

California Court:

"Parents do not have a constitutional right to home school their children"

LOS ANGELES – A ruling by a California appeals court stating that homeschooling by parents without teaching credentials violates state law has sent shockwaves across America. The decision could potentially leave California's estimated 166,000 homeschooled children as truants and their parents at risk of prosecution.

However, it appears that homeschooling families in the "Golden Bear State" can breathe a sigh of relief for now. The ruling is already in the appeals process to the California Supreme Court, with some experts predicting that the case may end up being decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. There is also tremendous momentum towards changing the state law by putting it before voters through California's petition process. In addition, some powerful national and state leaders, including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, are siding with homeschoolers.

"...parents are subject to being ordered to enroll their children in an appropriate school or education program"

In a statement released March 7, Schwarzenegger stated, "Parents should not be penalized for acting in the best interests of their children's education. This outrageous ruling must be overturned by the courts and if the courts don't protect parents' rights then, as elected officials, we will."

Even the head of California's Department of Education, Jack O'Connell, is supporting homeschoolers in the matter.

"I have reviewed the case, and I want to assure parents that choose to homeschool that California Depart-

ment of Education policy will not change in any way as a result of this ruling," O'Connell said. "Parents still have the right to homeschool in our state."

Despite these assurances, many California homeschoolers remain both fearful and angry in the aftermath of the court decision.

"At first people were very upset and wondering if they would have to leave the state," said Pastor Bill Rench, who has several homeschooling families at Calvary Baptist Church in Temecula. "Then as it unfolded in the days ahead it was realized that the state had no plans to start enforcing the court's decision."

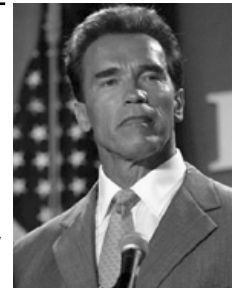
"All homeschoolers have risen up in one accord against this," Rench revealed.

The ruling arose from a child welfare dispute between the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and Philip and Mary Long of Lynwood, who have been homeschooling their eight children. The parents also enrolled their children in Sunland Christian School in nearby Sylmar, which considers the Long children part of its independent study program and visits the home about four times annually.

The Second District Court of Appeal ruled that California law requires parents to send their children to full-time public or private schools, or have them taught by state-credentialed tutors at home. The courts said state law has been clear since at least 1953, when another appellate court rejected a challenge by homeschooling parents to Califor-

"This outrageous ruling must be overturned by the courts and if the courts don't protect parents' rights then, as elected officials, we will."

— Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger



nia's compulsory education statutes. Those statutes require children ages 6 to 18 to attend a full-time day school, either public or private, or to be instructed by a tutor who holds a state credential for the child's grade level.

"California courts have held that parents do not have a constitutional right to homeschool their children," Justice H. Walter Croskey said in the 3-0 ruling issued Feb. 28.

In a section named "Consequences of Parental Denial of a Legal Education" the judge stated: "Because parents have a legal duty to see to their children's schooling within the provisions of these laws, parents who fail to do so may be subject to a criminal complaint against them, found guilty of an infraction, and subject to imposition of fines. Additionally, the parents are subject to being ordered to enroll their children in an appropriate school or education program and provide proof on enrollment to the court, and willful failure to comply with such an order may be punished by fine for civil contempt."

One section of the court's ruling sounded ominously like Communist or Nazi dogma reading, "A primary purpose of the educational system is to train school children in good citizenship, patriotism and *loyalty to the*

Locusts & Honey

By Cary Monaco



By the time you receive this, I'll be 50 years old, unless the Lord takes me home first. Once upon a time I figured 50 was fairly old. Then, to me, 50 was the beginning of the end. Now, as I recently heard a nearby Okie say in the local dialect, I realize that "50 ain't old."

I've heard people say that they have "no regrets," and wouldn't change a thing if they could go back in life. I believe that's said in pride or at least voiced without thinking it through. I have plenty of things from my past that I regret. These regrets mainly fall under the category of "sin." Even though my sins have been forgiven, I regret them, and more than regretting their bitter consequences, I'm sorry and ashamed for letting the Lord down by committing them.

