



---FEATURES

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April 2, 1968

PROBLEMS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
(Twenty-fourth in a series)

263

"HE WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD"

405

By T. B. Maston

Retired Professor of Christian Ethics
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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At least the kind of life he lived was a natural expression of an inner desire. For example, he could have used his miraculous power to have performed miracles even more spectacular than most of those he performed. They would have been signs or proofs to the people that he was the Messiah, that he was the Son of God.

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This idea is not found in the Bible except as the latter is misinterpreted. It is a part of the Greek influence on the Christian movement. Some schools of Greek philosophy considered the material evil, and since the body was material it was also thought to be evil. This viewpoint was adopted by certain early church fathers, and succeeding generations of Christians have been plagued with it.

In contrast the Hebrew perspective is revealed in the statement that "God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good" (Gen. 1:31). The body which is "very good" from God's perspective can be used for good or evil purposes depending on the "person" who lives in and controls the body.

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Paul further says that since the body belongs to the Lord it should be used to glorify God (1 Cor. 6:20). He appealed to the Roman Christians to present their bodies as "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God" (Rom. 12:1). The body is to be used for the purposes of God.

The preceding means that the body is a part of the Christian's stewardship. Many questions concerning right or wrong such as smoking for the Christian could be answered on the basis of the effect on his body.

From the more positive perspective our bodies should be presented to God as a living sacrifice in contrast to the dead sacrifices of the Old Testament. They should be holy in the sense that they are separated unto God and dedicated to his purposes. If they are so dedicated they will be acceptable to God.

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His ears should be attuned to the voice of God and should also be sensitive to the cry of the hungry and underprivileged of the world.

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His voice should be used to invite others to the Lord and to speak a kind and helpful word to those in need. Also, his voice should be used to speak a positive "yes" and "no" that will honor the One to whom the voice belongs.

BP PHOTO

255 A 4/1/68

BAPTISTS HEAR PRESIDENT: Lyndon B. Johnson was the major speaker at a Southern Baptist Christian Citizenship Seminar in Washington, recently. The 250 Baptist leaders attending the Christian Life Commission-sponsored meeting heard the President in the Rose Garden of the White House. (BP) Photo courtesy the White House.

255A



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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 303 03, Telephone (404) 523-2593

DALLAS Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

April 2, 1968

29 Baptist Agencies Win
Public Relations Awards

265

415

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The Baptist Public Relations Association presented awards for outstanding public relations work to 29 different Baptist institutions and agencies during its annual awards competition here.

The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention walked off with top honors, winning the "Best of Show" award, and six first-place awards of exceptional merit.

The denomination social action agency in Nashville won most of the awards for photography, design, production, and promotion of a series of pamphlets entitled "Issues and Answers." Floyd A. Craig is the commission's public relations director.

The award winners were picked by a panel of judges, all professionals in the field of public relations, from more than 250 entries, the largest number of entries in the organization's history.

The Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville also won six awards, including one first-place ranking, two second-place awards of merit, and three third-place awards of honor.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth took five awards, including three second and two third-place honors.

Two Baptist public relations groups won four awards each. The public relations office for the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas, won three first-place and one second-place award; and the Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia, won two awards each in second and third-place categories.

Five organizations won three awards: the SBC Brotherhood Commission, Memphis; the SBC Annuity Board, Dallas; the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond; the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

Two of the five organizations winning three awards each took first-place honors in two categories -- the Brotherhood Commission and the Annuity Board. Also winning one first-place award in this group was the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

Two awards each were won by the Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Missouri; Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston; Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; and Chowan College, Murfreesboro, N. C.

First-place awards won by the organizations which took only one or two awards were presented to the SBC Stewardship Commission, Nashville; Samford University; Baylor College of Medicine; Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N. C.; the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington; and Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas.

Other organizations winning awards were the Baptist Press, North Carolina Baptist Childrens' Homes, California Southern Baptist, University of Corpus Christi, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Judson College, Baptist Hospital of Memphis, Baylor University of Waco, Texas, Georgia Baptist Childrens' Home, Baton Rouge General Hospital, and Georgetown College.

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Seminary Professor
Awarded Study Grant

266

60

WAKE FOREST (BP)--Ben S. Johnson, associate professor of music at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has been awarded a grant of \$4,000 by the Faculty Fellowship Commission of the American Association of Theological Schools for advanced study at the Academy of Music in Vienna, Austria.

He has been granted sabbatical leave for the academic year 1968-1969 by the seminary trustees.

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265-266

Atlanta Church Loses
Pastor Of 39 Years

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ATLANTA (BP)--Louie D. Newton, pastor of Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta for 39 years and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will retire Oct. 1.

Newton announced his retirement last Sunday, one week shy of his 39th anniversary at Druid Hills. He was 77 in February.

He tried to retire in 1964, but the church then refused to accept his retirement. After suffering a heart attack last June, he was forced to cancel all activities for several months. In recent months, however, he had maintained a full schedule.

Druid Hills is the only church of which Newton has been pastor. He was editor of the Christian Index from 1920 until called to Druid Hills the first Sunday in April, 1929.

Newton has been one of Southern Baptists' most widely-used and honored leaders. He has held almost every conceivable leadership post in the Atlanta Baptist Association, the Georgia and Southern Baptist Conventions and Baptist World Alliance.

He is current president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and chairman of the Georgia Baptist Hospital Commission.

Newton is a native of Screven County, Ga. A graduate of Mercer University, he earned a Doctor of Philosophy from Columbia University and taught at Mercer for several years.

-30-

Bible Society To Give
New Churches "Good News"

268

4/2/68

165

ATLANTA (BP)--The American Bible Society has decided to donate 25 copies of the Good News for Modern Man translation of the New Testament to each of Southern Baptists' Project 500 congregations during the next two years.

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Cunningham said 25 vinyl-bound copies of the modern bestseller New Testament would be sent to the new congregations at a time to be determined by the Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, which is directing the convention-wide project.

"This is being done because of the close relationship of the American Bible Society to Southern Baptists, and the extensive use Southern Baptists make of the scriptures," he said.

The Bible society's action comes on the heels of action voted by the Home Mission Board's directors. The directors appropriated \$8,500 to match \$1,500 donated by an Atlanta layman for the "Good News" paperback versions to be distributed through Home Mission Board field programs.

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