



CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

The Voice IN THE Wilderness

*"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the
Lord, make His paths straight."
Mark 1:3*

Published Monthly
Free Subscription



CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

April 2004

Beyond Our Mortal Sight

Lord, beyond our mortal sight,
Raise our hearts to reach Thy height,
There Thy face unclouded see,
Find our heaven of heavens in Thee!

- Charles Wesley

Dr. Benjamin Rush was asked, "Are you a democrat or an aristocrat"? And the good doctor answered, "I am neither. I am a Christocrat. I believe He, alone, who created and redeemed man is qualified to govern him." That reply of Benjamin Rush is just as true today in the year of our Lord 2004 as it was in the year of our Lord 1776.

From the foundation of America, the Truth of Jesus Christ has been the bedrock of survival and success. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...If the foundations be destroyed what can the righteous do?"



MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

Did you pause a moment and reflect on the words of Charles Wesley?

BEYOND OUR MORTAL SIGHT

**Lord, beyond our mortal sight,
Raise our hearts to reach Thy height,
There Thy face unclouded see,
Find our heaven of heavens in Thee!**

I Corinthians 15:3,4 records, "I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and He was buried; and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

My friend, what glorious, good news. Lord, lift us above that we may see and know. From this writer's pen could come no greater declaration.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is like no message of any religion. Of all the world's religions, none bases its claims on the resurrection of its founder. This indeed is the greatest utterance – "Christ died for our sins, ... was buried and rose conquering death, hell, and the grave! Hallelujah, Jesus Lives? Yes, Jesus is Coming Again Soon!

Dr. Metherell describes the pain Christ suffered on the cross with the following words – "The pain was absolutely unbearable. In fact, it was literally beyond words to describe; they had to invent a new word: excruciating. Literally, excruciating means 'out of the cross.'" But listen to how Jesus described it, "Looking to 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" Hebrews 12:2. Did you catch that? "...for the joy that was set before Him..." Thank you dear Jesus!

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord," It is truly a privilege to share in this wonderful opportunity. The door is indeed open, and I'm asking you to help us carry this wonderful Resurrection message to those who have never heard.

This is "Envelope Month." It has been almost four months since we asked you to consider a special love gift to The Voice in the Wilderness. After this month of April, it will be August before another envelope will be placed in the pages of this publication. We thank the Lord for those who give faithfully each month. The Voice in the Wilderness presently needs many more who would step out as prayer partners and in support of this missionary work. Presently, brothers and sisters in India and Venezuela especially need your help. Several printing projects are on hold until sufficient funds are available. Then, there are missionaries who have asked for The Voice in the Wilderness to help, however, the money has not been available. Please do not set this envelope aside until you seriously consider what you can do to help meet these needs.

Thank you so very much for caring. God Bless!

For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie



The Voice in the Wilderness is a nonprofit, independent incorporation, founded by Rev. Dr. J. Royce Thomason D.P.D. Ph.D., evangelist and medical missionary. The organization is dedicated to the spreading of the whole gospel to the world, especially in foreign lands. The program consists of building mission stations and schools, supporting the American missionaries and native pastors, providing needy students with room and board, administering medical and dental services free, and preaching Christ to the lost. We are supported by the gifts of those who care. All gifts designated by missions will go directly without any deductions. Contributions to The Voice in the Wilderness for projects or to support the ministry of a missionary will be used as indicated by the donor following approved policies and procedures. Gifts are tax deductible and should be made out to The Voice in the Wilderness. *The Voice in the Wilderness Magazine* is a fundamental publication, published each month in behalf of the work of the Lord and the preservation of the liberties of our United States. Printed material from other sources does not necessarily imply an endorsement from this ministry. There is no subscription charge; all interested people of good will may have a copy sent regularly to their address simply by requesting it. Address all correspondence to Voice in the Wilderness, P.O. Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.

Who Re-defined Marriage?

One subscriber wrote, "Thank you for your article on 'Divorce and Re-marriage.' I know it is difficult to take such a stand. You know some will no longer support you because of this position."

When the Lord called me to preach, I made a commitment that rises far above man's approval, a Doctor's Hippocratic oath, or the Oath of Office the President of the United States makes upon entering

this land's highest elected position. To preach the Sovereign's, holy, inspired, infallible Book, I am required to:

1. Stand on His unchanging Word.
2. Steadfastly proclaim, "Thus saith the Lord."
3. Sincerely and soberly deliver His whole and holy counsel.
4. Sweetly, in love, speak the Truth:
 - a. Preach hard – not harsh.
 - b. Contend for the Faith – not be contentious with The Word.
5. Singularly delivering to the need:
 - a. Preaching to the sinner.
 - b. Preaching to the saint.
6. Specific and to the point.
 - a. Stand up, speak up, and shut up.
 - b. **KISS** – "Keep It Simple Sermons" – That does not mean shallow preaching. However, when it is all said and done, not one should say, "What did he say, and what are we to do?"
 - c. This therapeutic, ear-tickling, back-scratching, soft-soaping, nebulous, watered down, user-friendly, purpose driven *sermonettes* for "*Christianettes*" lulled to sleep in their carnal bassinets is doing eternal harm.

With that said, we now look to the question – Who Re-defined Marriage? Go ahead and point your finger westward; say, San Francisco. Or if you like, blame Washington, DC, or how about the church and preachers.