God has moved my heart to spend a good portion of this issue concerning homeschooling. One of my biggest regrets is allowing any of my children to attend public schools. Like many other Christians, I thought (or at least hoped) that our family could get through it unscathed. However, because of the conviction of the Holy Spirit, I wasn't surprised when things started going wrong. The surprise involved just how horribly wrong it went.

Now, homeschooling isn't some kind of magic pill for keeping kids out of trouble. As a pastor I've dealt with teens and young adults who were homeschooled and yet still managed to get themselves into fornication, alcohol, drugs and jail. However, both it and good Christian Schools are typically a far better alternative than what the government and the devil have to offer.

Sending Christians to public schools is akin to what occurred when Lot moved his family to Sodom. It says about that in II Peter 2:8, "For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his right-

eous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds." Believe me, I know from experience, it's tempting to go into denial about it. Yet, the hard truth is, the souls of Christian kids attending public schools are vexed day by day. And, the older they get, the greater that vexation is. Also, it's just getting worse and worse in these last days of the "last days."

I'm certainly not trying to convey that every family should home school. In many situations a quality Christian School may be a better answer. However, as it was in our situation, oftentimes there isn't one available.

In addition, if parents are going to home school, then they need to be devoted to doing it right. The majority of parents who home school are doing a good job. The statistics show that the average homeschooler scores 15 to 30 percentage points above their public school counterparts on standardized tests.

Yet, at the same time there are many what I call "Pajama Schools," where parents are lazy and undisciplined in the homeschooling effort. This leads to children who are well below their age and grade levels in essential life skills such as reading, writing and math. It has been my joy to see 10 year-old homeschoolers who read at a high-school level, but it has also been my heartache to see homeschooled kids in the third and fourth grades who still couldn't read on a first-grade level, if at all.

My words here will bring nods of approval by some, and will produce negative reactions in others. Yet, if even one family is spared the damage that public school will do to their children, then publicly admitting my awful decision is well worth the humiliation.



Editor with Sweetie Pie
"50 ain't old"

Home School • From Front Page

state and the nation as a means of protecting the public welfare."

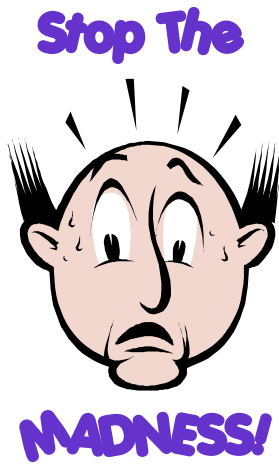
Michael Smith, president of the Home School Legal Defense Association, responded to the ruling by proclaiming, "California is now on the path to being the only state to deny the vast majority of homeschooling parents their fundamental right to teach their own children at home."

Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute, which has agreed to help with the appeal to the state Supreme Court, said the appellate court ruling has set a precedent

that can now be used to go after homeschoolers. "With this case law, anyone in California who is homeschooling without a teaching credential is subject to prosecution for truancy violation, which could require community service, heavy fines and possibly removal of their children under allegations of educational neglect," he commented.

Many legal experts and others fear that if the case reaches the U.S. Supreme Court it may uphold the California court's decision which could eventually result in a national crackdown on homeschooling. Therefore, the petition to change the state law as currently written may be vital.

The *Baptist Edifier* is published quarterly as a ministry of Liberty Baptist Church, Chandler, Oklahoma. All articles are written by the editor, Cary Monaco, unless otherwise by-lined. The contact information for the *Baptist Edifier* and Baptist Creek Ministries is: P.O. Box 531, Chandler, Oklahoma 74834; phone, (405) 240-5747; e-mail, baptistedifier@sbcglobal.net



**For
Pastors
And
Those
Who
Love
Them**

By Pastor John Waterloo
Central Baptist Church
Ponca City, Oklahoma

In our crazy world it seems like all we do is hurry from one thing to the next. Ministers are no exception! If anything, they bear the brunt of a hurried, chaotic world. The last I checked in the Bible, being overworked, drained and exhausted is not one of the spiritual gifts listed in the Bible. It's as though the more we work, the more spiritual we are perceived to be, even though we all know that is not true.

