

PERJURED THEOLOGIANs AND OTHER MATTERS

I want to write about several things just now: I. Theologians Who Are Perjurers. II. Are They "LIBERALS"? III. The New Bible Dictionary. IV. Good and Bad From This Dictionary. V. My Optimism About Missions, and Why. VI. The Wee "WE" Preachers.

I. First, then, the PERJURED THEOLOGIANs. Dr. William A. Mueller affirms that Dr. James P. Boyce, founder of our Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, prepared an "abstract of principles to be subscribed to by each new professor upon induction into office", **A History of Southern Baptist Seminary**, by William A. Mueller, p. 31. This is my favorite statement of Baptist Doctrine. The same book quotes Dr. W. O. Carver as saying concerning it that the founding fathers showed "rare discretion and wisdom, for they excluded from this doctrinal statement . . . those matter of belief on which Southern Baptists were in disagreement." There was no attempt to force signed agreement in such doctrines as THE MILLENNIUM, DETAILS OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE, DANIEL'S PROPHECIES, WOMAN'S WORK IN THE CHURCHES, and so on. They majored on the major truths.

All our Seminary professors have signed this agreement upon entering the faculty. Now a few of these have perjured themselves and are teaching the opposite. Such deliberate perjury is appalling! I cannot see how they can expect any thing else but divine judgement on their treachery, and utter repudiation of them by the churches of our Lord. Every true Baptist loathes such men with every fiber of his being.

II. ARE SUCH PERJURERS LIBERALS?

These perjurers and doctrinal renegades love to call themselves "LIBERALS". Are they entitled to such self-praise? Shall we join their theological world of fellow-culprits in such a blind tribute to their treachery? "Liberals"? **Liberal** with what? **Liberal** to whom? Who is the real owner of what they are throwing about so **liberally**? Such self-given praise calls for careful and penetrating analysis and examination.

Liberal people give. But these Pseudo-Liberals do not give. They take away. They destroy. They divide.

They wreck. They banish peace. They promote strife. They set groups, churches, student bodies, religious papers, trustees, conventions, associations and sympathizers in battle array. With what are they "LIBERAL"?

Suppose you had a million dollars in a bank. Suppose that some schemer, or an exploiting group, got control of nearly all your money, say \$999,000.00. When you consider in dismay the tiny remnant of your wealth, would you call this robber "liberal" because he had left you anything at all? Such is the pseudo-liberality of these theologians. Jesus promises the believer "eternal life", positively and negatively, so that no one can possibly misunderstand or doubt his meaning. Not only does he say that the believer on him as Savior has eternal life, but he adds, negatively, that he shall NEVER perish. "I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish." Suppose a sinner, saved by grace, was thus spiritually alive for all his days in this world and a billion billion years in heaven and then fell away, as did angels once, under law, not under grace, and was condemned to hell. He could rightly turn to Jesus Christ and say: "You, Sir, are a liar. When I believed on you as Savior, you promised that I should never perish. Now, as I go away into perdition, your state is worse than mine. For I am a lost sinner. But you are a damned and perjured Savior, forever ruined and undone." Our perjurers insult Jesus Christ with every breath they draw. He says: NEVER. But they say a believer may be saved and have eternal life just a few days, months or years and then may "apostatize" (losing his salvation, in their jargon of unbelief). Thus do they make the Savior a perjurer, even as they have perjured themselves in regard to the Statement of Principles which they signed and vowed to be forever loyal to. The man who, by his doctrine of lies, would rob the believer of millions of years, and all eternity beyond, of his so-called ETERNAL LIFE, is infinitely worse than any thief who merely stole a billion dollars. Alas! Perjurer! You are not worthy of the respect of a dog!

III. THE NEW BIBLE DICTIONARY. That is its name. It costs \$12.95. It is published by Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Mich. It has nearly 1400 pages, includ-

ing the most beautiful maps I ever saw in a book. It is written by 137 men and 2 women. Of these, 61 are British, 20 Americans, 1 Canadian, 7 Australians, 2 Irish, 14 Scots, 1 Welshman, 1 Belgian, 13 from Africa, 4 Netherlands, and 3 from the Auckland Islands. 62 are theological professors, several of them from the seven British Universities named. 37 are University professors, from 7 universities named, and others unnamed. 3 are from the British Museum. There are 17 pastors, 11 declared Anglican rectors and probably others among the professors, in status or in activity now, 1 or more historians. We read of 6 Baptists, 6 Methodists, 10 Presbyterians, 1 Congregationalist, 11 Anglicans, besides many not so **designated**, and 4 Dutch Reformed. I have been a reader of THE BRITISH WEEKLY half a century and have read many British books. But I never heard of a single one of the 139 writers of this book. It seems to be an effort of mainly **young** Britishers, and sympathizers, to get something into print that expresses, for each individual writer, the liberty of setting forth his or her views, whatever the others may think, or the rest of the world. Every page is saturated with Bible references and there are many pictures to illustrate history and Bible facts. There is a lot about the Dead Sea Scrolls and similar recent discoveries.