One judge recently said he would agree with marriages between homosexuals because they can love each other just like any other couple. And then he was asked the question, "But doesn't that undermine the sanctity of marriage?" "No," was his reply, "Marriage has already been undermined by divorce."

Chicago Mayor, Richard Daley, stated "Marriage has been undermined by divorce, so don't tell me about marriage." Mayor Daley denied that the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples would undermine marriage.

For those of us 40 to 50 years old, an admission must be made. Most churches and pastors we have known no longer stand where they once stood concerning many issues today, particularly – divorce. The judge blamed divorce for the undermining of marriage, not the push by homosexuals and others to re-define marriage.

By the way, I appreciate the loving, compassionate, yes, tolerant "Christians" who wrote *The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc.* condemning this ministry's position on divorce and re-marriage. These gracious readers said that *The Voice in the Wilderness'* stand is unloving, and judgmental. Yet, they, being full of love and compassion and tolerance, wanted to be removed from our mailing list and would no longer support such a ministry. These precious former

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*For Personal Correspondence,
Contributions, Address Changes,
New Subscriptions,
Write to us*

Dr. Ronnie L. Williamson
Voice in the Wilderness

P.O. Box 7037
Asheville, NC 28802
Voice (828) 649-1043
Fax (828) 649-9784
www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

For Personal Correspondence,

Dr. J. Royce Thomason

P.O. Box 210098
Dallas, TX 75211
(972) 298-5963

HE LIVES

Of all the WORLD'S
Religions, none bases its
claims on the resurrection
of its founder.

Salvation through Jesus Christ
is not religion but Relationship.
This personal relationship with Jesus
Christ hinges on the irrefutable
proofs of HIS RESURRECTION
conquering death, hell and the grave for
all who will by faith receive HIS GIFT of
ETERNAL LIFE.

✧ THE EMPTY TOMB

- ✧ The eyewitnesses numbering over 500 who saw Jesus after the Resurrection.
- ✧ The cowardly Apostles became willing to die for Jesus after His Resurrection.
- ✧ Neither Rome nor the Jews could produce a corpse.
- ✧ The political leaders and historical proof.
- ✧ The written Record.
- ✧ The genealogical record.
- ✧ The geographical location.
- ✧ The very existence of the Christian faith.
- ✧ The calendar (B.C.) "Before Christ" (A.D.) Anno Domini "in the year of the Lord."
- ✧ The fulfilled prophecy of scripture.
- ✧ The churches around the world preaching the risen Christ.
- ✧ The Hymnbook and innumerable songs written about Him.
- ✧ The changed dynamic life of believers around the world.
- ✧ The continued attempt to this day by religion, governments, and disbelievers to deny and discredit Christ's resurrection.

Sermon of the Month

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

I. Faith II. Baptist III. Church

The Lord placed this message on my heart for this congregation's first Mission Conference in Morristown, TN.

I. Faith

A Game Warden in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan sat in his church's Missions Conference. He was deeply moved by the challenge of Faith Promise. Such was the conviction, that this man of moderate means stepped out by Faith and made a financial commitment that, to any acquaintance, would border on foolishness rather than Faith.

Some time later, he was out enjoying what was an obvious favorite pastime. Then it happened! BAM – something hit his line and in he reeled the catch. Not only was this a trophy, but also the fish had a special tag. Yes, that fish with that tag was worth \$50,000 – the exact amount of his Faith Promise.

“Glory!” “Ain’t God good,” the old country preacher said. I’m talking faith here now. “For by grace are you saved through **FAITH**...” Ephesians 2:8. “Ye are all the children of God by **FAITH** in Christ Jesus...” Galatians 3:26.

I’m talking **FAITH** here:

Faith in the God of the impossible.

Faith in the God who cannot fail.

Faith in the God who will never leave us nor forsake us.

Faith in the God who cannot lie.

Keep your feet in the way of God.

Keep your face in the will of God.

Keep your fear in the wisdom of God.

Keep your **faith** in the Word of God.

Faith in Jesus as Saviour.

Faith in Jesus as Shepherd.

Faith in Jesus as Sovereign.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

II. Baptist

Who are you? Here are the marks and distinctives:

- A. We believe “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;” *Hebrews 12:2*.
- B. We believe “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” I Cor. 3:11. Jesus said, “I will build my church...” *Matt. 16:18*.
- C. We believe God’s Word sets forth the autonomous/independent local Church with the episkopos (pastor) and diakoneo (deacon) – *1 Tim. 3 – as officers of the church*
- D. We believe in the service and ordinance of baptism by immersion and the Lord’s Supper for the “saved” by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- E. We believe the Book, the Holy Bible, is God’s inspired, infallible Word for the rule and guide of faith and life for His church and His child.

Acts Chapter 2 and verse 41 says,

“They that gladly received His word were baptized...” and verse 42 says, “they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, in prayers.” Then verse 47 records, “the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” God’s people were “daily in the temple, and in every house,” without ceasing, teaching and preaching Jesus Christ – Acts 5:42. Obedient to Christ’s command, they taught (*matheteuo* – made disciples), baptized the new converts, and instructed (*didasko*) the believers to “observe all things” Jesus had commanded. Persecution came; the father of lies peddled his wares, yet the Gospel fires burned and the blood of the martyrs watered the seeds of Faith.

