

# *Bryan Station Baptist Church*

INDEPENDENT

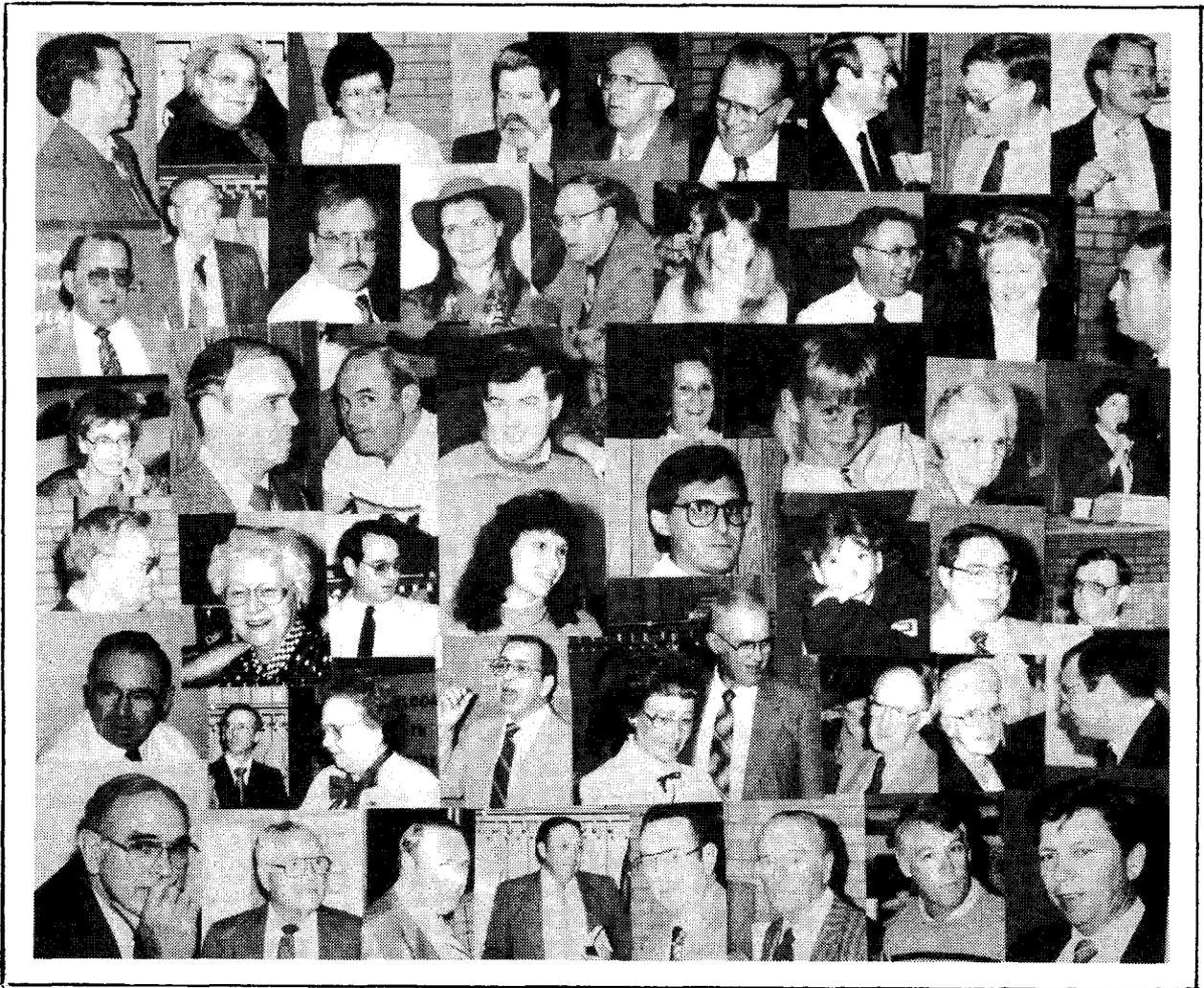
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MISSIONARY

# THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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

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Our Seventh Annual Bible Conference was a great blessing and encouragement to all. The evening services were packed and our parking lot was so full we had to double park with some cars parked across the road. The preaching was great and encouraged all of us. The day services were attended more than any of the past conferences.

The Lord truly blessed all of us and we do hope that we were a blessing to all that attended. As usual, the ladies fed us very well.

We are looking forward to next year if the Lord permits. Make plans to be with us in 1989.

Al Gormley, Pastor

# THE HUMAN NECESSITY

## FOR A DIVINE REVELATION

BY: C. D. COLE

Psalm 119:99, "I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation."

Psalm 119:130, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

Christianity is the religion of a Book. And this book is God's written revelation to men. Such a revelation as we have in the Bible is one of humanity's deepest needs. "Bring me the Book!" exclaimed Sir Walter Scott on his deathbed.

