

THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE 1

MARCH 20, 1999

Those Fundamentalist Bible Thumpers Did It . . . Again!

This article describes what I fear will happen because of Y2K, though I would much prefer to be wrong.

A horrifying catastrophe struck at the heart of the nation, threatening the safety and security of every citizen. A certain group, a small, radical, fringe element to be sure, but nonetheless very vocal and, thereby, affecting a sizable number of citizens, had been predicting such a coming destruction that would serve to vindicate them in the eyes of the world and to promote them into positions of control. Many, even of those only incidentally

Christians are, in my view, going very far out on the limb reaching for Y2K. And, that may, I fear, produce some most seriously unpleasant consequences whether the chaos develops or not.

affected by this tainted segment of society, had a deep distrust and dislike for these people—both as individuals and as a group. With the arrival of the disaster came also the opportunity to identify this “rabble” as the source and the cause of the calamity. The political and religious leaders

(Continued on page 2)

It has been suggested that I have become pessimistic in my outlook. I deny that I have changed. I am, I believe, simply realistic and biblical. I assure you that I believe that the future is very bright—but only because the Lord Jesus is coming. That will be a wondrous “day of rejoicing.” If, however, one is speaking of the time we face before that day, then I must affirm that I believe

AHEAD?

that there will not be much in the ‘bright’ department. As the days move toward the revealing of the anti-Christ, the darkness is not going to be turning to dawning and the dawning to noon day bright; rather, what light there now is, will grow even more dim. I hear or read predictions of great revival and renewed glory. But, according to the Bible, the tribulation does not follow a great world-wide revival of godliness. Wishful thinking notwithstanding, there is a dark cloud settling on this world.

Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.



This and That

Heritage Baptist Church recently buried one of her “old generation believers”—Esther Owens. ‘Granny’ was

brought to Pensacola in a covered wagon; she was taken from Pensacola on angels’ wings. The world does not have many of her kind left. She was a practicing Christian. ‘Granny’ believed it and she lived it and ‘it’ was different from the world. Today’s new style of believers can scarcely be distinguished from the world: not by language, not by clothing, not by activities, not by habits, not by lifestyle, not by companions, not by religious services. The “old generation believers” had deeper roots and far greener foliage than these new. ‘Granny’ will be missed.

Granny Owens’ Pastor

REQUESTED REPRINTS

The Autopsy of America

SUMMARY: *The corpse was described as a corpulent, grossly bloated, body of an elderly, malnourished and seriously abused female suffering from several forms of malignant carcinoma that had invaded all the vital organs and the bones. Any of these would have eventually resulted in death; however, the exact cause of death was found to be a particularly malignant form of heart disease: an heart exercised with covetous practices (2 Peter 2:14), hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13), an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God (Hebrews 3:12).*

(Continued on page 3)

Those Fundamentalist Bible Thumpers Did It . . . Again!

(Continued from page 1)

quickly used the media to do exactly that. Persecution--involving confiscation of goods, imprisonment and even death--was sanctioned by both the government (*known for its great freedoms and for protecting its citizens*) and the mainstream religions (*known for their deeds of charity and messages of love*). That this happened exactly as stated is a matter of historical record. Rome did burn and Christians did suffer. The question is not IF it will happen again, but only WHEN the calamity sufficient to produce the wrath of the nations will occur.

Those Fundamentalist Bible Thumpers Did It . . . Again!

It is being declared so often and so fervently that multitudes are convinced that it certainly must be so. The message is a call to prepare for the unavoidable arrival of unprecedented chaos. The villain is the continual progression of the calendar. The year 2000 (based upon the Gregorian corrections to the calendar (*Pope Gregory XIII, 1582--he had nothing to do with Gregorian chants, that was Pope Gregory I*) is approaching from the future, and, as the old joke goes, "there is near panic in the streets." Perhaps, I should restrict my remarks to the "near panic in the aisles." With typical enthusiasm for the apocalyptic and conspiracies, many believers are actively engaged in Y2K preparations. Locally, it is strange to see those who live in a hurricane zone where the probability of facing a hurricane in any given season is very real, yet who wait until the clouds are swirling overhead to prepare for the PROBABLE, now taking such serious precautions for the POSSIBLE--I repeat, only THE POSSIBLE--turmoil of com-

puter glitches resulting from the changing of the calendar.