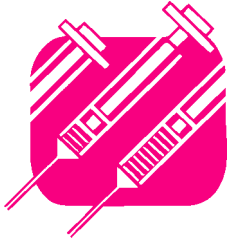
Branded, burned, and bodies buried, but their voices were heard around the world while their souls winged flight to eternal life and joy. The Way, the Truth, and the Life marched on amidst satanic opposition.

One preacher said, “Jesus called John, the Baptist, and John baptized Jesus, so Jesus was a Baptist.”

Well, we would like to be right not only by choice and conviction but by scripture and historically. There has been a heap of error and shedding of blood centered on baptism such as, “infant baptism,” and “baptismal regeneration.” Rejection of these two errors cost millions of Christians their

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NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS



NEEDLES THAT DON'T HURT:

Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology may soon deliver an ouchless alternative, called microneedles. These near-invisible pokers, made from silicon, metal, glass or biodegradable polymers, are as much as 500 times smaller than an ordinary hypodermic – too minute to irritate nerve endings, says Mark Prausnitz, lead investigator for Georgia Tech's microneedle research program.

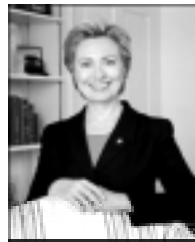
An array of 400 embedded in an adhesive patch could gently puncture the skin, making it permeable to extended-release medication such as insulin, which contains protein molecules too large to slip by skin cells unassisted. Or, attached to a syringe, a single microneedle could deliver drugs directly to cancer cells. Though licensing deals are already in the works, the technology must still be cleared by the FDA. Expect your painless shot within the next five years. -*Popular Science* 3/2004

ZELL EXCELS AGAIN: Sen. Zell Miller (D.Ga.) has become the first Democratic senator to co-sponsor SJ RES 26 (HJ Res 56 in the House), the Federal Marriage Amendment. The lead Senate sponsor is Republican Sen. Wayne Allard of Colorado. In addition to Democrat Miller, the Senate co-

sponsors so far include five Republicans: Sam Brownback (Kan.), Jim Inhofe (Okla.), Jeff Sessions (Ala.), Jim Bunning (Ky.), and Richard Shelby (Ala.). *Human Events* 2/2004

WHERE HAVE ALL THE JOBS GONE?

By 2015 more than 3.3 million U.S. jobs are projected to leave the United States. About 14 million jobs or 11% of the U.S. total have been identified as "at risk" of being sent abroad. Such jobs as telephone call centers, data entry and computer operators, business and financial support, paralegal and legal assistants, diagnostic support services, and accounting, bookkeeping, and payroll are "at risk." *Time* 3/2004



SENATOR HILLARY CONTRADICTORY:

Hillary Clinton called it "hypocrisy" in advocating the right to privacy in relation to gun ownership. However, Hillary strongly pushes the right to privacy in relation to abortion. It is obvious her problem is with the U.S. Constitution. The Second Amendment explicitly guarantees gun ownership, while in reality; the right to privacy is hardly mentioned in the Constitution. Hillary was the keynote speaker at a National Abortion and Reproductive Rights

Action League celebration dinner, observing the 31st anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Imagine a celebration dinner over the murder of 40 million babies. Hillary says Republicans are trying to send women back into the dark alleys with a coat hanger – "I don't think there has been a time in 31 years when the rights proclaimed in *Roe v. Wade* have been more at risk," she said. Senator Clinton signed on as an original co-sponsor to Senator Barbara Boxer's bill codifying *Roe v. Wade*. - *Human Events* 2/2004

SO, WHO IS ABLE TO DETERMINE AGE?

Isn't there a way to figure out how old a person is based on biology – DNA from blood or cheek-swabbed cell. There are no biological tests that can determine with any accuracy one's age. According to Steven Austad, author of *Why We Age*, "if the person is extremely elderly, over 75 or 80, it's very difficult for anyone to estimate better than within, say, 20 to 25 years, how old they are." A countless number of factors influence the aging process, most notably one's genetic history, socioeconomic status and personal habits. Until we better understand the intricacies of aging, there will be no algorithm, no deterministic way for a doctor to enter a set of facts and a blood test into a computer and have it spit out an age. Life, to put it simply, is too complex. *Popular Science* 3/2004 [Note: "Life is too complex." Yet, life could evolve from nothing!! Then over a short span of 100 years or so

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science cannot determine a person's age. Amazing, that some so-called experts can tell us about thousands and millions of years, but cannot handle 100 years or so. Hmmmmmm.....]

KERRY AND GAY MARRIAGE BAN: On July 12, 2002, Senator John Kerry signed a letter organized by Representative Barney Frank in opposition to a state constitutional amendment that would have limited marriage in Massachusetts to "only the union of one man and one woman." *Human Events* 2/2004

GENDER-NEUTRAL RESTROOMS: Catherine Orr, professor of women's and gender studies at Beloit College in Wisconsin, on the movement at Beloit and other schools to create gender-neutral restrooms for transgendered students said, "The bathroom becomes a very political space." She favors the idea, saying men's and ladies' rooms put a "very troubling and unfair burden" on such students. *World* 2/2004

WHO WILL PAY TO BEAT BUSH? Here is a partial listing of groups that will spend significant

sums this year to try to defeat President Bush. All figures are taken from press reports: AFL-CIO \$52 million; League of Conservation Voters (2000 figures) \$4 million; NARAL Pro-choice America (2000 figures) \$7.5 million; Planned Parenthood (2000 figures) \$10 million; Sierra Club (2000 figures) \$9.5 million; Brady Campaign (Handgun Control – 2000 figures) \$5 million; Center for American Progress \$10 million; America Coming Together (ACT) \$98 million. *Human Events* 2/2004



Dear Reader:

We pray this printed missionary will be an informative tool for you, your ministry, and local church.

