

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XIX

February 23, 2014

Number 7

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
 Cradle Roll 2: Kelsey Moremo
 Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
 Cradle Roll 2: Shirley White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of February 16, 2014

Sunday School ----- 16
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 36
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 23
 Wed. Eve. Service, 02/19/14 ----- 23

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of February 16, 2014

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,959.00
 Total Received for Week of 02/16/14: \$ 1,959.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
 to operate the church EACH WEEK,
 as a minimum = \$ **1,400.00**

Read Your Bible
 Every Day...



LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR FEB., 2014:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 329.66
 Amount Received thusfar during Feb., 2014 ----- \$ 0.00
 Amount STILL NEEDED by 03/05/14: = \$ 329.66

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

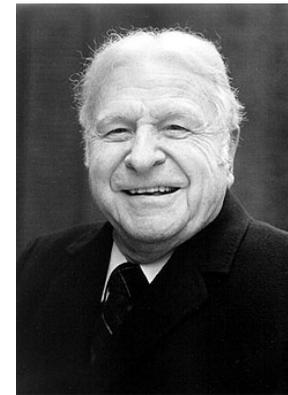
If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Shayne Hooper, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford

GOD'S CHURCHES IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION

by the late Dr. W. A. Criswell



Dr. W. A. Criswell
 Pastor, First Baptist Church
 Dallas, Texas
 1944-2002

In Matthew 24:21, and in Revelation 7:14, we find the Tribulation mentioned: *he-thlipsis he- megale-*, "the tribulation, the great."

"In the world ye shall have tribulation," says Christ. But the trials and the sorrows that we know in this life are not even comparable, not even the beginning, to be mentioned in the same breath with this era, this period of time that shall precede the ultimate climatic consummation of history.

There is coming, says the Lord God, a time of infinite trial and judgment upon this world. And practically all of the Book of the Revelation is concerned with that final denouement, that great end period of unprecedented sorrow and tribulation.

Now, the question arises, **Shall we go through it?** Will the people of God be in it? Or does God take us away before that time of indescribable judgment and trial is poured out in wrath and fury upon this earth?

I do not believe that God's churches will not go through that awful, awesome, indescribable trial and time of sorrow and judgment. And the reason for my belief is to be found in these four propositions by which I have summarized the best I know how the teaching of the Word of God.

The first one is this: God's people, God's churches will not go through that period of Tribulation **because the structural outline of the Book of the Apocalypse forbids it.**

God gives His own outline of the Revelation in the first chapter and in the nineteenth verse. He commanded John, **"Write the things which thou hast seen."** And John wrote them down: the vision of the incomparable risen, glorified Lord.

Second, **"and write the things which are."**

"The things which are" are His churches. Just like now, **"the things that are"** are the churches that pertain and belong to Jesus. Here is a church, yonder is one, there is one.

It was just like this in the days of John the seer. There was a church at Ephesus, one at Smyrna. There was one at Pergamos and another at Thyatira. There was one in Sardis and one in Philadelphia. There was one at Laodicea. So he wrote down the things which are. And you find that in the second and the third chapters of the book.

Then God said the third, **"And write the things which shall be meta tauta"** - **"Write the things that shall be after these things,"** - **after** the things of the churches.

So when I come to the fourth chapter of the Apocalypse, I read, **"After this I looked, . . . a door, . . . a voice saying, 'Come up hither, and I will show thee things which shall be meta tauta'"** —after the things of the churches. John faithfully followed that outline given him by the Lord.

(continued inside)

So, when I come to the end of Chapter 3, I come to the end of the churches. There are no more churches. Heretofore, the church of our Lord has been in the center of the stage, and the messages that Christ has delivered have been to His people. But at the end of the churches, the church is never mentioned again. It's never referred to. It's not seen in this earth. And the next time the church appears is in the nineteenth chapter of the Revelation when the Lord comes at the end of the Battle of Armageddon in glory and in triumph and His church, His bride, appears with Him.

How did she get up there? Because at the end of chapter 3 and before the awful day and trial of the Tribulation, God *raptured*—the old English word for “took away”—God took away His people from the earth and took her unto Himself. And then the great judgment and wrath of the Almighty fell upon this world.

Now, that structural outline that you find in the Revelation is the structural outline you'll find in all of the Word of God - for the Scriptures say that His people will not face the judgment. God's people are delivered from the wrath and the fury of the judgment of God.

The *only* judgment that the churches, that God's people, shall ever know is the judgment of reward. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, ***“For we must all stand at the judgment seat of Christ, that each one of us may receive the things that [are done] in the body whether good or bad.”*** But the great judgment and the wrath of God upon blasphemy and sin and iniquity and an unbelieving world, all of that has been assumed and carried for us by our Savior on the cross. And the judgments that should have fallen upon us, fell upon Him. And to those who receive our Lord, the judgment day is past.

Nothing waits for us but to appear before our Savior to receive the reward of the good of our life. And that is in keeping with all of the Scriptures. Revelation and Romans 8:1, ***“There is therefore now no condemnation, no judgment, to them who are in Christ Jesus.”*** In John 5:24, Jesus says, ***“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, he that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me shall have everlasting life and shall not come into judgment, shall not come into condemnation”***—Into the wrath and fury and tribulation of God—***“but is passed out of death into life.”***

In the fifth chapter of 1 Thessalonians, Paul is talking about the great and dreadful Day of the Lord, which includes this Tribulation. And as he speaks to that Day of the Lord, he says to us, ***“But we are not appointed unto that wrath and judgment of God, but to attain salvation from it by Jesus Christ our Lord.”*** Or as the Lord said in Revelation 3:10, ***“Because thou hast kept my word, I also will keep thee from the great hour of trial that shall come upon the whole world.”***

So as we follow the structural outline of the Revelation, we find the church taken away before that awful day of the wrath and visitation and fury of God. And what we find in the Revelation, we find in all of the structural outlines of the Holy Scriptures.

