

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly
Cradle Roll 2: Kayla Avey
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Piper Quinnelly
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
Cradle Roll 2: Andrea Hooper

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of March 25, 2012

Sunday School ----- 13
Sunday Morning Service ----- 27
Sunday Evening Service ----- 12
Wed. Eve., 03/28/11 Service ----- 16

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of March 25, 2012

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 877.00
Insurance Fund Offering ----- \$ 3.00
Total Received for Week of 03/25/12: \$ 880.00

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

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 2012:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
Amount Received during February, 2012 ----- \$ 3.00
Amount SHORT - \$ 249.08

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

RYAN QUINNELLY'S CORRECT ADDRESS -

Please write Ryan Quinnelly, who is in Basic Training right now in the National Guard. Letters, pictures, newspaper clippings, etc., are allowed, but NO food or drink :



PFC Quinnelly, Ryan M
RN#404 C Co 2nd Bn 47th Inf 192 Brigade
5375 Hanson Dr Bldg 3245
Fort Benning GA 31905-4934

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!

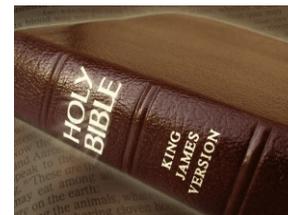
Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

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,
Dwayne English ----- Outreach
Flowers ----- Shirley White

REMINDER



**A Tale of Three Cities:
Where the Bible Versions Began**

by the late Dr. David F. Reagan, Pastor
Antioch Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee
(continued from last week)

A Tale Of Three Cities begins in the Roman Empire during the time of Christ. The three cities (Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch) were the three largest and most influential cities in the Roman Empire. Yet, to the Christian, their influence concerning Bible corruption and preservation is of much greater importance.

As capital of the Roman Empire and the empire's largest city, ROME ruled the ancient world. Rome emphasized form, legalism, and tradition. Through tradition, Rome became the center of Biblical addition. The Apocrypha is one example of how Rome added to scripture. From Italy, Rome dominated the theology and spiritual life of southern Europe and northern Africa.

Alexandria, Egypt, the second largest city, was the world capital for science, education, and scholarship. Great minds gravitated to Alexandria. This home town of Philo and Origen dominated the theology of surrounding Egypt and Palestine. As is the practice of modern scholarship, Alexandria subtracted from the Word of God. The Alexandrian Text is still the basis of modern Bible corruptions.

The third largest city of the empire was Antioch of Syria. Located in the East, Antioch dominated the regions of Syria and Asia minor, the lands of early apostolic work. Antioch was known for her luxury and cosmopolitan flavor, but also for a literal interpretation of scripture. Although belittled by the scholarship of today, the Syrian Text was the underlying basis for the King James Version of 1611.

These three cities were located in three important countries on three different continents. They represented the three major races. Why are they so important? How did these cities become so influential in the historical transmission of the Biblical Text? These questions and more are to be answered in the following text. But never forget that God promised to preserve His Word. Our greatest concern should never be to judge or criticize the Word, but to find it, then read it, study it, memorize it, obey it, teach it, preach it, and if necessary, die for it.

Last week, we looked at Alexandria. This week, we will look at the city of

Rome

Rome is located in the country of Italy on the continent of Europe. The date of the founding of the city of Rome is unknown. In the ancient world and in the Christian world, Rome's greatest influence was in the areas of form and organization. This influence was already increasing eight centuries before the time of Christ. Rome gained control of the Italian peninsula about 275 BC. By 133 BC, Rome governed a world empire stretching from Syria to Spain. At the time of Christ, Rome was the largest city in the world (population: 1.2 million) and was capital of the Roman Empire. It eventually became the center of the Roman Catholic Church and since 1871 has been the capital of the country of Italy.

Biblical Mention

The city of Rome is mentioned by name none times in the Bible. Of these nine references, special attention needs to be given to
(continued inside)

the one in II Timothy 1:17. The Apostle Paul wrote II Timothy while in a Roman prison, and in this epistle he praises a man named Onesiphorus because he refreshed Paul and, **"was not ashamed of my chain: But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me" (II Tim. 1:16-17)**. Rome was, therefore, known as a place which persecuted Christians. When Constantine declared Christianity to be the state religion, this persecution did not cease. Those who stood for their beliefs still suffered at the hands of the developing church-state.

