

The Faith Watch

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A TIME AND PLACE?

I found myself many years ago in the home of a man who said he was a Baptist deacon. We were discussing spiritual things when I asked him when and where he was saved. He became visibly agitated, leaning forward in his chair, the level of his voice noticeably raised. "I don't have a specific salvation experience, but I have always believed in Jesus," he told me. Obviously, this had been a sore subject at some time previously with him, and I had hit the nerve again. We stayed on that subject for some time, exploring the biblical principles concerning salvation. He stood his ground insisting that he did not need a definite conversion, that the evidence of his Christianity could be seen in his faithful church attendance, his prayer life, etc. I remained firm in the conviction that nobody is a Christian until he becomes a Christian, that we are born in sin needing salvation, that the very definition of the term conversion requires an event whereby the lost sinner is made a Christian and that there are absolutely no exceptions. There was tension in the air. Nerves were taut. This was no longer a casual visit. Neither party budged. The deacon finally said, "Another Baptist pastor in town visited me some time ago and told me I was not saved." Firmly I said, "He's right. You are not saved." The visit

ended shortly after that, and I never saw him again.

Over the years that scene has been repeated countless times. So many in professing Christendom today have no conversion experience. I am fearful of the sheer number of people who do not have a definite time and place of salvation from sin. Christ warned us of this very thing.

Matthew 7:22,23 - Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Many will face the Lord at the judgment who assume they are possessors of eternal life because of the many works they have done in the name of Jesus, but He does not know them! They were never officially brought into a family relationship with Christ and the Father. They labored their whole lives while unsaved. Just as that Baptist deacon pointed me to his lifelong service as evidence of his salvation, these people will note all the wonderful works they have done as proof of safety with Christ, but they are not able to point to the time and place where they first "knew" Him.

They will without exception be commanded to depart from the Savior into hellfire because they were religious but never saved. The Bible tells us there will be “many” in that condition, and as I have spoken with people over the years I believe I have dealt with a good number of those very people. It is a burden upon my heart as surely it must sadden every true believer who spends time among sinners seeking their conversion (Ja.5:20).

Professing believers without a time and place of salvation are just like Nicodemus in John Chapter Three. He was a ruler of the Jews which meant he was a master of the Bible. He sat on the Sanhedrin council judging religious matters for the nation of Israel. This would mean that he was highly respected among the people, a man of letters and of vast knowledge, faithful in the synagogue. He even acknowledged a certain belief in Jesus.

John 3:2 - The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest except God be with him.

To many in our day (or any day) this would be a sufficient profession of faith to put our minds at ease and even to admit Nicodemus into the membership of our churches. It was not good enough to the One Who knows all that is in man. The answer given immediately by Christ is telling.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5-7 - Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Nicodemus was unsaved, and all of his study, mastery, his reputation, and his service left him an alien from Christ while on earth and would have barred him from Heaven at his death. The same is true of all who possess good intentions, admirable beliefs, and a resume full of service but have no specific new birth. Ye must be born again! Just as our physical birth was a definite event involving a time and place which is able to be recounted if asked, so is our spiritual birth. The physical birth placed us into our earthly family. Without that birth we can not claim family membership. The spiritual birth places the individual into God’s family. Without such a birth we can not claim to be children of God. Jesus said that without a spiritual birth a man cannot see the kingdom nor enter the kingdom of God. He said to Nicodemus, “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” Yet people today and in every age marvel that a specific birth, a specific event, a definite salvation experience is absolutely necessary.

Countless times in a myriad of ways the Bible teaches that the saving of a sinner is a definite transaction that takes place at a specific moment in time in response to the sinner’s receiving of that salvation. As a result I always ask when dealing with people, “When and where were you saved?” We at Faith Baptist

Church always inquire of those applying for membership, "When and where were you saved?" A general response will not do. We are looking for a definite experience of salvation. The Scriptures listed below help to clarify.

Matthew 7:13 - Enter ye in at the strait gate.

The way of salvation is narrow. It contains a gate through which entrance is gained. When did you enter the gate?

John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.

The saved one has been given everlasting life as a present possession. He is passed from the realm of death to that of life. When did you get the gift of life? When did you pass from death to life?

John 6:37 - Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Those who come to Christ as Savior are not rejected; neither at the point of coming nor at any time after. When did you come to Him?