The Voice in the Wilderness sends free of charge thousands of copies each month to individual subscribers, missionaries, pastors, churches, and ministries around the world. Only a small percentage of readers support financially this printed missionary, yet many are blessed by this publication. Would you please consider a special request? With the increases in postage, printing, and overall production costs, The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. has experienced significant financial demands. In order to maintain our missionary program, as well as free distribution of literature, **we need your help:**

1. Please **pray** for this work. I know you have given, yet there are others prompted by the Holy Spirit that could do so as well. Pray that **new supporters** will give a love offering to help The Voice in the Wilderness.
2. Some may even **consider** placing The Voice in the Wilderness in their **monthly missionary budget**. The following will give you an idea of our faith commitment each month:
 - Approx. 40 missionaries assisted financially by The Voice in the Wilderness
 - 12 ministries assisted financially by The Voice in the Wilderness
 - Numerous missionary projects supported by The Voice in the Wilderness
 - Thousands blessed each month by this printed missionary, *The Voice in the Wilderness* in all 50 states, DC, 7 Canadian Provinces, and 26 countries.
 - The Voice in the Wilderness preaching ministry and mission trips.

Most of The Voice in the Wilderness missionaries are foreign nationals. We praise the Lord for opening doors of opportunity around the world to share the Gospel, and because we operate on a very modest income, we have found that the U.S. dollar goes a long way in helping our brothers and sisters overseas. However, no matter how frugal we try to manage, it will always take money to continue these works. **Would you consider partnering with us on a monthly basis?**

We certainly believe *The Voice in the Wilderness* "is" and "has" been a useful tool. Hundreds of letters and calls to our office attest to that fact. It is our prayer that the Lord will allow us many more years in the future to continue and even expand this work. Thanks for considering this need.

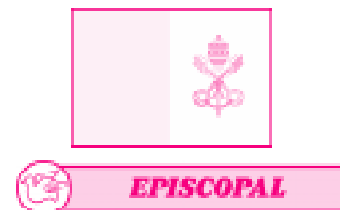
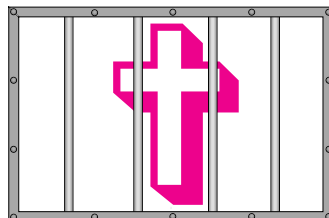
God Bless!

For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie



RELIGIOUS NEWS

AND COMMENTS



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

A PASSION FOR THE BOOK –

1. Did Jesus have long hair as portrayed by most artists and movie actors?
2. Does the Bible say who was responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus?
3. How many times was Jesus struck by the Roman Cat O' Nine Tails?
4. What does the Bible teach about Mary and Joseph? Should they be prayed to or worshipped according to the Bible?
5. Does prophecy and end-times events reveal any of the tendencies of churches today to flock to Hollywood theaters for a "gospel" encounter?
6. What does the Bible say about the Stations of the Cross and the Seven Sacraments?
7. Does the Bible speak about the extra-biblical, or "adding to scripture"?
8. According to the Bible, what is the difference between scripture and tradition?
9. Which church holds the key to salvation, and how does an individual get saved according to the Bible?

FREEDOM OF RELIGION??

VIETNAM: Government recognizes Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, and Muslim religions. However, authorities curtail religious activities deemed threatening to the state. Some 400 congregations with the Evangelical Church have been shut down. Church buildings have been demolished and authorities have tried to force Protestant ethnic minorities to recant their faith.

SAUDI ARABIA: State religion is Wahhabism, a stringent Sunni school of Islam. Members of all other religions are forbidden from worshipping publicly. Non-Muslims may worship in private, but in practice don't know when their activities will attract the attention of the "religious police." They risk imprisonment, lashings, and deportation. Distributing non-Muslim literature, including Bibles, is illegal.

ERITREA: About half the population is Christian, but only Muslim, Orthodox Christians, Catholics and members of the Evangelical Church may worship without registering. *World 2/2004*

THE POPE & THE EPISCOPAL BISHOP:

The Pope's June encyclical on Europe concluded: "There must be entrustment to Mary. The whole Church looks to Mary."

The Episcopal bishop of Virginia has told his diocese's annual meeting that it's better to live with heresy than split the denomination over homosexuality. Someone has said: "Better to be divided by truth than united in error." *Calvary Contender 3/2004*

AMERICA'S CIVIL RELIGION:

Ancient Rome was religiously inclusive, working all its cultural religions into a single civil religion. Religiously diverse America is becoming a new civil religion with all "faiths" working together. Recently a spokesman for the front group of Hamas terrorists said, "Islam is not in America to be equal to any other religion but to be dominant." *Calvary Contender 3/2004*

THERE ARE MANY VOICES IN THE WORLD TODAY –

Mark 1:3 "The voice of one crying

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in the wilderness...” Beware of what “voices” that may be influencing you and your philosophy of life? In the beginning GOD CREATED the heavens and the earth. KNOW YOUR BIBLE.