Suppose that God had not given a written revelation of Himself; every soul of us would be left like a rudderless ship on the stormy sea--at the mercy of every wind that blows. Without a written revelation, man would be without any standard of authority as to matters of faith and practice; he would be, in spite of all the worldly wisdom to which he might attain, forever ignorant about things of vital and eternal moment. The soul's sad condition where there is no written revelation, or where this revelation is ignored or rejected, is strikingly illustrated in an article by Bruce Barton, that popular infidel writer, entitled, "What Can I Believe?"

Satan knows, if many church members do not, the importance of an inspired revelation from God. Here it was he made his first attack. In Eden he asked, "Yea, hath God said?" and today he is pursuing the same tactics. Every available weapon in his arsenal has been employed against the citadel of truth. In the first days of the Christian era the attack was made openly--the bonfire being the chief instrument of destruction--but, in these last days the assault is made in a more subtle manner and comes from an unexpected source. The Divine origin of the Scriptures is now disputed in the name of "scholarship" and "Science," and that, too, by men who eat the bread of the church and profess to be friends and

champions of the Bible. Let us differentiate between three terms that are often confused in the thinking of the people: Atheism, Agnosticism, and Infidelity. II Corinthians 6:15, "And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" I Timothy 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." So, an infidel is one who rejects the Christian revelation. Men need a written revelation:

I. To tell them what God is; not THAT God is, but what God is. Without the Bible, men, by a pure process of human reasoning may conclude there is a god, but their conceptions of God will be erroneous, for the world by wisdom cannot know God. The Bible makes no effort to prove the existence of God, but rather assumes His existence. Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." But the Bible goes to great lengths in telling us who God is. He is revealed as a trinity of persons, yet one in essence of being. Self existent; eternal, infinite in all His attributes, power, love, holiness, etc.

Nature is not a sufficient revelation of God, for the very simple reason that nature is imperfect, and under the curse, and an imperfect creation cannot be a perfect medium for revealing God. Romans 8:19-22, "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

II. To tell us about man--whence he

came, what he is and whither he is going. Without a written revelation from God, man scarcely knows himself any better than he knows God, for he has even been prone to think more highly of himself than he ought to think. The teachings of the Bible about man are unique. Unlike all other books, the Bible condemns man and all his doing. It never eulogizes his wisdom, nor **praises his achievements**. On the contrary, it declares that "every man at his best state is altogether vanity," Psalm 39:5. Instead of teaching that man is a noble character, evolving heavenward, it tells him that all his righteousness are as filthy rags, that he is a lost sinner, incapable of bettering his condition; that he is deserving only of hell. Without a written revelation men have ever been prone to worship one another and the hero-worship that is so amazingly on the increase, in this day of departure from the word of God, only adumbrates that day when a man shall exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. II Thessalonians 2:4, "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." "And when all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the lamb slain from the foundation of the world," Revelation 13:8.

III. To tell us what is right and wrong. Can it be thought that the great Creator and moral Governor of this world would leave his subjects without a law governing their behavior. Such folly would not be attributed to an earthly ruler. Where is that law to be found? The modernist answers in the conscience. But, no, that would make every man a law unto himself, and lead to confusion and anarchy. There must be a standard of authority; a last court of appeal. Our conscience is not sufficient. Bible gives more commands than conscience. Let it be remembered that man, by nature, is a fallen creature, and therefore his conscience cannot be perfect. If human governments cannot afford to commit moral issues to the human conscience, how much less can it be thought that a thrice holy God would do so.

IV. To tell us how to be saved. A

voice that speaks with certainty is desperately needed here. How to be saved is the greatest question that can possibly engage the attention of man. This question can only find an answer in a divinely written revelation. To be left to human wisdom or experience is to be left without any real hope. "I have no light to guide my feet except the lamp of experience," Patrick Henry. What a need is revealed in these sad words. The teaching of the Bible about salvation from sin is unique. Man's thoughts about salvation are defective and deficient. In the first place, left to himself, he fails to realize his need of salvation. In the pride of his heart he imagines he is sufficient in himself, and does not comprehend his ruined and lost condition. Like the self-righteous Pharisee, he thanks God he is not like other men. In the second place, he is ignorant of the way of salvation. Even when brought to the place where he recognizes that he is not prepared to meet God, he has no right conception of the remedy for sin, and applies many worthless remedies to his sinsick soul. Being ignorant of God's righteousness, to him salvation is a wage to be earned, a crown to be coveted, a prize to be won.

The condition of salvation is a satisfied law. The law is satisfied when the penalty is inflicted. The only danger is from violated law. The only safety is from a satisfied law. Jesus satisfied the law by bearing its penalty.

### *Taking Mother's Hand*

When a boy or girl thrusts his small hand in yours, it may be smeared with chocolate ice cream, or grimy from petting a dog, and there may be a wart under the right thumb and a bandage around the little finger. But the most important thing about his hands is that they are the hands of the future. These are hands that someday may hold a Bible or a Colt revolver, play the church piano, or spin a gambling wheel; gently dress a leper's wound, or tremble wretchedly uncontrolled by an alcoholic mind.

"Right now, that hand is yours. It asks for help and guidance. It represents a full-fledged personality in miniature to be respected as a separate individual whose day-to-day growth into Christian adulthood is your responsibility".

Author Unknown