Romans 3:24 - Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Justification is the adjusting of the standing of the sinner with God. He is freed from all guilt and condemnation. Redemption is being purchased and owned by Christ. When were you

justified? When were you redeemed?

Romans 8:15 - Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The believer is adopted into God's family and able to cry to God as Father. When were you adopted? When did God become your Father?

II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.

Believers are placed into Christ at the moment of salvation and are made new on the inside. When were you placed into Christ? When were you made a new creature?

Colossians 1:13 - Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

At salvation the power of Satan's kingdom over us is broken, and we are by divine transaction made members of Christ's kingdom. When were you translated?

Titus 3:5 - According to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

The Christian is saved from condemnation, washed from his sins and regenerated to righteousness, and he is renewed into a new creature by the action of the Holy Ghost. When were you saved? When were you washed and regenerated? When were you renewed?

Hebrews 2:3 - How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?

Salvation is claimed purposely by those who were formerly passive concerning it. When did you cease to neglect salvation?

Hebrews 7:25 - Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him.

Jesus saves perfectly and forever all who come through Him to the Father. When did you come?

Revelation 22:17 - And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The individual that thirsts for salvation is invited to come for it. If a person will, he or she may take of the refreshing water of life freely. When did you thirst and come? When did you take it?

God is abundantly clear in His Word that being saved is a divine transaction in response to the sinner seeing his need of a Savior and receiving at Christ's hands the great salvation offered. This is done purposely and at a certain moment in time. The individual who has been saved knows when it happened and where it happened. Satan knows that if he can make people religious without a definite new birth that they fall into the same hell as the atheist and the reprobate. Complete and permanent damnation are realized equally by both the antagonist, who ridicules the Bible, and by the Sunday School teacher who has no new birth experience. Satan has

certainly influenced religious thought in our day by taking the emphasis off of specific truths and placing it on unity, at the expense of truth. This unity is therefore based upon the lowest common denominator, doctrinally. Current trends tell us not to get hung up on specific doctrinal truths which tend to divide denominational bodies. We are led to believe that anything which prohibits the togetherness of those professing the faith is against God. Satan is behind this. Many who clamor for this false fellowship have no salvation testimony; therefore, they do not press for one from their followers before calling them brothers and sisters. (When did you get adopted into God's family becoming my brother or sister?) Within these multi-faith gatherings there are always many types of salvation methods represented, even among the leadership. The way that leads to life is treated as a broad path with a wide gate. The devil has made it seem almost unchristian to examine one too closely as to their new birth. Admittedly, it puts people ill at ease as they are lovingly examined as to their place in Christ. I have seen the curious look and heard the impatient reply over and over as a professing believer struggled to verify the moment of salvation he claimed to possess. However, it would be spiritually criminal for someone to perish because I did not wish to discomfort them with questions concerning their all-important new birth. The single most important moment in a person's life is the moment of salvation! Those who would win souls for Christ must press others in love to establish whether or not they actually have such a moment. "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." If the apostle Paul was pressed for such

a moment he would tell us it was on the road to Damascus in Acts 9. If the Ethiopian eunuch were pressed on the issue he would say he was saved as Philip explained passages from Isaiah to him while riding in his chariot in Acts 8. If the Philippian jailer was pressed on the question of a salvation experience he would say it was one night in a jail cell at the hands of Paul and Silas in Acts 16. He and his family were saved the same night. If the thief of Calvary was pressed for a testimony he would tell us that he was saved while hanging on the cross next to Christ. He called to the Savior to remember him in the next world. He heard the promise of Jesus in Luke 23:43, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." If you, dear reader, were pressed on the subject, could you give such a time and place testimony?

Bishop John Taylor Smith, former Chaplain General of the British army was preaching in a large cathedral on this text: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." In order to drive it home, he said: "'My dear people, do not substitute anything for the new birth. You may be a member of a church, but church membership is not the new birth, and 'except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" On the left sat the archdeacon in his stall. Pointing directly at him, he said, "You might even be an archdeacon like my friend in his stall and not be born again, and 'except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' You might even be a bishop like myself, and not be born again, and 'except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" A day or so later he received a letter from the archdeacon in which he wrote: "My dear Bishop: You have found me out. I have found me out. I

have been a clergyman for over thirty years, but I have never known anything of the joy that Christians speak of. I never could understand it. Mine has been hard legal service. I did not know what was the matter with me, but when you pointed directly to me, and said, 'You might even be an archdeacon and not be born again,' I realized in a moment what the trouble was. I had never known anything of the new birth." He went on to say that he was wretched and miserable, had been unable to sleep all night, and begged for a conference, if the bishop could spare the time to talk with him. "Of course I could spare the time," said Bishop Smith, "and the next day we went over the Word of God, and, after some hours, we were both on our knees, the archdeacon taking his place before God as a poor lost sinner, and telling the Lord Jesus he would trust Him as his Savior. From that time on everything has been different."