1. **(ERROR)** The eternity of matter: **(TRUTH)** In the beginning – There was a time when it all began. There was a time when ‘the heavens and the earth’ did not exist.
2. **(ERROR)** Atheism: **(TRUTH)** The Bible declares ‘In the beginning God.’ God is eternal. Atheism creates a crop of problems and solves none!
3. **(ERROR)** Polytheism: **(TRUTH)** How does one get unity out of many gods? God created! One God brought into existence the universe, animal life, human life.
4. **(ERROR)** Pantheism: **(TRUTH)** THIS IS CONFUSION. Genesis 1:1 is very clear and concise. Pantheism says God and nature are the same. Pantheism fails to distinguish between mind and matter, right and wrong, good and bad, leaving behind confusion. Genesis makes it crystal clear.
5. **(ERROR)** Agnosticism: **(TRUTH)** One cannot know? How can one ‘know’ if one does not ‘know’? This building must have had an architect; this design must have had a designer. The kingdom must have a king; the family must have a father. Thinking denies agnosticism.
6. **(ERROR)** Fatalism: **(TRUTH)** Look around. It all could not just happen by chance. “In the beginning God.”



MORMONS AND DNA EVIDENCE: Recent DNA evidence questioning the accuracy of Mormon history is providing an open door to evangelism of Mormons. *The Book of Mormon* describes how Israelites emigrated to the Americas 2,600 years ago, with the now extinct Lamanites and Nephites becoming the ancestors of American Indians. But anthropologists say there is no match of Jewish DNA with that of American Indians. An inaccurate *Book of Mormon* creates questions about the foundation of Mormon teaching. *Calvary Contender 3/2004*



BAPTIST BRAWL: Robert Sloan, President of Baylor University is pushing a plan that would make the Southern Baptist school a world-class research university while also strengthening its Christian identity. But it seems the “old regime” (Baylor’s previous president and some faculty) are doing everything they can to keep Baylor from being recognizably Christian.

In an article in *Christian Century*, Robert Benne analyzes the conflict between the new administration – which, along with

the younger generation of faculty members, believes that Christianity can inform academic excellence—and the old guard who “disagree with Sloan’s contention that Christianity has intellectual content.”

Twenty percent of the Baylor faculty opposes the Baylor 2012 plan, which builds up the graduate schools, requires faculty scholarship, and, most importantly, mandates that the content of Baylor courses reflect Christianity. Forty percent are neutral, and 40 percent support it. Critics of the efforts to re-Christianize Baylor argue that integrating faith and learning will make the university lose credibility in the secular academic world.

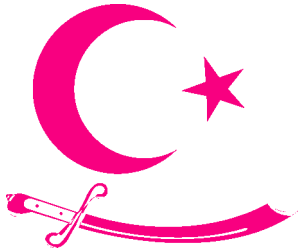
Mr. Sloan has hired some high-powered scholars who are committed Christians. The church desperately needs a research university with PhD. Programs, so that talented Christians can pursue education at the highest level, without wasting time with the obstacles put before them by the anti-Christian academic establishment.

But the academic world itself—bogged down in pseudo-knowledge such as porn studies, politically correct but bogus “reconstructions” of history, and an overarching relativism that makes learning all but impossible—could use a Christian university. Without some foundation for truth, the educational enterprise cannot last for long. *World 2/14/04* [By the way, some “fundamental Christian schools” recommend secular institutions to their own graduates in order to give credibility to credentials!]



NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE



FUNDAMENTAL LAW IN IRAQ:

The founding fathers of a new Iraq are set to publish their first blueprint for constitutional government. Major points of concern will cover the conduct of future elections, religious freedom, Kurdish autonomy, and control over oilfields. In one area, in particular, the two drafts differ over how to define religious freedom. The agreement stipulates that the constitution "will also respect the Islamic identity of the majority of the Iraqi people, while providing guarantees of religious freedom for all Iraqis." Leading Shiite cleric Ayatollah Ali Sistani has prodded thousands of Muslims into the streets not only to protest the existing plan for elections but also the contest constitutional language diluting the clerics' power over state affairs.

The potential for religious conflict was underscored on February 14, 2004, when four Baptist pastors from the United States traveling south of Baghdad came under attack. Insurgents, riding in a car behind the Americans, sprayed their vehicle with bullets, killing John Kelley, 48, a Baptist pastor from Rhode Island,

and wounding three other American clergymen.

An Iraqi Baptist pastor in Baghdad said the group was traveling on what is locally called the "Babylon Road," having ordained a local pastor to start a new church south of the capital. They had been in Iraq for nearly two weeks.

How this constitution is worded will determine whether the rule of law applies when Christians and other minorities are attacked. *World* 2/28/04

"PEACE" IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

In this first decade of the 21ST century, as we move rapidly toward the last days of the End Times, two things stand out beyond all others: that the Western nations possess a cosmic ignorance of the reason for the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that the Church is abysmally naïve in her thinking toward Islam.