As you read the account of Moses in Exodus 18, you find that his father-in-law, Jethro, has come to visit. It's here that our story brings the insight that we need for ministers today. As Jethro watches Moses' day, he is shocked to see him rise early and stay up late just solving the people's problems. He watches as the people wait in long lines to see the only man seemingly able to answer their questions. Almost two million people and no one else can solve a dispute? Surely there are other leaders. No, they're not Moses, but was Moses the only one who could help them?



John Waterloo

It was after watching this escapade that Jethro lovingly approaches Moses. He asks him what he is doing. Moses responds by saying that he is judging the people because they have come to him for help. To this Jethro replies: "The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself

alone." (Exodus 18:17-18)

Did you see what Jethro said? "The thing that thou doest is not good." Now wait a minute! How could helping people with problems not be good? How could taking every hour of every day in the hot sun to help my people be a bad thing? This meek man, Moses, who loved the people and God, had gotten caught up in one of Satan's greatest traps, the trap of doing good! That's right, sometimes doing good can be wrong, when doing it isn't God's will!

Now, that may take you a minute to think about! You see, if I was Satan, I would realize that although I will destroy some ministers with money, others with immoral sins and still others with complacency, I will fail to get the majority.

He knows that we are wise to the sins of doing evil. But what happens when good becomes evil? Now that is a trap hard to see. For as long as we are doing good, we usually don't stop to evaluate what we are doing. So, we can spend 50-60 hours a week doing good, but that good may not be what God has called us to do.

It's here that I must remind you and me that we have been called to pray and preach (Acts 6:2-4). It's not that hospital visits, home visits, nursing home visits, guest visits, bus visits, cleaning the church, fixing the vans, repairing the church, counseling and administrative work are bad. It's that these activities and many more can easily take up all our time, leaving us drained and exhausted so that we're not as effective in the pulpit or on our knees! It's here that good becomes a weapon of Satan. Like Moses, we get deceived into thinking that just because there is a need, we are called to take care of it. Here we see that the madness must be stopped!

Whether you burn out or quit, you are still out

There is no glory in quitting or in burning out! You get no medal, no banquet, no reward! We have somehow glamorized the minister that works 12-16 hours a day and rarely takes a day off or a vacation. This is madness! Even God promoted that we take a day of rest!

The only person who wants you out is Satan. So, if he can't get you out by some sinful vice, then he will get you out by the deception of good. He will just keep you so busy that you think you are doing God's will, when in reality you are

just being kept busy!

God did not design us or call us to live overburdened

Matthew 11:29-30 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

When we're living and working in God's will our stress will be minimal because it will be easy and light. Ministers are some of the most stressed out people in the world. We should be setting an example for our members concerning the Christian life, so how can we tell them to slow down and spend time with God and family when we don't? I'm not promoting laziness or a mediocre style Christianity. On the contrary, I believe we should work hard as ministers of the gospel, just not to the point that our work becomes a burden instead of a joy.

Learn to separate the essential from the additional

Prioritize! We are prone to fill our lives with additional good things that often keep us from doing the essential properly! I find that I have to, almost weekly, prioritize my schedule. For if I don't set my schedule, then it will be set for me. That usually means that I will be doing a lot of things others want me to do, but not necessarily the things God wants me to do. This means we will have to learn the word "No!" It's easy to get distracted and caught up in doing things good in themselves, but not the best or most essential!

Delegate! Jethro's main advice was delegate to others. God didn't design the church to be a one-man show! We do a disservice to our people when we don't take the time to train them to do the Lord's work. I realize that this isn't always an easy task when volunteers are scarce. However, sometimes we may just need to appoint people to positions. It's not that the minister is too good to clean, do the bulletin, lead the singing and so on. It's that the people need to learn to serve as well. Besides, if anything were to happen to a pastor who does everything, what would happen to God's church?