God's people are delivered from it. The judgment, the wrath, the fury, the tribulation, the awesome vials and trumpets and seals wherein God pours out His judgment upon this world, that's not for God's people. They're taken away **before** it.

Now, the second reason why it seems to me that the churches of Christ, God's people, will not go through that awesome terrible, indescribable Tribulation is found in the exposition of the apostle Paul concerning it -

The church at Thessalonica, the children of God, the Christians at Thessalonica were in great sorrow. They were in trial and persecution. They thought that they were in that great Day of the Lord—that the Tribulation had come and they were in it. And they couldn't understand, for Paul had taught them that the churches, God's children would not go through the Tribulation. But they were in it, they thought, because of the awful persecution they were enduring. So they asked Paul about it. And in the second chapter of 2 Thessalonians, Paul has an exposition on that great Day of the Lord. In the second verse in my King James Version it's called ***“the day of Christ.”*** But these manuscripts that follow the text earlier and exactly say ***“the day of the Lord.”*** And the Day of the Lord is that great final time of the judgment and wrath of the Almighty that we call the **Great Tribulation**.

Now, Paul says to these Christians who are suffering, “Don't you be shaken in your mind or be deceived or troubled, as to that day of the Lord, that day of trial is already come and you're in it.”

“For,” he says, ***“that day will not come, except first there be a taking away, and the man of sin be revealed, that son of damnation and perdition, Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only the one that restrains and prevents now restrains and prevents until he be taken out of the way.”***

But when He shall be taken out of the way, the restrainer, the preventer, ***“Then shall that Wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his parousia, with his presence, with his appearing, with his coming. Him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.”*** And on and on he describes that man of sin, that son of perdition called the ultimate and final Antichrist.

Paul says that the mystery of iniquity has been working for these hundreds of years. But he says that great, final, energized kingdom of Satan and that ultimate and final devil incarnate, the Antichrist, the man of sin, that he will not be revealed.

And he is revealed at the beginning of this Great Tribulation, this Day of the Lord. He will not be revealed until the Restrainer is taken out of the way. ***“The mystery of iniquity doth work now; only he that letteth, he that restraineth, restrains until he be taken out of the way.”***

continued, next week)

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

• ***NO CAMELS IN ABRAHAM'S DAY?*** - A February 10 report in the New York Times was entitled “Camels Had No Business in Genesis.” The report cites the claim of Tel Aviv University archaeologists Erez Ben-Yosef and Lidar Sapir-Hen that “camels probably had little or no role in the lives of such early Jewish patriarchs as Abraham, Jacob and Joseph.” The view is based on a lack of camel bones dating to that period.

This is the old discredited argument from silence. You won't find the bones of bison in the American West either though millions of them lived there in the past. In fact, there is archaeological evidence for camels in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Syria dating to before the time of Abraham. (See K.A. Kitchen, Ancient Orient and Old Testament, Chicago: InterVarsity, 1966, pp. 79-80.) Since Abraham was from Mesopotamia (Ur and Haran), it is not difficult to see that he brought the camels with him when he relocated to Canaan. Further, the Bible doesn't say that camels were used widely in Canaan. It doesn't say that the Philistines used them, for example. The word “camel” appears 25 times in Genesis, and in each case it refers to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Dr. Andrew Steinmann, professor of Hebrew at Concordia University-Chicago, points out that the error is on the part of the Tel Aviv University archaeologists in misreading the Bible. They are assuming that the Bible is saying that camel use was widespread in Canaan during the days of Abraham, but it doesn't say that (“Does the Camel Study Really Prove,” Breitbart.com, Feb. 17, 2014).

Skeptical archaeologists have often tried to discredit the Bible on the basis of silence from archaeological digs and extra-biblical sources. This was a prominent method used by liberals in the early part of the 19th century. Since, for example, they had no extra-biblical evidence then of writing prior to about 1000 B.C., they claimed that Moses could not have written the Pentateuch, and since there was then no extra-biblical evidence for the Hittites or Ur or the Philistines or King David, they must not have existed. In these cases and countless others, archaeology has subsequently provided extra-biblical evidence and the argument from silence has fallen apart. Yet silence is still trotted out to discredit the Bible.

One must give the skeptics credit for persistence. It reminds me of what a positive-minded woman once replied when challenged as to what good thing could be said for the devil. She said, “He's always on the job.”

• ***THE UNITED NATIONS' HYPOCRISY ON GUNS*** - The United Nations Security Council recently voted to authorize the use of force by European Union troops in the Central African Republic. That was a reasonable move, since troops need to defend themselves and to protect the public, and guns are required for that, but it is a hypocritical stance.

Outside of the U.N. headquarters in New York City are many statements of pacifism and disarmament. There is a statue of a

handgun with its barrel twisted. There is a statue of a man beating a sword into a plow. There are the words of Isaiah 2:4 inscribed on a wall -- “... ***and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”***”

They totally ignore the context of those words, which is the return of Christ and the establishment of His global kingdom.

Note the full passage: ***“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:2-4).***

Most disarmament activists are hypocrites. President Obama, for example, is making it increasingly difficult for schools, homeowners, and shopkeepers to be armed, but he is happy for his family to be under the 24/7 protection of well-armed Secret Service agents. (And we wonder if the Secret Service agents guarding Obama are restricted by the onerous rules of engagement imposed by the Commander in Chief on U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan and elsewhere?) That is hypocrisy and it is idiocy. Guns can stop evil, just as they did in World War II, and just as they do every day in the hands of law-abiding citizens who defend themselves against criminals. ■