The great majority of Westerners think that disputed ownership of land is the cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Scarcely a day passes without the news media propagating and enforcing this line of thought into the minds of the world's masses. And the widely held heretical belief that Jews, Christians and Moslems all serve the same God and that there must be "understanding and interfaith dialogue," will benefit the Church as much as the hunter benefited from his compromise with the grizzly bear. The hunter needed a fur coat, and the

grizzly bear needed a meal, so the nice hunter compromised; the grizzly bear got his meal and hunter was inside the grizzly bear's fur coat. *Philistine, Ramon Bennett, Shekinah Books, 1995, -.41 via TBC 2/21/04*



MTV TRASH: MTV is all about the pornographic and prurient... at worst – the grinding, bumping, groping rebelliousness. *Calvary Contender* 3/2004



HAITI: The National Gross Domestic Product per person is about \$250. (It is \$500 in Honduras and \$750 in the Dominican Republic). Half of all Haitians are illiterate. Life expectancy is about 57 years. Only 1.5 percent of the population has access to piped water. There is only one doctor per 11,000 Haitians. . The uprising began late last summer in reaction to corruption and brutality in the Aristide government. In Aristide's government the principle of doing what is right often seems unimportant, and that kind of power

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politics has left many nations—including Haiti—in shambles. Could it ruin America too?

MEET JOHN KERRY: John Kerry appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press," and later testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (4/1971) that America was the world's worst violator of the Geneva Convention. You can find this complete testimony at www.HumanEventsOnline.com.

SCORE "1" FOR FEDERAL JUDGE RICHARD WILLIAMS; AND "0" FOR THOUSANDS OF BABIES: Judge Williams has single-handedly struck down a Virginia law outlawing partial birth abortion. Judge Williams didn't like the term "partial birth" in the law, because it might "alarm" people. He did not find partial birth abortion itself alarming. He said the law violated "privacy rights" of women buying abortions. And, he said, the law didn't allow partial birth abortion when needed to protect a mother's health - although that's impossible. *God's World News* 3/2/04



NO MERCY – Sudan: For 20 years, there has been civil war between Sudan's Muslim government and Christian communities in southern Sudan. But for nearly a year, a largely one-sided war has been raging in western Sudan. Government planes,

helicopter gunships, and troops have been attacking the Fur people in the Darfur region bordering Chad. Although most Furs are Muslims, they are treated as enemies of the government because they are non-Arab.

Gangs of "Arab militia" called Janjawid (armed horsemen) carry out most of the ground attacks, supported by government forces. They have massacred thousands of civilians and tortured thousands more. More than half of Darfur's one million people have been forced from their homes. At least 100,000 of those have fled across the border to refugee camps in Chad. Sudanese planes have bombed refugee camps on both sides of the border.

Darfur is in a remote part of the country. The government has cut access by aid groups and human rights monitors. The United Nations now regards the worsening situation in Darfur as probably the worst humanitarian crisis in the world at this moment according to the UN undersecretary for human affairs. *God's World News* 3/2/04

Special gifts recently received by The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. Ministry.

Given by: Mrs. Venetta Bullard
In Memory of:
 Mr. & Mrs. D. Sutherland
Given by: Delcie Hamman
In Memory of:
 Grayson M. Hamman

We would like to express our thanks to those who have given a memorial gift to **The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc.** ministry. These names will be added to a plaque and displayed in our office. If you would like to give a special memorial gift or honor someone, please send your "special gift" along with the person's name (legibly printed) you would like listed in an upcoming issue to: **The Voice in the Wilderness, PO Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.**

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readers who are the compassionate ones have no room in their hearts for someone who maintains the scriptural position held by many Bible believing churches and preachers less than a generation ago. Prayer, the Bible, the sanctity of life, and the Ten Commandments have been willingly surrendered by that compassionate crowd of – "In the name of love and unity" churchgoers.

Charles Wysong, president of The American Rights Coalition, puts it succinctly: "So what the Federal Courts mandated for the Courthouse, Christians had already done voluntarily to their own walls. But what the ACLU meant for evil, God meant for good." This statement was made in lieu of the Ten Commandments being forbidden in a Georgia Courthouse by order of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

After this action was taken, The American Rights Coalition of Tennessee decided to conduct a survey throughout just "one" county. The results should be interesting to note:

1. Of the fifteen Christian bookstores, only one had a copy of the Ten Commandments.
2. Of the fifteen Christian schools in the area, only one had a copy anywhere in their building.
3. Of the twenty churches surveyed, only one had a copy on public display.

Then in another survey by The American Rights Coalition, they found that less than one percent of teens and adults in sound Bible churches can name the Ten Commandments.

"What neglect! These are the 'family values' that God intends

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parents to display and teach to their children. They are the foundation of all just laws. They are our schoolmaster to lead us to Christ. And they form the beginning of Christian maturity," said Mr. Wysong. (*World 2/04*)

Following this revealing survey, The American Rights Coalition then commissioned a printing of the Ten Commandments. The first distribution was 50,000 copies to the very county they had surveyed. Well, that year, July 1, 1994, the Ten Commandments were placed on display in businesses, restaurants, judges' chambers, County Commissioners' offices, stores, homes, schools, and churches. Millions have now seen them who would never have seen them on an obscure Courthouse wall!