Don't let others dictate your schedule

This is a hard one. Moses was allow-

Will homeschooling become illegal in America?

This treatise concerning the liberal agenda should answer the question for every reader

By Cary Monaco, editor



We hear much about the “liberal agenda.” We Baptists also have an agenda. Our agenda is issued from Jesus Christ and is clearly found in the Bible. One place we find it spelled out for us is in Matthew 28:19-20 where Jesus commands, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Based upon the Bible, there can be no doubt that this is God’s agenda.

There are many facets of the liberal agenda, but the clear facts of our day-to-day world vividly demonstrate that it involves rejecting the operation of society by God’s Word for man to live as the god of his or her own life within parameters for the “common good” set by alleged enlightened leaders. Very similar to Communism, Nazi Germany, ancient Rome and Greece, and manifold other past societies, the liberals’ supreme god which rules over and cares for the people is the government/state.

Again, based upon the Bible, there can be no doubt that this is Satan’s agenda. As one looks back in history it becomes obvious that it’s the devil’s same old way of hoodwinking mankind into rebelling against God to follow him.

In this modern incantation of Satan’s Society, pseudo-science is one of the higher gods, with false doctrines such as the “Big Bang” and “Evolution” seeking to erase from minds the existence of a Creator Whom the creation should acknowledge and obey. For Satan’s form of government to work, the people cannot hold higher allegiance to God than to the state. This is why Communism is atheistic.

Since the enlightened leaders espouse that the common good involves being “tolerant” and embracing “diversity,” society is continually saturated with anti-biblical dogmas. Therefore, living together in fornication is considered totally acceptable; homosexuality is celebrated as a beautiful lifestyle; and, sacrificing unborn babies to the god of self is applauded.

Those continuing to worship and obey the God of the Bible are viewed as evil by Satan’s Society because we’re considered “intolerant,” “bigoted,” and “haters,” among other things. Because of this, and due to the fact that proclaiming and living God’s truth reveals people’s sins, committed Christians are seen as dangerous

to the common good. We slow down the liberal agenda and hinder the state from achieving absolute power.

That’s where another one of the liberal’s higher deities comes in, the god of public education. To completely form a society of devoted followers the devil needs to gain control over the children’s minds. The public school system provides the perfect vehicle for this to occur. Those children who are homeschooled or attend Christian Schools are escaping from a major portion of the devil’s brain-washing efforts and he doesn’t like it. Hence, we’re seeing (and will see) more and more actions by liberal society’s supreme god, the government, to eliminate as much alternative schooling as possible. This is and will be done under the guise of the welfare of the children for the common good of society.

However, it doesn’t stop there. It reaches into our Baptist churches. Millions of Americans already consider subjecting children to a steady stream of Bible preaching and teaching to be child endangerment. After all, our children are subjected to hearing from the Bible that we’re all sinners who are going to spend eternity in hellfire unless we receive Christ as Savior. Also, they hear preaching and teaching against fornication, homosexuality, and the Theory of Evolution, in addition to numerous other things that the liberal agenda embraces.

Think it’s a far day away when the government removes children from homes because their parents take them to fundamental, independent Baptist churches? Not to be an alarmist, but it has happened already.

ParentalRights.org cites several cases, including one involving a 13 year-old boy in Washington state who was removed from his parents by Child Protective Services after he complained to school counselors that they took him to church too often. The counselors encouraged him to call CPS with his complaint which led to his subsequent removal and placement in foster care. *It was only after the parents agreed to a judge’s requirement of less-frequent church attendance that they were able to recover their son.*

It was only after the parents agreed to a judge’s requirement of less-frequent church attendance that they were able to recover their son.

Agenda • See Back Page

It already is in Germany

LONDON — According to a report in the *London Observer* (Feb. 24, 08), families are fleeing from Germany to escape a law introduced by Adolph Hitler that could lead to their children being taken into governmental care if educated at home. One father, who arrived in England with his wife and five children, revealed that his family had no choice but to flee Germany after being warned that the kids would be taken into foster care unless they enrolled them at local schools.

