

The PROJECTOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

DR. DAYTON HOBBS, Editor

P.O. Box 643, Milton, FL 32572

VOL. 23, NO. 1

WINTER, 1994

SEPARATION: SHEPHERD'S WORK

by *Stephen Spence*
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So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou me more than these? He said unto Him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him a second time, Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou me. He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? and he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (John 21:15-17)

COMMISSIONED TO SHEPHERDING

Our Savior's instruction to Peter as he led Peter through a process of restoration was simple, yet striking. It is translated three times as *feed my lambs* or *feed my sheep*. I am impressed that John uses two different words which the translators have rendered, *feed*. The word used in verses 15 and 17 has the primary meaning, *to feed*. The word used in verse 16 means, *to tend, herd, pasture*. It conveys the idea of doing all the things that a shepherd does who rightly cares for his sheep.

I said that these words were simple, yet striking. Peter never forgot those words. We see them reflected in

his own writings.

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you. (1 Peter 5:1,2a)

The word rendered, *feed*, is the same word used in John 21:16. Peter passes along the commission he received from the Lord to these elders, *Shepherd the flock*.

The question a pastor must ask himself in the light of these verses is, "Am I doing the shepherd's work?" This message is not aimed at presenting the whole scope of the shepherd's duty. It will focus on the particular task of protecting the flock. There are many men today serving as shepherds of the flock of God who are willing to feed and lead, yet they fail in the responsibility to protect the flock. Bible-believing pastors must understand that separation

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The Apostasy of the Visible Church

Part Eight
by Dr. Dayton Hobbs

The Remnant

Joel 2:32: "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: For in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."

The remnant: Who is the remnant? This is a very important word

in Scripture. Turn over to the next book, Amos, chapter 5. I want to read a few verses beginning at verse 10. God is speaking here again of the remnant.

They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly. Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.

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EDITOR'S DESK

The Heart of the King James Controversy

(Review from Winter, 1994)

Recently a pastor on the West Coast wrote me in regard to an article in the last edition of *The Projector* concerning the TVC (Traditional Values Coalition). His comments were basically complimentary; however, he included a pamphlet he had written concerning the King James Bible controversy. The pamphlet was this pastor's answer to some questions he had been asked by someone who had corresponded with him. I quote here one paragraph from the pamphlet, which I believe lays out very clearly the heart of the King James Bible Controversy.

"The whole issue focuses precisely on your statement in Q1 'I am not aware that God inspired anything but the original manuscripts.' Unfortunately, you fall in with probably 90% of so called Christianity today: they believe in the inspiration of something they have neither touched nor seen. It isn't even available to touch or see; they (the original manuscripts) are lost."

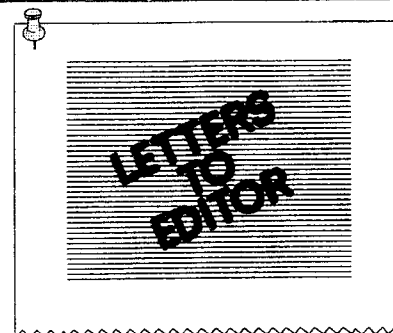
For myself there is one verse of Scripture that settles this issue. "While we look not at the things which are seen,

but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (II Cor. 4:18). God in His eternal wisdom chose to see to it that the original manuscripts were lost to man. Had He not allowed them to be lost, man would have made them an icon, and the holy crusades of history would have increased an hundred fold in an effort to have possession of them. Whose library would you have hold them? My faith rests upon God's ability to preserve for us reliable and trustworthy translations, such as the KJV, (certainly not all translations are trustworthy) of those original manuscripts. I use the King James Bible in the pulpit for the sake of avoiding any confusion; however, the KJV is a translation and I certainly do not give it the status of the original manuscripts.

My faith lies in God's ability to preserve His Word. I definitely "believe in the inspiration of something they (I) have neither touched nor seen"; I plead guilty to the charge. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance (assurance, substantiating) of things hoped for, the evidence (conviction) of things not seen." All important things, all spiritual things in the Christian's life are not "available to touch or see", including the blood of Christ, the Holy Spirit, our home in heaven, as well as the original manuscripts of the Word of God. These things are matters of faith. This idea that we must hold in our hand a translation that is inspired in the English to the same extent as the original manuscripts does not show advanced spiritual insight and understanding but a woeful weakness on the part of those who hold such a position. I call their weakness, heresy. □

Apostasy, from page 1

For I know your manifold transgressions, and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right. Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time. Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the



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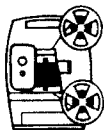
God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

It seems obvious here the remnant is made up of those who rebuke in the gate. The gate was the place of city government. It was the place where city affairs were taken care of. Some individuals in the gate were righteous, and some, the majority, were wicked and evil. The remnant is portrayed as a rebuke to the ungodly. They are hated and abhorred, because they spoke uprightly. In Isa. 1:9, we read, "Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah."