In particular, it seems that a large segment of the 'Christian' community has accepted as an absolute, not to be challenged, the premise that, with the arrival of the year 2000, the world will be plunged into chaos. The international community, both governmental and commercial, are so dependent upon computers that when the little 1's and O's that form the lan-

I wonder if all the hoarding of food and money will not in itself produce a depression. Those who have invested in a two-year supply of toilet paper certainly will not be buying that commodity for two years and the same is true for the other goods squirreled away.

guage of computers can no longer express the date (meaning that all exchange of currency and information will abruptly end) the world system will snarl or plunge to a halt--or so it is affirmed with authority.

Food shortages, public water supplies contaminated, cars unable to move, planes falling from the air, nuclear devices exploding, missiles launching, electricity distribution and all communications systems ceasing, widespread looting producing governmental usurpation of all human and civil rights, currency, charge and credit cards (there is a difference between these two) becoming worthless, medical dispensing stymied, disease spreading rampantly--and those are just the mild expectations of the prophets of Y2K. A pastor recently chided me (*rather strongly, I thought*) as being either stupid or a part of the conspiracy because I (1) have not encouraged my people to stockpile (*my mother called it hoarding and so did all decent folk during World War II*) food and water sufficient for at least two years supply, (2) have not persuaded them to turn all their assets into gold or silver since the *Day Is Coming When Federal Paper Money Is Worthless*, (3) have not caused them to build retreats away from the masses of peoples, and (4) have not pled with them to purchase multiple firearms to use to defend their stockpiles from the rabble. I was especially

(Continued on page 3)

Those Fundamentalist Bible Thumpers Did It . . . Again!

(Continued from page 2)

chastened for not selling his video and audio tapes, along with his books, to prepare my people. Continued failure to do so would be, in his view, the lowest possible form of pastoral dereliction of duty. He also said that I should not buy airline tickets for mid-December through mid-January and that nothing could convince him to be flying the night of December 31, 1999. (Of course, I think all would agree that no one would desire to fly on New Year's Eve, unless it was either an emergency or unavoidable.) Others have written materials containing pronouncements even stronger.

Y2K is a very popular theme. In fact, Y2K likely has a recognition quotient equal to that of the IRS. The publication of books and tapes dealing with Y2K is a growth industry. Seemingly every mail delivery produces new offerings. The titles are rapidly moving up the bestseller list in Christian bookstores. Obviously, there are also many involved that are not doing so from a "Christian" perspective. National

magazines carry articles. Even the local newspaper, seldom described as a "cutting edge" journal, is devoting feature stories to the subject. The government is spending billions to "prepare" for Y2K. A recent article affirmed that sources had announced that certain states have canceled all vacations from December 1999 through March 2000 in anticipation of the turmoil. It is alleged in another article that a "non-mainstream" contact method will be used this May to mobilize the federal military and the National Guard as a test of capability. It is alleged that the President (*who has indeed written far more executive orders than any precious chief executive--and has had Congress repudiate at least one of them*) has signed a series of executive orders that will virtually change life in America through the coming emergency. One popular supplier of "survival rations and gear" has affirmed a backlog of six months in filling orders. Prices for MRE's and other long term storage foods

(Continued on page 4)

REQUESTED REPRINT

(Continued from page 1)

How America Died

"Land of the Pilgrims' pride"--older Christians fondly remember America in terms of this descriptive phrase from "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." Their land of memory no longer exists. They may recall the prayer with which the hymn ends, "Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King." However, even few of them, and apparently none others, know that the last line of The Star Spangled Banner is a prayer and a praise to the God of Heaven: "*Oh, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand between their loved homes and the war's desolation; Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just; And this be our motto: In God is our Trust!*"

**BEWARE THE MAN
OR NATION WHO
KNOWS NO
ABSOLUTES.
'TIS THE MARK OF
THE
PRACTICAL
ATHEIST.**

When the ACLU finds time to read that last verse of our National Anthem, that organization will undoubtedly bring suit to remove it as being a prayer sponsored by the government. Actually, it little matters what the ACLU and other *remove-all-*

vestiges-of-America's-religious-past groups do now. This is true for two simple reasons--first, America, "the land of the pilgrims' pride" died, and second, those who now use the name of America no longer know Who God Is.