Another father, who fled with his family in October, said he believed the 70 year-old law was creating hundreds of refugees and forcing families into hiding to protect their children.

Home schooling was outlawed in Germany by Hitler in 1938 because he wanted the Nazi state to have complete control of young minds. Legal attempts through the courts, including the European Court of Human Rights, have so far failed to overturn the ban.

Klaus Landahl, 41, and his wife, Kathrin, 39, said they had no option but to leave their home, friends and belongings in order to educate their five children legally and without fear.

“It feels like persecution,” he said. “We had to get to safety to protect our family. We can never go back. If we do, our children will be removed, as the German government says they are the property of the state now.”

Jonathan Skeet, who is British-born, said that he, his wife, and five children, were driven from Ludenscheid, Germany after the authorities froze their bank account, removed money from it, and confiscated their car. He said the family was blackmailed and threatened with the loss of their children in an attempt to force them back into mainstream school education.

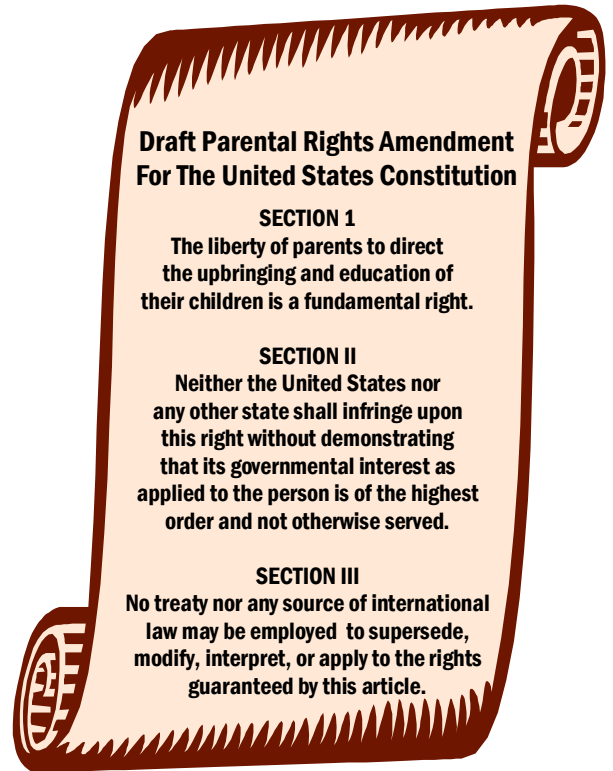
“It was crippling,” Skeet stated. “When we lived in Germany we wanted to live a very inconspicuous and quiet life. But instead we ended up in direct confrontation with a very powerful state.”

Only about 800 families are believed to educate their children at home illegally in Germany. Stephanie Edel, who runs an organization to support homeschoolers in the country reported that last year “some 78 home-schooled children fled Germany with their parents.”

“It’s very dangerous to home-educate here,” she said. “Home educators have to learn to expect anything and have to be ready to leave overnight.”

Last year 15 year-old Melissa Busekros was removed from her family. Her mother, Gudrun, said more than 15 policemen took her to a psychiatric unit for tests. Melissa was placed in a foster home. She escaped on her 16th birthday and has since been left alone by authorities.

Both domestic and European Union courts have ruled in the German state’s favor on numerous occasions in recent years.



Proposed constitutional amendment designed to preserve parental rights

In light of growing threats to the rights and responsibilities of parents to direct their own children’s education, there is a national movement to add a “Parental Rights Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution. The basic tenants of the proposed amendment are included above.

The recent ruling by the Second District Court in California which included the interpretation that “parents do not have a constitutional right to home school their children” has brought new emphasis to the amendment.

If adopted the amendment would provide a clear, legal, constitutional right for parents to home school their children. This would serve to assist in preventing activist courts and law makers from ruling homeschooling to be illegal.

Another threat to parental rights is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This global article of rights for children has been ratified by every nation except for the U.S. and Somalia.

Under the UNCRC, instead of following due process, government agencies have the power to override parental choices based on what the presiding governmental entities determine to be in the best interest of the child.

