

The Faith Watch

Published by Faith Baptist Church

Stan Gustafson, Pastor

Rick Crawford, Editor

Vol 4, No. 2 *Independent, Fundamental, Unaffiliated, KJV 1611* Jun 2004

SATAN UNMASKED IN ISLAM

by Pastor Stan Gustafson

John 8-44 - Ye are of your father the devil and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Satan wears many masks, but behind these masks is a killer. His children do the works of their father and are often unmasked through their own deeds. Lying, murder, rebellion, sin and destruction are listed on his resume and they lie in the genes of his posterity. These family traits have been exposed in history under many dictators and tyrants. The current spawn of Satan with which we have to deal is Islam.

The news of the world is full of horrific stories dealing with this sect. Suicide bombers find crowded areas in which to detonate themselves, hoping to take many others into eternity with them. Bombs explode in busses, train terminals and other crowded places. The attack on the twin towers in New York was not the first assault on America. Numerous other incidents took place over the years before 9/11. Some of the most recent news concerns the killing

of Christian Serbs by Muslim Albanians. Killing sprees in many cities have included the burning of churches and monasteries, in Kosovo. Bill Murray of the Religions Freedom Coalition States, "Virtually every church in Kosovo is in flames, and Christians are fleeing for their lives." Muslims burned down ten churches in the town of Makarfi in Nigeria just weeks ago. Some claim that a mentally retarded teenager desecrated the Quran, the Muslim holy book, inciting the attack. Eyewitnesses saw trucks piled with bodies of dead Christians being taken away for burial by police.

Most people in the western part of the world are either uninformed as to the nature of Islam and the threat it poses or they are asleep at the wheel. Much of our populace believes that this is the work of a few extremists while Islam is really quite a peaceful religion. In fact such bloodshed is inherent in the teachings of this cult. Their sacred book, the Quran, teaches that Muslims must slay the idolaters (non-Muslims) wherever they find them (Sura 9:5). The Quran also states that Muslims can kill others who speak against Islam (Sura 5:33). One of the concerns over Iraq's interim constitution is that it remains unclear on freedom of religion. One article within it states that all Iraqis have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religious belief.

However, another article says that no law may run contradictory to the tenets of Islam, and *all streams of Islamic law call for the death of any adult male Muslim who converts to another religion*. Death to the infidels (non-Muslims) is a fundamental doctrine of this Satanesque religion. Youngsters raised in Islam are taught from a young age that the only sure way of attaining Paradise in the next life is to sacrifice their lives in jihad (holy war). This is where the suicide bombers come from as well as those who flew our aircraft into the twin towers. They believed the moment of sacrificial death would give way to a palace of pearls for each of them in Paradise in which would be found seventy rooms containing seventy beautiful virgins. They understood that Allah would give them the strength and appetite of a hundred men with those women to enjoy for all of eternity. Jihad has come to our shores, and more is planned. I still remember the news footage of Muslims in the East dancing in the streets as the trade centers collapsed in New York City. The spawns of hell have more fireworks planned for this nation of ours, and my fear is that we are too soft and too preoccupied to understand that they consider our murder to be their religious privilege!

Satan wants people dead twice. He's in the death and destruction business, and when Islamic terrorists blow themselves and others into hell they are working for him. The Bible is clear on the two deaths awaiting those who are outside of Christ and therefore unsaved. Physical death is the departing of this life whereby we are ushered into eternity. The second death is the departing of any hope, any comfort any benefit of God at which time the unsaved

individual is ushered into the eternal lake of fire.

I John 5:4,5 - For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world. and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. For who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Revelation 21: 7,8 - He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The devil is doomed by his own rebellion against God, and he is determined to take as many people with him into eternal damnation as possible. He hates the true God and His Son Jesus Christ, and by promoting sin and violence, and by taking souls to hell he thumbs his nose at God. Islam is a tool of Satan to accomplish just that! I am moved by the recent unmasking of this monster religion. I have seen footage of the torture cells in Iraq in which people were subject to unspeakable atrocities. I saw film of the bodies of thousands of Kurds lying dead in the streets, victims of the weapons of mass destruction of Saddam Hussein. I was gripped at the scenes of American Nick Berg sitting in front of those Islamic assassins moments before one of them hacked at his neck five times with a blunt knife before he

was able to sever it from his body. This is the unmasked face of Allah - This is the unmasked face of Islam - This is the unmasked face of Satan! America needs to awaken. Not only do Muslims seek the annihilation of Israel, but both England and the United States are targets of these zealots. The United Nations will not help us, they have proven that. The politicians in this nation who would politicize this war on terror to gain political advantage are not our allies. The news outlets who vilify the current administration's war on terror are treasonous. They are serving to embolden the enemy. Jehovah God Almighty must help us now. May the people of the United States of America repent and turn back to God. We must get back on our knees and pray for mercy and protection.

While Islam wallows in death, the blessed Son of God came to give life to as many as would turn to Him. He is the only way to find eternal life in Heaven. He gave Himself to the cross to pay for our sins, and He rose from the dead in victory over death. He, as God the Son, is able to save those who repent of sin and place their faith in Him alone as Savior.

