in small groups for that purpose. God has kept us safe through this time, and we are grateful to him for this. We are also working at updating our website for people looking for answers to the truth. Please also know that we are looking for article submissions for the Baptist Pillar going forward.

Our search for a pastor continues, and we appreciate your prayers in this regard. Please continue to pray for us as we seek God's will regarding this matter. We are also seeking for help in temporarily filling our pulpit.

Churches in Need of Eyesalve

[Pastor John Reaves, Sr.](#)

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Rev. 3:14-19.

"...anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

When the name Laodicea is spoken, the first thing that pops into mind is, "lukewarm," which is true. The church in Laodicea was neither cold nor hot, they were lukewarm. The Lord says, "...because

thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Their lukewarmness had made God sick and they were lukewarm because they said, "...I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing..." ver. 17. This is the scourge of Baptist churches today. Materialism and riches has lead many churches today into lukewarmness. Their zeal is gone. Zeal also speaks of fire. They have become lukewarm because their fire has gone out.

The sad part about the Laodicean church was that they were not even aware of their condition. "...and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" They thought they were rich and were in need of nothing but the Lord said they were poor, blind, and miserable. Many churches today, to the world, look as if they are successful, they have numbers, buildings, and buses but the problem is with many, they are just as blind as the religious crowd found in Matthew 13:15-17:

" For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them."

You see, the Laodicean church had an eye problem, they thought they could see and they could physically but not spiritually. They had riches and comfort but they did not have fire nor power.

Many churches today are in the same state. They have lost sight of what it is all about. They have turned their eyes inward to their own little world and have lost sight. Our Lord tells the Laodicean church in verse 18, "...anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." Eyesalve was nothing more than a little cake-looking pad with medication on it. It was to be placed over the eye to produce the healing process, which brings to mind the account of the blind man in John 9:1-7:

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing."

Jesus made His own pad with spit and earth and anointed the eyes of the blind man, but before he could see he had to obey, ver. 7, "And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing." After he went and washed in the pool of Siloam then he came seeing.

A lot of churches today are in need of eyesalve. They are in need of some healing, but they will not be able to see, they will remain blind, lukewarm, without fire until they obey and stop looking inward and start looking outward.

The Laodicean church started off right. They had the right foundation but they lost sight. They lost their focus because they took their eyes off of what they should have been on and put them on what

they should not have been on, riches and comfort.

Many churches today manifest their blindness by their preaching, their ordinances, their standards, and their lack of separation. Their services are lukewarm and meaningless. But if a church wants to keep their focus and stay on fire for the Lord, and not go spiritually blind, their eyes must be looking in the right direction.

One could ask, "Why does a church go spiritually blind which leads to lukewarmness and complacency?"

[The Church Takes Its Eyes Off The Lord](#)

We are instructed in Heb. 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

An individual's salvation begins with, the Lord says, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Isa. 45:22. Salvation is only in Christ, John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Anyone who looks anywhere else for salvation will be sadly disappointed one day, because as Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Our salvation, our new life, begins with our eyes on the Lord and it is to continue that way, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." As a church or an individual begins to take their eyes off the Lord and looks elsewhere they begin to lose their spiritual eye sight.

True churches begin with the Lord calling a man to a certain place. He goes there by God's direction, looks for a place to meet, by God's direction, everything is according to God's guidance and direction, then something happens, the church doesn't grow the way he thinks it should. So he goes half way across the country to some pastor or shepherd's school to find out how to build a church running 5,000.

Then he goes back to his church with his methods and plans on how to build a church running 5,000. He asks the Lord to bless his plans and his methods. What ever happened to God's way, God's plan? Jesus said, in Mat. 18:18b, "...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Ps. 127:1 says, "...Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:..." We need to look to the builder, its His church. We don't need to look to some well known pastor that's running supposedly 5 to 10,000 in Sunday School.

I have been to a few of those super churches and believe me I don't want a church like that. The Lord does not build a church that doesn't have standards and separation. The Lord doesn't build churches based on emotionalism and ignorance.

The Lord builds churches as found in Acts 2:41-47:

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." and 4:31-32, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

That my friend is the kind of church I want to be a part of. You can have the old lukewarm, formal, blinded and cannot see a far off super church. I would rather have 100 people that love God and obey His Word than have 1,000 that look like, talk like, and act like the world. We don't need lukewarm religion today, we need churches that can pray and shake the house. We need churches that preach the word and stand, in season and out of season, with such conviction that sinners fall on their knees and get saved.