Dear brother and sister in Christ – Are we finally awaking to an America, let alone a world, in which some have passively stood by, with light under a bushel, and allowed the devil to waltz his demons right in? Without spiritual discernment, many have compromised, thinking it's love, compassion, and unity. Will they be destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6)? They are "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Have we not men that understand the times and know what to do (I Chron. 12:32)? I suspicion some preachers and churchgoers will give account for backpedaling, and re-defining instead of contending for the faith and holding forth the Word of life!

(Please read *The Voice in the Wilderness* February 2004 sermon on Divorce and Re-marriage entitled, "The Disintegration of Family and Church.")

-RLW

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earthly lives. The faithful were labeled by many names including, "Ana Baptists." The Baptist Missionary Society along with William Carey took the Gospel to India and established work in Europe, Great Britain, and the United States. Branded and labeled by many different names, faithful Christians and separated independent churches (dating back to the Apostolic) refused error, rejected Constantine's hierarchy, repudiated those state churches and even underwent persecution by "Reformers." Christ was their founder and head, and true, they remained.

These **faithful** who stood down through time, paid with their blood. We have a wonderful heritage. Not one that compromised and emerged in reformation to once again walk in the truth. But a heritage that remained steadfast and pure. From the time Jesus breathed on His disciples, from the time of the great and rushing mighty wind, from the Apostolic Church, and periods of great persecution to this present day, praise the Lord for this great heritage. Let us take the baton and continue to run the race faithfully.

I. FAITH – Who, what, when, where, and why?

JESUS CHRIST.

II. BAPTIST

Buried in the likeness of His death!

Raised in the likeness of His Resurrection!

I. FAITH

II. BAPTIST

III. CHURCH

The Church, O the Risen Christ and ever present power of the Holy Spirit - Upon Petra and even "the gates of hell shall not prevail." Not by the dictates of men, boards, committees, denominations, or governments, but by the Will of God!

The "Ecclesia" – "To call out from."

Friend, we have been called out from. Called out from:

The bad to the Best.
From death unto Life.
From poverty to Riches.
From sickness to Health.
From tears to Joy.
From dark to Light.
From Lost to Found.
From despair to Delight.
From Hell to Heaven.
From earth to New Earth.

From Jerusalem to New Jerusalem.

At first there was but one church in Jerusalem. Then there was Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

I've preached in a little country church in West Tennessee packed from the altar to the door. The kerosene heater behind the pulpit glowed so hot the sweat ran down my back saturating my shirt and coat. Freezing outside, but barely room to fellowship in the one room church house packed with folk, my wife and I almost caught our death after the Lord met with His church.

Whether in West Tennessee, the jungles of Venezuela, the mountains of Mexico, or even the far east of India, it's been my joy to preach, and pray, and participate in the divine with God's choicest, God's called, THE CHURCH.

Every church has three classes of people: The workers, the jerkers, and the shirkers.

One pastor was asked, "How many active members do you have?" The preacher said, "100%- half of them work with me and the other half work against me."

HEY! FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - What have you got here? Why are you here?

God stepped among us in Jesus – then He took us by the hand, and today we walk forward in Faith Baptist Church.

-RLW



DEFICIT OF DECENCY IN AMERICA:



Zell Miller (D-GA) delivered the following speech on the floor of the United States Senate 2/12/04 addressing several social issues facing the country:

“The Old Testament prophet Amos was a sheep herder who lived back in the Judean hills, away from the larger cities of Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Compared to the intellectual urbanites like Isaiah and Jeremiah, he was just an unsophisticated country hick.

“But Amos had a unique grasp of political and social issues and his poetic literary skill was among the best of all the prophets. That familiar quote of Martin Luther King, Jr. about ‘Justice will rush down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream’ are Amos’s words.

“Amos was the first to propose the concept of a universal God and not just some tribal deity. He also wrote that God demanded moral purity, not rituals and sacrifices. This blunt speaking moral conscience of his time warns in Chapter 8, verse 11 of the book of Amos, as if he were speaking to us today:

“That ‘the days will come, sayeth the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land. Not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the word of the Lord. ‘And they shall wander from sea to sea, and

from the north even to the east. They shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.’

“ ‘A famine in the land’. Has anyone more accurately described the situation we face in America today? ‘A famine of hearing the words of the Lord.’

“But some will say, Amos was just an Old Testament prophet – a minor one at that – who lived 700 years before Christ. That is true, so how about one of the most influential historians of modern times?

“Arnold Toynbee who wrote the acclaimed 12 volume A Study of History, once declared, ‘Of the 22 civilizations that have appeared in history, 19 of them collapsed when they reached the moral state America is in today.’

“Toynbee died in 1975, before seeing the worst that was yet to come. Yes, Arnold Toynbee saw the famine. The ‘famine of hearing the words of the Lord.’ Whether it is removing a display of the Ten Commandments from a Courthouse or the Nativity Scene from a city square. Whether it is eliminating prayer in schools or eliminating ‘under God’ in the Pledge of Allegiance. Whether it is making a mockery of the sacred institution of marriage between a man and woman or, yes, telecasting around the world made-in-the-USA filth masquerading as entertainment.

“The Culture of Far Left America was displayed in a startling way during the Super Bowl’s now infamous half-time show. A show brought to us courtesy of Value-Les Moonves and the pagan temple of Viacom-Babylon.