John 14:6 - I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 11:25 - I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead yet shall he live.

John 10:27,28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never

perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Satan is a liar and a murderer. He continuously invents false gods and false religions in order to confuse people and to keep them from the truth. He deals in death. Jesus Christ came to give us life.

Romans 10:9,13 - 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 whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

If you still need to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of your soul, and you would like to establish your relationship with Him now and your place in Heaven forever, you may receive Him by praying the following prayer:

Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead I understand that there is no other way of salvation; not in my goodness, not in the keeping of commandments, not in Islam or any other religious system or supposed savior, but only and totally in you. At this moment I receive you as my personal Savior, and I ask you to forgive me of all my sin, come into my heart and save me forever. I place all of my faith in only You. Amen

If you have believed on Christ through this article we would like to hear from you. Faith Baptist Church has valuable material used to help new

Christians grow in their new faith. These are available free of charge if you will write to us or call.

Faith Baptist Church
520 12th St Moline, IL, 61265
(309) 755-7430
Pastor Stan Gustafson

My name is Rubie Fox and this is my personal salvation testimony.

I grew up in a family that included generation after generation of strong Catholics. Any religion outside of the Catholic church was unheard of and unacceptable by my entire family. I was raised in the church and attended a Catholic school until the end of 6th grade. At the beginning of junior high school I continued to attend their Sunday schools. I remember sitting in all those classes hearing all the Bible “stories” and not understanding how to apply them into my life. I knew that Jesus was more than just a Bible character, but I did not know just how real He was.

When I was a little girl, there was an Independent Fundamental Baptist preacher and his family that lived across the street. I used to enjoy going over there and just being a part of the things that went on there. It was not that my family was not special, but I just knew that there was something that they had that I did not. I did not realize until much later that it was the peace and love that comes only from having Christ in their lives. They eventually moved far away, and the longing to figure out what was so special about them faded. As I look back, I do see that the impression was a deep one that would be realized much later.

I continued to attend the Catholic church throughout my teenage years and early adulthood. It was a religion that I did not really understand. In fact, I never did give it much thought. I thought that either you were Catholic or you literally were wrong in your faith. That was just the way it was taught to me. I did not question anything I was told, for I was told that we were not meant to question it. It was all some big secret that only God knew all the answers to. If I had any questions, they were to be directed to the priests and the nuns.

In December of 1994 I married my husband, Ben. He also came from a strong Catholic family. The difference between him and me was that God was reaching out to him and he was listening much better than I was. He began to question the things that we were sitting under in the Catholic church. I remember him saying that he knew that there had to be something better out there that made more sense. I reluctantly began to seek out with him. I was not doing it because I wanted to find God, because I thought that I had Him, but because I did not want our family to be a split church family. I wanted us to attend church as a complete family and he refused to go back into a Catholic church again. I felt as if I had no choice. The only way we would be going to church together was if I gave in and went somewhere else with him.

We attended the Church of Christ for a while. I thought that it was mediocre. I did not receive much teaching there and did not seem to fit in completely. I know now that God was letting me know that it was not the right place for me. We continued to attend there for a while but eventually moved on. We then attended the Nazarene church very

briefly.

During that time, Ben's uncle Jon Rettig, a missionary to the Czech Republic, was traveling through and stopping in our town. The Lord placed him there just at the right time. I was finally convinced that there was something out there and that I needed to find it. His time with us was supposed to be short. He had just stopped in to say hello. I proceeded to hammer him with every question I could think of about the error in the religion I grew up in. I did not think that I was ready to receive Christ, but I wanted answers. Little did I know that I needed Christ and that the answers would eventually come.

Not long later, we moved to the Quad City area. Again, this was due to the persuasion of Ben. He was not able to find a good job in Dalhart, Texas, and wanted to come back to the Midwest in order to go back to school and find a good job. I knew I needed to support Ben in his endeavors, so reluctantly, I gave in.

While we were getting settled into jobs and finding a home, we stayed with Ben's mom and step-dad. I began attending Faith Baptist Church with his mother on Sunday mornings because I knew that it was important for our daughters to be in church. I went as well, because I thought that I had to since I was sending my children there. Ben could not go on Sunday mornings because of his work schedule. He went with us in the evening. I did not grasp much at first and for sure did not understand that I needed Christ. I would sit there comparing how different this church was from the one I grew up in. I had been conditioned after years in the Catholic church to not really listen to

the man behind the pulpit. Unfortunately, it was a few weeks before any of it started to sink in.

Finally, about a month later I finally realized that I needed to be saved. I needed Christ in my life. All those years of not knowing what He had done for me were finally realized. I went forward and told Pastor that I wanted to get saved. He had someone take me into the back room and go through the Gospel with me. I remember thinking that this was so different than what I was used to and I commented to her about that. The woman then said, "Ok that is it." There was no prayer or assurance from me to indicate to her that I was truly saved. I did not know what was needed in order for me to be saved. I did not know that I had to repent and ask Jesus into my heart. I thought that all I had to do was listen to her read the Bible verses to me and it was done. I knew so little, that I did not question any of it.

