

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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“Preaching the same truth since before Kentucky was a state”

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19th Annual MISSION BIBLE CONFERENCE October, 2000

Truth-loving Baptists from all over the country met in the Bluegrass State to feast on God's word. And what a feast we had—16 preachers in three days! Make plans to be with us next year, if the Lord tarries.

REASONS FOR REJOICING

BY: C. D. COLE

The saints ought to be a happy people. They are commanded to rejoice, and are disobedient if they do not rejoice. They have much cause for being happy. But the joy of the lost is a delusion and a dream from which there will be a terrible awakening. The lost man has no substantial reason for being happy. We can only think of Bruno Hauptmann, convicted kidnapper and murderer of the son of Charles Lindbergh, as being a very unhappy man. It is true we do not often read of him weeping neither do we ever read of him rejoicing and giving expressions of joy. And we know why he is not happy. He has been convicted of crime and has been sentenced to die. We can only think of his situation is that which makes for sadness. We can see no reasons why he should be happy. To me the best evidence of his innocency would be for him to manifest joy and gladness.

Leaving out the question of his eternal welfare, Hauptmann, though guilty, has a more substantial reason for joy than the best moral man here, who is out of Christ. The man out of Christ has been found guilty of crime against the God of heaven, and the sentence of the second death; eternal torment in a lake of fire, has been pronounced upon him. *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God,"* John 3:18. How then can a lost man be happy? How can he even smile or appear to be happy? It is a fact they do. The world appears to be happier than the saints. They gather around their amusements and shout and shriek themselves hoarse with laughter and rejoicing. How can they do this with the sentence of eternal death staring them in the face? Here is the only answer: they do not know their danger; their sad state has never really come home to them; they are ignorant of their true condition. If a guilty man, condemned to die and the day of execution drawing near, should laugh and joke, we would think him insane.

But the saint has a right to be happy. He has real reasons for rejoicing. He can rejoice: *"But rather rejoice, because*

your names are written in heaven," Luke 10:20. The Bible has a lot to say about a book in heaven. It is called the lamb's book of life. *"And 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. *"The beast that thou sawest was, and is, not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is,"* Revelation 17:8. *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire,"* Revelation 20:15. *"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life,"* Revelation 21:27. To have our names written in this book secures against being deceived by the antichrist, against being cast into the lake of fire, and admits us into the holy city of God.

This is compared with the joy of success. The seventy returned with joy over the success they had had in the work Christ had given them to do. There is joy in success; a work well done; but Christ said rejoice not in this but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

Because God's Son is his Saviour. Salvation is a tremendous task and requires a mighty Saviour. If sin were a trivial matter most any kind of a Saviour would do. If sin were a little matter, the consequences or punishment would be a small matter, and it would not matter much whether we were saved or not. But sin is an awful thing; it merits and brings the wrath of God upon the sinner; salvation is a dire necessity and a mighty Saviour is needed; one who can make us right with God and turn away His wrath and anger. Who can do this? None but Jesus Christ the Son of God. Can you think of a better Saviour? Can you think of any other Saviour?

If there is a God, and you have sinned against Him, and are under condemnation by Him, having been sentenced to

the lake of fire, how do you expect to escape this sentence? Who will you trust to make right with God? Henry Ford has a lot of money, will you go to him to make you right with God? Can you hope that he is either willing or able to ransom your soul from hell? There are some lawyers in this country who have a reputation of saving criminals from the electric chair. Will you trust any of them to get you out of the trouble you are in with God? Do you think their tricks will work with God? There are some big preachers in this country, men with a lot of reputation and influence. Will you trust any of them with your case? You would be a fool to do so. The best any preacher can do is to show you the way of salvation and point you to Christ the Saviour. He is the only one who has influence with God; the only one who can redeem from hell; the only one who could satisfy God for your sins. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved,"* Acts 4:12. *"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice,"* Philippians 4:4.