Listed below are some guidelines to help anyone who might not have a specific moment of salvation.

1. Recognize sin and damnation. Your sins are real. Everyone physically born into the world is damned by sin. There are no exceptions. Everyone is a sinner, and all sinners are lost and undone before God. (Ro.3:10-12,19)
2. Realize Jesus Christ is the Savior. It is He Who was sent into the world as the divine Son of God to pay our sin debt upon the cross and rise from the dead in victory over death. He alone can save! (Jn. 14:6; Ac.4:12; He. 7:25; 1 Jn. 5:11-13)
3. Review faith as the only means of

being saved . Faith means to trust Christ ALONE for your eternal life. All faith must be taken out of good deeds, baptism, church membership, the mass, the confessional ... anything other than Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus plus anything cannot save. (Ro. 11:6)

4. Receive Christ for salvation- By calling upon the name of the Lord (Ro. 10: 13) you are receiving Him (Jn. 1:12), coming to Him (Jn.6:3 7), believing on Him (Ac. 16:3 1). There are other times suitable for the many other prayer requests you might have. This moment is to specifically confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus as your Savior (Ro. 10:9). "Dear Lord Jesus. I am a sinner. I believe that you died for me upon the cross and rose again. I do place all of my faith in you now as my personal Savior and ask you to come into my heart, forgive me of all my sin and save me forever. Amen." Faith means you believe it.

If you have trusted the Lord just now and have made this the time and place of your salvation, please contact me using the information below. I would love to rejoice with you. May God use this message to open the hearts of those who have "done many wonderful works" but who yet need to be saved.

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NOT ENOUGH?

Ben Fox

Why is God's Word not enough for us? Why is the Bible the least read book in the world these days? I can't honestly answer these questions, but I do have my opinions. For starters, we are sinners! We, as mankind cannot fathom the depth of His Word, so we try to change it to meet our plan, which of course is not in line with the Lord's. So many pastors (used loosely) are changing their sermons to a positive

side while ignoring the latter. Why?! It has become a money game now. People do not want to hear where they are going if they did not get saved. They think if they live a good enough life, that's the ticket to Heaven, all because some religious freak said it was the only way. Why not. It is far easier to live in sin than it is to be a Christian.

In our day and age, we have these so called ministers proclaiming God's Holy Word. They claim to heal the sick, lame, and if you give to their ministry God will give it back a hundred fold. What blasphemy!! They say they will not take anything out of God's will. Which is correct, to a point. In the matter of Laying on Hands, the Lord took that power away from us. So, for Him to give back would be against His will. Therefore it would make the Lord a liar and a sinner. IMPOSSIBLE! If you read I Corinthians 8:8-13, it tells you He took them away. Can you guess whose power they use? If you guessed Satan, you're right. Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. It states that Satan can and does use God's Word to steer people away from Him. Satan stirs the mixing pot and confuses people on what is Biblical. I just learned that a lie is 90% truth. Satan will give enough Word and then confuse it just a bit. Then you get what we have today- utter mass confusion. Satan wouldn't have it any other way. How many times have you heard a minister preach and all it has to do with, is you getting something from God. I don't totally object to this, but put it in context. They say, "Give and God will reward you," mainly with money. I don't see it that way. You have to give with a cheerful heart and expect nothing in return. I believe God can bless you with money and career. But first you have to be able

to handle it. God can give the strength needed.