It was not until after Ben found Christ in the spring of 1999 and my oldest daughter was asking why her daddy was getting baptized that I realized that I was lost. I was explaining that in order to get baptized a person must first get saved. I took her through the Bible and was explaining salvation as simple as I could to her when I realized that I did not pray or acknowledge Christ as my Saviour on the day that I thought that I was saved. I realized that I never did confess my sins to Jesus and ask Him to be my personal Saviour. What a shock it was! I bowed my head right there in my living room and asked for His forgiveness and asked Him to save me. Immediately, it was as if I had found what I was missing. Only after this did the messages God was conveying through my Pastor and the Bible begin

to make sense to me. It was as if my eyes had finally been opened.

Even after I found out that I had missed out the first time and now had the true Jesus, I did not make a public announcement with it. As I look back now, I wonder why this was. I think that I was overcome with the fear of having to admit that I was not saved when I had thought I was, even though I did finally get saved. It was not until some time last year that I realized that my baptism was not in order and that my true salvation testimony had not been made publicly to the Church. I knew that I had to make it right. I stood in front of the church in October of 2003 and gave a testimony of my profession of faith and received a true Baptist baptism. This was almost five years to the day that I had incorrectly made a profession of faith. My real salvation date was in April of 1999. I now know without a doubt that my salvation and my baptism are in correct Biblical order.

Jesus Christ has changed me from a lost sinner, who did not even know that I was headed straight for hell, into a child of God. There is a sense of peace and joy of knowing that Jesus Christ loved me enough to die for me in order to save me. There is a sense of contentment of knowing that He is always with me. My Lord will never leave me nor will He give me more trial and tribulation than I am able to bear, for Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." I also have comfort in knowing that His protective hand is over me every minute of my life. At times it amazes me to know that since eternity past God had a plan and a purpose for me. The only thing that I had to do was take His Son as my personal Saviour. What a blessed joy it

is to know that some day I will meet my Saviour face to face in Heaven!

Sunday School Update

by Barbi Daffara

Things have been going well over the past few months in the Faith Baptist Sunday School area.

Our Junior Teacher, Christy Fox, is fast approaching her due date. Due to some pregnancy-related issues, she has had to take some time off from teaching to stay off her feet. We have combined the kids on Sunday morning into one large class taught by me, and I am loving every minute of it. I have numerous people who I can count on to lend a hand with the singing or with the craft if it is especially difficult. I am really enjoying having the older kids to answer the questions and to be good examples to my younger ones. I am sure Christy can't wait to get back to her kids, and I know they will be excited to see her back too. Good Luck Christy!!!

In other news, we have had a split in the Heritage Kids class with the older ages. Rubie Fox has the kids from ages 7-9, and the Allison's have the kids from ages 10- 12. Barb Rundall still teaches the 4- to 6-year-olds, and Ella Crawford is our alternate for any teacher who takes vacation or has a work conflict. These teachers are doing a great job!

We are excited to be moving on to summer because with that brings Vacation Bible School. Plans are in full swing, and we are just a month away from VBS. It will be July 5th – 9th from 6 - 8:30 p.m. with a special FUN Day on the 10th and the VBS 2004 Program on the 11th. We have had meetings, and we have tons of people who are helping

this year. What a great feeling to be in a church so full of eager helpers. The theme this year is "CastleKids: Choosing to Serve The King!" The kids are learning some new songs already to perform, and they are really excited. I know that a lot of them have taken flyers and are hoping to bring friends.

I can't tell you how great it is to have teachers who not only love the Lord, but also love their kids! If you know of someone who is looking for a place for their child to receive teaching about God and also a place for them to feel at home and to be treated with kindness, please direct them to the Sunday School of Faith Baptist Church. We always love to see new children join our amazing group of kids.

Twenty Questions

by Todd Daffara

Since I have been writing these articles for the Watch paper, some different ideas and thoughts have crossed my mind to try to make the next one even better than the last.

The last issue of Twenty Questions was in February, near Valentine's Day, so the idea was to interview not just one person...but a couple (Brad & Renee Tidwell) in a Newlywed Game style. I asked Brad or Renee a set of questions and see if the other could guess the correct answer. That went over extremely well so that's what brought me to this issue.

Summer is here, and this idea came to me from my dear wife Barbi who is my inspiration and my secretary. As the 4th of July is coming up soon, I wanted America to be the theme for this article.

Instead of asking one individual 20 questions, I thought it might be interesting to ask 20 individuals one questions, and that question would be about America. Here are the results.

"WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT AMERICA?"