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The PROJECTOR



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Dr. Dayton Hobbs

The PROJECTOR is published bi-monthly by Gospel Projects, Inc., P.O. Box 643, 611 Chestnut St., Milton, FL 32572, U.S.A. Third Class Permit at Milton, Florida

The PROJECTOR is sent without charge to those who desire it. It is supported by the gifts of those who, voluntarily, desire to be a part of this ministry.

Postmaster and change of address to The PROJECTOR, P.O. Box 643, Milton, FL 32572, U.S.A.

Stars of the Morning

By: "Aunt Carolyn"

THAT DOG SPOT

Continued from Fall issue

Pete loved Spot dearly. He loved his little brother, too, but if it came to a vote, Pete figured the dog would win.

That winter was a hard one. The temperature went lower than usual, and the house was hard to heat. They always tried to be careful, but because it was snowing and the night was extra cold, Dad left the kerosene stove turned higher than usual. Family prayers were over, and everyone settled snugly into bed.

No one knew just what happened. The next thing anyone knew, Spot was barking frantically up and down the hall, first at Pete's bed then at Dad and Mother's room. Smoke had already filled the house. Dad awoke at Spot's barks and started yelling for everyone to wake up and get out. The first thing Pete knew, Spot was pulling at his covers, barking, and jumping at the bed. Pete smelled the smoke. His eyes hurt and smarted. He could not see. He rolled to the floor, then crawling on his elbows and stomach made his way through the darkness to the door. By now flames were leaping up, and the house was engulfed in smoke and fire. By the time Pete made it out the door, neighbors had gathered to help, but Mother was screaming, "Joey, Joey! Where's Joey? My Baby! My Baby!"

Dad fought all he could but at last came out, nearly suffocated by the smoke and fire. He was frantic and distraught. He could not get his little boy out!

Mother stood watching the scene in horror. Neighbors held her

back but could not stop her screaming and sobbing. Her baby was still in the fire! Her baby was lost!

By the time the firemen arrived, hope of saving the house, let alone anything in it was gone, but house and possessions became as nothing compared to the life of the little boy, and now there was no hope.

Then a voice rose above the commotion and noise. "Here he is! He's out! The dog's got him!"

What! Was it possible? Through the darkness and the holocaust of flame and smoke, Spot came dragging the boy past the charred debris and toward Joey's mother!

"Oh, Joey, Joey!", she sobbed. He was blackened from the smoke and crying with fright, but he was alive! Oh, he was alive!

Quickly a fireman wrapped the child in a blanket and sent both Joey and his mother in an ambulance for emergency care. Then they looked, and there lay Spot in the snow perfectly still. Spot, too, was blackened by the smoke, and some of his hair was singed. How badly he was burned no one could yet tell.

"Oh, Spot! My Spot!" Pete ran, threw himself down beside his dog, and buried his face in his neck. "Spot! Spot!" he cried.

Dad rushed to his side and drew Pete back. "Oh, Dad, is he alive? Spot saved Joey, but is he alive?"

All eyes were on the dog now. A fireman ran with a blanket and covered the dog. He was still breathing. Maybe there was hope. Oxygen, blankets, and tender care soon had their effect, and Spot began to breathe on his own, raised his head slightly, and gave a muffled "Woof". A cheer went up from the crowd, and once more Pete was at the dog's side with tears and tender strokes of affection.

The loss of home and goods was a terrible blow to the family, but they were all alive and well. They still had the Lord and each other. The Lord had been merciful and spared their lives. And they could not forget dear Spot, who had jeopardized his own life for Joey's sake. They owed much to that dog, and they never forgot it.

In fact, no one in town forgot what Spot did in saving Joey's life. He became the town hero. Everyone he met had a good word, a pat on the head, and sometimes even a treat for him. Then to top it all, the next Fourth of July parade was led by a most unusual Grand Marshall. There at the front of the parade was the city's shiny red fire truck, and riding on top were two happy boys with Spot in the seat of honor between them!