John 3:30 says: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Also,

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

What a great God we have!! With all the sin in this world and the wickedness we all have, He still loved us enough to send his son to die for us and to save us from all destruction. And one day this body will be perfect!! Just remember:

Ephesians 4:5-6 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Philippians 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,"

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

I would like to end with this verse;

2 Timothy 4:7-8 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

The Marketing of the Gospel

Rick Crawford

The present trend in 21st Century Christianity seems to be a steady march towards Hollywood. The Bible, The Holy Spirit, sin and salvation are relegated to second place for the sake of attendance and entertainment. We must be entertained. Our congregation's attention must be held each moment for fear of losing someone to other worldly pursuits. This attitude is rampant within churches, having been introduced through 'Contemporary Christian' music and many worldly books and films masquerading as 'Christian'. The latest addition to this sad lineup is the movie "The Passion of the Christ".

I must state that I have not seen any portion of the movie nor do I have any intention of viewing it now or in the future. It is not necessary to partake of a sin to recognize it for what it is and stand against it. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 tells us to:

"Abstain from all appearance of evil."

'Christian' leaders are lining up to be among the first to recommend and

praise this film. 5000 pastors were given a special screening at the Calvary Assembly of God church in Orlando, FL. Billy Graham was said to have been so moved by it that he wept. To this date over 10,000 leaders of various denominations have been given special screenings and are preparing their congregations to see the movie. One Baptist church has actually leased an entire theater in order to show it to as many people as possible. This was all a careful marketing move by the film's creator, Mel Gibson, as was the controversy surrounding its anti-Semitism and the pope's supposed approval. Mr. Gibson has proven to be a master in media manipulation. One year ago he could find no one willing to distribute the movie and now it is being predicted to be one of the all time greatest films. Rabbi Daniel Lapin feels that:

"Passion will become famous as the most serious and substantive Biblical movie ever made. It will be one of the most talked-about entertainment events in history, it is currently on the cover of Newsweek and Vanity Fair." "... the faith of millions of Christians will become more fervent as Passion uplifts and inspires them. Passion will propel vast numbers of unreligious Americans to embrace Christianity. The movie will one day be seen as a harbinger of America's third great religious reawakening."

Wherever there is controversy, there is interest. Newsweek magazine states:

"The fight about God, meanwhile,

has been good for Mammon: Gibson has made what is likely to be the most watched Passion play in history. Prerelease sales are roaring along. Evangelical congregations are buying out showings, and religious leaders are urging believers to come out in the film's opening days because of the commercial and marketing significance of initial box-office numbers. Finding a global celebrity like the Oscar-winning Gibson in their camp was an unexpected gift. "The Passion of the Christ," Billy Graham has said, is "a lifetime of sermons in one movie."

Preachers for many years now have warned their congregations about the dangers of linking up with worldly churches and organizations such as Promisekeepers. Now, in one masterful move, the devil has succeeded in getting many of these same people to link arms with the TBN crowd, Billy Graham and the Catholic church by recommending this R-rated movie as an evangelistic tool. Somehow we have come to feel that Biblical preaching and teaching is no longer God's chosen method of reaching the lost.

Mel Gibson is a very devout Roman Catholic. He is a leader of a very conservative Catholic group which seeks to bring back the Latin Mass, abstains from meat on Fridays and has a very strict and conservative interpretation of Catholic doctrine. He built a personal Catholic chapel with \$5.1 million of his own money, called Holy Family, near his California home. The church has an unlisted phone number, keeps its address a secret and

has asked those who have the information not to release it. He had a Roman Catholic priest on the set of the movie who celebrated the mass and heard confession every day, with the purpose of insuring that everyone involved remained 'clean' during the filming. The movie's web site admits that the story is heavily Catholic in its approach containing references to the Stations of the Cross and the sinlessness of Mary. It implies that the Lord's statement from the cross, "It is finished" was not directed to God the Father but to Mary, who then whispers, "Amen."

Another of Mr. Gibson's heresies is revealed in his quote from the Washington Times:

"To atone for the sins of everybody, boggles the mind. Christ could have done it by pricking His finger and shedding His blood. He didn't choose to do that. He went all the way."

This statement is in the same vein as other heretics such as John MacArthur and R.B. Theime who teach that the blood was not necessary at all. Scripture is very clear that it took the death and all of the blood of Christ to purchase our redemption. If not then what was the purpose of the millions of animals sacrificed in the Temple throughout the Old Testament period?