1. It's free. - Rosemary King
2. Freedom. - Gwen Gerbitz
3. Our freedom to come to worship at church. You can't find a good Baptist church in other countries. - Mary Marolf
4. That we are free to come and worship a living Savior who is real and who purchased our sins on the cross of Calvary. - Sara Shipp
5. Freedom to read your Bible. - Amanda Oudekerk
6. Freedom of practice. - Matt Fox
7. Protection and freedom which all leads back to God. - Rubie Fox
8. I like Rubie's answer. - Barb Rundall
9. I like that we are free. - Jenny Oudekerk
10. Freedom to worship the one true God. - Renee Tidwell
11. Freedom to be an American and do what you like. - Harvey Oudekerk
12. Living in the only country that is founded on God and His principles. - Ella Crawford
13. Freedom - This is a free country. - Ben Fox
14. Freedom to worship, freedom to read your Bible when you want. - Brad Tidwell
15. Freedom. - Ethel Ervin
16. The freedom - Kaitlyn Tidwell
17. Freedom to worship as we please. - Jerry Allison
18. Freedom - You have the right to choose. - Sue Rettig
19. Freedom to worship - Deb Schafer
20. How strong we are as a nation. I

like the strength and power we convey to the world. It makes me proud to be an American. - Barbi Daffara

If you paid close attention, you will see that almost everyone said "Freedom." I picked these individuals at random so no one really knew what the others said (unless they overheard someone else's answer). I think freedom is a terrific answer to this question. What makes it even better is that everyone had the same idea. If you really think about it, there could be hundreds of answers to this question. I was actually very impressed to get that many similar answers. No one really had to think about it. Freedom just seemed to roll right off the tongue. That is what makes this country great. This country really is "The Land of the Free and The Home of the Brave."

TAPE OF THE MONTH

THE THREE CROSSES

This message was preached on the opening day of the church (5-1-94) and again during the tenth anniversary service (5-2-04). There were three men dying on crosses the day Jesus was crucified. Each one has his own story.

THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

In view of His Person and position, the Father has given Him all authority. How should I relate to Him in view of that fact?

Order this tape by sending \$1.00 along with a return address to:
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
520 12th St.
Moline, IL 61265

A Look Inside the Fishbowl God's Divine Providence

Providence: Theological term meaning the continual care and superintendence which God exercises over his creatures and creation. In a personal way, the act of God providing or preparing an individual for future use or application according to His foresight.

An early elementary schoolgirl was sent to piano lessons by an unsaved mother whose only reason at the time was that she wanted her daughter to be popular at parties. The mother didn't realize that by the time the daughter would be old enough for parties, playing the piano would be considered out of date by all the kids.

Move ahead a few years, this same schoolgirl is staying with her grandparents while her mother is away on a business trip. The girl attends church with her grandparents and at the age of 8 walks forward at an altar call telling her grandmother she came to get saved. She was taken back to a Sunday School hallway and knelt beside her grandmother and another church lady and was shown the Roman's Road in the Bible. She prayed and asked the Lord to save her at that time. Shortly after that she started to play the piano at that same church. God's Divine Providence in action.

The scene jumps ahead a few more years when as an outgoing teenager, the girl "happens" to see a teenage boy walking down the street. She runs to her porch and yells out to the boy telling him to stop and talk to her. A few weeks later,

the two become inseparable and are “going steady.” He accompanies her to church and also receives Christ as Savior. The two become active in the youth group through graduation. Then they become more serious and eventually marry.

The girl remembers telling everyone right after her salvation that she felt she was going to be a pastor’s wife. The adults kindly indulged her in this flight of fancy but never truly felt it would come to pass. Now, it looked like the adults were right, the day of the wedding was the last day the young couple attended church.

Five long years pass, the couple are living in a different state when the mother of the girl calls to ask her daughter to come home and babysit her much younger brother and sister for a week. Her husband is furious and refuses to drive the girl to the airport so she finds her own way. It “just so happens” that the girl’s home church is having a revival meeting the week she is to there to babysit. The girl borrows a dress from her grandmother so she can take her brother and sister to the meetings with the hope that they, too, might get saved. A “funny” thing happens, the girl is convicted of her lifestyle and spends the first night of the meeting at the altar confessing her backsliding to God. She ends up playing the organ at the meetings for the rest of the week having to borrow more of her grandmother’s dresses!

The girl returns to her young husband who is not overly impressed with the news of the revival his wife had experienced. However, many “odd” things happened over the next few weeks which resulted in the young couples return home.

It “just so happened” that the church had an empty house for rent. The girl told her grandmother that she was going to call and ask the pastor if he would rent it to them. Her grandmother told her that the church would never rent it to them as they were saving it for a youth director. Imagine the grandmother’s surprise when the girl called her back and told her that the pastor had rented them the house.

Seeing the house was right next to the church, the husband felt obligated to attend the services; however, he was still determined to go about his own way in life. It wasn’t until a revival meeting at another church that he was confronted by everything that was standing in the way of his return to Christ. He didn’t surrender the night of the meeting, but it got him thinking and within a week, he, too, had returned to the Lord. Now the young couple attended church services with a renewed interest in the things of God.

The pastor had been putting forth the plea for a youth director for quite some time. This would have to come from within the congregation because the church could not afford to hire one. The young husband kept wondering why didn’t someone volunteer for the position. It didn’t take God long to impress upon him that he was that someone. Thus, the house saved for a youth director and rented to a backslider, became the youth director’s house.

