

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

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MISSIONARY

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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

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"BUT GOD" OR THE CHRISTIAN GOD'S HANDIWORK

BY: C. D. COLE

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

A criminal, while in jail in Miami some years ago, read of a brain operation designed to destroy criminal tendencies. He finally persuaded the Criminal Court Judge to let him undergo such an operation. He said he hoped he would live through the dangerous surgery, become a new man and that a sympathetic society would give him another chance.

So, at Coral Gables, Florida, surgeons bored two holes through his skull and cut the pre-frontal lobe from the rest of his brain, hoping to sever the motivation for his

criminal propensities. Psychiatrists and attorneys planned to get permission from the court to place him with a good family, get him a good job, and give the psychologists six months to continue his moral training. In this way, they hoped to make a saint out of a criminal. But the criminal walked out of the hospital and escaped and left a trail of cold checks from Kansas City to Massachusetts.



Location: 3.3 miles out Bryan Station Road. Right on Briar Hill Road.

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Evening Service	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting	7:30 p.m.

Foolish men to think that any physical operation could cure a sinful soul! Sin cannot be eradicated by cutting on the human body for the simple reason that sin does not belong to the body but to the soul. "Every sin that a man commits is without the body" (I Cor. 6:18).

Air-Conditioned Nursery Provided

Man is a moral being--he is a soul dwelling in the body--and the soul is the

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source of sin. As a moral being, he has a heart and mind altogether distinct from the physical organs of heart and brain. That which causes man to sin is something that the surgeons cannot cut out. The body is used as an instrument of sin and it is also the victim of certain sins, but sin does not originate with any physical organ. Surgeons cannot save a soul.

My text is a phrase of two words: "But God." And this phrase stands between the description of what men are by nature and what they become by grace. It explains our salvation. Salvation is not of ourselves; it did not come out of us; it came from God. It is the result of the mercy of God and this mercy was because of His great love. And this love as a gracious love became a power--an operating principle--in us. Paul said, "I persecuted the church of God, But by the grace of God I am what I am."

"But God." This is the hope of every sinner--no sinner can make of himself a saint. This is the hope of every preacher. We may preach and pray but God must work. The saved person is God's handiwork. Instead of being saved by our own works, we are ourselves God's work. "We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works."

We have in the scripture before us:

1. Man without God - Man in his natural and unregenerate state.

- (a) He is dead. This is not physical death; it is moral death. He is dead to God and holiness because he is separated from God, the source of all that is good and holy.
- (b) He is controlled by Satan. The lost man is under the dominion of Satan, who is called the god of this world. The lost man has the same boss that the demons have. The prince of the power of the air--the leader of the fallen angels who have their dwelling in the air above us--is the same spirit that works in the sons of disobedience.
- (c) In his conduct he fulfills the desires of the flesh and of the carnal mind and is by nature a child of wrath. This means he is exposed to the wrath of God. The sinner is in a hopeless and desperate condition unless God works graciously and mightily.

2. Man as a saved person.

- (a) He is said to be alive. He lives unto God. He is brought to God who is the source of life.
- (b) In his standing he is raised and seated with Christ in the heavenlies.

3. The saved man is God's handiwork. "But God" spells the difference between man as saved and as lost. Man is a guilty sinner but God, for Christ's sake, forgives him. Man is a filthy sinner but God, for Christ's sake, begins a good work in him. Man, as a sinner, is fitted to destruction but God, for Christ's sake, fits him for heaven. Man in his natural state is blind to the gospel but God who com-

manded the light to shine out of darkness shines in his heart to give him the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- (a) The source of salvation is grace. By grace are ye saved. Salvation is not something earned by the sinner; it is something given by God without money and without price.
- (b) The process of salvation is faith. "By grace are ye saved through faith." Salvation is not by our own works; it is through trust in the works of another--Jesus Christ.
- (c) The result of salvation is good works. We are created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Don't claim to be saved if you have no interest in good works.

The surgeons operated on that criminal without any good results, but when God operates on the moral heart of the sinner, there will be good results.

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WHAT IS FAITH? Faith is not trying, it is trusting. Faith is not struggling, it is clinging. Faith is not fighting, it is the victory. Faith is not an attainment, it is something we obtain. Faith is not self-sufficiency, it is dependency upon another, even Christ. Faith is not pride, it is humility. Faith is not fear, it is love. Faith is not anchored in self, it is anchored in Christ. Faith is not self-produced, it is born of God, for whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

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ABRAHAM VARGHESE
MISSIONARY TO INDIA
PUT ON SALARY

The Bryan Station Baptist Church is sending Brother Varghese back to his own country to do mission work. Brother Varghese will have the authority to preach, baptize and teach and organize New Testament Baptist Churches. He will be leaving this country around August, 1970, after he completes school at Central Baptist College at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Many churches have desired to help with his support. Several have already started. Several churches have asked him to come and preach for them. Brother Varghese has been working and making his own way thus far. The time has come when he cannot work, go to school and visit the churches. In order that Brother Varghese can be available to go and preach in the churches, the Bryan Station Baptist Church has put him on a full-time salary of \$100.00 a week, starting this February. This is sufficient to supply his needs in this country since he is a single man. This is how we have decided to do this. No doubt Brother Varghese will receive love gifts from the churches in which he preaches. Brother Varghese will

report this amount each month. If it exceeds \$100.00 a week, the excess will go into the fund designated for his support. A few churches are sending their support to us and this money is put into this separate fund. At the end of the month, whatever is lacking will be made up by the Bryan Station Baptist Church. In this way, he will receive \$100.00 each week. Each church sending an offering will be sent a receipt from our church.

If there are any questions, feel free to write. Send all offerings to: Bryan Station Baptist Church, Route #4, Lexington, Kentucky 40505, designated for Abraham Varghese. All offerings will be used for this purpose.

Al Gormley, Pastor

Bryan Station Baptist Church