To learn more about the proposed constitutional amendment and/or to sign a petition in favor of it, go to www.ParentalRights.org.



In addition to Germany, other “democratic” nations which ban homeschooling include Austria, Brazil and Switzerland.

Source: *Wikipedia Encyclopedia* (2008)

James Combs: The enigma of a mystery man

By Cary Monaco, editor

As an authentically unusual individual, James Combs is an enigma of sorts, a "mystery man," if you will. Viewed by many as odd, even to the point of eccentricity, he is a wonderful combination of unabashed enthusiasm, abounding creativity, frenetic energy and abundant love.

Now 80 years old, Combs still exudes a relentless vitality that puts most men less than half his age to shame. Watching him is like viewing Charlie Chaplain scurrying around at 10 times normal speed in one of those old silent films. Add in his extraordinary intellect and incredible knowledge, and he is a sort of Albert Einstein after three double-lattes.

Probably best known for his long tenure as editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune* from 1983 to 1995, Combs has packed more than seems possible into one lifetime. However, God willing, he's still not through trying to stuff more things in. One of his latest visions involves leading an effort to get a pictorial display of Baptist Bible Fellowship history created on the campus of Baptist Bible College. And, if his personal history is examined, there's little doubt that he'll get it done.

Saved at age 12 in Waco, Texas, Combs manifested enormous ambition for spiritual pursuits almost immediately in his Christian life. He read the Bible through again and again, dedicating himself to memorizing vast portions; devoured theological commentaries, listened to radio preachers with the intensity that teens today play video games, and was licensed to preach by Huisache Avenue Baptist Church, San Antonio, at age 16. He began teaching a Bible class as a teenager and preached his first sermon in October 1943, just past the mid-point of World War II.

After graduating high school in

1946, Combs moved to Missouri to attend Kansas City Bible College. He joined Kansas City Baptist Temple led by Pastor Wendell Zimmerman, who decades later would precede Combs as editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune*. That summer, still 18 years old, he became interim pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Joplin, Mo. He served six months until a pastor was called, and then became an associate pastor under Zimmerman back in Kansas City.

Enrolling at Bible Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas in 1949, and also serving as pastor in nearby Hillsboro, Combs found himself one of the students and pastors embroiled in the controversy which ensued with the ouster of G. B. Vick as school president by its founder J. Frank Norris. The 22 year-old preacher was a part of the "Texas Hotel" meeting in 1950 where the pastors present determined to launch the Baptist Bible Fellowship, with the group's own college, missions program and official newspaper.

Combs ran for the U.S. Congress in California winning the Republican nomination in 1976

Combs went back to Missouri to finish his schooling. He also was called to pastor the congregation in Joplin, this time on a permanent basis. Continuing his education at Kansas City Bible College, he also enrolled at the brand new Baptist Bible College in Springfield. Numerous times each week the always energetic Combs would drive from Joplin to Springfield to Kansas City. He graduated from both schools in 1952, earning a Bachelors' Degree at KCBC and a Theological Graduate Diploma at BBC. Today he holds six earned college degrees, and two honorary doctorates.



James Combs

The visionary young Combs felt God calling him West to California in 1953, where he led Olivet Baptist Church, Lynwood, for 17 years. With about 60 in attendance upon his arrival, the church would grow to average 600 on Sunday mornings. In 1970, he followed God's call to First Baptist Church, Costa Mesa, which surpassed 1,000 in attendance several times under his leadership.

In a dramatic move in 1976, Combs resigned in Costa Mesa to run for U.S. Congress. Few, if any, political experts believed that the Baptist preacher had a chance of receiving the Republican nomination. However, impressing people with his energy, intellect and caring persona, win it he did. He lost to the incumbent Democrat in the General Election, with the Republicans still in great disfavor due to the "Watergate Scandal."

The loss didn't deter Combs in the least, as he followed through with plans to carry on an evangelistic ministry, specializing in Prophecy Conferences. Preaching through the Book of Revelation in a week incorporating several projectors and hundreds of slides, crowds flocked to churches for the conferences, which he continued to schedule when possible after becoming editor of the *Tribune* in 1983.