Attention also needs to be given to an indirect reference to the city of Rome in the prophetic book of Revelation. The seventeenth chapter of Revelation speaks of the mother of harlots who will be drunken with the blood of the saints. She is clearly the one world religion which will deceive multitudes during the great tribulation. The woman is said to be, **"that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth" (Rev. 17:18)**. The identification of the city is made in verse nine which states, **"The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth."** Over and over again Rome is identified by ancient historians as the city of seven hills or seven mountains. Therefore, Rome will be the center of the future one world religion.

Doctrinal Development

The doctrinal development of Rome can most easily be understood by the study of three men. Although these three men were not born in Rome, they greatly influenced the city by advancing the position of Roman supremacy, by translating the Roman Catholic bible, and by establishing the Roman method of Bible interpretation.

The first man, **Cyprian** (195-258 AD), did much to develop the doctrine of Roman supremacy. During the first centuries after Christ, the churches of several large cities were elevated to high positions of respect and authority. Rome was only one of these important cities. However, Cyprian taught the doctrine of the primacy of the Roman church over the other churches. He further claimed that anyone outside the Catholic Church was lost and therefore made way for the Roman Catholic monopoly of salvation. The teachings of Cyprian were later used by Roman Catholicism to establish its tremendous political strength over the majority of Christians during the Middle Ages.

The second man, **Jerome** (340-420 AD), is important because of his influence on the Bible. He lived as a hermit for several years. Later (with the help of several lady benefactors) he started a monastery in Bethlehem. He strongly promoted self-denial, the celibacy of the clergy, and the worship of Mary. Around 382 AD Pope Damasus commissioned him to retranslate the New Testament into Latin. He used the work of Origen to help in his translation which was later accepted as the official Roman Catholic bible. Copies of the already existing Old Latin Vulgate, which agreed more closely with the true text, were discarded and often destroyed. Jerome's Latin Vulgate triumphed at the expense of pure copies of the Word.

The third man, **Augustine** (354-430 AD), was bishop of Hippo,

North Africa, for many years. Although there is not space to discuss his doctrine, his method of interpretation needs to be considered. He established what came to be known as the western type of interpretation which teaches that the scripture must conform to the interpretation of the church. Thus he led the way for the Roman Catholic requirement that bible interpretation must adapt itself to the tradition of the church.

In some ways the Romans could be compared to the Pharisees of whom Christ said, **"Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition" (Matt. 15:9)**. And again, **"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9)**. Some of the unscriptural ideas of the Roman Catholic Church (such as monasticism and infant baptism) may have developed in Alexandria, but they were established as lasting traditions by Rome.

Biblical Corruption

Although Alexandrian scholarship subtracted from the Word, Roman tradition added to the Word. However opposite these approaches may seem, the two movements joined in the development of the Roman Catholic bibles. Rome took Alexandria's diluted bible and added to it according to its traditions. This resulted in the corrupted bibles which we still have with us today.

The unchanging practice of Roman Catholicism has been to place tradition above the Word. However, this practice was made a dogma at the Council of Trent in 1546. This council declared that the apocryphal books together with unwritten tradition are to be received and venerated as the Word of God. In elevating tradition, God's Word has been lowered. In truth, this makes the Word of God of none effect.

The tendency to add to the Word of God can be seen in the two most influential manuscripts of the last century, the Vaticanus and the Sinaiticus. The Vatican manuscript was discovered in the Vatican library in 1481. It was discounted by early Greek scholars but was elevated by Westcott and Hort in the translation of the Revised Version in 1881, four hundred years after its discovery. This manuscript adds the Epistle of Barnabas as well as the apocryphal books to the text of its New Testament. The Sinaitic manuscript was found in St. Catherine's Monastery at the base of Mt. Sinai in 1844. It contains the Shepherd of Hermas and the Epistle of Barnabas in its New Testament text. This tendency to add to the Word of God can also be found in the New American Standard Version of the English bible. Located at the end of Mark in large capital letters is the word ADDITION after which follows a short paragraph. A marginal note explains that a few later manuscripts and versions contain this paragraph. Absolutely no indication is given as to whether this is the Word of God or not.