The Laodicea church was so blind they didn't think they had need of anything including the Holy Spirit of God. They, like churches today have their plans for salvation, the Romans Road, let's go soul winning. They have their plans on how to build a church according to pastor and shepherd's schools, why do they need the Holy Spirit when they have everything? Just as James 2:26a says speaking of the normal body, "For as the body without the spirit is dead,..." So to is the local church, the body of Christ, without the Holy Spirit, the body, the church, is dead.

We need to get away from the McCarthers, the Hyles, and the like and do as Psalm 121:1&2 says, "...I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth."

Churches today are like the apostle Peter of old, they begin with miracles, walking on water, but they end up doing just as he did in Matthew 14:30, "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me." The moment we take our eyes off of the Lord we begin to sink. So why does a church go spiritually blind? They take their eyes off the Lord.

[The Church Takes Its Eyes Off The Fields](#)

In John chapter 4, while the disciples had gone into the city to buy meat, Jesus stayed behind and brought the Samaritan woman to salvation. In verses 31-38 we read:

"In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours."

That early church like the Laodicean church got caught up in what they needed, not others. They had gone to town to get something to eat but Jesus was more concerned about those coming to the well. His desire was to tell the lost Samaritans about true salvation. After the disciples came back from their shopping spree, the Lord tells them where their focus should have been, ver. 35, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Jesus tells them to lift up their eyes, get them out of the grocery cart, and put them on the fields that were already white unto harvest. That early church, made up of the twelve, were only looking inward, their needs, meat. Many churches today are the same, they are concerned about their salaries, their buildings, and their ministry. My question to them is what about the harvest?

Philippians 2:4 says, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." A lot of churches need to apply this verse to their budgets and stop making excuses about why they cannot afford missionaries. You take your eyes off the fields and you go blind spiritually and turn lukewarm. What is it that puts the fire and power into the church? Acts 1:8 says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." We are not just to take the gospel message to our town but also to the uttermost part of the earth.

People are asking, what's happening to churches today. They are dead, no one is getting saved, the baptismal waters are not moving, the offerings are down, what's wrong? They have taken their eyes off the fields.

Many Independent Baptists have the words down, mission minded, and missions burdened but they are only words. There is no way a church can have a real burden for some mission field if their not looking on their own field, Jerusalem. Acts 1:8 says, "...both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in..." Simply at the same time we are to be reaching home base, we are to be reaching the world. The church that says they are mission minded and they are not doing as that early church in Acts 5:42 did, they are just deceiving themselves. "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

I have heard all the excuses, door knocking doesn't work anymore. Has it ever? But that doesn't change the fact we are supposed to do it. Luke 14:23, "And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." Go out, this is God's way. Most don't realize that soul winning, door knocking, visitation, and whatever you want to call it, is not just for the lost. We don't just get a burden by praying, we must also GO.

When we go door to door we begin to see what those that are without Christ are really like, and thus, we get a burden. Through door knocking we develop a burden for our community and thus when a missionary comes by we can have a genuine burden for his field. Jesus had a genuine burden for Jerusalem, Mat 23:37, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" but He also must needs go through Samaria, John 4:4.

We too must needs go to, "all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." If we don't we cannot be a scriptural church. The great commission was given to the church, Mat. 28:18-20. In Mark 16:15 Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." That is the church's commission to go into all the world. If we are not reaching out to a lost and dying world, we are just playing religious games. The Lord does not start churches so they can sit back and get rich

and increase with goods. Once a church ceases to be a mission sending station they have lost their reason for existing and are on the way down.

Many young preachers are told to go out, get a few families, get a building, get a salary, and then get involved with missions. I'd rather meet in a community center and support missionaries than have a building or a salary. Because you see, when a church gets involved in missions, its greatest mission, the Lord will add everything else. Mat. 6:33 works for the churches also, "But seek ye first..." I have never heard of a church that has missions at the heart, lack of anything. Most don't realize that God doesn't have a bank account. But He is looking for churches He can trust to send money through for the cause of missions.

Someone who says they cannot afford missions just doesn't understand faith promise. God is a debtor to no man and that goes for churches also. The 100,000's of dollars we have given to missions, God has given it back to us in buildings and goods. We, at the Bible Baptist Church in Brandon, Manitoba, cannot afford not to support missionaries.

Conclusion

I have no desire to be like the church in Laodicea. A lukewarm, complacent church does not appeal to me in the least. They can have their big fancy buildings with its plush carpet, padded pews, and vaulted ceilings. I would rather have a church that has power to shake the house as that early church did, than to be lukewarm and religious. But if we don't keep our eyes on the Lord and on the fields we will go the way of the Laodicean church.