Two years later, in 1976, God called the now young father, into the ministry. The young wife was going to become a pastor’s wife after all. How do I know this story? The young man in the story is your pastor, and I’m his wife!

Sue Gustafson

Burnetta's Babbles

Last issue was on what is in the middle of the sin? The letter "I" stuck out so proudly. I showed you some passages that talk about death if you stay to your sin and not get saved. So this issue, we will stick to another word that has the letter "I" in the middle. Can you guess what that word is? Well for some of you Bible students, you should know this word. The word is "PRIDE". it is found throughout the Old Testament and the New.

Let's look at what the word means. According to Strong's the Hebrew word is *gaown*, meaning; proud, swelling boastful. The Greek word is *alazoneia*, meaning; boasting, proud, puffed up. The word pride appears 52 times in the Bible. Let's now take a look at some of the passages.

David is prideful in I Sa 17:28,

"And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle."

Now here is a question for you. Who has pride? Well the Bible tells that evil men have pride. Listen. Job 35:12:

"There they cry, but none giveth answer; because of the pride of evil men."

What does the prideful do? Well Ps 10:2 tells us this:

"The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined"

Also, Ps 10:4:

"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."

Then lastly, where does pride come from? I Jo 2:16 is the answer.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

And if the world is head of pride and who is the leader of the world, then where does pride come from? You guessed it, the Devil.

So in conclusion, please remember that:

*"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."
(Pr 16:18)*

Just to recap, the three points are:

1. Who has pride?
2. What do prideful do?
3. Where does pride come from?

Answers.

1. Evil men
2. Persecute others
3. The world

Until next time, may the Lord bless you and keep you safe and always in the center of His Will.

The Road To Salvation

Matt Fox

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:13,14

“How must I be saved?” There is no other question that separates more “Christian” denominations than this very question. It has been vehemently argued throughout the past 2000 years. It has been the cause of wars, the cause of genocidal campaigns, and the cause of many people dying in their sins. Why is there such confusion? Why have we not figured out what the scriptures have to say? Why must we go on contemplating something that is so easily spelled out in the scriptures?

The truth is that salvation is simple. It is something that anyone can understand. It is something that is spelled out succinctly in Romans and throughout the Bible. Why the confusion? It seems to be confusing because that is how the devil wants it to be. What better way to defy God than by casting doubt on His words, by confusing any that would come to God. By making it extremely difficult to learn God's plan of salvation. Satan has been coming up with anti-churches throughout the ages in order to cast confusion and doubt on God's plan of salvation, and for the most part he has succeeded, by blinding the greater part

of the world from God's saving grace.

In the following pages I will attempt to show the steps a soul must take in order to become saved. We will go through most in detail and prove them simply through God's word, not mans.

Before we start, however, let's define a few of the words that you might encounter throughout this paper. The first, and probably the most common word, is “saved”. Being saved simply means that you have been saved from the penalty of your sin and that you now have a home in heaven to call your own. Being saved also imparts certain other benefits, not the least of which is the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. However we will not dwell so much on what happens after salvation as to what happens leading up to our salvation. The second word that we need to define is “lost”. This simply means one that hasn't been saved yet. Synonyms for this word would include damned, unregenerate and unbeliever. The last word we need defined is “sin”. Sin is anything in our lives that falls short of the glory of God. As you can well imagine that puts a lot of things into the sin category. Now let us begin our journey through salvation.

The Fact of Sin

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

Sin is a concept that most people do not fully comprehend. It is a real thing that affects most of our lives more than we care to admit. Sin is something that is often ignored, forgotten or “swept underneath the rug”. However, sin is a huge thing that cannot be ignored or

forgotten. It is something that is evident in all of our lives. Take a look around you at the world today. Is it not easy to see the effects that sin have had on society? Is it not easy to see the sin that is out there today? Sin is running rampant throughout society today and yet we go on with our lives as if we can't see it. It encompasses the smallest of transgressions to God. Have you ever walked out of a store and found something in your cart that you didn't pay for? Did you go back in and pay for it or just keep walking to your car? Sin rules our lives in ways that we don't even think about. We lust after cars that other people are driving. We buy things because the commercial portrayed them in a way that peaked our sinful nature. Whole marketing classes are given on how to make you lust after their product, neighbors are fighting against neighbors on who has the nicer house, coworkers fighting over who has the best notebook. People drinking alcohol just because it supposedly improves their image, or helps them get a women or man to go home with them that night. Sin has penetrated the very core of society and it will not release its hold because we are sinners by nature. You might ask, what about all the good things that people do? What about the good Samaritans out there? Surely that is not sin, surely that counts for something. We look in the scripture and actually find the opposite, in Isaiah 64:6:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

We find here that all of the things that we consider righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Nothing that we do is counted toward our own righteousness. This is backed up in the New Testament in Romans 3:10:

"For there is none righteous, no not one."