Because of the hope we have for the future. Present circumstances may be sad for the saint, but the future will be free from sadness, and full of glory. *"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer,"* Romans 12:12. Hope in the glory of God. *"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God,"* Romans 5:2. In hope of a home in heaven. *"For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,"* Colossians 1:5. *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you,"* John 14:2.

SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS

BY: C.D. COLE

"While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother," Matthew 12:46-50. *"There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren? For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother,"* Mark 3:31-35. *"Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press. And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it,"* Luke 8:19-21.

The tender ties of human nature are acknowledged by Christ. He speaks of mother, brother, and sister, words of human relationship. This is in keeping with whole tenor of Spirit. The fifth commandment: *"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee,"* Exodus 20:12. The heathen are described as *"without natural affection,"* Romans 1:31. One of the particular sins of the last day, *"disobedient to parents,"* II Timothy 3:3. Paul had great love for his brethren in the flesh.

The relationship of mother, brother, sister, is based upon physical or fleshly birth. It cannot exist apart from birth. Sweetest of these is mother. A true mother is: "A volume of sympathy

bound in cloth"; "A Star of Hope in the cloud of Adversity"; "A link of gold in the chain of life"; "The Sunshine of Calamity"; "The Triple Alliance of the three great powers, Love, Sympathy, and Help"; "A bank of credit on which you can draw supplies of confidence, counsel, sympathy, help, and love"; "A mother is the only woman who can divide her love among ten children and still have all her love."

The fleshly relationships are temporary. There will be no fleshly affection in heaven. All relationships arising from fleshly birth are limited to this life. There is no marriage or giving in marriage in heaven, and therefore no mothers, brothers, or sisters in the fleshly sense.

Our Lord employed the terms mother, brother, sister, to describe spiritual relationships. *"Who is my mother?"* and *"who are my brethren?"* He stretched his hand toward His disciples and said, *"Behold my mother and my brethren!"* All the sympathy and help and love wrapped up in the word mother is to be felt for Christ and His people by every disciple. All the fellowship and equality expressed in the word brother is to be felt and exemplified among the followers of Christ. Christ is not only our Master, but He is also our brother; a brother born for adversity. Brother signifies equality, and Christ took His place with us in sin that we might have His place as sons of God. He is not ashamed to call us brethren.

The spiritual relationship expressed by the words mother, brother, sister, are also founded upon birth—a spiritual birth which makes us children of God. Our spiritual relationship is eternal. Evidenced by doing the Father's will. *"My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it,"* Luke 8:21. The word of God has a large place in the lives of true disciples.

Spiritual relationship superior to natural and fleshly relationship. It is a bad sign when brothers in the flesh will stick closer together than brothers in the Spirit. Brothers in the flesh will have to be separated, but brothers in the Spirit will live together for ever.

There is no record of saints in heaven ever showing any interest in their lost

loved ones on earth. They are occupied with God's glory, and pray for God to execute His judgments upon the wicked. But the rich man in hell still had his fleshly love for his brethren and expressed interest in their future welfare.

"And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" Revelation 6:10. *"...And he shall reign for ever and ever,"* Revelation 11:15f. *"...Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God,"* Revelation 19:1f.

THE HEART OF A GOVERNMENT "In God We Trust"

Abraham Lincoln - 16th president, said "All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated through this Book; but for the Book we could not know right from wrong. All the things desirable to man are contained in it."

Ulysses S. Grant - 18th president, said, "Hold fast to the Bible as the anchor of your liberty; write its precepts in your hearts and practice them in your lives."

Calvin Coolidge - 30th president, remarked: "In the Bible will be found the solution of all the problems of the world. The foundations of our society and our government rest on the teachings of the Bible."

Herbert Hoover - 31st president, stated, "The whole of the inspirations of our civilization springs from the teachings of Christ and the lessons of the prophets. To read the Bible for these fundamentals is a necessity of American life."

Ronald Reagan - 40th president, said: "Inside the Bible's pages lie all the answers to all the problems man has ever known. I hope Americans will read and study the Bible....It is my firm belief that the enduring values presented in its pages have a great meaning for each of us and for our nation. The Bible can touch our hearts, order our minds, and refresh our souls."