

# The Baptist WATCHMAN

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Terry Basham II, Editor

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## Future Ahead

A Tract by Terry Basham II

**You are young, and I know you do not think too far into the future. After all, the future is YOURS FOR THE TAKING!**



But what is the future? What does it hold? I am sure at times you think about it. No doubt you want a good future, with lots of fun, and happiness with someone special. Being young is an exciting time, lots of adventures and seeing radical changes in the world every day! When you think of how far the world has come, it is literally scary! I was born in 1978, and back then no one had a computer at home, and only the wealthy had a mobile phone. And when we found a friend whose parents had cable TV, or better yet, a satellite dish, they became our *very* best friend.

Today, I would be surprised if less than 70% of teenagers had their own mobile or personal computer, laptop, or some other wireless electronic device! Now you can sit in a fast food restaurant and eat lunch while watching a TV show on your phone, basically anytime you want to.

It is a great time to be alive, and if you live another 20 years, you will probably see stuff that is beyond belief today! Notice the phrase I used in that last sentence, “if you live another 20 years”. If you live... I hope you live for more than 20 years, but you may not. Now, that is something to consider—carefully.

Do you remember what an antonym is? What is the antonym for live? It is death, is it not? Death. Everybody dies. When I was a kid I figured it was always the other guy who would die. Somebody else, but never me. Never me. But over the last 20 years of my life I have learned that people do die, and, in fact, everybody is going to die. No one is immune to it.

The toughest guy I ever knew was my Grandpa. He was quite a guy, but one

day, in perfect health, he just fell over dead in his front yard. Dead. When I heard it, I could not believe it! But he was dead. In the summer of 2002, a friend of mine went to work and before he got home that day, he was dead. He was 36. He was electrocuted in an accident at work.

People die, and I am sure you have had people in your life die. The Bible says that everyone will die: (Hebrews 9:27) “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” God says all people will die, but this sentence says something else— it says that after death there will be a judgment. A judgment of who? Of the dead. How can the dead be judged if they are already dead? That is an interesting question.

It is because you will live again after you die, and you will be judged by God for all your works. I wonder how you will do? The Bible already tells us how you will do—read on and see: (Revelation 20:11-15) “And I saw a great white throne, and him [God] that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the **dead**, small and great, stand before God; [This is the judgment of Hebrews 9.27] and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their **works**. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were **judged every man according to their works**. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second

death. And **whosoever was not found** written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Can you see that the people **depending** on their works are all cast into the lake of fire? That is where trusting your works will get you. Your works will get you cast into the lake of fire. Note that salvation does not depend on how many good works versus bad works you do.

The message of the Bible is that no one gets to Heaven by their good works, good behavior, or by anything they ever do. Look at this verse (Ephesians 2:8-9) “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.” It is pretty clear that salvation is not from your works. So the big question is, “Where does it come from?”

It comes from the God—man who has the keys to death and Hell: **the Lord Jesus Christ**. How does He give it? He gives it by grace to undeserving sinners. Grace is undeserved favor.

Are you a sinner? Do you understand that God considers all your works (both good and bad) to be filthy? Do you want all your deeds to come before God's righteous throne in the above example? Me neither. Look instead for Christ to be your substitute. He was God's own Son, yet He was willing to be punished and bear the sin of the ungodly that they might be free.

Are you ungodly, but thirst to be free? Then cry out to the Lord for deliverance, and do not stop begging, pleading, praying, and reading God's Word, until you know you are delivered from this terrible judgment.



## Politics... and the Sovereignty of God

Valerie Courtney Basham

It is no surprise that with wealth comes great power. During the last part of the nineteenth century, the wealth and power of America lay in the hands of three men: Andrew Carnegie of U. S. Steel; John D. Rockefeller of Standard Oil, and J. P. Morgan, the financier.

These men were known to be fierce rivals. But when the government of the United States threatened to break up their massive companies, thereby threatening their future prosperity, they decided to band together one time and buy the President of the United States. Their plan was not to control the President, but rather, to place in the White House a man who supported their ambitions.

This man was William McKinley. McKinley did, indeed, win the election of 1896, thanks in no small part to the contributions of Carnegie, Rockefeller and Morgan. [McKinley spent 4 million dollars on his campaign. That would be \$114 million today.]

At this same time, a bold, young man from a well-known family in New York was making a case for breaking up big business monopolies in America. His name was Theodore Roosevelt, or "TR" to his friends. He was opposed to trusts and monopolies. As Governor of New York, he fought against big businesses that protected their interests by creating large trusts. This was upsetting some Republicans in his home state. When planning for the election of 1900, the big "boss" of the GOP in New York, Thomas C. Platt, decided to put Roosevelt away quietly, preferably in a place where he would have little power. And what better place than the Vice Presidency of the United States? That office had been vacated when McKinley's first running mate, Garret Hobart, died suddenly in 1899. Roosevelt accepted the offer to run with McKinley in the coming election. And so it was settled: McKinley would go on to defeat William Jennings Bryan for the second time in 1900. Roosevelt, the new VP, was safely hidden away from power, and life was happy once again in the world of big business.