None of us are righteous. We find in this that all of us are sinners. Romans 3:23, which is quoted at the beginning of this chapter states that fairly obviously. If we have all sinned, and none of our "righteousnesses" are put on our account, how then can our works get us into heaven? They cannot. This has been a fairly common falsehood that has been used throughout the generations to ensure that man does NOT get saved. It has been one of the greatest tools of the devil throughout the centuries to blind people to the true light. You can look through the ages and find that most "Christian" denominations in some way shape or form incorporate works into their salvation. One verse out of the Bible can dispel this way of thinking.

"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

I do not believe that it gets any simpler than that. That being said we can still back it up by going to Romans 11:6:

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise

work is no more work.”

We learn from this that if we try to add our works to our salvation, then our salvation is not through grace at all. If we want to be saved by works, we have to be saved by works alone. This means that we would have had to have been sinless our entire lives. No sin at all. We know that this is impossible because we have the sin of Adam on our account.

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners,…”
Romans 5:19

Because Adam sinned, we have sinned. There is no possible way that any one of us can be sinless in our lives, we are born with sin as part of our nature.

The fact of sin is that all of us are sinners, no matter where we come from, how good we think we have been, or which religion we were raised in. Sin is something that must be dealt with, for everyone.

The Penalty of Sin

“For the wages of sin is death…”
Romans 6:23

Now we come to the question, “Why does sin need to be dealt with?” There are many reasons that sin must be dealt with, but none so pressing as what is said in Romans 6:23. Death must be faced by all who are born. We are working toward this end and we will pay for our sin with the death of our bodies. If we look around us we see the evidence of death wherever we travel. We pass cemeteries in every town that we go through. Countless rows of tombstones

that are there to remind us that one day we will be underneath one also. We can look at our own aging bodies and realize that we can’t do the things that we used to. Our hair falls out, our skin starts to sag, we get winded easier than we used to, we can’t run as far or as fast. All of these signs are evidence that we are reaping the wages for our sin. We must realize that no matter what science comes up with we will die eventually.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”
Romans 5:12

We can see the impact of sin throughout nature, throughout mankind and within our own souls. We see the labor that we have to go through in order to grow our food. We see the labor woman go through in child bearing. We can look out through our world and see the impact that disease has had on our population, to see the death and destruction that happens because of wars between the people, and the corruption that is evident throughout the worlds political systems. We see the corruption that is evident in business and in our private lives. We can see sin manifested in our kids. We know that if our kids are left to themselves they will be wicked and evil offspring. We have to discipline our kids because they do bad on their own. We have to train them to be good citizens and to obey authority. We read about school shootings, bus bombings, terrorist activities and infidelity that is sweeping across the nations. These all point to one simple fact, we are sinners. We are not sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners.

That we are going to die is an inescapable truth. However, there is something even worse than the physical death that we all face. It is a second death that is spelled out in Revelation 21:8:

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

There is a second death that we must face if we die in our sins. The Bible says that this second death is eternal torment in a lake of fire and brimstone. It is here that we truly reap the rewards of our sin. It is here that we pay the penalty of sin. Scripture says that there is wailing and gnashing of teeth. It says that those who are cast into this Hell will never have relief from their anguish, they will never again find relief.

You might ask, “Why would a loving God do this?” The answer to that is often easier to comprehend than one might think. The fact is that God is a holy God, and that he is fully righteous and fully just. Now think about a totally just God, would he be just if he didn’t carry out judgment on those that come short of His law? Would he be able to remain a pure and perfect God if he allowed us to enter into heaven with Him while we are unpunished for our sins? The fact is that sin is so vile and filthy to Him that He cannot bear to even look upon it. We read that the Father even had to turn His back on His Son.

When Jesus became sin He called out in Matthew 27:46:

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

You see, God couldn’t even look on His own Son because of the sin He had become. Sin is what separates us from God. Sin is what is preventing us from being with Him. Sin is what is going to damn us and send us to a Hell where we will burn eternally and be separated from God eternally.

What is the penalty of sin? First looked at the world around you, this is the beginning of the penalty of sin. What is the ultimate penalty of sin? Eternal damnation and separation from God.

The Good News

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

Romans 5:6

Now that we have explored the fact that we are sinners, and that sin is going to damn us there is finally some good news! We, as sinners, could not atone for our own sins, therefore we had to have a perfect individual come down and atone for them for us. This is why God had to come down and take on flesh, and bear our sins on the cross. He had to atone for our sins so that we might have a way of escape.

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

We read here that the Lord wants us all to be saved. He has promised us that there is a way to be saved, and that He wants as many to be saved as possible. The good news is that there is a way to be saved and the Bible talks about it throughout. Romans 6:23 states:

"...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

So there is a gift of God for us. Ephesians 2:8 says the exact same thing,

"...it is the gift of God..."

We find that the Bible states in many places that we can know that we have eternal life. We can know absolutely that we have been saved from our sins.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
John 6:37

Him that cometh to Christ he will in no wise be cast out. Isn't that amazing! Isn't that what most people have been searching for and have missed? Jesus promises here that anyone that accepts Him will not be cast out or denied.