In fact, America no longer knows whether the question should be 'if God is' or 'what God is'; but America is absolutely adamant that whatever or whoever her gods might be, she will not allow the Holy God of the Bible to be considered as a possibility?

The first two presidents of this republic were prophetic in their addresses to the nation. George Washington's Farewell Address contains the following prediction, now blood chilling in its fore-

(Continued on page 5)

Those Fundamentalist Bible Thumpers Did It . . . Again!

(Continued from page 3)

are "yarding" (you know, like "inching") upwards. Locally, a business has opened using a name declaring that it is a Y2K supply depot. Business is, says the owner, booming. People have acknowledged burying sealed containers of toilet paper in back yards. Numbers of private wells are being dug. Attics and garages are filling with canned goods and water jugs. Gasoline (with a shelf life of weeks) is allegedly being stored in underground drums. Generators and water filtration systems are, according to a local retailer, selling at hurricane season rates. One supplier of generators used the newspaper to announce that generators were on at least six months back order.

While no one (including me) knows exactly what will happen and while all discussions must be in the realm of the *hypothetical* until after the event, multitudes of individuals are taking the Y2K prophecies so seriously that they are changing lifestyles. Homes have been sold. Jobs have been left. Individuals and families have moved from one state to another. Especially is this true in Christian circles. Christians are, in my view, going very far out on the limb reaching for Y2K. And, that may, I fear; produce some most seriously unpleasant consequences whether the chaos develops or not.

Suppose that the very worse case scenario does develop. In the event of food shortages and water contamination, the stockpilers will immediately become identified as selfish, despicable hoarders and will be among the most despised and hated of all humanity. That is the reason for the recommendation of acquisition of multiple firearms. Even those Christians who do not have hoards of food and

water will be suspected as having them and treated accordingly. Let the word get on the street that Christians have gold, silver and precious stones "in storage" and a few firearms will

The Inferno at Waco and the Ambush at Ruby Ridge may be forgotten in the public conscience, but all Americans should understand the one undeniable lesson of those two dark stains on America's hands: that is, when the federal government wants you, a fortified compound or an isolated mountain retreat will not prevent its grasp.

not stop the "visits" of either the authorities or the vigilantes. The Inferno at Waco and the Ambush at Ruby Ridge may be forgotten in the public conscience, but all Americans should understand the one undeniable lesson of those two dark stains on America's hands: that is, when the federal government wants you, a fortified compound or an isolated mountain retreat will not prevent its grasp. Being the president of a nation did not protect President Noriega anymore than it did Chiefs of State Sitting Bull or Cochise. Rome did indeed burn and the conflagration was actually used as the

means to burn Christians (both figuratively and literally). It could happen again. It will happen again. The only question is when it will happen.

In the scores of articles pouring from the pens (or is it now better described as "printing from the computer?") that have come to my attention concerning the dread pestilence of Y2K, I have not yet read one article that considers this predicted scourge in the light of history. This generation has forgotten, perhaps it was never taught, what the Nazis did in the 1930's and 1940's to the Jews, true Christians and others whose possessions they desired to obtain or whenever a scapegoat was required. The leaders blamed the problems on them and public sentiment (AKA mob rule) did the rest and all of it was legal. Those who ignore history are, the old proverb says, doomed to repeat it. Sadly, no people have ever ignored history, as have Americans. (Consider the his-

(Continued on page 5)

Those Fundamentalist Bible Thumpers Did It . . . Again!

(Continued from page 4)

tory ignored just this century: World War I--terrible slaughter, awful sacrifices, victory and disarmament; World War II--terrible slaughter, awful sacrifices, victory and disarmament; Korea--terrible slaughter, awful sacrifices, victory and disarmament; Viet Nam--terrible slaughter, awful sacrifices, victory and disarmament. Today--with the military in worse condition than any time since 1938.) History has much to teach, but she has few learners. Have you ever considered how much "return" anyone received on the backyard bomb shelters of the 1950's or the hide-away missile shelters of the 1960's? History is forgotten whenever hysteria seems plausible or profitable.