Satan will be quite pleased with this film. He has succeeded in corrupting millions of people over the past several decades with the filth of Hollywood, and now he is about to succeed in drawing thousands of otherwise conservative Christians back into its sphere of influence. Several commentators who have viewed the film have stated their

shock and revulsion at the graphic violence of the movie while at the same time praising it. And from all accounts there is no redeeming call to repentance and salvation anywhere in the story, simply the appeal to the forgiveness from One so brutalized. The dialogue of the film is in Aramaic and Latin with English subtitles. Jesus is depicted in Gethsemane as racked with fear, where he is tempted by Satan, depicted as a pale, hooded, androgynous woman. Reuters had this to say:

“This, then, is a medieval Passion Play with much better effects. Flesh is flayed in grotesque detail. Body fluids spurt in exquisite patterns. Slow motion captures any action or glance Gibson deems significant.”

It would appear that the real point of this movie was the violence and shock value. Our society has become so desensitized to violence by TV, movies and video games that Mel Gibson knew he must ratchet up the special effects to sell this one. Newsweek remarks:

“It’s the sadism, not the alleged anti-Semitism, that is most striking. There’s always been a pronounced streak of sadomasochism and martyrdom running through Gibson’s movies, both as an actor and as a filmmaker. The Oscar-winning “Braveheart” reveled in decapitations and disembowelments...”

Mr. Gibson proudly admits on his web site that the script is based on an 1824 book, “The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”. This

book was written by a Catholic nun, Anne Catherine Emmerich who lived in Germany between 1774 and 1824. She believed she was given a vision of the actual events of the Last Supper, the Agony in the Garden, the Arrest, the Scourging, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was claimed that she bore the stigmata, or actual wounds of Christ, while receiving these visions. The flyleaf of the book says, “Here is a book that gives one a holy feeling just to read it.” Hardly the basis of a good, Godly movie.

True Christians should recognize this movie for what it truly is: a shameless attempt to market the name of the Son of God for worldly mammon. I, for one, have no desire to contribute to Mel Gibson’s wealth or to the wealth of the Catholic church.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Twenty Questions

by
Todd Daffara

Well, it has been a while since the Faith Baptist Watch has contained this article, but I hope it was worth the wait.

An idea came to me, in view of February and Valentine’s Day, etc., to not interview just one person, but two.

These two could not be just any two people, but a couple from our church. I am pleased to present an all new format for 20 Questions.

Now, there are quite a few couples in our church that it was extremely difficult to select the proper candidates. In the end, the couple that continued to come to mind was Brad & Renée Tidwell. There are a lot of things to say about these two. They have been putting a lot of hard work into their teen class. They have both remained faithful to this church and to their ministry as well. It has been a long road from having only 1 or 2 students to where they are today with as many as 15 students.

So sit back, relax and enjoy getting to know our teen leaders a little better.

“Getting To Know You”

Q: Which one of your kids resembles you most?

A: Brad - Kaitee ACTS like me

Renée - Kaitee

Q: When it comes to disciplining your children, which of you is feared more?

A: Brad - Brad

Renée - Brad

Q: What is your favorite hymn?

A: Brad - Amazing Grace/I Love To Tell The Story

Renée - Amazing Grace

Q: What are your hobbies/collections?

A: Brad - Flying radio control planes with Jake/Video games

Renée - Dreamsicles/Dolphins

Q: What is your biggest fear?

A: Brad - Not doing enough for the Lord

Renée - I fear the Lord

Q: When were you saved?

A: Brad - January 30, 2000

Renée - March 2000

Q: What have you learned from teaching

the teen class?

A: Brad - Always expect the unexpected...”Never a dull moment.”

Renée - Lots of patience

Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?

A: Brad - Holding a marriage together for almost 10 years

Renée - Being married and having a family

Q: What is your biggest difference?

A: Brad - I am more picky/particular

Renée - I am more passive

Q: How are you most alike?

A: Brad - We like to spend lots of time together

Renée - We like to spend a lot of time together

“Perfect Match?”

* = Right Answer

X = Wrong Answer

Q: What is the oldest item in your house?

Brad - My mother-in-law, Ethel

Renée - My mom, Ethel

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the author, the author’s family or that of Faith Baptist Church. We love you, Ethel!

Q: What is Brad/Renée wearing right now?

* Brad - Black shirt/blue jean skirt

* Renée - Grayish pants, white shirt/red and blue floral tie

Q: Who won the last argument you had?