Let's read another account of eternal security.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" I John 5:13

This verse says very plainly that you can know that you have eternal life. There have been certain religions

through the ages that have claimed that it is a sin if you say that you know that you have eternal life. Is the apostle in this passage then lying to us? God forbid. It is the religions that have been lying to us all this time. When in doubt, always turn to the word of God to settle your doctrine, not church tradition or church leaders.

We can read throughout the New Testament about what Christ came down to do for us. We find that His main purpose for coming to this earth was to die that we might have eternal life. Christ came specifically to be crucified, and to atone vicariously, that is He took our place and paid our penalty for our sins. Why did it have to be Jesus? It had to be someone who did not have to pay for any sins of their own. Therefore, it had to be a perfect individual. Therefore it had to be God. That's right, Jesus is God in the flesh. A perfect individual to pay for a crime that only a perfect individual could atone vicariously for. Christ is the only way by which we can be saved.

"Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." Romans 5:18

There is only one that paid for our sins. There can only be one that could pay for our sins. This one person is the Lord Jesus Christ. Some religions have started to put their faith into people other than Jesus. They put their trust in the saints that they pray to, or to Jesus' human mother. This is in direct contradiction to scripture. We read in many scriptures that He is the only one.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” 1 Timothy 2:5

There is one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the father but by me.” John 14:6

The verse itself tells us who is saying these words. Jesus said I am the way, no man cometh unto the Father but by Him. How can we doubt what His own words are telling us. If we believe in God and we believe that Jesus was His only begotten Son, how can we not believe what the Bible tells us.

Now we come to the eternal question, “How must I be saved?”. As I stated earlier, it is simple. Simply believe and place all your trust in Him. The Bible says,

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Romans 10:13

All you have to do is place your trust in Him and ask Him to come into your life and save you, and it will be done. Notice the words “shall” in the verse. That is a promise that you will be saved. It’s not a stab in the dark, it’s not a leap into the night. You shall be saved. Notice that our works cannot play a role in it, we established that in an earlier chapter. Notice that your church cannot do it for you either. It is a personal decision each and every one of us has to make during our short trip in this world. It is the decision to turn from

our sins and turn to Jesus to save us. This is what is meant by repentance. We consciously turn from our sins, and place our trust in Christ Jesus. Don’t I have to confess my sins to the priest? Realize that Jesus is the priest, He is the only one who can forgive sins. How can a person who is also a sinner absolve you of your sins? That’s like the guy who is in the cell next to you on death row giving you a pardon. It isn’t worth anything unless it is from the governor, who, in this case, is Jesus alone.

What about baptism, don’t I have to be baptized? No, lets look at scripture again,

“And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, to day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:42,43

Notice that all the thief on the cross next to Jesus asked was that Christ would remember him. This gives us all the elements of salvation. We see that he believed that Jesus was the “Lord”. We see that the thief put all his trust in Jesus, “Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” Then we see that Jesus guaranteed him a home in heaven. “Verily I say unto thee, to day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” The thief was never baptized, he never confessed his sins to an earthly priest, and he never went to church to ensure his salvation. He trusted in Christ and Christ alone to give him a home in heaven. He placed all his eggs in one basket, so to speak.

Friend, I hope that you have read and understood everything that has been discussed throughout this paper. I am

inviting you today to accept what the Bible says about salvation. Answer the following three questions:

Do you understand that you are a sinner that is destined to eternal damnation without salvation?

Do you believe that Jesus died for your sins and has the power to save you from your sin?

Do you believe that Jesus will save you if you but ask?

If you answered yes to these questions then please ask Christ to come into your life today, the Bible says that

"...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." II Corinthians 6:2

Friend, don't take another breath without Christ as your Saviour, He is not willing that any should perish. It is often difficult for people to come up with the words to say to Him. Here is a prayer that you can use, however you must realize that it is not the prayer that saves, but the faith that you are putting in Christ.

Dear Lord Jesus, I realize that I am a sinner, and I am coming to you and I am placing all my trust and faith in you. Come into my life and save me. Amen

If you have accepted Christ as your Saviour remember this day, and if you would like to be around others who are saved, give us a visit or a call and we will help to guide you into spiritual things.

Homosexuals Working Hard to Recruit Our Kids.

Battle Cry May/June 2004

The homosexual drive for acceptance and approval is increasingly focused on recruiting in the public schools. California recently passed a law mandating that K-12 students be taught to "appreciate various sexual orientations."

Christian members of the Westminster (California) school board are refusing to use this "diversity" curriculum and are being threatened with the loss of \$40 million in state funding. Other states are also capitulating to the intense lobbying by sodomite activists.

Schools are being sued or threatened for any attempt to stop this drive to alert grammar school kids to the "possibility" that they might be "Gay." One school district in New York agreed to pay \$30,000 dollars to a middle school student who was sent home for the day because she refused to change her T-shirt that declared "Barbie is a Lesbian."

Schools are facing lawsuits if they try to stop the establishment of a "Gay-Lesbian" club on campus.