Whenever Christians set aside the word of God as the rule of life and turn to predicting prophetic events, they do not acquire a good track record. This is especially true when dealing with the forecast of coming catastrophes. One preacher made a reputation in the 1960's with his predictions. Recently, I re-read one of

his books. According to his claimed prophetic foresight, today, there should be trees only in special viewing sites! I recall hearing various preachers predict catastrophes that never occurred and some of the same "failure as prophets" are cashing in on the Y2K. In the 1950's, the message was that if the United States blew up the hydrogen bomb it would create a chain reaction that would destroy the world. In 1960, the possible election of Jack Kennedy would, so they claimed, end American freedom. In 1964, Lyndon Johnson, it was announced and believed, was going to declare martial law and cancel the elections. In 1974, I heard a national evangelist unashamedly proclaim that money would be no good in 1975 and the only hope Christians had was to invest their money in his ministry before it (the money) became worthless. Money is still around and he is still collecting his share. Has everyone forgotten the guaranteed "88 reasons Christ must return in 1988?" On the Oc-

(Continued on page 6)

REQUESTED REPRINT

(Continued from page 3)

sight, "Reason and experience both forbid us that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." John Adams later wrote, "The United States Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other." How wise and how right both men were.

The "land of the pilgrims' pride," this "sweet land of liberty," became, in the late middle of the twentieth century the home of arrogant anti-God-of-the-Bible residents and the sour land of the libertine. Absolutes and Morals were replaced by Majority Vote and Popular Practice. Never forget that majority vote takes its final form in mob rule; the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ is THE example of what the majority of humanity would always like to do with God. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His anointed, saying, Let us cast away their cords from us" (Psalm 2).

In the seventies and the eighties, some so-called Christians resorted to describing what is right or wrong in terms of the will of an entity they called 'the moral majority,' rather than standing upon the old, non-negotiable moral absolutes of the Bible. Rather than saying "Almighty God, the Judge of all the earth, says this is right and that is wrong," these perhaps well-meaning, but totally ill-advised and wrongly led people proclaimed the message that *America should be moral because the majority of her people were moral.* In other words, it was on the authority of the expressed will of the majority of people that abortion on demand be stopped, that homosexuality be opposed, that promiscuity be condemned, that the rate of illegitimacy be reduced, that drugs be eliminated from the streets and the schools of the nation. Morality was reduced to the will of the majority. This was, regardless of what was allegedly intended, a surrender of the uniqueness of biblical Christianity. The very concession that the morals of America should be determined by the majority of Americans was a victory for humanism and the devil himself. This

(Continued on page 6)

Those Fundamentalist Bible Thumpers Did It . . . Again!

(Continued from page 5)

tober day of that predicted rapture, I called the publisher at mid-day. No one was working, except the receptionist. Acting as if I might know him, I asked for the president of the company by first name and was told he was at his bank signing the loan for the construction of new (bigger and better) facilities. Obviously, he had no intention of letting the projected disaster tamper with personal profits. It is sad that Christians forget history.

Y2K may or it may not create by itself the chaos that develops. I wonder if all the hoarding of food and money will not in itself produce a depression. Those who have invested in a two-year supply of toilet paper certainly will not be buying that commodity for two years and the same is true for the other goods squirreled away. What effect will this have on later production of manufactured goods? The effect will not be good. Addition-

Whether Y2K comes or not, the Lord Jesus Christ certainly will.

ally, money spent on these items cannot be spent elsewhere. There are many sound reasons to believe that a Greater than the Great Depression is coming. Many secular authorities have been warning of this for a decade. At this very hour of writing, most of Asia, Russia and her former satellite states, Brazil and other scattered locations are in serious financial condition. The world is so intertwined that the collapse of one major economic player will likely produce a ripple on the scale of a tidal wave. Without Y2K involved, the governments are anticipating financial troubles in short order.

If depression or chaos arrives January 1, 2000--for *whatever real* reason either or both come—a handy scapegoat will be needed, and preachers may well have provided the historically favorite candidate. Within the last two years, the Y2K books and articles that I have read have steadily progressed from “*this might*

(Continued on page 7)

REQUESTED REPRINT

(Continued from page 5)

surrender was an immense assistance to the forces that helped bring about the death of America. From that decision on, the standard by which morality is now forever to be determined and to be regulated in America was yielded to ‘the will of the majority.’