I'd rather be like the church as found in II Cor. 9:6-16:

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

Wanted! True Independent New Testaments Baptists

Bert Craft

Many years ago, Jesus said of the church in Sardis, "Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev. 3:1). Jesus looked at this assembly and saw something that man could not see. In man's eyes, this church had a good reputation, yet under the divine scrutiny of Christ, we see that their reputation was without reality.

The Word of God proclaims that the last days will be characterized by those who have "a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof" (2 Tim. 2:5); those who "profess that they know God, but in works they deny Him" (Tit. 1:16). Our world today is filled with many professors, but only a few possessors. So it is true among those who call themselves "Independent Baptists". There are many who possess the name, but there are only a few who possess the nature of a true, scriptural Independent Baptist.

As we consider the topic, "Wanted: True Independent New Testament Baptists", let us be mindful that the opinion we have of ourselves, or the reputation we have in the minds of others, does not determine what we are. In fact, I know many who are wearing the name "Independent Baptists" who ought to be honest with themselves and others and take the name off their signs and letterhead. They do not believe and practice what "Independent Baptists" have stood for and practiced throughout history. Though there have been some irregularities amongst Baptists, scripturally true, Independent Baptists believe that...

I. The Bible--Authorized Version (KJV 1611)--Is Preserved, Sole Authority

Since Christ started His church in the first century, Baptists have never questioned the authenticity or authority of the Word of God. The Baptists have never changed the Scriptures to conform to their beliefs.

Rather, they have submitted to the Scriptures and have organized and governed their churches under the authority of the Word of God.

The first Baptist--John the Baptist-- came into the country around Jordan preaching the preserved Word of God. "As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet..." John believed that God had preserved the inspired words of Isaiah the prophet given nearly 700 years earlier. Therefore, John preached with authority, power, and confidence. Jesus, during His ministry, often quoted Moses who had penned divine revelation about 1500 years before Christ.

Obviously, Christ understood divine sovereignty in the preservation of the Word of God. If John the Baptist and Jesus Christ did not question the veracity and authenticity of God's Word, why can we not believe God in our day that He has sovereignly preserved His Word for us? The preserved Word of God in English is the King James Bible (1611). The King James Version was translated from the Textus Receptus manuscripts. All of the other manuscripts have been altered and perverted so that

the translations which do not align with the Textus Receptus are in actuality perversions of the Word of God.

True Independent Baptists "are not as many, which corrupt the Word of God" (2 Cor. 2:17); instead, they reject the perversions and wholly accept the Authorized Version of 1611 as the preserved, sole authority for all faith and practice. True Independent N. T. Baptists also strictly believe that...

II. Alien Immersion Is To Be Rejected

Alien immersion is defined as a baptism that does not meet scriptural qualifications. There are four essentials to scriptural baptism:

- 1) Scriptural Candidate--a believer in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41, Acts 8:36-38)
- 2) Scriptural Mode--immersion in water (Mat. 3:16, Acts 8:38-39)
- 3) Scriptural Administrator--a N. T. Baptist church (in doctrine and not name only) that has been given authority from a church of like faith and practice (Mat. 28:18-20, Acts 16:5)
- 4) Scriptural Motive--to identify with Christ and to join a N. T. church (Rom. 6:3-4, Acts 2:41, 1 Cor. 12:13)

If any of these qualifications are not met, the baptism is not valid or scriptural; thus, it is considered alien immersion. Many so-called "Independent Baptists" of today never concern themselves with how or where their church members were baptized. They accept "baptisms" from Methodist churches, Charismatic or Pentecostal churches, Interdenominational churches, Bible churches and many others. They fail to see that baptism requires authority (Mark 11:28-33), and that these churches do not have proper, scriptural authority.

True Independent Baptists were given the name "Anabaptists" centuries ago because they rebaptized those who came to them from unscriptural churches. The only baptism acceptable to God is one that meets these scriptural qualifications. There are still Independent Baptists wanted that believe in the...

III. Perpetuity of Jesus' Church and His Authority

According to Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised regarding His church that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:21, "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end." Since Jesus Christ started the first church in Jerusalem, there has never been a time when scriptural N. T. churches have not existed.

Many so-called "Independent Baptists" today oppose this doctrine because they cannot prove it. Since when did we ever start accepting the Word of God only if we can prove it? Faith is taking God at His Word and acting upon it.

