

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

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MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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

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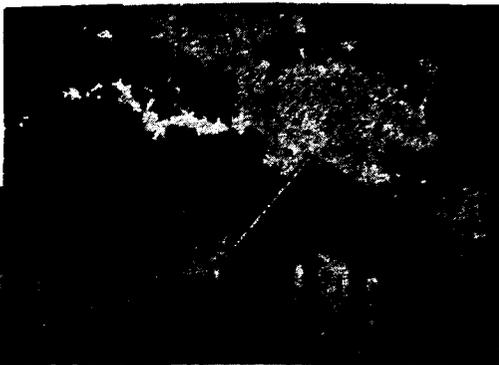
GOD'S COMPETITORS—"YE SHALL BE AS GODS"

"—Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"
(Gen. 3:5).

"And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil"
(Gen. 3:22).

That the infinite, incomprehensible, and incomparable God should have competitors is the wonder of the ages. That the eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, immutable, and independent God should be opposed is the height of creature folly. That the Creator, Ruler, Preserver, and Saviour should be denied and caricatured is so amazing as to be shocking. Nevertheless, the Almighty and All-wise God has His competitors, opponents, and slanderers.

A competitor is one who strives with another for supremacy. Competition is the struggle for a common object. Men in business and professional life compete for the patronage of their fellows. And in the world of sports there is competition for mastery.



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.
Air-Conditioned	Nursery Provided

Pastor Alfred M. Gormley
Ph. 299-1430 347 Sierra Drive
Lexington, Ky. 40505

Competition With God for Sovereignty

Our texts suggest the thought of human competition with God for sovereignty--competition in the realm of authority. God is the one and only One who has the right and ability to do as He pleases. He is the one and only Creator; all others are creatures of His hand. He is the one and only Lawgiver; all other moral beings are under His law and dominion. To deny this and to act as if it were not true is sin.

God's sovereignty is declared throughout Holy Writ. Matt. 20:55: "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own?" John 21:22: "Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, What is that to thee?" Dan 4:35: "And he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" Psalm 135:6: "Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places." Isa. 40:14: "With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him?" Rev. 4:11: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Denial of the sovereignty of God is the very nature and essence of sin. Sin may be defined as competition with God for authority. Competition has been called the life of trade, but competition with God issues in eternal death.

Angels Were the First Sinners

Competition with God for supremacy and sovereignty had its origin among the angels with one of them taking the lead and drawing others after him into this awful business. That slimy, slippery, hideous, loathsome, damning thing we call sin was born the day that Lucifer, the morn-

ing star said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God"; "I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14:13,14).

Then the devil became the instigator of competition on the part of man. Sovereignty was the bait he held out to Eve when he said, "Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Whatever is meant by this expression the idea of sovereignty is involved in it. God placed man under law and warned him that to violate it would mean death. The devil told them that to violate it would mean liberty and power and wisdom. He told them their eyes would be opened and they would be able to determine what is right and wrong. They would not have to be subject to what God says. They would be sovereign and do as they please. They would not have to be tied down by God's requirement for their lives. They would be free. So they entered into "cut-throat competition" with God for sovereignty. God had said, "This is my will for your lives"; they said, "We will" and died.

In What Sense Did Man Become Like God?

When man had sinned and thus rebelled against God's commandment, God said, "Behold, man is become as one of us, to know good and evil." Now, in what sense had man become like God? Certainly, not with respect to character. Man did not improve his character, but lost the good character with which he was created. It is certain that man did not come into possession of God's attributes, such as power, holiness, and wisdom. Man lost power to live and died. He fell from his estate of holiness and became defiled. He lost his wisdom and became a fool. Surely it cannot be said that man became like God in fact. There is only one sense in which man did and could become like God, and only holy ambition for any man is the ambition to please and glorify God.

"He who builds a church to God and not to fame,
Will never mark the marble with his name."
(Pope).

Results of Competition with God

The aim of competition with God for authority is human happiness but the results have been misery and woe. When man takes sovereignty in his own hands there is a break with God, and man cannot be happy without God. It is God who satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. The words, "Man is become

as one of us," may also be translated, "Man is become as one from Us." The thought is that of a break with God. Man cannot compete with God for sovereignty and still have fellowship and communion with Him. God will have no competitors. He will tolerate no rivals. He says, "I am God and beside me there is none else."

Man cannot govern himself until he is first governed by God. To become independent of God is to become the slave of sin and Satan. Every form of human government has signally failed, because man cannot govern independent of God. Man broke with God and lost peace with his brother. There was strife and murder in the first family. Cain killed Abel. Men cannot be at war with God and live at peace among themselves.

Salvation Through Cooperation

God's competitors are ruined and need salvation. And this need has been provided in Christ, the Son of God. He cooperated with God in order to save God's competitors. The first Adam became a competitor and said, "I will" over against God's will; the last Adam was a cooperant and said, "Not my will, but thy will be done." He could say, "I delight to do thy will O God," even though God's will led Him along the rough road of suffering through Gethsemane to the cross where He cried, "I have finished the work Thou gavest me to do." The cooperant suffered for the competitor that He might bring us to God. Through faith in Christ the sinner is delivered from the condemnation of a competitor and receives the justification of a cooperant. Dear sinner, trust Christ as Saviour, surrender to Him as Lord, stack your arms of rebellion against God. From competitor to cooperant—this is salvation.

C. D. Cole

TEACH US

Said the sparrow to robin: I would
Really like to know
Why these anxious human beings run
Around and worry so.
Said the robin to sparrow:
Well, I guess that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.

THIS WE BELIEVE

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God without error as originally written. We believe in the Genesis account of creation and the fall of man. We believe in total depravity. We believe all are lost unless born again. We believe that we are saved by grace through faith and without works on the part of man. We believe that repentance and faith are inseparable graces and that all who do not repent and believe are lost. We believe in the security of the believer. We believe that after one is saved that he should be a Baptist. We believe that Jesus Christ organized a church while here on earth during His personal ministry (before Pentecost) and that He gave that church a commission, Matt. 28:19, 20. We believe that there are two church ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a saved person in water upon the authority of a true Baptist church. We believe that the Lord's Supper is restricted to each local church and that the elements are unleavened bread and fruit of the vine. We believe that the church is local, visible and

that she has the Bible for her one and only and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice and that the decisions of a church are final and that no other church or organization of any kind has any right to interfere with her decisions. We do not believe that there is any such things as an "invisible" or "universal" church. We believe that the way to finance the Lord's work is by tithes and offerings. We believe that all churches should be missionary. WE believe that the ordaining of preachers is to be done by a local church and not by a mission or association, etc. We believe in the sovereignty of God, in foreknowledge, predestination, election, effectual calling, justification and glorification and that whosoever will may come and that these do not contradict each other. We believe that women should keep silent in public mixed assemblies and that God calls only men to preach. We believe in the premillennial second coming of Christ. We believe that Heaven is a real place and that Hell is a real place. We believe in the Trinity of God and that the Devil is a person, and that there will be two resurrections, one of the just and one of the unjust.