* Brad - Neither, we never finished it

X Renée - Brad

Q: Where is the last place you went out for dinner?

* Brad - Ruby Tuesdays

X Renée - TGIFridays (She meant Ruby Tuesdays, so partial credit could be given)

Q: What is his/her favorite candy bar?

* Brad - Hershey Bar with Almonds

* Renée - Milky Way

Q: Who is his/her favorite cartoon character?

* Brad - Goofy

* Renée - Spongebob Squarepants

Q: What position does your partner sleep in? (left side, right side, front , back)

* Brad - Left Side

* Renée - Left Side

Q: What is his/her favorite food?

* Brad - Mexican food

* Renée - Pizza

Q: What is his/her eye color?

X Brad - Brown

* Renée - Green

Q: What is his/ her IQ?

*** Due to the fact that a persons IQ is strictly subjective, we are not going to count this as a question, plus you really don't want to know what Brad said about Renée on this question. But , please ask him and I am sure he will tell you. They are both above average though***.

Well if you were keeping track of the points in these final ten questions, here is how they scored on " Perfect Match"

Brad - 1 wrong answer

Renée - 1.5 wrong answers(remember she got partial credit for TGIFridays)

Well now you know a little bit more about our beloved teen leaders, perhaps maybe something you didn't know about them before. You would be surprised about how much information you can get out of someone just by sitting down and talking with them about everyday activities, or in my case throw

a bunch of questions at them and make them tell you all the facts as well as the answers. But now is the time to wrap up this issue of Twenty Questions this time, but keep a close eye out because next time it could be you in the spotlight.

Food For Thought

Cabbage always has a heart,

Green beans string along.

You're such a cute Tomato,

Will you Peas to me belong.

You've been the Apple of my eye,

You know how much I care.

So Lettuce get together,

We'd make a perfect Pear.

Now something's sure to Turnip

To prove you can't be Beet,

So if you Carrot all for me

Let's let our Tulips meet.

Don't Squash my hopes and dreams
now.

Bee my Honey dear,

Or tears will fill Potato's eyes

While Sweet Corn lends an ear.

I'll Cauliflower shop and say

Your dreams are Parsley mine.

I'll work and share my Celery,

So be my Valentine!!

Now that the "holidays" are over and a New Year has begun. I would like to reflect on some of the questions others and I have asked myself. What am I thankful for? Why do we celebrate God's birth? And on Sunday's my Pastor asks - are you saved? Can you remember the time, day or place? Thank you Lord I can But... Who led me? A wonderful, loving woman who I am proud to call my sister, friend and some pretty strong

shoulders I can rely on.

When I was a young girl in junior High. My sister and brother in-law invited and took me to a little church - South Moline Baptist. Pastor Stan mentions it a lot in his many great sermons. There I learned many things: Why Christ died for me, He forgave me for my sins, and He watches over me and loves me unconditionally. Most of all, He saved me. I read my Bible and actually understood it. Pastor Gordon Tietz was an inspiration and great teacher. (By the way, he also inspired my brother in-law to become a Pastor too.)

I have been blessed with 3 wonderful Pastors. Our Pastor Stan, Pastor Tietz and my brother in-law Jim Galloway,

But I feel I owe a lot to my sister Joan Galloway. She led me to God. When we get together, she always gets out her Bible and shows me an interesting story or scripture. She witnesses to our family members. And always reminds us that God is always there through good times and bad. When our Dad was dying, she was so determined for him to be saved. We talk about it now and pray Dad heard her and God talking to him. When our precious Mom died, Joan was so strong for all of us, even though I knew she was hurting. Joan reminded all of us; Mom was with God and in a wonderful place - HEAVEN.

So as I reflect, I am thankful for my salvation, my God, my family, our church and for a sister who led me and is still teaching me God's love, the reason He was born, why He was crucified on a cross and died for my sins.

I was saved June 12, 1972, in a little white church in Moline.

Thank you Joan, my sister, my friend. And thank you GOD who has sent me

so many important people who have taught me, and are still teaching me your Word.

My prayer for those is to reflect on why and how you were led or would like to be led to God. it is a great feeling. Remember that special one, be it a relative, spouse, friend or neighbor. Tell them you are thankful for them and you love them and most importantly so does God.