Historically, Baptists have been persecuted so that history regarding their perpetuity has been destroyed.

However, I do not base my convictions or doctrine on history but on what God has spoken. The real problem why so many detest this doctrine is the matter of authority. If perpetuity is true, then many

so-called "Independent Baptists" have unscriptural churches and no authority to baptize. For many to admit this doctrine as true, they would have to humble themselves and face the fact that they have been wrong, which could bring embarrassment upon them.

Furthermore, they would have to submit to baptism from scriptural church and reorganize the assemblies that they pastor. You must be right on this matter, for the Scriptures state in 2 Timothy 2:5, "if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully." Rewards at the judgment Seat of Christ will be lost if our labors are not done scripturally under the authority of a true church.

IV. True, Scriptural Church Is Only A Local Church

The word "church" found in the Word of God is always translated from the Greek word "ekklesia". Ekklesia means "a called out group of people assembled together". Jesus used the word "ekklesia" or "church" 23 times. In all of these instances, He refers to a particular assembly in a particular place except one time where he is speaking in a general way about the church. The Scriptures never in any way speak of a mystical, universal, invisible church or body of Christ. Some "pseudo Independent Baptists" confuse the difference between the family of God and the church of God.

They misunderstand that we are born into the family of God (John 1:12) and that we are water-baptized into the church of God (1 Cor.12:13). The Bible term "body of Christ" is reserved only for a local, New Testament church. Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth said, "Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular." In the body (church), Christ is the head; in the family the Father is the head. The body (church) demands location; the family can be scattered. Baptism qualifies us for membership in the body (church); the new birth makes us a part of the family.

Members can be put out of the body (church); family members can never be put out. The body (church) assembles regularly; the family does not assemble at this time. Members of the body (church) know and care for one another daily; members of the family know very few of the other family members.

Jesus only started one church in His ministry--the church at Jerusalem--which was a local, visible, organized assembly of baptized believers. True N. T. Baptists believe and practice that...

V. The Imperative Of World Missions Belongs To The Church

Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 gave His church her commission before ascending back to heaven. The authority was committed to His church to go into all the world, to make disciples, to baptize, and to instruct them in the Word of God. There is no other institution designated by Christ to carry out the work of the Great Commission. Yet some so-called "Independent Baptists" believe that the plan of Jesus Christ to reach the world through His church is not enough.

Therefore, they have organized their own man-made, man-headed, and man-glorifying institutions--mission boards, clearinghouses, mission societies, associations and fellowships--to do the work that Jesus Christ gave to His church. To do God's work in a different way than the way He has instructed is either ignorance or arrogance on the part of man. There are no other institutions more capable of carrying out the Great Commission than the Lord's churches.

The church at Antioch in Acts 13 set the N. T. example and proved that God's churches are capable of fulfilling the command of our Lord. Here we see Paul and Barnabas proving their gifts in the church and their call being confirmed in the church. They were then ordained in the church, sent out of the church, and were accountable to and reported to the Antioch church.

Personally, I know that a scriptural N. T. Baptist is capable of performing all the administrative duties, overseeing the missionary's doctrine and practice (Since when did Christ give authority to a mission agency to discipline a man?), and fulfilling all the necessary functions to place and keep a man on the field. Scriptural, Independent Baptists should be more zealous than any of the others because they understand that the imperative of reaching the world with the Gospel is their purpose for existence. Furthermore, true Independent Baptists are convicted that...

VI. Salvation Is By Grace Through Repentance And Faith

True, New Testament Independent Baptists have faithfully proclaimed the message that John the Baptist preached, that Jesus Christ preached, that Peter preached, that Paul preached, and all other faithful brethren since then have preached and that is, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). Jesus said in Luke 24:47 "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations..."

Salvation without repentance is damnation! Today, there are many preaching a false gospel without making people face the guilt and condemnation of their sin; consequently, if a man is never faced with his sin and the reality that he is lost (by his own understanding), he can never be saved. The Scriptures are clear on promoting house to house evangelism but it condemns "easy believism". Salvation decisions without repentance give people false hope and make them twofold the child of hell. "If any man preach any other Gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:9). Lastly, true N. T. Independent Baptists adhere to and hold that...

VII. The Table Of The Lord Is Restricted To Members Only

The church was given two ordinances by Jesus Christ--baptism and the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:2).

Jesus instituted the ordinance of the Lord's Supper on the night before His crucifixion. This is His ordinance and His table; therefore, we must invite the participants according to the Lord's orders.