How it was possible for good godly people to fall into this wicked path is only explained by the fact that the people followed the wrong leaders. Leaders, who themselves measured spirituality as ‘success by numbers’ and not as ‘faithfulness in obedience,’ were easily duped by satan to believe that the amassing of numbers alone (AKA: the majority) would or could ‘save America.’ By violating Scripture in their compromises, these very preachers became the accomplices, if not the henchmen, of those who eventually rejoiced over the death of America.

Sadly, an alleged Baptist preacher led,

whether wittingly or unwittingly only eternity will reveal, this movement to change the underlying authority for America’s morals. From that era onward and forever, America would never again be held to the standard of Absolutes, of The Commandments issued by the God of Heaven; His ‘opinion,’ the revealed word of God, no longer would carry any more weight of authority than would the desires of any others who might cast their votes or raise their voices. Americans were not accountable to the law of God, but to the whim of the masses.

All men (and women) were not created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, instead, humanity was legislated and adjudicated equality and then graciously permitted by their benevolent government the privilege to enjoy certain specified and licensed freedoms. Whereas the founding fathers and mothers had envisioned freedom as ‘life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,’ freedom was redefined as the pursuit of happiness and the revoking of all restraints. Liberty, by definition, is a life ruled by boundaries established by authority and America determined to have no

(Continued on page 7)

Those Fundamentalist Bible Thumpers Did It . . . Again!

(Continued from page 6)

happen" to "this will happen" in such a fashion that the possible became the probable and is now the inevitable. So much is this true that the preacher who rebuked me has no qualms about making Y2K "an article of faith" as it were. To my thinking, that connection is a dangerous result of an ill-conceived progression. To associate Y2K so intimately with the message of the Gospel is not spiritual, and it is most assuredly not scriptural. If Y2K proves to be a reproduction of "88 Reasons" and other predicted (but never materializing) scheduled disasters, then the whole of the Christian faith is once again to become the self-made subject of ridicule. If a preacher is convinced that Y2K is a viable possibility, then let him say so. But let no preacher dare to award Y2K a place in biblical prophecy and let every preacher be "certain sure" that he does not present his per-

sonal conclusions as though he were speaking as a prophet.

In particular, it seems that a large segment of the American Christian community has accepted as an absolute, not to be challenged, the premise, that with the arrival of the year 2000, the world will be plunged into chaos.

Personally, this preacher is anticipating the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and not the anti-Christ or any of his precursors. I am more concerned with getting people prepared for eternity than for 2000. I would that all believers would have the desire to be ready for the Rapture with the same zeal as many of them are displaying in their preparations for Y2K. Whether Y2K comes or not, the Lord Jesus Christ certainly will. The one occurrence is

only a possibility, the other is an event beyond even a probability; it is an absolute certainty.

Do not prepare for the merely possible when you need to prepare for the promised! x

REPRINT PERMISSION
GRANTED.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
APPRECIATED.

Pastor Manley

REQUESTED REPRINT

(Continued from page 6)

master, especially not the God of her fathers and mothers. Morality (once known as righteousness) was reduced to the determination of one man, one vote. Everyone was freed from the bondage of responsibility to follow a God defined order; everyone was released to do what ever was right in his/her own eyes. One person's (any and every one person's) vote was now as important, as decisive, as authoritative as once had been Almighty God's.

America was inundated with a slick new slogan every season to sell this premise, such as 'different strokes for different folks'; 'whatever floats your boat'; 'have it your way'; 'as long as it is personal, it is nobody else's business'; 'question authority'; 'let your conscience be your guide'; 'follow your heart'; 'if it feels good, it must be right'; 'decide for yourself, God gave you a brain'; 'don't knock it, if you ain't tried it'; 'only you know what is right for you'; 'try it, you'll like it'; and on and on. As a result, almost overnight, core values

and community standards became the newly established 'absolutes' used to determine the moral tone of each local community. Such 'absolutes' were anything but absolutes; they were always floating in transition, awaiting the next wave of voting, the next voice of leading. Every 'adult' became liberated to do anything he or she enjoyed or just wanted to try to discover if it might be enjoyed. Integrity, Honor, Virtue became as optional as clothing, or, perhaps I should say that clothing became as optional as Integrity, Honor, and Virtue. Duty, Responsibility and Accountability were discarded as denigrating words. Liberty was traded in for licentiousness, and lasciviousness; depravity and amorality became the signs of the times. This newly defined freedom became the motto of the masses: *leave me to do and be what I want to do and be*. What previous generations had sent missionaries and ambassadors around the world to change was now the accepted conduct for Americans. America, not just Christians but the government itself, once sent missionaries and ambassadors around the world to fight and to stop infanti-

(Continued on page 8)

REQUESTED REPRINT

(Continued from page 7)

cide, witchcraft, opium dens, and pagan idolatrous practices. Suddenly, all those vices and more were on Main Street and playing quite well in Peoria. It is no wonder that America died.