Jeanette Johnson - John 3:16

Burnette's Babbles

Every paper I have an article that I come up with about certain topics, concerns, or just plain fun. The last couple of times it has been serious. (for those of you who didn't know, I can be serious) So I thought we would leave it on the same lines as before: the serious side of things. I have had two topics that have just kept running through my mind. (some of you are thinking, can she really think? Yes I can) So for this issue of the Watch, I am going to cover a little of the first topic.

Sit back and fasten your seat belts because we are hitting a heavy topic, SIN. The word itself appears a total of 394 times in the whole Bible. I don't know about you, but I believe that God wants us to know exactly what sin is. If He had to mention it that many times, you know it is big. After all, sin is why Christ had to come to this earth to die on a cross for you and me. Sin has a penalty for sin. That penalty is death. For there is only one way to get your sin removed completely and that is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

There is one main ingredient in sin. Can you guess what that ingredient is? Of course you can. It is "I". That is the only problem that you have with sin. It is not the fact of the devil made you do it. You did it all on your own. You are the only one responsible for your actions. Don't play the little innocent one. No one made you do anything. The Lord gave you that choice to choose either right and wrong, and He knew every time that we would chose self.

Like I said before, there is only one way to get things resolved. That is to get saved. How to do that is very simple. In fact there are only four things to realize. They are:

1. The fact of sin. Ro 3:23 *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"* All have sinned is the key there. Everyone is a sinner.
2. The penalty of sin. Ro 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Death is the result of sin.
3. The price already paid, Ro 5:8 *"But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Christ paid for our sin.
4. Salvation can be yours. Ro 10:9,10,13; *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* Just call upon Jesus to save you and He will. Stay tuned for more to come in next issue.

For now, so long and God bless you.

Sara Shipp

I KNEW I KNEW THERE WAS A GOD

Jan. 25, 2003

Thank you Lord for quiet times,
For comfort, rest, and peace sublime.
For highest mountains, rock hills and streams,
For enchanting shores and glist'ning beams.
For soft new snow upon the pines,
For trickling sounds that remind...
Of days gone by when just a child
I adventurously played amongst the wild:
The fragrance still lingers; the mem'ries
are sweet:
But HOW did we do without shoes on
our feet?!
God only knows; we weren't genteel and
refined,
But down on the farm we had a
wonderful time!
My cousins and I ate of the harvest,
Got in trouble for picking the biggest -
and largest!
Cultivated strawberries seen by the eye,
With covered faces red, got caught in a
lie.
We ate vegetables raw and cucumber
sandwiches,
Macintosh apples whilst covered with
bandages;
As the summer breeze our faces kissed,
We shared our dreams ... our "wishes
list":
Lying in the grass with red sky above,
My one wish was that I'd find love...
I never knew God had a plan,

That one day Christ would hold my hand.

But I knew, I KNEW, there was a God!
By what I heard, felt and saw!

He's kept me safe, warm and secure...

And through His blood I am sure-
Though I can't imagine, there's a more beautiful place!

Awaiting me at the end of my race.

More beautiful than the mountains, the hills and the streams...

Far beyond my expectations and most happy dreams.

Awesome wonders ruminant,

The whole world over, from state to state:

All we hear, feel, and see through nature,
Wouldn't be and couldn't be without our creator,

Gen. 1: 1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Love,

"Patches"

MEGACHURCH INDOCTRINATION

Reprinted from The Plains Baptist
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“Churches compete for congregants. To fill the pews, they often emphasize the upbeat and the encouraging and play down the business about God’s wrath. In today’s megachurches, the technology is cutting edge, the music is modern, the language is therapeutic, and the dress is casual. These churches are seeker sensitive, not authoritarian.” (NY Times, 12/30/03) Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof is a typical trait of last-day religion. The sad conclusion of many congregations

today is they have need of nothing. What an alarming announcement to multitudes it would be to hear how God feels about this:

Rev 3:16 “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

I asked for health that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked God for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn to obey.
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power and the praise of men;
I was given weakness to sense my need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing I asked for but everything I hoped for;
In spite of myself, my prayers were answered -
I am among all men most richly blessed.
Yes, God always gives us what's best for us.

WE MAY ASK AMISS, BUT GOD
ANSWERS ARIGHT

Submitted by Chris Borkhart

FAITH BAPTIST WATCH

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*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.
Ephesians 2:8-9*