Now what Spot did for little Joey was just a small picture of what Jesus Christ did for you. Jesus Christ was beloved of His Father, the only begotten Son of God, yet He left the glory and security of Heaven to come to this wicked world of sin. Spot took on himself the blackness, smoke, heat, and flames of the fire to rescue Joey. Jesus took on Himself your sin and all the punishment of Hell, so you could be spared from that eternal suffering. Sin is a terrible thing. It is a terrible offense against a holy God. Yet when you repent of your sin and trust Christ, accepting His payment, He will save you.

You cannot save yourself. (Ephesians 5:8). You cannot buy salvation. (Mark 8:37). You cannot simply ignore your sin and suppose things will just work out all right. (Romans 14:12). You cannot simply change your bad ways and expect to get to Heaven. Breaking bad habits is good but won't cleanse your sin. Lying, stealing, bad language, disrespect, and other sins, like the dog's spots, come from the inside out. (Jeremiah 13:23). You can't simply quit or wash them off. They must be cleansed from the inside of the heart by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:7b).

Come to Christ today. Repent of your sin and believe the Gospel. There is no other way of salvation. "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). □

HELP FROM ABOVE
by
"Aunt Carolyn" is now reprinted.
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Separation, from page 1

is a vital, Biblical activity of every true shepherd for the protection of the flock of God. To support this proposition I submit three veins of Biblical thought:

First, Consider the Shepherd's Work of Separation as It Is Pictured in the Old Testament.

DAVID THE DEFENDER

I Samuel 17 describes how David arrives at the encampment of Saul's army with a "care package" for his brothers from their dad. When he hears Goliath bellowing forth his defiance against the armies of the living God, David's righteous indignation rises. His bold statements cause him to be brought to King Saul where he pleads to be allowed to fight this giant.

Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went after him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by the beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. (vss.34-36)

The pastures where God's people graze are filled with "lions and bears." God's shepherd must be ready and able to defend the flock. In May the ministers of Northeastern Ohio were notified of the plans to bring a Billy Graham Crusade to Cleveland. The Crusade carries the open endorsement of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese. The folks in our congregation have friends and contacts at work who will ask why their church and their pastors are not supporting this Crusade. The question is posed, "Doesn't your church believe in evangelism?" The shepherd had better warn his people about the sin of ecumenical evangelism or he may lose some of his sheep.

UNFAITHFUL SHEPHERDS

Other pictures from the Old

Testament can be found in the writings of the prophets. Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel especially address those who were assigned the responsibility of shepherding the nation of Israel.

Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; ye have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and have not visited them: Behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord ... And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed (tend) them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:2,4)

Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with wool, ye kill them that are fed: But ye feed not the flock ... And they were scattered because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. (Ezekiel 34:2,3,5)

These two negative examples of shepherds describe the men whose responsibility was the protection and care of the sheep as being the very ones found guilty of destroying and scattering the flock. They were too consumed with looking after themselves to safeguard God's people properly. The Lord promised to replace these worthless fellows with men who would shepherd His people.

**WOLF-PROOF MINISTRIES
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Charles Jefferson in his book, *The Minister as Shepherd*, explains this aspect of protecting God's flock using the analogy of the Eastern shepherd:

A shepherd in the East was also a guard. His mission was not only to oversee, it was likewise to protect. He was a guardian of the sheep. The walls of the sheepfold are built by the shepherd. The door of the

sheepfold is made by him, opened and closed by him. By his foresight the sheep are protected. By his courage they are saved.¹

Then Jefferson applies this analogy to the ministry.

The safeguarding of the sheep is a prime function in pastoral work.²

He points out, however, that this is one of the great weaknesses of modern ministers.

We have spent too much time in coaxing half dead sheep back to life again, and not enough time in building barriers against wolves.³

The shepherd has no genius for constructing sheepfolds which will keep out the wolves. He does not seem to know that it is his duty to devise means and measures for meeting and overcoming the hostile forces which are forever making warfare on the Church of Christ.⁴

**SEPARATION: THE CHURCH'S
PROTECTION**

One of the greatest threats to fundamental churches is the spirit of new evangelicalism. It continues to draw on more and more churches and ministries which formerly were fundamental. Pastor John Ashbrook in his book, *Axioms of Separation*, observed:

New Evangelicalism with its appeal to man's intellect, its invitation to the non-controversial road, its easy adjustment to the world's lifestyle and its use of the rich and famous, has captured the masses of professing Christianity.⁵

God's people hear new evangelical ministers on the air waves who are more interesting and sometimes better preachers than their own pastor. How can a pastor protect his people and his ministry from being swept away in the wave of compromise? The answer is separation. Several passages from Scripture give a clear command to

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FOCUS ON RELIGION

by Tod Brainard

HOW MANY ARE BORN AGAIN?

The Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board's Evangelistic Study just released states that 53.8% of the state of Alabama's citizens are born again. Their statistics show that 46.1% (roughly 1.8 million Alabamians) of the population are "unsaved souls". Their release of these figures has created a backlash of insulted readers (including Baptists) who are outraged with the Southern Baptist's Evangelistic Study. No one seems to like the idea that a person is hell-bound if he or she dies without repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

The sad fact of this survey is that 53.8% is an extremely high figure of "saved" individuals, if we go by what godly men of the past have indicated. Oswald Chambers, in his devotional book, "My Utmost for His Highest," indicated that he believed strongly that only 15% of all professing Christians had actually been saved and that the remaining 85% had never been truly born again. Dr. R.A. Torrey stated once that he believed that only 10% of professing Christians had experienced true conversion. I have been told that Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., after years of evangelistic preaching, stated that it was his conviction that only 5% of professing church members were actually genuine believers and that 95% of church members had never truly repented and believed in Christ. If these were the opinions of the great men of the past (50 to 100 years ago), has the percentage of "professed" believers in churches improved dramatically in the past 30 years? We all live in the time of deceit.

Sources: Pensacola News-Journal /Associated Press
The Mystery of Iniquity by Dr. F.V. Dabold

MORE ABOUT THE TRADITIONAL VALUES COALITION

Last issue, we informed you of the Traditional Values Coalition formed by former pastor, Rev. Lou Shelton. Our warning concerning this coalition was due in part to its ecumenical appeal and "Moral Majority"-like thrust. In a letter and brochure sent out by Lou Shelton and the Traditional Values Coalition the weekend of December 3rd, the following materials were endorsed and recommended: "Daddy's Home" by Greg Johnson and Mike Yorkey, staff members of James Dobson's *Focus on the Family* organization. Also recommended was a video tape entitled "Gay Rights/Special Rights: Inside the Homosexual Agenda", featuring men such as Martin Luther King, Don Wildmon, president of the American Family Association, Marlin Maddux, Lou Shelton, and other men, primarily conservative politicians. There was no mention in the brochure as to whether

these men (King, Wildmon, Maddux) were being quoted favorably or negatively, nor was there any mention of the fact that these individuals have ties to Modernist / Neo-evangelical organizations and teachings. Other books and videos were presented in the brochure with absolutely no statements of the backgrounds of the authors and organizations listed. The direction of this coalition is indeed questionable and Fundamentalists need to be discerning in regards to this "Moral Majority"-like coalition.

JACK VAN IMPE: 16 YEARS AFTER COBO HALL

In the September 1977 issue of *The Projector*, Jack Van Impe was exposed, after his Cobo Hall address in Detroit of August, 1977, for his weakness in the area of Biblical separation from disobedient brethren and for his attacks upon Fundamentalists who practiced "hate programs" (exposing error in men and ministries) and "hate systems," as Van Impe called them. Many articles appeared in the late 70's and early 80's tracking Van Impe's slide into error.

Over the years since, Jack Van Impe has traveled quickly down the road of compromise. This downward trend has now led to one of Van Impe's latest steps, which includes praising Pope John II. In the November 15 issue of the *Calvary Contender*, we read that "in a letter promoting his new video, Van Impe profusely extols the virtues of the Roman Catholic pontiff... he refers to his [the Pope's] 'conservatism on doctrine and morals', and says: 'Jesus is coming to call true believers home from all denominations very, very soon. Then all the leftovers will unite under a world religion headed up by a defector from Christendom. Pope John Paul II says it could happen very soon...The Pope is right on target concerning this final endtime event....Never in anyone's wildest imaginations would they have believed that a Pope could be so outspoken and honest.'" "Why trimmest thou thy way to seek love?" (Jeremiah 2:33).

See Focus, page 12

DUG-OUT DAZE

A lively story of a boy's ups & downs in baseball picturing salvation & the Christian life.