When America lost her absolutes, she no longer had a fear of God. She determined that the God of the Bible would not be her God; but she now worshipped gods and goddesses in abundance. One popular female personality announced on national television that "I am god"; but then, according to her everyone else is god also. An elected politician wrote in his *Earth in the Balance* of the earth as a goddess and proclaims "it seems obvious that a better understanding of a religious heritage preceding our own by so many thousands of years could offer us new insights into the nature of the human experience (Page 260)." One wonders to whom or to what he took his oath of office as Vice President when he said, "so help me God." Sir, you were raised, you claim, as a Baptist. If so, then you were not given 'a religious heritage,' you should have been given revealed truth." With more concern for trees, snails and mice than for human babies, the politicians and jurists have had forty million babies tortured and butchered in the name of freedom. Their stifled cries, smothered in the pillow of a woman's constitutional right, would as a single exhibit prove that the moral and the God-fearing America of the pilgrims' pride is dead in any honest courtroom.

The self-described moral majority and the media named religious right were the driving force in electing as president a man whose wife made major decisions of her (and his) life based upon consultations with an astrologer, who checked to see what 'the stars' decreed. Only four years after his retirement from two terms of office, the new moral America sent into the Oval Office a man whose wife does not consult astrologers to let 'the stars' tell her what to do, she has a medium who communicates through seances with the dead for advice and counsel. (And, her pastor describes her as "one of the leading lay theologians in the Methodist church today.") Within four years of the president of the moral majority leaving office, the president elected by new moral America began his term of office by appointing openly homosexual men and women to the highest positions in the executive and judicial branches of government. Even today, when the polls report that the overwhelming majority of Americans believe the current President lies as a way of life and has been continually unfaithful to his marriage vows, the same polls report that just as many Americans, the new moral majority, approve of his job performance.

Before you get mad at me for writing about these two presidents, think over what I wrote. I am indicting a whole nation, not two men. I am writing about morals in general and not politics in particular and have the same right to do so as did John the Baptist when he told King Herod that it was not lawful for him to have his brother's wife as his wife. Apparently, no civil law, Roman or Jewish, was in question; John the Baptist did not appeal to what the majority of the kingdom thought, John simply said that the God of Heaven had written a set of laws that stood above the will of any majority or the whim of any King. You may be as mad at me right now as MS Herodias was with John the Baptist; you may even wish you could have the head of old Jerry the Baptist on a platter. But you have no honest alternative but to admit that the statements I have made are truth; and, while truth may be unpleasant or unwanted, it remains truth. Americans find this new moral climate favorable, I find it deplorable. It matters not what the majority of Americans vote, God's Absolutes will never be rescinded, repealed, or revised. The new America accepts, in violation of Scripture (Deuteronomy 18:10-12), astrology, necromancy, broken vows and lying tongues because the America of the Pilgrims' pride is dead.

Those Pilgrims came to this land to be free to worship God according to the stipulations of His revealed word and after the dictates of their hearts. They wrote a specific document, *The Mayflower Compact*, before they stepped ashore pledging themselves to do exactly that before the God of Heaven. When they landed, they stopped to pray before any other task was undertaken. For generations, Plymouth Rock stood as a reminder of how this land came to be and the Book of the God of those Pilgrims was 'the bulwark of the land.' Those Pilgrims had no problems with native Americans; the two communities lived in peace and harmony. It is true that the native Americans had major quarrels among themselves, but the Pilgrims did not set about destroying native Americans. However, at the same time as the Pilgrims were landing and trying to survive, others were moving in on this new land. For generations school children were taught about the Pilgrims and very little was said of these other settlers. In my view, it was because the Pilgrims had a noble purpose and were respected and considered as representing what America desired to be while some of the others had quite different motives in mind.