The Los Angeles school district is instituting the state-mandated curriculum under the banner of safety. Homoactivists are screaming that "homophobia" in the schools is creating a hostile atmosphere toward students who are trying to decide if they are "Gay" or not. Then, they are demanding that even kindergarten and grade schools teach that some students are born homosexual and need a safe and affirming school environment to help them recognize it.

Often, the curriculum and classroom teaching is done without alerting the parents. Special assemblies are held where homosexuals can present the sodomite lifestyle in a positive,

appealing light. Some have even presented detailed descriptions of the perverted techniques used in homosexual intercourse. And all of this to youngsters who are growing up in a highly confusing, sex-charged culture.

What then can the Bible believer do in a culture that is becoming increasingly hostile to the gospel and biblical truth? We must become active in our schools. If it is a public (government) school, get a look at all the materials in your child's curriculum. Talk to the teachers to find out where they are on this issue. Talk to the officials who administer your school and if they are being pressured, find ways to stand with them against this evil.

We need to make our elected officials feel our revulsion and outrage. One Christian legislator in New Mexico was trying to stand against this kind of legislation but only one Christian showed up to testify at a critical committee hearing. She wrote an open letter in *The Baptist New Mexican*, pleading for help from the pastors and Christian parents.

Polls have indicated that the generation that is being fed these lies are buying them. One study found that over two-thirds of high school students polled saw nothing wrong with the sodomite life style.

Jack Chick's newest Li'l Suzy tract, *Birds and the Bees*, hits this evil head on. It is written for the early grade school student who is being recruited by the homosexuals. It is tragic that their young innocence is being destroyed by the schools and culture. But Bible believers must wake up to the threat and strike back with prayer, voting, exposure, political pressure at local, state and federal level, and strong biblical teaching at home and church. We have

allowed this evil to become so pervasive it will take a lot to stop it. It may even be too late but we must try.

"Copyright 2004 by Chick Publications. Reproduced by permission. Web site: www.chick.com"

The Love Of Souls?

How can we get so busy going to and fro
For we'll be held accountable for all the things we know.
Where are our priorities? What about our fellow man?
Just think about the souls, that one day shall be damned!

Whether moving up the ladder or pleading poverty
As "Born Again" Christians,, we have a responsibility.
The pathway to heaven, we must explain
Lest we bow before Jesus and hang our heads in shame...
Time is running out! Jesus could come today!
When you come into His presence, what will you have to say?

"The kids kept me busy, "I had to go to work",
"Why, you expected me to witness to that jerk!?"
"I didn't read my Bible...Romans road is where?"
"To tell you the truth, I really didn't care."
"I went to church, wasn't that enough?!"
"People don't want to hear, all that 'religious stuff'!"
"Would you take away my television?"

"I needed some time to relax!"
"Don't you remember? the time I left behind a tract?"

Yes, who will you blame? What will be your excuse?

As a "Born Again" believer, keeping back the "Truth

Father, forgive us, for seeking shallow goals

May our life-long passion be the love of souls....

Mark 16: 15 AND HE SAID UNTO THEM GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE."

Love, "Patches"

RICK WARREN'S DANGEROUS JUDGE NOT ECUMENISM.

Friday Church News Notes, June 4, 2004 (David W. Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, fbns@wayoflife.org, <http://www.wayoflife.org>, 866-295-4143)

Rick Warren's book *The Purpose Driven Life* is a No. 1 bestseller in both Christian and secular markets. It contains extensive documentation of Warren's dangerous and unscriptural "judge not" ecumenical philosophy. On page 164 he says, "God warns us over and over not to criticize, compare, or judge each other. ... Whenever I judge another believer, four things instantly happen: I lose fellowship with God, I

expose my own pride, I set myself to be judged by God, and I harm the fellowship of the church." Warren carelessly makes no distinction between hypocritical judgment or judgment based on human tradition and biblical judgment. Actually, the child of God has an obligation to judge everything by God's Word. The believers at Corinth were rebuked because they were careless in this regard and were tolerant of false teachers (2 Cor. 11:1-4). The Bereans, on the other hand, were commended because they carefully tested everything by the Scriptures (Acts 17:11). The Bible says "he that is spiritual judgeth all things" (1 Cor. 2:15) and Jesus taught that we should "judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24). To test preachers and their message carefully by God's Word is not a matter of pride, but wisdom and obedience. In keeping with his judge not philosophy, Rick Warren uncritically quotes from a wide variety of theological heretics, especially Roman Catholics such as Mother Teresa, Brother Lawrence (Carmelite monk), John Main (Benedictine monk), Madame Guyon, John of the Cross, and Henri Nouwen. He does not warn his readers that these are dangerous false teachers who held to a false gospel and worshipped a false christ. In the strongest terms we urge our readers to beware of Rick Warren and the Purpose Driven philosophy. We don't need a man's shallow encapsulations of the New Testament faith; we need the "whole counsel of God" as found in the Scriptures.

*I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.
Isaiah 43:11*

FAITH BAPTIST WATCH

520 12th St

Moline, IL 61265



*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*