

ALABAMA BAPTIST.

ORGAN OF THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

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ALABAMA BAPTIST.

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For the Alabama Baptist.

The Religious Newspaper.

I often think of the help that I received from a good religious newspaper when a boy Christian. Soon after I joined the church I asked my pastor, the Rev. J. B. Appleton, to recommend to me some good religious paper. He mentioned several and handed me a sample copy of one of our leading papers. I subscribed at once. Here let me say that editors do well to mail packages of samples to active pastors frequently. Bro. Appleton has always interested himself in getting his people to read. Noble pastor! noble work! But to resume my story. I was young, ignorant of the teachings of the Scriptures, and also of the work of our denomination. I had only a Bible to read, no helps, not even Pendleton's Notes, although so

of an old and highly respected

the family in the Tennessee Valley. I

enough. I saw the past but for the

water brook, so panted my soul for

a better knowledge of God and his

will. I was also exposed to error.

Dangerous tracts and periodicals

were floating into my hands. It

was at this time that my religious

paper was so helpful. Every week

it brought to me just the help that

I so much needed. The great va-

riety of matter it contained, the

sermons, exegeses, discourses, of

various topics, from prayer to

praise, from church discipline to

church history, and missions, the

news of revivals, of mission work

at home and abroad. All this and

much more came to me as bread

to the hungry, as water to the thirsty.

How it strengthened me! How it

broadened my intellectual horizon!

Again, my religious newspaper

served me well in pointing out the

dangers in the pathway of the Chris-

tian. Popular heresies were refuted.

Drunkenness, gaming, the dancin-

giousness, covetousness, in short,

all sins received their share of con-

demnation. Week by week I was

led to a higher, happier and more

efficient life. And although I have

written of what the religious news-

paper was to me as a Christian

youth, allow me to add, that while

I have long since become a matured

man and for several years an

humble minister of the gospel with

a good supply of books and com-

mentaries, I cannot yet live without

the religious newspaper. I am sitting

week by week at the feet of a noble

band of editors, receiving stores for

mind and soul. Thank God, read-

ers, for the religious newspaper.

Let every pastor put it into every

home that he can. Get it to the

young people. L. N. BAUCK.

Collinsville.

P. S. Please grant me further

space to say that after an absence

of fifteen years, I returned a short

time ago and found Bro. Appleton,

the pastor of my boyhood and young

manhood, still strong and vigorous,

and receiving the subscription of a

brother for a good Baptist paper. I

had the pleasure of preaching to his

(Collinsville) home church. Long

may he live to preach the gospel

and religiously educate the people.

For the Alabama Baptist.

Perseverance of the Saints.

I have been requested by a be-

loved and honored brother, in a

very responsible position in refer-

ence to such matters, to write an

article for the ALABAMA BAPTIST

on "Final Perseverance." The

reason assigned is, that "many of

our young people do not under-

stand this doctrine and its practical

bearings." I may do so very un-

skillfully, and have never written

specifically upon the subject, or

even preached a special sermon

upon it, regarding the doctrine so

plainly and frequently declared in

the Scriptures as to require nothing

more than incidental discussion. I

will, however, adduce a number of

unmistakable passages, with such

relevant comment as may seem nec-

essary, keeping in view all the time

the class of young Christians re-

ferred to in my friend's note. Two

points will be signalled: the cer-

tainty of the doctrine, and its prac-

tical bearings.

"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 (rather any one),

pluck them out of my hand." Matt.

10:28. "He who hath begun a

good work in you will perform it

until the day of Jesus Christ." Phil.

1:12. "They went out for us, for

they had been of us; for they would

not have continued with us; but

they went out, that they might be

made manifest that they were not

of us." 1 John 2:19. "Grieve not

the Holy Spirit of God, where-

by ye are sealed unto the day of

redemption." Eph. 4:30. A legal

instrument is impressed with a seal,

that it may be fully authenticated

and genuine. So believers are marked

by the Holy Spirit, as destined to

redemption, completed at the resur-

rection of the just. "Who shall

separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation, or distress, or

persecution, or famine, or naked-

ness, or peril, or sword? * * * *

Nay, in all these things we are

more than conquerors through him

that loved us. For I am persuaded

that neither death, nor life, nor

angels, nor principalities, nor pow-

ers, nor things present, nor things

to come, nor height, nor depth, nor

any other creature, shall be able to

separate us from the love of God,

which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord." Rom.

8:35-39. Notice, it is the

"love of God in Christ Jesus," that

is to hold us; our love is change-

able, the love of God unchangeable.

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birth to all his will. So Paul, as-

sumed to be the author of the Epis-

tle to the Hebrews, comments on

Jer. 31:31-34, Sept.: "Behold the

days come, saith the Lord, when I

will make a new covenant with the

house of Israel, and with the house

of Judah; not according to the cov-

enant that I made with their fathers

in the day when I took them by the

hand to lead them out of the land

of Egypt; because they continued

not in my covenant, and I regarded

them not, saith the Lord. For this

is the covenant that I will make

with the house of Israel after those

days, saith the Lord; I will put my

laws into their mind, and write

them in their heart.

For I will be merciful to their un-

faithfulness, and their sins and their

iniquities will I remember no more." Heb. 8:8-12

Of course the term "Israel" is used

metaphorically, like Israel of God

elsewhere for the truly regenerate.

But the practical difficulty, with

many, I apprehend, is finding such

remaining sin after supposed conver-

sion as to discourage the conver-

sion of any remaining grace in the

heart. Our churches are full of

young people thus discouraged, due

to want of some form of Christian

activity, sinful habits indulged,

neglect of the Scriptures and of

prayer. Let them not cast away

their confidence (in Christ) and his

engagements, who never disap-

point the least degree of trust,

while learning their own weakness

by experience. But it is sometimes

said, "provision of security encour-

ages careless living. Not so at all.

Assured victory makes courageous

soldiers. Confidence in the Cap-

tain of our salvation stimulates the

rank and file, as the flash of Napo-

leon's eye passed like electricity

through the whole army. Heb.

4:14-16. As to the wholesome

effect of a fear of falling from grace

sometimes alleged, fear of real dan-

ger is useful, but not fear of danger

when it does not exist. And mere

fear, slavish fear, is not acceptable

to God. It is a sentimental fear that

he approves—the fear of doing

wrong—of offending the divine

holiness. In a word, there is no

piety in fear without love. It may

frighten into outward practice of

the forms of religion and virtue

nothing more. The hopes and fears

of men are too exclusively appealed

to by many so-called evangelists.

The gospel addresses itself to the

conscience, and when effective, de-

stroys the love of sin, implants the

love of God, and fills the heart

with two great griefs: that we are

not better men and women, and

that unhappy men refuse to obey

the gospel, that God in Christ may

be glorified. E. B. T.

For the Alabama Baptist.

From Bro. Pace.

In November I was called to

Siloam, a new church at the Good

Springs, four miles north of Rus-

selville, on the railroad. This