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Apostasy, from page 2

Remnants of the Past and Future

Isaiah says that Israel would have been wiped out completely, just as Sodom and Gomorrah, if God hadn't left them a remnant. Jesus said in Mark 13:20, "And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days." This remnant comes out of the Great Tribulation, the 144,000 of Israel. God always has a remnant. In every time of apostasy, God always spares a remnant. We need to learn this principle. Every dispensation ended in apostasy, and in every dispensation God had a remnant, some faithful ones who stood true and were faithful throughout the times of apostasy. The remnant is always identified in times of apostasy. For instance, in Noah's day, only Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives, the eight of them, were the only ones saved out of the whole population of the earth. We don't know how many people were alive at that time on the earth, but there was a huge civilization and only eight were saved. In Elijah's day, Elijah felt he was the only one left, but the Lord said, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed to Baal . . ." (1 Kings 19:18). There is the key to the remnant, "have not bowed the knee to Baal". Daniel had a very small remnant in his day. We know Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel were a part of that remnant. God always has a remnant. They are often called seed, something to plant the next year in order to have a harvest. A remnant, a seed. God always has it. In our day of apostasy there will be a remnant rapture. It will not be large in comparison to the total number of people who profess to be Christians. It will be very small by comparison. Remnants are always small. The final remnant the Bible speaks about, the basic type of all remnants, is the remnant of Israel, which is going to be spared during the Great Tribulation period. 144,000, twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes of Israel, will be spared and divinely protected during

A LESSON IN THE 1040 FORM

I work for the Department of the Treasury. Internal Revenue Service. Yes, I am the chap that everybody loathes. I go over income tax returns.

The other day I checked a queer return. Some guy with an income under \$5,000 claimed he gave \$624 to some church. Sure, he was within the limit - but it looked mighty suspicious to me. So I grabbed a taxi, dropped in on the guy, and asked him about his "contributions"!

I thought he'd get nervous like most of them do and say that he might have made a mistake. But not this guy! He came back at me with the figure of \$624 without batting an eyelash.

"Do you have a receipt from the church?" I asked, figuring that would make him squirm.

"Sure," he said. "I always keep them in the drawer where I keep my envelopes."

And off he went to fetch his receipts.

"Well, he had me! One look at the receipts and I knew he was on the level. So I apologized for bothering him, explaining that I have to check on deductions that seem unusually high. As we shook hands at the door, he said, "I'd like to invite you to attend our church sometime."

"Thanks," I replied, "but I belong to a church myself."

"Pardon me," he said, "that possibility hadn't occurred to me."

As I rode the taxi home, I kept wondering what he meant by that remark. It wasn't until Sunday morning, when I dropped my usual quarter into the collection plate, that it came to me.

Selected

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the time of Jacob's trouble.

Facts About Every Remnant

The first thing about a remnant is that it has always been very small. Isa. 1:9 says it is "very small". You say, How small? Well, I don't know what the percentages would be, but what is the percentage of two to two million? That is what it was in the day the Israelites came from Egypt. Moses led over two million people out of Egypt, but because of unbelief only *two* were allowed to enter the promised land: Caleb and Joshua. Only two, out of over two million, made up the remnant of that time. The number taken at the Rapture of the Church will be small in comparison to the professed believers of this time. Out of the millions of Jews, who will be living in the time of the Great Tribulation, only 144,000 will be saved in Israel during that time. Now folks, I am giving you some very real statistics and facts from the Bible. Most human beings that were ever born will spend eternity in Hell. The Bible says that "Hell has enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure." (Isa. 5:14). Most of mankind will be lost, not because they could not be saved but because *they would not* be saved. So the majority of mankind will go to Hell. Now the question is, before we go any further, "Are you a part of the remnant of the Church? Are you a part of the remnant of genuine believers?" Do not take it lightly and say, "Well, I made a decision", "One time I went down to the altar; one time I went forward and prayed". There are people who have signed cards, who have come forward, who have been professing salvation for most of their lives, perhaps since they were children in the home, and yet have not genuinely repented and trusted Christ. There is many a child who grew up in a Christian home, who is lost. People just assume things. It would be better to be born in a heathen home and really come to know Jesus Christ as your Savior than to be brought up in a Christian home, trained in all the Christian values, and then go to Hell. Only a very few people are going to be saved out of the number of people born

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Separation, from page 4

separate from a Christian brother who is disobedient. (Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 5:11; II Thessalonians 3:6,14,15). Ashbrook responds to those who would protest separating from other Christians:

I submit to you that if it is not proper for fundamental believers to separate from new evangelical believers, then God has left the fundamental church with no procedure for defense against new evangelicalism.⁶

Separation is part of the shepherd's work of protecting the flock. If he is unwilling to separate from disobedient brethren, he not only compromises his own testimony, he also endangers the spiritual well-being of the people of God.

THE PATTERN OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Lord Jesus is the pastor's role model when it comes to shepherding. He is *the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd*, as well as *the Chief Shepherd*.

Second, then, Consider the *Shepherd's Work of Separation as It Is Exemplified in the Good Shepherd*.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

The rod and staff are often seen as merely instruments for guiding the sheep. They also serve notably for defense.