While the Pilgrims were busy in New England, 'New Spain' was also being established. There the motive was quite simple; the search was for gold, the fountain of youth and more gold. What is

(Continued on page 9)

REQUESTED REPRINT

(Continued from page 8)

now Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America were plundered and pillaged. In America, what is now Florida, the Southwest and California were given the same treatment for the same reasons. The middle of the Gulf states was attempted to be made into 'New France' where the pursuit of pleasure came even before the search for treasure.

Sadly, it is my observation that after the course of time the land of the pilgrims' pride has succumbed to the heritage of the lust and greed of the pleasure and treasure seekers. Beginning in the late middle of this century, all mention of the God of the Pilgrims and of America's godly heritage was removed from the education of our young and as the basis for our government. The Pilgrims were forgotten and mis-identified with those later arrivals, the Puritans, some of whom (but by no means all) were indeed tyrannical, self-righteous, name only Christians. Generations of American 'Christians' were all lumped together with all those who arrived on these shores and presented as being the gold seeking, slave making, land plundering, pleasure loving pillagers that some settlers and some professing Christians indeed had been. The Christian heritage was defamed and destroyed. The Bible's authority was denied and deleted. Court cases were overturned on the basis that the courtroom had a display of the Ten Commandments or when the prosecuting attorney made reference to God, sin, or the Bible.

God was deported beyond the borders and the paganism of the whole world was imported. From the East came philosophies that had for centuries held those lands of their origin in the bondage of filth, ignorance and poverty. From Tibet came a man claiming to be god in the flesh. From Korea came a false messiah. From China came alternative medicines (some of which are nothing less than witchcraft) and the wisdom of Confucius and Mao. From India came Transcendental Meditation and other mystical blends of Buddhism. From Native Americans returned shamanism, blended with the witchcraft of Africa and the superstition of South America. From the ancient past rose the goddesses. All that had prospered America was discarded to be replaced by all that had impoverished other peoples. In this new moral America, intelligent men and women pack suitcases, put on track shoes and commit suicide to get aboard a space ship hiding behind a comet. Thousands gather at various convergent points to stand with upraised hands chanting UMMMMMMM together to bring peace to the world. The leading role models taut the science fiction lunacies of L. Ron Hubbard as religion. In the current edition of Religions in America, is listed a group

who worship Elvis and await his return as a valid religion.

America did not become irreligious, she became ungodly. Like the Israelites of old, the God that brought them into the land was discarded for the gods of the pagans that were removed from the land. America has become the land of pyramid power, of crystals and chants, of the dream catcher, of the psychic, of the satan worshiper, of the extra-terrestrial abduction, of reincarnation, of all that was mental-ward material a mere fifty years ago.

America, dead spiritually, lost all her fear of God and that was the cause of her national death. She died with a heart hardened by rebellion, a conscience dulled by sin, a mind given over to all manner of wickedness, a body ravaged by the effects of over-indulgence, and God's offer of salvation ignored.

Dear Reader, before your heart becomes hardened and your conscience becomes seared, realize that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. "Fear God." That sentence (1 Peter 2:17) is, I believe, the shortest one in the New Testament—not verse but sentence, only two words with just seven letters in total. Eternal Truth is always easily expressed with simple words, such as: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Harden not your hearts. Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out. Believe on *Pastor Manley* the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

✠
REPRINT PERMISSION. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT APPRECIATED.

THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

(428-290)

is published monthly by
THE HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
of PENSACOLA,
2200 West Michigan Avenue, Pensacola,
Florida 32526-2379.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT PENSACOLA, FLORIDA.

THE BAPTIST HERITAGE is sent without charge to the members of the church and to interested friends of this church.

There are no subscription charges and no paid advertisements are accepted.

This is VOLUME XXIII and ISSUE 3 for
MARCH 20, 1999.

There is a **Good** in heaven Daniel 2:28

Correspondence Information

Telephone: 850-944-5545

e-mail: baptistheritage@juno.com

2200 West Michigan Avenue, Pensacola, Florida 32526-2379

In This Issue...

FUNDAMENTALIST BIBLE THUMPERS

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

THE BAPTIST HERITAGE, 2200 West Michigan Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32526-2379

THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

2200 West Michigan Avenue
Pensacola, Florida 32526-237

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID AT
PENSACOLA,
FLORIDA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