Perhaps the worst article in the book is the one on baptism. It declares baptism to be "an integral part of God's single plan of salvation." When news of that reached the lower world, it must have sent up a roar of laughter and rejoicing from all the demons in hell. It is an old and favorite device of the Devil. The discussion of baptism starts off, still hellishly, with its supposed relations to the "Noahic, Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants". You might just as well discuss its relation to the programs of WHAS TV. And the Lord's Supper is discussed with as much sacramentalist perversity. How much Protestantism is merely Romanism, diluted and under another name, trying to present Medievalism and the Dark Ages as modern and enlightened. There is much that is very fine about **repentance, faith, and salvation**. Often writers with this liberty to say what they please, however contradictory they may be of each other, go on to teach great truths, beyond the commonplace, for which you feel grateful. For example, take this, on the subject of salvation: "Man by faith wrought in him by the Spirit is given a new status in Christ; he is already justified and acquitted for Christ's sake. Just as in his prejustified status he could not deserve salvation, so after being justified (through no righteousness of his own) he cannot unmerit salvation or unjustify himself in the sense of undoing what God has done for him. He is redeemed, reconciled, forgiven, cleansed (John xiii. 10), has passed from death unto life, and is given the assurance by the Spirit's witnessing with his own spirit that he is a child of God (Rom. viii. 16), a co-heir with Christ, possessing a life which is eternal in its quality

and duration and which shatters the bondage of the fear of death (Heb. ii. 15)." (Page 1129). How glad I am that one dared to say these blessed truths in a Bible Dictionary, even though others said the opposite, when their turn came. Let our Baptist perjurers, and those they influence take into consideration, in their thought and teaching, these great truths of the gospel of grace, the very life and fiber of the whole message of John and Paul in the New Testament, with our Savior's own words, and redeeming work, back of it all.

But, clearly, if your mind is not already filled with New Testament truth, this is no book for you. In your library, unguarded, it could be a curse to your children and students. But thanks for similar good teaching in the articles on "Perseverance", the various articles on Peter (without approval of several ideas expressed), and the discussion of Chronology, Evangelist, Excommunication, Salvation, Expiation and Propitiation, the Ascension, Israel of God, Apostle, Bishop, COVENANT, etc. And as I read the article on THE LORD'S PRAYER, I felt like I was re-reading the notes of the sermon I have preached on this subject all over Brazil and much of the homeland. Much that is new and old is in store for you when you read this DICTIONARY.

IV. WHY I AM AN OPTIMIST ABOUT MISSIONS.

Since the earliest memories of my babyhood, I have been taught missions, by my saintly mother, my constantly read Bible, my pastors and my denominational books and my library. But in those early days there was so very little to our mission work. Today it is immeasurably greater. I was born in 1886, the first Baptist church in Brazil was founded in 1882, composed of five members, the pioneer missionaries, Bagby and Taylor and their wives and the first Brazilian Baptist, an ex-priest, converted in Olinda by the study of the Latin Vulgate in the Catholic Seminary library. So few, so feeble.

We had five fields: China, Africa (Nigeria), Italy, Brazil, and Mexico. Now we have missionaries in forty six countries. Then we had a few missionaries. Now we have over 1500. Then there were a handful of converts. Now, in Brazil, for example, the evangelical membership is estimated at a million people. Our own Baptist membership is 185,000. But, to be a Baptist in a Brazilian church, you have to relate an experience of grace before the church like a preacher does here in his ordination, and have two witnesses who will say that they have seen fruits of salvation in your life. And you cannot be a Baptist if you use tobacco in any form, or go to the movies, or to dances, or do a lot of other things commonly practiced here. People are instructed in classes of preparation for baptism for maybe a year. They are called "**congregados**", attendants on the preaching points of the churches, a long time before baptism. If all who are closely associated with Baptist families and churches

in Brabil were counted, they would number over a million. What inconceivable growth beyond the church of five people in 1882. Then we gave thousands, now we give millions. Then we were an imperceptible influence in five tiny circles of national life. Now our people are great factors and mighty influences in the life of the foreign world, and here in the homeland have gone beyond our wildest dreams. What marvelous growth.

Why should not every Baptist be an optimist about missions today? Well, the reason, in most cases, for current pessimism in the talk of many pastors and theological professors is that they look at the world as a whole, rather than the growth and expansion of missions, in such a marvelous manner. Now the percentage of the world's rapidly increasing population that is nominally Christian is constantly decreasing. So the pessimists cry out that missions is a failure, growing less and less in world life all the time.

BUT THAT WORLD GROWTH IN POPULATION IS AN ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR MISSION WORK, PRIMARILY. We led in the giving of doctors and nurses, hospitals and medicines, hygiene and public health measures, to all the nations of the world. Most all the babies born used to die. But we have spread the knowledge of the care of expectant mothers and new born babies. The result is that the population of the Orient, the original and principal center of world population, is gigantically increased and growing rapidly every day beyond our growth. That is a fruit, principally, of our mission work. Are you sorry those babies lived? If they had kept on dying at birth or soon after, we should be still our old percentage of earth's population. But with the babies saved, through our teaching over the world, we grow less in proportion to the whole, while pagans increase more and more in the statistics.