With these terms (rod and staff) the author emphasizes the feature of protection. The shepherd's staff stood sheep in good stead. Wild beasts were driven off and even killed with it.⁷

These tools were a comfort to the sheep.

SUPPORT
THE PROJECTOR

WARRIOR SHEPHERDS

In Spurgeon's *Treasury of David* he gives the following excerpt from J.L. Porter's book, *The Giant Cities of Bashan*. Porter is giving an eyewitness account of the shepherds' leading forth their sheep in the morning. His description of the shepherd is most interesting.

The shepherds themselves had none of that peaceful and placid aspect which is generally associated with pastoral life and habits. They looked more like warriors marching to the battlefield -- a long gun slung from the shoulder, a dagger and heavy pistol in the belt, a light battle axe or ironheaded club in the hand. Such were the equipments; and their fierce flashing eye and scowling countenance showed but too plainly that they were prepared to use their weapons at any moment.⁸

Weapons were necessary as frequently the path to the place of grazing led through desolate and dangerous places. The *valley of the shadow of death* is a valley beset with enemies hiding behind boulders and in secret caves, poised and ready to strike. The sheep fear not in such places for the good shepherd's presence and instruments of defense bring him comfort.

The good shepherd is prepared not only to defend his flock, but willingly lay down his life for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling; and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. (John 10:11-13)

The presence of the wolf proves the genius of the shepherd. Does he consider the safety of the flock, or only his own safety? How much is a minister willing to give up to take a stand and

thereby protect the flock? Will he lay aside his personal ambitions and desire to be popular and accepted? Will he stand alone for what is right? The pattern of the good shepherd teaches that the pastor must be willing to lay down his life for his sheep.

The shepherd's work of separation is *Pictured in the Old Testament, and Exemplified in the Good Shepherd*.

Third, Consider the *Shepherd's Work of Separation as It Is Commanded in the New Testament*.

WARNINGS ON WOLVES

In Acts 20:28-30 Paul charges the elders of the church at Ephesus to be on guard in the care of God's flock:

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed (shepherd) the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. (vs.28)

The worth of this flock is shown by the fact that it was purchased at the price of Jesus' blood. Such precious sheep must be shepherded against the attacks of grievous wolves (false teachers) from without, as well as from within. Other men would be interested in that flock, not for the sheeps' sake, but for their own. They would twist and corrupt the truth to make it more appealing in order to draw a following.

SITTING IN A WOLFPACK

In Matthew 7:15 Jesus gave His warning against false teachers who would seek to pass themselves off as sheep, but would work destruction upon God's people. This warning was brought home to my heart through a recent experience. I was invited to sit on a panel for a class on "Death and Dying" being taught at our local college. The instructor tried to get a broad spectrum of belief. She invited a rabbi, a Moslem, a Roman Catholic priest, a

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representative of Bahai, a minister from Mind Science, a United Methodist minister, a Lutheran minister and myself. As the evening progressed, it became apparent that none of the other ministers wanted to say anything that would make someone feel uncomfortable. They sought to rob death of its sting on the basis of human wisdom. The absolute statements of Scripture were not warmly received, but thankfully the opportunity was there to present salvation clearly in Christ as the only hope for man in the face of death. These ministers and teachers were kind and gracious. They did not look like wolves. They were convinced in their own minds that we are all sheep in the same fold. Their message, however, was destructive. Instead of warning the class of judgment for sin, they offered false assurance that there is nothing in death to be feared.

It is small wonder that the pastoral epistles abound in exhortations on how to deal with false teachers. I Tim. 1:18-20, 4:1-6, 6:20, II Tim. 2:15-18,23,25 are examples:

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. (Titus 1:9-11)

SEPARATION COMES WITH THE TERRITORY

God's man can grow weary of contending for the faith. There is no pleasure or enjoyment in *marking them that cause division, noting the disobedient brother, and withdrawing fellowship.* The minister's heart grows heavy every time he learns of a brother who has ceased to stand, having chosen to follow the easier path of compromise. He may find himself wondering if he should keep on standing. If a man is a shepherd of God's people, he will -he

must - stand. Protecting the flock is not an optional activity. The position demands the practice of separation for the safety of God's people.

WHERE ARE THE PROTECTORS?

The Mother Goose nursery rhyme, "Little Bo Peep", tells of a young girl who is unable to find her sheep. The reverse is the scenario for God's flock. The sheep are present, but the cry goes out for men who are true shepherds. Some can be found who are willing to lead God's people. They are gifted administrators. But where are the men who will be guardians of the flock, who will give their all for the defense of the sheep, who will practice separation from apostasy and from disobedient brethren?