Conclusion about Rome

The New Testament was being corrupted by men who claimed to be correcting it even before all of the New Testament books were written (II Cor. 2:17). There have always been and will

always be those who handle, **"the word of God deceitfully" (II Cor. 4:2)**. The two major motives for changing the word of God are Scholarship and tradition. Scholarship, as found in Alexandria, usually subtracts from the Word while tradition, as found in Rome, usually adds to the Word. These two influences explain the corrupted bibles of today. Bible study, therefore, becomes a process of multiple choice. If you like it, leave it in. If you do not like it, take it out. If you want it, but it's not there, put it in. Why allow the Bible to change us when we can so easily change the Bible?

But what of God's pure Word? Is there not a preserved Bible in existence? The answer is **yes!** God has not left Himself without an absolute witness of truth. **He has preserved His Word!** Next week, in the next chapter we will consider the power of preservation and God's use of Antioch of Syria as well as the surrounding areas of Syria and Asia Minor to keep His Word pure from the corrupting influence of man.

- continued next week

Mary on Easter Morning

by Dr. John D. Morris

"The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher" (John 20:1).

Most of the events regarding our Lord's ministry on earth are not found in all of the gospels, but all reveal that it was Mary Magdalene who was at the tomb early on the first Easter morning (compare Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:9-11; Luke 24:1-10).

Who was this woman, that had been accorded such honor? She is first mentioned as one out of whom were cast seven demons (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2). Her deliverance and conversion were so marked that she, along with several other women, attached themselves to Christ's entourage as He traveled about, and "ministered unto him of their substance" (Luke 8:3).

His disciples forsook and denied Him, but she was present at His crucifixion (Matthew 27:55-56; Mark 15:40; Luke 23:49; John 19:25). She was still with Him as He was removed from the cross and laid in the tomb (Matthew 27:61; Mark 15:47; Luke 23:55). She organized the effort to anoint the body with spices after the Sabbath (Mark 16:1; Luke 23:56).

And what was the reward for her faithfulness? **"Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene" (Mark 16:9)**. Then she had the privilege of being the first evangelist, telling the disciples the Good News "that she had seen the Lord" (John 20:18).

We can surmise that she was present at His other appearances and that she was close by when He ascended. She was certainly in the upper room (Acts 1:12-14), and was likely present for the events of Pentecost (Acts 2:1).

Mary may have experienced these events firsthand, but because of what He did, we can likewise experience His resurrected presence and Spirit, participate in the same joyous ministry, and welcome Him when He returns.

- Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research.

SWEDEN ON CUTTING EDGE OF CASHLESS ECONOMY

Sweden is at the forefront of moving toward a cashless economy. "In most Swedish cities, public buses don't accept cash; tickets are prepaid or purchased with a cell phone text message. A small but growing number of businesses only take cards, and some bank offices - which make money on electronic transactions - have stopped handling cash altogether. 'There are towns where it isn't at all possible anymore to enter a bank and use cash,' complains Curt Persson, chairman of Sweden's National Pensioners' Organization.

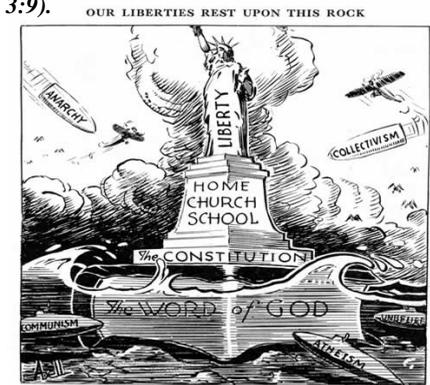
The decline of cash is noticeable even in houses of worship, like the Carl Gustaf Church in Karlshamn, southern Sweden, where Vicar Johan Tyrberg recently installed a card reader to make it easier for worshippers to make offerings.

It's no surprise that Sweden and other Nordic countries are at the forefront of this development, given their emphasis on technology and innovation. For the second year in a row, Sweden ranked first in the Global Information Technology Report released at the World Economic Forum in January" ("Sweden Moving Towards," CBS News, March 18, 2012).

The stage is set for the Antichrist to come on the scene when the Lord's church-age work is complete and He allows the mystery of iniquity to proceed to its malicious conclusion, and the reason that God is waiting is that He loves men and continues to offer salvation. Christian friend, are you busy in the Lord's great harvest?

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" (II Thessalonians 2:7).

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).



"The foundation of God standeth sure"—Timothy 2:19