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THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

VOLUME XXV ISSUE 3

MARCH 20, 2001

YOU ARE AND YOU WILL BE

The Incredible Indestructible YOU

You exist. You are. There was a time when you did not exist. Once you were not. But, now you are. You exist. You came into being—a conception occurred and you at that moment became. Before then, there was no you. From then, you were and are. You came to be. You are. Had you never been born you would still be. Having become, you are. Ancient Job gave testimony to this truth.

Job 3:11-13 Why did I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly? . . . For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: then had I been at rest.

Job, very clearly, did not say that if he had died in the womb or at birth then he would not have existed at all, that he would never have been—instead he said that had he died in the womb, he would still be—in his terms, “laying still, being quiet, sleeping, resting” yet still being. In other words, had

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this and that

Editors
 Jerald L. Manley
 Gary Roland
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 Jody Wolf

Biblical Truth has never been the darling of the masses. It has never been the single controlling influence of any nation. (Even at the pinnacle of the Theocracy of Israel under Moses, Truth was out-voted at the foot of Sinai.) Occasionally, a given circle of population has enjoyed a plurality of believers. Certainly, all Europe and the Americas have felt the strong influence of Christianity. In particular, England, Scotland, Wales, Switzerland, South Africa, and the United States have known times when authentic biblical Christianity was respected and, even publicly, saluted.

This publication is mailed to you on purpose. Someone who knows you believed that you would profit by receiving and reading it. If you do not agree, we will remove your name from the next possible mailing. We have no desire to intrude or offend.

Prohibition was a brief reality. "In God We Trust" was not placed on our coins by a multi-culturalist, pressured by a pluralistic society. "Under God" was not added to the Pledge of Allegiance through efforts led by a New Age Guru. The open, brutal, physical persecution of biblical Christians ended with the establishment of the Constitution. (Perhaps you should read of the earlier treatment of Baptist preachers in New England, Virginia, and Maryland.)

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this and that

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Recent generations, deceived by calmness of the waters, have not prepared for the rising hostility that signals the approaching storm.

Accepting the pulpit-taught inference that the United States was founded on truths gleaned from Scripture and, therefore must be a Christian nation, Bible believers have drifted along with the rising and falling tides. Most of us are a little stunned when the Gospel is rejected with ridicule and hostility. It is time to wake from our slumbers and realize that Ted Turner speaks for the no-longer Silent Majority of Americans. America is moving from unbelief with respect to ungodliness with contempt. Biblical truth is simply not palatable—*nor can it be made palatable*—to the ungodly.

To attempt to do so is not my calling anyway, I am called as a preacher not a diplomat. My ambassadorship is to deliver the terms of unconditional surrender as dictated by The King, not to negotiate a truce.

—Pastor Manley



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, by request, to interested friends of this church.

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

This is VOLUME XXV and
 ISSUE NUMBER 3 for MARCH 20, 2001.

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Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

No church membership is mentioned. No baptism is required. No holding on faithfully is demanded. No reformation of life is established as a prerequisite. No balancing act is suggested.

The question is as unmistakable as is the answer. The answer is as unambiguous as is the question. The question is simple; the answer is definite. The question is definite; the answer is simple. The question is explicit; the answer is clear. The question is clear; the answer is explicit.

No honest, sincere, seeking heart could misunderstand the question. No seeking, sincere, honest heart could misinterpret the answer.

The question is straightforward:

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

The answer is forthright:

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

You will live either in the place prepared by the God of Heaven for His children or in the place prepared by the God of Heaven for the devil and his angels. It is certain that you will live in one or the other for ever and for ever and for ever and for always. The only uncertainty is "Which place it will be?"

--Pastor Manley

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Job died in the womb then he would not be in the terrible, unpleasant, troubling situation that he was enduring. He would be better off (in his view), if he had never been born, but he would, nonetheless, still be. Job knew that having become, he now was.

Indeed, there was a time before you were. In truth, there shall never be a time when you are not. You are and you always will be. You will never cease to exist. You will be for ever and for ever and for ever—even for always. You are and you always will be.

There was a day when you were born—you entered life. You live. You will live somewhere forevermore. Having become, there will never be a time when you are not.