While it's not unusual for people to have a plethora of dreams and ambitions, one thing that sets Combs apart is that he actually follows through with most of his. Always known for juggling several major projects at once, he has a proven penchant for bringing forth the energy, wisdom and faith for getting them done. A gigantic part of this success

Combs • See Page 7

ARE OLD-AGE SYMPTOMS SYMBOLIZED IN ECCLESIASTES 12:1-6?

While one must be careful not to make the Scriptures of “private interpretation,” the admonition to not waste the “days of thy youth” appears to clearly transition into speaking of old age in verse one (“...nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them”). With death being clearly mentioned in verse seven, it appears that the connecting verses (3-6) could be seen as symbolizing the symptoms of old age which eventually lead to the end of physical life.

Although we probably shouldn’t become dogmatic in our thinking in regards to these possible symbolism, it can be interesting to consider them.

(3) “In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble” is thought to speak of extremely weak and shaky legs.

(3b) “The strong men shall bow themselves” may speak of the shoulders being bent down.

(3c) “The grinders cease because they are few” seems to tell of having few teeth left.

(3d) “Those that look out the windows be darkened” appears to describe loss of eye sight.

(4) “Doors shut in the streets, the grinding is low” might speak of hearing loss.

(4b) “He shall rise up at the voice of the bird” may speak of the early morning awakening of the elderly.

(4c) “All the daughters of musick shall be brought low” is thought to be about the loss of singing voice in ancient age.

(5) The first part of this verse may speak of the increased fears which develop in old age.

(5b) “The almond tree shall flourish” can describe the white hair of seniors.

(5c) “The grasshopper shall be a burden” might talk of minor things becoming an irritation in our older years.

(6) “The silver cord be loosed” is thought to reference the spinal cord being bowed over.

(6b) “The golden bowl be broken” could speak of the deterioration of the mind.

(6c) “The pitcher be broken at the fountain” may be alluding to the function of the lungs.

(6d) “The wheel broken at the cistern” might refer to the circulation of the blood, the function of the heart.

Combs • From Page 6

is his unique ability to recognize and develop the talents of those under his leadership, and to understand what makes each individual “tick.”

He, like most other leading preachers of his era, most of whom are with the Lord, manifests a graciousness and love towards Baptists of differing views which is greatly absent today. He saw this in his mentors, men like Wendell Zimmerman, G.B. Vick and Noel Smith.

“I don’t see the power of God resting upon the independent Baptist

movement anywhere today like it was in the early decades,” Combs related. “In the 1970s independent Baptist churches had six of the 10 largest Sunday Schools in America. Why has that changed?”

Combs wanted to be sure to credit his wife, Geraldine (“Jeri”), for being his “indispensable companion and co-worker” over the decades.

“I honestly wished that I had done more for the Lord, and better,” he revealed. “I wish I had spent more time with my family. But, God sought to use me in spite of my flaws.”

John Aldrich retiring from pastorate

After more than 25 years as founding pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Edmond, Okla., John Aldrich is retiring from the pastorate and scheduling preaching dates for revivals, missions conferences, other special meetings and pulpit supply.



John & Barbara Aldrich

A veteran of nearly 50 years in the ministry, Aldrich, with his wife, Barbara, planted Slidell Baptist Temple, Slidell, La., in 1962. In 1970, he accepted the pastorate of Bible Baptist Church, El Reno, Okla., where the Aldrichs enjoyed a long, productive ministry until leaving to plant the Edmond work in 1982.

Aldrich, who also has taught Bible History at Heartland Baptist Bible College for the past 10 years, is retiring at Calvary Baptist Church effective April 27, when his son-in-law, Brad Lawrie, becomes pastor. Lawrie comes from Bible Baptist Church, Cassville, Mo., where he served as pastor for five years.

Aldrich has several dates scheduled in the western states beginning in May, returning to Oklahoma in July. To contact him for potential preaching opportunities, call (405) 413-6180.