The scriptural qualifications to observe the Lord's Supper are:

- 1) one must be saved (1 Cor. 10:21).
- 2) one must be scripturally baptized (Acts 2:41-47).
- 3) one must be a member of the church observing the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:18).
- 4) one must have an orderly walk void of offense toward God and man (1 Cor. 11:27-31).

Scriptural observance of the Lord's Supper is inseparably connected with efficient church discipline; hence, only members of that particular Baptist church should participate in observing the Lord's Supper in the church which has the authority to discipline them. Restricting the Lord's table to members only will bring God's blessing and avoid the sure judgment of God (1 Cor. 11:30).

May God help you to have more than a name and reputation, but to know the reality of being a true, New Testament, Independent Baptist. "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth" (2 Cor. 10:18).

The Translations Trap

Forrest L. Keener

Available in Tract Form. Contact the Editor.

"For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men." - Jer. 5:26.

In our day it seems that a new translation comes out just, about every day. I am not greatly concerned with the effect this has on contemporary religion nor am I overly concerned about which translation is used in pulpits and churches where the verbal inspiration of the Scripture is not believed. These people will wrest the Scripture to their own destruction anyhow, if they are not made to realize the authority and inspiration of the Bible.

What I am very concerned about is a trap that some Godly, Bible believing men are falling into. I think I see them sniffing the cheese when I hear such phrases as, "The King James Bible has a poor translation here," or "A better rendering is found in the so and so translation," or "This should read," or "A correct translation would be," or "The true meaning of this passage is lost in translation," and on and on we go in the name of scholarship.

But what is 'the effect of this "scholarship"? It may well make the speaker sound intelligent to his congregation. It will probably make them feel that they need to go to him for advice in interpreting the Bible. These things may inflate his ego, but they in fact tend to defeat his ministry, for they undermine the very authority of it. Whereas he should be saying in words discernible to even the simple, "Thus sayeth the Lord," he is in object lesson saying, "Has the Lord spoken at all, and if so where are His words, and if we have them, to whom must we go for an explanation of them?" The true effect of this is the destruction of his congregation's overall faith in the Word of God.

MY DIRECTION OF ARGUMENT

In this short message I will not list words and verses which are omitted from the modern versions, nor will I compare and expound Greek meanings where words have been changed, though both of these would certainly add to my argument. What I intend to do is to simply show that translation hopping, or hunting for better translations, is a trap into which one may fall, and in one which a person will have his Bible will be taken away from him.

ETERNAL PRESERVATION

In Psalms 12:6 and 7 we read, "The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." According to this statement God has before committed Himself to the preservation of His words. If there has ever been any such thing as the words of God they are yet preserved today and shall be forever.

The Lord made this statement irrefutable as far as any true Christian is concerned, when He said in Matt. 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." So we must conclude that the Word is preserved for us today, but where? And in what form? Is it in little bits and

pieces of many differing translations, scattered among error, mistranslation, and ecclesiastical trickery? Is it written on lost scrolls or unexcavated rocks, or in a million Chinese fortune cookies?

THE BIBLE

Our faith in Christ, our confidence in the very existence of God, all our understanding of His character and intent toward man, and our hope of salvation, all lie upon the foundation of what we call the Bible. Destroy that and all the claims of Christianity are absolutely baseless. The pertinent question, then, is what is the Bible?

The confidence of preservation of Scripture has to lie on the conclusion that God has preserved through translation His Word, for few Christian people today read either Greek or Hebrew, the languages in which almost all the Bible was originally written. The originals are certainly not in existence, so God obviously preserved it through men whom He moved upon to faithfully copy and translate it. If He could move upon men to write it in the first place, this should be no problem.

VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS

I think most of my readers will agree with me this far, so I shall precede and hence address myself to those "versions" or "translations" written in the English language. I am not critical of the study of the Greek language, it can be very helpful, but if it is a necessity we are hard put to prove that God has preserved His Word, for any large segment of His people. We have taken it out of print and put it into the hands of men, "scholars" who shall tell us what to believe. I believe though that we can read an English Bible and thus read the very word and words of God. Be sure you work out the implications of the denial of this statement before you disagree. When we have agreed on this as Bible believers do, we must then ask, which English Bible?

I HAVE COMPARED

As I sit in my study I can see the A.S.V., the R.S.V., the Twentieth Century New Testament, the T.E.V., the Phillips New Testament, the New World Translation, the New English Bible, and I suppose that when someone else comes to give away trash, I'll have some of the others. I've never spent a dime on any translation except the King James Bible, the Holy Bible. By now you are saying, do you put it in a different category than all those others, and I answer emphatically, yes. I think it - stands in a totally different class than all the rest, for English speaking people.