But the corporate geniuses who had built vast fortunes by the sweat of their brows had forgotten their Creator, Jehovah God. God saw the works of men's hands, just as He had once witnessed the building of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:5). Not only could the Lord see the happenings on Earth, but He knew the thoughts of their hearts. He saw the pride that possessed them, the same pride that He had seen in the hearts of Nebuchadnezzar and Hezekiah so many centuries ago. And God intervened.

The corporate giants and political leaders could not have possibly known about a young Polish anarchist named Leon Czolgosz [cheel kos] and his plot to murder the President.

On September 6, 1901, in Buffalo, New York, Mr. Czolgosz managed to shoot the President in the abdomen at point-blank range. President McKinley died of infection from the wound on September 14, 1901. At that moment, the man who had been so conveniently placed out of the way was instantly catapulted into the most powerful office in the world. Theodore Roosevelt would lead the nation with vigor and confidence. He would become the "trust buster", signing legislation that would break up the grand monopolies of Standard Oil and the like. TR would become the stuff of legends—the Panama Canal, conservation, and the West Wing are just a few of the marks of his Presidential legacy.

My family and I got to take a trip through the Black Hills of South Dakota last autumn. Of course, we had to stop to behold the magnificent faces on Mount Rushmore. It was truly amazing to see what man had been able to do with "witty inventions". But a greater testimony was to Jehovah. For, despite the wishes of the most powerful men on Earth, who was on that mountain? The Vice President that they put away quietly, Theodore Roosevelt.

*George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln all appear on Mount Rushmore.*

### The Striped Candy Technique

*"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42)*

Without biblical authority, or any other right under the sun, carnal religious leaders have introduced a host of attractions that serve no purpose except to provide entertainment for the retarded saints.

It is now common practice in most evangelical churches to offer the people, especially the young people, a maximum of entertainment and a minimum of serious instruction. It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend a meeting where the only attraction is God. One can only conclude that God's professed children are bored with Him, for they must be wooed to meeting with a stick of striped candy in the form of religious movies, games, and refreshments.

This has influenced the whole pattern of church life, and even brought into being a new type of church architecture, designed to house the golden calf.

So we have the strange anomaly of orthodoxy in creed and heterodoxy in practice. The striped candy technique has been so fully integrated into our present religious thinking that it is simply taken for granted. Its victims never dream that it is not a part of the teachings of Christ and His apostles.

— A.W. Tozer

*Are you visiting Lawton, Oklahoma?*

**Visit Bethel Baptist Church**

Service times:

#### Sunday

Sunday School ..... 9:45 am

Worship Service ..... 10:50 am

Afternoon Service ..... 2:00 pm

#### Wednesday

Mid-Week Service ..... 7:00 pm



# The Preservation of the Inspired Scriptures



The Word of God claims for itself not only inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16) but preservation (Psalms 119:89; Matthew 24:35). If but one of these inspired words has passed away, then the Lord Jesus Christ has been proven wrong, but since He knows all things (John 21:17), His statement in Matthew 24:35 is sufficient evidence that 100% of His words have been preserved. Therefore, those who contend that textual critics have restored to us 99% of these inspired words come short of His promise. Instead of applauding scholars for retrieving 99% of the sacred Scriptures, we praise God for preserving 100% of them (Psalms 12:7). The pride of man has never been more blatant than when it takes credit for preserving God's Word. From the very beginning of history, the devil has sought to corrupt God's Word by changing it (Genesis 3:1-5), and glibble men have been complicit in these attempts (2 Corinthians 2:17). But for Divine preservation, the Scriptures as given by Divine inspiration would have been destroyed from the earth.

How God has preserved the Scriptures is open for debate, but the history of their preservation will match the prophecies given concerning it. That the Old Testament Scriptures had been preserved until the time of Jesus and the Apostles is evident from their quotations from them while calling any and every part of them the Word of God, cf Matthew 22:29; Mark 12:10; Luke 4:21; 24:27; John 5:39; 10:35; Acts 1:16; 17:2, 11; Romans 1:2; Romans 4:3; 9:17, *et al.* Not once did our Lord or any apostle question the veracity of the Scriptures. If, therefore, the Old Testament Scriptures had been preserved for approximately 1500 years before Christ came, do we not have reason to believe that this same Divine power has also preserved the New Testament Scriptures?