There will come, if the return of the Lord Jesus tarries, a time when you will die. Your body will return to the earth from whence it first came. But, you did not come from the earth, from the dust of the ground. Your body did—but you did not. You came from a direct act of God. Genesis 2:7

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The dust formed into a man, that body just formed was man but without the breath of the LORD God man was not a living soul. Man *became* a living soul. This man is not some ape-creature into which God breathed thereby altering evolution's natural channel to create a man, as some theistic evolutionists teach. This is the man that God named

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Adam into whom, the LORD God breathed. There is more involved in this breathing than merely giving life. Plants have life; microbes have life; fish have life; worms have life; animals have life. Remove that breath of life and Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

You have a body that was first formed from the dust of the ground, a body, which shall never leave this earth, and you have a soul created by the breath of the Creator. Long after your body has returned to the earth as the dust that it once was, your soul will still exist. And, one day your soul will be reunited with a resurrected body. You will never cease to be—not even for a moment of time.

You are and you will always be. After death, you will not be here—but you will be. You will leave the realm of time and move into the realm of eternity, that which is beyond and outside time. There are only two destinies in eternity—only two places created for man/woman to dwell. You will exchange a temporary home of time and earth for a permanent home of eternity. You will live for ever and for ever and for ever and for always in one of the two places God created for humanity in eternity. There is a heaven where God shall dwell and a lake of fire where the devil and his angels shall live.

God invites you to live with Him. The Father's house has ample room and is graciously prepared. You may, however, reject His invitation and live

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sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. 29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

It is not possible to make this matter of salvation any plainer.

The question is exact:

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

The answer is empathic:

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus

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10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

There is no wavering in the testimony of these two men. Salvation is only through the Lord Jesus Christ. When asked the very question, you and I need to ask if we are ever to see Heaven and if we are to avoid the Lake of Fire, Paul gave a simple and direct answer.

Acts 16

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and

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eternally in the place that He has prepared for the devil and his angels.

The difference between being condemned by the justice of God and confined by the power of God in the Lake of Fire for eternity and being forgiven by the mercy of God and admitted by the Grace of God to Heaven into the presence of God for eternity is found in the conception, the birth, the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

No issue of life is as important as the one we are examining. The next few minutes might well determine which of the two destinations—and there are only these two possibilities—either in the presence of God or the presence of the devil and his angels—you will find yourself in eternity. To help you understand the urgency of the matter, I call two witnesses for you to hear. First Peter, and then Paul Acts 10

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, 2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. 3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. 4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. 5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose

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surname is Peter: 6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do. 7 And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually; 8 And when he had declared all *these things* unto them, he sent them to Joppa. 9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: 10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, 11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: 12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. 13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. 15 And the voice *spake* unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common. 16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. 17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, 18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there. 19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. 20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting

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turned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

The Apostle Paul also adds nothing, deletes nothing, and changes nothing of what he first said in his additional testimony. The way of salvation had not changed during the ministry of the apostle Paul.

Romans 10

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. 5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. 6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*;) 7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) 8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved

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the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

1 Peter 2

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now re-

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nothing; for I have sent them. 21 Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come? 22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee. 23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him. 24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends. 25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. 26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. 27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. 28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. 29 Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me? 30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in

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bright clothing, 31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. 32 Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. 33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. 34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. 36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; 38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And

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plied. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith even the salvation of your souls. 10 Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. 13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to

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in the grace of God. 44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

You and I may never fully comprehend *why* the death of the Lord Jesus atoned for our sins; we may never understand *how* the shed blood paid the complete price of our redemption; but the unavoidable fact is that both Peter and Paul preached that salvation and redemption is only found in Jesus Christ. An honest heart must admit that the apostle Peter and the apostle Paul both preached that salvation was through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The truth that the record of the word of God shows that both men taught the exact same thing cannot be denied. These are the messages they preached in their early days of ministry. What about their preaching as they neared the end of their ministries? Did they change what they preached.

Listen to the further testimony of Peter as written in his later years. It is a consistent continuation of what he said before. He makes no addition. He makes no substitution. He changes nothing. The way of salvation had not changed.

1 Peter 1

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multi-

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he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the judge of quick and dead.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Now Paul's testimony:

Acts 13

13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem. 14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. 15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, *Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.* 16 Then Paul stood up and beckoning with *his hand* said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience. 17 The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it. 18 And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness. 19 And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot. 20 And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. 21 And after-

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ward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. 22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. 23 Of this man's seed hath God according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: 24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25 And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not *he*. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of *his* feet I am not worthy to loose. 26 Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you heareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. 27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him. 28 And though they found no cause of death *in him*, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. 29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. 30 But God raised him from the dead: 31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. 32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the

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promise which was made unto the fathers, 33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. 34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, *now* no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. 35 Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: 37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption. 38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. 40 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; 41 Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you. 42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. 43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continu

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