When we compare it to the T.E.V., A.S.V., R.S.V., the New English Bible, or the New World Translation, we are absolutely forced to the conclusion that they are all different from the King James translation. They are not all the same but they are all obviously kin to each other and obviously none of them is akin to the King James Bible.

An illustration of this basic difference can be seen in The R.S.V. The book of Mark concludes with chapter 16 verse 8, and is followed by the note "other texts and versions add as 16:9-20 the following passage:" they then complete verses 9-20 in italics. It is thus the claim of the A.S.V., the R.S.V., New World Translation, J.B. Phillips Translation, T.E.V., the New English Bible, etc., that Mark 16:9-20 is not part of "God's Word," but an "addition." This area of Scripture is not alone in getting the "scholarship axe." It happens again and again in literally dozens of places.

WHERE IS GOD'S WORD?

The question we must ask here is simply, which of these two Bibles is the Bible? It is obvious that these several which agree in these changes and omissions are not the same as The King James Bible. It stands alone and the others stand together. Whatever differences you may find in them, you will surely find them much more in unity than you find any of them in unity with The King James Bible.

THE ISSUE IS CLEAR

Scholars understand that the reason for this is that the King James Bible was translated from different manuscripts than these others. The King James Translation (The Holy Bible) was translated from the Textus Receptus, (New Testament) while the others came for the most part from the Sinaiticus and Vaticanus texts, through the "scholarship" of two men named Westcott and Hort, neither of whom accepted many basic fundamentals of the faith. But let's not cloud the issue with this. When one 'group of translations has omitted dozens of passages, while another translation has included them, either they have been tampered with or it (the King James Version) has been added to. Both cannot possibly be God's perfectly preserved Word.

In Deut. 4:2 and Rev. 22:18, 19, we find stern warnings against this. We are warned neither to add to, nor to take away from God's Word. "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." Deut. 4:2. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy God shall take away his part out of the book of life and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Rev. 22:18, 19.

Anyone with enough sense to tell a rat from a rhinoceros can see that one of these so called Bibles has done it. It is my honest opinion that any man who can credit these other translations mentioned with being the Bible is morally obligated to put away his King James Bible and brand it a hoax, that has been polluted and thus destroyed by having had something added to it, that is not God's Word. If, on the other hand, they claim that the King James translation is the Bible, they must put away all the others for they are polluted and thus destroyed by having had a part of the Word of God taken from them, something added to them and many things changed.

YOU CAN'T HAVE BOTH

To imagine that we can accept part of it, and part of them, is folly of the plainest sort and leads to all kinds of inconsistency. It would imply that I can take the part of, one, that I count the best translation and the part of the others that I count best and most scholarly and thus I compositely have the Bible. Of course, this would give every man a different Bible, according to his own taste, convictions and doctrinal opinion. You have thus mounted your horse and rode off in all directions. We have a definite Word of God perfectly preserved or we don't have the Word of God at all. You cannot possibly say it is in part preserved in all these translations. That would be about as preserved as having the summer's crop of fruit preserved in all the neighbors' garbage cans.

WHICH WILL YOU HAVE?

You may say, "I'll take something in contemporary English and phraseology that I can more readily understand. If that is the only basis of reasoning, why not take the funny paper instead?" It's in contemporary English and you can probably even understand it, but it won't be God's Word, and it won't make you wise unto salvation, and it won't throughly furnish you unto every good work.

We aren't talking about personal taste; we are talking about the identity of the supernaturally and eternally preserved Word of God. Brother, I'll go with the King James Bible, The Holy Bible, the only one that God has blessed in evangelistic work among English speaking people in the last three hundred and fifty years. It stands for the virgin birth, the Deity of Christ, the pre-existence of Christ, and on and on we could go, while the others deny, neglect, or omit these things in a great many places.

It is my honest opinion that to move into the area of quoting, crediting or sanctioning the other translations, just because they may state some particular verse more beautifully than the King James Version is a trap. To fall into it will cause people to question and then to logically and reasonably reject the faith that we do in fact have the Word of God at all.

Brethren, be not deceived. The King James Bible is a masterful translation directed by God. All the men working on it were believers. This can't be said of the others. It is indeed very scholarly and is written in a beautiful and precise language. Any believer who will read it can understand it with time and study, and when he does he has understood God's Holy Word. Beware that you don't let "scholarship" lure you into the "Translation Trap." Amen.