We need "shepherds" who will do the task of protecting the flock. Such were the true shepherds of the Old Testament. Such is the example of the Good Shepherd. Such is the commandment in the New Testament.

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you ... And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (I Peter 5:2a,4)

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¹ *The Minister as Shepherd* (Fincastle, Virginia: Scripture Truth Book Co)

² *Ibid.*, p. 38

³ *Ibid.*, p. 38

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 37

⁵ *Axioms of Separation* (Mentor, Ohio: "Here I Stand" Books), P. 11

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 13

⁷ H.C. Leupold, *Exposition of the Psalms* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1959), p. 212.

⁸ C.H. Spurgeon, *Treasury of David* (McLean, Virginia: MacDonald Pub. Co.)

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into this world. Heaven is going to be a special place. God is going to populate heaven with people, who are like Jesus. We are not conformed fully to Christ's image here on earth, but we are being conformed, the Scripture says, unto the image of Christ. God will complete the work He has begun in us, and we will be conformed to the image of Christ, all of us, every one, who has genuinely trusted Christ. Heaven is going to be populated with people who, have the characteristics, and qualities, as well as the righteousness of Christ. Yet, there will be nice people, good people, sweet people, wonderful people, gifted people, lovely people, talented people in Hell! Philanthropists; people who have given their lives to help the poor; people who have given their lives by going overseas to teach people how to raise crops; people who have given their lives to medicine; yet if they die without knowing Jesus Christ as their Savior they are not going to go to heaven. Now the question is, are you part of the remnant?

Despised and Hated

The remnant is always despised and hated by the ungodly who make up the majority of the population. We read in Amos 5:10, "They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly." Amos here identifies one of the remnant of his day. He is on an official board in the city. He sees things going on that ought not to be. All kinds of corruption and evil are being endorsed. He speaks up and says, "Brethren, these things ought not so to be!" And, do you know what happens? As soon as possible, the others will see that he is *off* the board! He had to stand up and speak out against the evil because of his position. He is part of the remnant. If he is out voted, so be it, he has delivered his soul. The remnant is to speak what is right. He says, "There is only one thing to do about anything, and that is the right thing." The right thing! Well, what is the right thing? It is what the Bible says right is. It is what the principles of God's Word teach us.

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Are you part of the remnant? Answer for yourself. I cannot answer for you.

The Remnant of Noah's Day

Noah, the Bible says, was a preacher of righteousness. For one hundred twenty years Noah built the ark and preached righteousness. The ark may have become a tourist attraction, Noah being one hundred twenty years building it, and whenever he got the opportunity he preached righteousness. "God is going to judge the world. You are wicked sinners, and God is holy and righteous. He created you and you have gone astray, but God is merciful. God is long suffering, and if you will repent He will forgive your sin and save you." What a message! The tour guides may have brought them to see him: "Come, see the boat being built in the mountains". But one day the rain began to fall.

The Remnant of Elijah's Day

Israel had turned from Jehovah. Ahab and Jezebel were ruling, and Baal worship was "religiously correct" in Israel. After three years of terrible drought as prophesied by Elijah, Elijah went up on Mt. Carmel and stood against all the four hundred fifty prophets, who were under the control of Jezebel. He stood alone and said, "The Lord is God. Get on one side or the other." Elijah stood there before those people, alone for God. Sometimes that is the way you have to stand; just you, nobody else to prop you up, nobody to encourage you, nobody to say that you are doing the right thing; just you! Because you know you can not do otherwise, you are just going to have to stand up there and take the heat. Elijah took the heat.

Psychological Heresy

Today the same thing is true. If you are going to stand, you are going to have to stand against many things that are going on in the church and nation today. You are going to have to stand against the charlatans of psychology.

Psychology is destroying the church today. It is eating its heart out. People are depending on psychological counselors to tell them what they should do instead of taking the Word of God. How do you think people got along for so many centuries without modern psychology? If this is such a great, so-called enlightened age in which we live, how in the world did people get along with just the Bible and the Holy Spirit?

The Remnant: Object of God's Supernatural Protection

The remnant is the object of God's special protection. That is a wonderful thing to comprehend. Isaiah 46:3,4 "Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all *the remnant* of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb: And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you." Now that is better than any psychologist's help, is it not? These verses bring real comfort. God always looks after and takes care of His own, the remnant. He had an ark for Noah, a juniper tree and angel servants for Elijah, a comfortable furnace and the Son of God's presence for the three Hebrew children. Yea, even in your old age, He will take care of you. Even if you do not have Social Security, He will take care of you. Even if you have received no large inheritance, He will take care of you. I met a fellow recently who was in our church many years ago. He told me about how well he is doing, how wonderful every thing is going. He said his wife had a substantial inheritance come to her, so he had plenty of money to do what he wanted to do and go where he wanted to go now that he is retired and has everything he needs. Well, he does not have to trust the Lord! Isn't that too bad? Isn't that pitiful? He does not have to trust the Lord. I will tell you, I would rather have ravens feed me and trust the Lord than to have millions of dollars in the bank and not know the Lord. I would be much safer being fed by the ravens; somebody may kill you for your money!

