



Richard Hughes, Editor

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The Pen of a Ready Writer

...I speak of the things which I have made touching the king:

My tongue is the Pen of a Ready Writer (Psalm 45:1).

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Partaking of the Divine Nature

The Apostle Peter reveals to us that God's divine power has given to us the knowledge of Christ, that by his exceeding great and precious promises we might be partakers of the divine nature in this life (2 Peter 1:3-4). We also know that we will be partaker of the glory that shall be revealed (1 Peter 5:1) at the second appearing of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).

We will be like him, for we shall see him as he is (1 John 3:2). On the day of the Adoption of Children (Romans 8:23), our vile bodies will be changed. Even our bodies will be redeemed. Mortal will put on immortality; this corruptible will become incorruptible (1 Corinthians 15:53). So shall we ever be, with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:17).

When Christ appears before the throne of God as the Lamb slain (Revelation 5:6), we will be there. When the Lord, mounted on a white horse, returns to earth for the deliverance of Israel (Revelation 19:11-21), we will be with him. When he sits on the throne of his father David and rules this earth from Jerusalem for a thousand years, we will serve as kings and priests unto him (Revelation 20:4; 1:6).

We will see the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven (Revelation 21:2) and behold our Lord make all things new (Revelation 21:5). These things are just part of "the glory that shall be revealed" (1 Peter 5:1). However, there is a "glory" of which we partake now: our Lord's divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).

Being born again of incorruptible seed, by the word of God (1 Peter 1:23), that which is in you is greater than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4). He cannot sin (this new man) because he is born of God (1 John 3:9). Therefore, if we walk in the Spirit (our new man), we will not fulfil the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). Rather, we will crucify the flesh, with the affections and lusts (Galatians 5:24). Like Paul, this is a daily death (1 Corinthians 15:31).

When we put on the new man, we choose kindness over malice, meekness over wrath. We forebear, rather than yield to the temptation; we forgive, rather than resent the people that have mistreated us for their own purpose or pleasure. It is not in our Adamic nature to do so. It is not natural for us to be charitable in our thoughts or our speech. But it is natural for our LORD and for the new man he has made us within!

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Vickie Wilkerson Hughes

What am I doing, for the Lord?

The other day, I was thinking that I was walking the last part of my journey in life; and, I wondered, *How is my life counting for Christ?*

I was reminded that we need to tell others about Jesus, to be the witness our Lord desires us to be (Acts 1:8). God used one of our grandchildren, on our family vacation, to do so.

A little girl was playing with our grandchildren. Her dad came up to me. He wanted to express how thankful he was that they included his daughter in their play. They treated her like she was one of the family.

He was telling me about where they lived and about what he did, when my little grandson asked him this question, "Do you know Jesus?"

He looked at my grandson, not being certain what he was asking.

I said, "He asked if you knew Jesus."

The man smiled and said, "Yes, I do."

Wow! What a rebuke to me. I did not ask that question; my grandson did!

The Baptist Heritage Revival Society

I was privileged to be among the preachers at a Baptist Heritage Conference held at Bible Baptist Church, Marietta, GA, this past month. Dr. David Cooper is the pastor.

Three men were the core of the meeting: Dr. Ted Alexander, President of the Baptist Heritage Revival Society; Evangelist Terry Danford, Assistant Director of the Society; and Pastor Paul Davis. Dr. Alexander and Brother Danford can be reached through the BHRS; Pastor Davis, through Bible Baptist Church, Bryant, AR.

My portion of the meeting was to preach on our Baptist distinctives. After considering the subject for some time and reviewing some of our history, I selected eight distinctives and named the sermon *Baptist Perpetuity*.

The eight distinctives are as follows:

- (1) Biblical Authority, (2) Believer's Baptism,
- (3) The Lord's Supper, (4) Separation of Church and State, (5) Our Church Officials,
- (6) Our Funding, (7) Our Priesthood,
- (8) Our Mission.

Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees

When our Lord first told this to the disciples, they reasoned that it was because they had not taken any of the bread from the feeding of the multitude (Matthew 15:32-39).

Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

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