"But there are problems with the text of the Greek New Testament," someone

will protest. In what Scripture did the Lord promise to preserve His Word in Greek? That He has preserved His Word in Hebrew and Greek is an assumption, not a fact based on Scripture. May I suggest that the problem in determining the true text of the New Testament is the many assumptions men have made concerning it? The constant debate and controversy over the text of Scriptures arises largely out of certain assumptions and theories that have been accepted in some quarters for the absolute truth. One hypothesis of Westcott and Hort, to which many textual scholars subscribe, is that the oldest manuscripts are the most reliable. The oldest Greek manuscripts date back to the 4th Century which is some 300 hundred years removed from the time of Christ. In that period the New Testament was translated into several other languages, making these translations older than the oldest of the Greek manuscripts. Has not God's Word also been preserved in these translations?

In tracing the history of the New Testament text, one is dependent largely on the words of men which words may or may not be true. In the study I propose to present in subsequent editions of the Watchman, I will focus on a comparison of the Critical Text as found in several modern translations with the Textus Receptus which underlies the King James Version. The claim is often made that no major Bible doctrine is omitted in the versions based on the critical text. Is this claim fact or fiction? The truth is, many vital doctrines are undermined and weakened in the translations made from the critical text by removing key words and phrases, as any building is weakened when some of its undergirding is removed. My objective is to show that the cumulative changes in the so-called critical text do in fact undermine vital Biblical doctrines by simply pointing out all of these omissions.

First in a series of articles by

## Royce Smith

Born in Chickasha, OK, I was *born again* in 1956, and baptized by Victory Missionary Baptist Church in Norman, OK in early 1959. On July 21, 1959 I was called to preach God's Word. To prepare myself to fulfill that calling, I enrolled in the Oklahoma Missionary Baptist Institute and Seminary in Marlow, OK, where I spent 6 years in study, earning my Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctor's Degrees in Theology. I also served as a student teacher for 3 years before becoming a full-time faculty member for one year. While attending seminary, I pastored churches in Reed, Ringling, and Dryden, OK. In 1966, I moved to California, where I pastored in Concord, CA for 2½ years, and in San Jose for 15½ years. I also served on the Faculty of Landmark Baptist College in Sacramento, CA, California Missionary Baptist Institute and Seminary, Bellflower, CA, and Landmark Baptist College, Hayward, CA. I returned to Oklahoma in 1984 and served as Associate Pastor at Eastern Ave Baptist Church in Moore, OK for 5 years, and Headmaster of Eastern Ave Christian Academy for another 4 years. In November 1989, I came to Bethel Baptist Church in Choctaw, OK, where I have been pastor for more than 25 years.

While in seminary, I met my wife to be, Patricia Gregston, to whom I have been married for 55 years.

Visit Bethel's Website:  
[www.BBC-Lawton.org](http://www.BBC-Lawton.org)

## Art and Stuff *by Keith Brown*

Last month my wife and I went to Dallas for a little getaway. We visited the Dallas Museum of Art, even though neither of us is that interested in art. She would be more interested. It was just something calm and relaxing to do. She could look at pretty things, and I could people-watch. These people would be a unique demographic to observe, or so I thought they were unique.

There were some very beautiful exhibits, and pieces that were obviously done by very talented people, but the most interesting thing to observe was the people observing the art. There were some works that made you wonder if you were the only person in the room who didn't get it. The painting that was a blank canvas; the giant photograph covering one whole wall of an exhibit that was the artist crawling around in mud; or, the most perplexing were the pieces of art that were laziness on a canvas: blotches of paint thrown against the wall, and stirred about with a broom.

There were little benches where people would sit and stare at the blotches,

seemingly in a state of euphoria at seeing such beauty. I didn't have the nerve to break their trance, or I would have sat down beside them and asked some questions.

"What do you see? What am I missing? Could I try my hand at painting? Have you ever read *The Emperor's New Clothes* by Andersen?"

It may manifest itself a little differently, but I see in myself a little bit of hypocrisy.

I was studying a verse recently that has strong doctrinal implications. I greatly admire theologians who can take a passage and paint me a picture to explain it. Commentaries are a great help, but do I put too much confidence in the men? Do I admire a piece of art too much just because of who wrote it?

I read the usual commentators. I then found an article by Piper on it. He explained the Greek. Masterfully. I could stop. How could I question his brilliant painting? Who am I? But, out of possibly a rebellious spirit, I found an article on the same verse by MacArthur.

Opposite view. He even used THE GREEK! This is a rabbit trail, but I have figured out that if someone intimidates you with the Greek, you can usually find a different smart Greek guy who agrees with you and trumps his Greek guy. lol

So, back to the museum. I thought. If I got a tricycle, then poured paint all over the wheels and peddled around on a piece of canvas, and then instead of scrawling "kEith bRown" in the corner, I put a famous name. Would people sit on a bench and admire it?

One of the paintings of God's Word done by MacArthur and Piper on the verse I was studying was wrong. I wonder if we ever admire a sermon, or admire a written article solely because of who wrote it? I guess that isn't all bad. Certainly we would give more credence to men of greater accomplishments, but they are just men and they can paint some whoppers sometimes.

I guess I need to watch myself when I put too much confidence in the autograph in the corner.

*kEith bRown*



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