Missions is not measured by statistics of the damned. **PROGRESS CONSISTS OF GOING FROM WHERE WE ARE TO WHERE WE ADVANCE TO.** If the world had fifty billion and there were just one Christian in it, it would be one hundred percent progress if tomorrow we had two Christians in the world. You don't measure the growth of your wheat crop by taking into the count all the barren lands in the world.

There is not the slightest hint in the Bible anywhere that God is disappointed because the world **en masse** does not rush into the kingdom of God and the statistics of the redeemed. Isaiah, in his most gospel-clear hour, represents the Suffering Savior thus: "He shall see of the travail of his soul and **SHALL BE SATISFIED**". When the curtain is pulled back in heaven, do you ever hear any wail of pessimism there over the percentage of those rejecting the Savior? No. They are always rejoicing over the redeemed that no man can number.

How did they get to be so many? Well, you will bear in mind that, as old time Baptists used to say: "Baptists believe that all living babies are lost, until they come to believe and are saved, but that all dying babies are saved." These babies who die by the billions, through the millenniums gone by, are all in heaven, through the blood of the Lamb. Their part in the Adamic sin, and its resultant depravity of nature in them, was atoned for on Calvary, so they go straight to heaven when they die. They are there by the billion. Is this reality? Well, ask that mother who hopes to see again her baby that went away to God in its infancy. She knows it is there.

Is God disappointed that so few are saved? No. Never. They asked Jesus one day: "Are there few that be saved?" His answer was stern, Luke 13:23, ff. He said in his great Sermon on the Mount: "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it," Matt. 7:14. At no time has divine love and grace ever won man's response to any majority degree. The saved have always been a small minority. It is true that Jesus came to **save the world**, John 4:43; 6:14, 33, 51; 12:47. That is his goal of love. But his achievement? Ah! That is another thing. His own tiny nation (you could put 16 Palestines in one Texas) rejected him with unspeakably cruel torture and shame. And did you ever read in the Bible of any OCEAN, of China, India, the Aztecs or primitive peoples all abroad? Most of the world's successive populations through the centuries have died without ever hearing the name of Jesus. Yet every single soul saved is heaven's joy. The angels acclaim the conversion of ONE SINNER, said Jesus. They are no pessimists, waiting to rejoice till they see if we finally come out in the majority. That is this-worldly stupidity!

Progress, I repeat, consists in going on **IN THE WAY** ("I am the Way, the Truth and the Life") from where you are at any given time to where you can advance to, as time goes on. Missions, so judged, has every angelic motive for heavenly joy in our hearts, for sublime missionary optimism, in its progress throughout the twentieth century.

V. THE WEE "WE" BRAND OF PREACHERS OF PESSIMISM

When I came home from the Mission field in 1956, I ran on a new kind of preacher, that I had never heard, or heard of, before. I went to hear a Wake Forest pastor preach. I was dumfounded. He got up and went through all the faults current in American life. And he said **WE** committed them all. Now that was a lie—two lies. He hadn't committed those things. Nor had I. **We** is a pronoun that means: I AND YOU. When he indicted the speaker and the hearer of all the crimes in American life, he was a multiple **LIAR** every time he opened his mouth. I said within me: "God helping me, I'll never hear **YOU** again, as long as I live". I never have.

Now, of course, if he denounced all the faults on the American horizon, he might be run out of town, if he said: "YOU" are guilty. So he feigns humility, hypocritically. He says: "WE do everything damnable and devilish", and it seems very HUMBLE in him. Here he goes: "We Americans drink so much liquor a year". I protest: "You are a liar. I never touched a single drop of liquor in my life and there are millions of American men, women and children who can say the same thing. Nor do you drink, I imagine. Or do you?" Of course, he does not: he just lied when he said "WE" do—as many lies as he had total abstainer hearers. That is hellish slander!

It would amaze you how many theological professors and their students embrace that system of homiletics. I hear them preach as many lies as they see faults in current American life. First they pretend "WE" are guilty of it all, as many times over each lie as there are innocent hearers in that audience whom the "WEE WE" preacher includes in his denunciation of American life. Of course, he seems mighty humble, saying all those things about him-

self. They know he is innocent of the things he hypocritically confesses against himself, and think him humble because he blasphemes and slanders his own name, in his first person plural pronouns. Thus whole sermons parade a vast and varied pessimism before the American public, in our churches. It breeds cynics, hopeless and forlorn.

You wonder if these men have any **gospel**. The gospel is **good** news. It tells a First Century story of the Incarnation, the Life, the Atoning Death, the Resurrection, the Gospel of Jesus the Savior for the lost. Don't these "WEE WE" droners of American pessimism know that Good News? Or have the THEOLOGIANS-PERJURERS blotted it all out of their souls? If you have any GOSPEL, my "WE WEE" brother, suppose you try preaching it a bit and stop all this bogus humility by which you feign that you and your Christian hearers are guilty of all the crimes of the damned, in our native land. PREACH THE GOSPEL—the **good** NEWS, fellow-preacher. That is your message.

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