Heartland BBC least expensive major Bible college in 2007

(including Room/Board)

1. Geneva College	\$25,420	13. Ambassador	\$8,700
2. Cedarville	\$23,410	14. West Coast	\$8,250
3. BBC—GARBC	\$19,582	15. Champion	\$7,240
4. BBC—Missouri	\$18,860	16. Crown	\$6,900
5. Piedmont	\$14,950	17. Hyles Anderson	\$6,680
6. Bob Jones	\$14,750	18. Pensacola	\$6,500
7. Northland	\$14,000	19. Okla. Baptist	\$6,444
8. Maranatha	\$13,310	20. Florida Baptist	\$6,200
9. Arlington	\$13,090	21. Heartland BBC	\$4,760
10. Pillsbury	\$12,982		
11. Tenn. Temple	\$12,467		
12. Trinity	\$11,050		

Sources: College Web Site Catalogs & National Center For Education Statistics

Books Authored or Edited By James Combs Include:

ABC's of Life Success
(co-written with Jeri Combs)

**Mysteries of the Bible
Now Revealed**

Mysteries of the Book of Daniel

Our Biblical Baptist Heritage

Rainbows From Revelation

Ten Tremendous Truths

He also is an associate editor of the
Tim LaHaye Prophecy Study Bible

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Madness • From Page 3

ing the people to dictate his daily schedule. As Jethro watched he saw that although Moses' motive was right, his actions were actually hurting the people. We must remember that we're not called to please people, but to please God! It's His will that we are called to do, not man's. Yet in our culture, the pastor's job description has grown with the expectations of God's people. Today's pastor is supposed to be a jack-of-all-trades. He knows everything and can do anything! That puts a lot of pressure on the pastor. The only way to combat these high expectations and keep your sanity is to decide that God alone will dictate your responsibilities. Then and only then will you be able to combat the *super pastor* image and be able to effectively minister inside the spiritual gifts that God has given you.

The reality is that we often produce dependent people that are stifled in their spiritual growth because they expect and rely on the pastor to do everything. Not only is that unbiblical, it's not healthy. Naturally, I'm not talking about real emergencies and necessities of the office, rather the expectations of a member that does not match up with what God has called us to do. We must learn to allow God to tell us what is needful and not to allow the members to so engulf our time that we're running around in madness!

We would be wise to listen to the good counsel of others

Moses was a man who literally talked with God, yet he was humble enough to listen to Jethro and others. From this I have learned several things.

We don't know everything! We can learn from others. I

have monthly deacons and trustees meetings where we bring up a variety of issues. Presently, we are in a building program so there are a multitude of issues to discuss. I cherish the input of the men in areas that I'm not as well learned.

We don't see everything! Only God is omniscient and omnipresent! Moses was so busy answering questions that he missed the biggest problem of them all. He was wearing out himself and the people! We rarely see our own flaws. That is why we should listen to the report of others. This doesn't mean that every accusation against us is correct. However, a wise man will evaluate every complaint, even if the person giving it isn't doing it properly.

We can't do everything! You cannot be the best at everything, but you can do your best at what God has called you to do. You see, we're not called to be the best, just to do our best!

God's servants are not exempt from natural laws

Although endowed with supernatural power from God, Moses was still just a man. Jethro warned him that he would wear down! If you overwork yourself then you will get sick, irritated, depressed, lose focus, become less productive and even start hurting those around you. Even as ministers, we can and will face all the physical and emotional problems that come to individuals who live in a way that brings stress to our bodies.

Remember, Satan does not care how he defeats you and gets you out of the race. He only wants you out! What better way than to get you so wore down that you lose your effectiveness for God's Kingdom?

Isn't it time we stopped the madness! Moses did! Why can't we?

Agenda • From Page 4

We know from the Bible (see II Timothy 3:1-13) that modern society is going to continue to regress deeper and deeper under satanic control until Christ's Second Advent. We may take comfort in thoughts that the Rapture will occur before our children or grandchildren can be ripped away from us, allegedly for their "welfare" and the "common good." However, whether that's how it turns out or not, God's people need to wake up and fight for both Jesus Christ and our children.

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