“I asked the question yesterday, how many of you have ever run over a skunk with your car? I have many times and I can tell you, the stink stays around for a long time. You can take the car through a car wash and it’s still there. So the scent of this event will long linger in the nostrils of America.

“....[Zell Miller goes on to describe in detail music, rap, dancing, etc. in the entertainment world.]

“But as bad as all this was, the thing that yanked my chain the hardest was seeing that ignoramus with his pointed head stuck up through a hole he had cut in the flag of the United States of America,

“This is the same flag that we pledge allegiance to. This is the flag that is draped over coffins of dead young uniformed warriors killed while protecting....[that kid]. He should be tarred and feathered, and ridden out of this country on a rail. Talk about a good reality show, there’s one for you.

“The desire and will of this Congress to meaningfully do anything about any of the so-called social issues is non existent and embarrassingly disgraceful. The American people are waiting and growing impatient with us. They want something done.

“I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of S.J. Res. 26 along with Senator Allard and others, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage. And S.1558, the Liberties Restoration Act, which declares religious liberty rights in several

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ways, including the Pledge of Allegiance and the display of the Ten Commandments. And today I join Senator Shelby and others with the Constitution Restoration Act of 2004 that limits the jurisdiction of federal courts in certain ways.

"In doing so, I stand shoulder to shoulder not only with my Senate co-sponsors and Chief Justice Roy Moore of Alabama but, more importantly, with our Founding Fathers in the conception of religious liberty and the terribly wrong direction our modern judiciary has taken us in.

"Everyone today seems to think that the U.S. Constitution expressly provides for separation of church and state. Ask any ten people if that's not so. And I'll bet you most of them will say 'Well, sure.' And some will point out, 'it's in the First Amendment.'

"Wrong! Read it! It says, 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' Where is the word 'separate'? Where are the words 'church' or 'state'?

"I highly recommend a great book entitled *Original Intent* by David Barton. It really gets into how the actual members of Congress, who drafted the First Amendment, expected basic Biblical principles and values to be present throughout public life and society, not separate from it.

"It was Alexander Hamilton who pointed out that 'judges should be bound down by strict rules and precedents, which serve

to define and point out their duty.' Bound down! That is exactly what is needed to be done. There was not a single precedent cited when school prayer was struck down in 1962.

"These judges who legislate instead of adjudicate, do it without being responsible to one single solitary voter for their actions. Among the signers of the Declaration of Independence was a brilliant young physician from Pennsylvania named Benjamin Rush.

"When Rush was elected to that First Continental Congress, his close friend Benjamin Franklin told him 'We need you... we have a great task before us, assigned to us by Providence.' Today, 228 years later there is still a great task before us assigned to us by Providence. Our Founding Fathers did not shirk their duty and we can do no less.

"By the way, Benjamin Rush was once asked a question that has long interested this Senator from Georgia in particular. Dr. Rush was asked, are you a democrat or an aristocrat? And the good doctor answered, 'I am neither.' I am a Christocrat. I believe He, alone, who created and redeemed man is qualified to govern him.' That reply of Benjamin Rush is just as true today in the year of our Lord 2004 as it was in the year of our Lord 1776.

"So, if I am asked why – with all the pressing problems this nation faces today – why am I pushing these social issues and taking the Senate's valuable time? I will

answer: Because, it is of the highest importance. Yes, there's a deficit to be concerned about in this country, a deficit of decency.

"So, as the sand empties through my hourglass at warp speed – and with my time running out in this Senate and on this earth, I feel compelled to speak out. For I truly believe that at times like this, silence is not golden. It is yellow."



Nuggets of Gold

1. The one thing you should want to leave your children is an honorable name.
2. You are getting over the hill when most of your stories and dreams are re-runs.
3. Don't let your pride become inflated – you may have to swallow it some day!
4. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.
5. It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
6. Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.
7. As a general rule, a liar is not believed even when he speaks the truth.
8. The trouble with our foreign policy is that the enemy nations are living beyond our means.
9. Who are the only government workers that receive no vacations, no sick leaves, and no holidays? Taxpayers!
10. Advice to vacationers: Don't overtax yourself. The government will do it for you.

The Ten Commandments

And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God...

I

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me

II

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image

III

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain

IV

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy

V

Honour thy father and thy mother

VI

Thou shalt not kill

VII

Thou shalt not commit adultery

VIII

Thou shalt not steal

IX

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour

X

Thou shalt not covet



Exodus XX

ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS HANG ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS...

**Thou shalt love the Lord thy God
with all thy heart, and with all
thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

This is the first and great commandment.

The second is like unto it,
**Thou shalt love thy neighbor
as thyself**

1. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14).
2. King David wrote: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple" (Psalm 19:7). "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalm 119:18).
3. J. Edgar Hoover said: "What we need today is an inculcation of the immortal lessons of the ten commands and the Sermon on the Mount....This is the surest antidote to stem the rising tide of lawlessness."
4. The proceeds for the film "The Ten Commandments" were dedicated to philanthropy. Cecil B. DeMille said he was convinced that the Ten Commandments were God's answer to juvenile delinquency.
5. Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote concerning God's law: "There is not a commandment too many; there is not one too few; but it is so incomparable that its perfection is a proof of its divinity."
6. Moses declared, "The Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive..." (Deuteronomy 6:24).
7. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

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