The Remnant of Daniel's Day

Daniel stood for the Lord. He purposed in his heart that he was not going to defile himself. He was part of the remnant, and God blessed and promoted him in the kingdom. He became powerful in Babylon.

Rahab: Remnant of Jericho

Rahab, that harlot of Jericho, hid the spies by faith, and then had her whole family spared when they captured the city of Jericho.

The Church Remnant

God took care of His own, and God is going to take care of those who are the remnant in the Church. The Scripture tells us He is going to deliver us from the wrath to come. He is going to rapture out the Church, which is His body. We are going to rise to meet Him in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. He looks after His own. You do not have to worry about standing. Oh, there have been many of the remnant throughout the ages who have died for their faith. God just took them into His presence early, that is all. In the time of the Great Tribulation the Scripture tells us again that 144,000 are going to be divinely protected from the Antichrist.

See Apostasy, page 12

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Apostasy, from page 11

They will not be able to be killed. Their lives cannot be taken from them, because God has so decreed it. They will be hated and despised but not able to be destroyed. They are going to be protected by God.

The Faithful Remnant

The remnant always stands faithfully for God and refuses to bow the knee or be taken in by the world's glamour. I want to read one other passage in Zephaniah, chapter three, verses 12 and 13: "I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid." He is talking about the remnant in the time of the Great Tribulation. They shall trust in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth. They are faithful to God.

The Remnant: God's Elect

The remnant are God's elect. In the New Testament, the word "remnant" is not used. There they are called the elect. The remnant are God's elect through grace. I Peter 1:2 says, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied." Romans 8:28-34: "And we know that all things work together for good, (Who are these for which all things work together for good? We could say the remnant, or the elect) to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." They did not decide that God wanted them to do a certain thing, because it was something they wanted to do. They decided to do that certain thing, because it was what God wanted them to do. They let God lead and show them what they ought to do with their

lives. And so it says, "We know that all things work together for good" for them. "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." God completes every job He starts. "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6) "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). The answer is nobody! Nobody! "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). He has already given us the best, His Son! Anything else He gives us is less than what He has already given us, so He will surely give us all things. "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Romans 8:33-34). Who is the "us"? Is it not the genuine believers, those who have not only testified to their faith in Christ, but whose lives back up that testimony by standing for what is right and resisting evil as the occasion arises? Part of the work of the Holy Spirit on the earth today is the hindering or resisting of lawlessness. (II Thess. 2:7). How does He resist? He uses you and me to resist. The Holy Spirit indwells the bodies of believers, and as those believers yield themselves, He uses them to resist evil. That is the way the Holy Spirit resists. One day the Holy Spirit will be taken out. We will be taken when the Holy Spirit is taken. That is the Rapture. Once the Church, which is Christ's body, is raptured and the Holy Spirit is taken from the earth, there will be no resistance to the evil that men's minds, under Satan's leadership, are capable of conceiving. The forces of Antichrist will then be free to promote his program without interference.

Focus, from page 7

WOLF-PROOF MINISTRIES NEEDED

The following is an excerpt from an excellent article written by Rev. Stephen Spence, Assistant Pastor of Bible Community Church of Mentor, Ohio, entitled: "Separation: Shepherd's Work".

"There are many men today serving as shepherds of the flock of God who are willing to feed and lead, yet they fail in the responsibility to protect the flock. Bible-believing pastors must understand that separation is a vital, Biblical activity of every true shepherd for the protection of the flock of God." Rev. Spence later quotes Charles Jefferson who states in his book, *The Minister as Shepherd*, that modern ministers are weak in regard to "safeguarding the sheep". Jefferson writes, "We have spent too much time in coaxing half dead sheep back to life again, and not enough time in building barriers against wolves. The shepherd has no genius for constructing sheepfolds which will keep out the wolves. He does not seem to know that it is his duty to devise means and measures for meeting and overcoming the hostile forces which are forever making warfare on the Church of Christ." Well said! Pastor Spence's article is printed in its entirety beginning on page one of this issue of the *PROJECTOR*.

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