



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

“To testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

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Report of Thailand Trip

June and July 2009

By Brother Bill Lee

Once again we were blessed of our Lord to be able to go to Thailand and to visit with Bro. Anond, the churches, and the children at the Children's Center. This trip was filled with many blessings and many experiences, as are all of the trips to Thailand. Our God continues to bless His work there and we have much for which to be thankful.

Janice and I arrived first in Thailand, after a 16 1/2 hour flight from Los Angeles to Bangkok and then a short flight from Bangkok to Chiang Mai. This gave us a couple of days with Bro. Anond before the others of this trip began to arrive. We used this time to visit some of the churches and to make preparations for the arrival of the others. We first visited the Children's Center where we enjoyed a welcoming ceremony prepared by the children. They welcomed us to Thailand and to the Children's Center with songs and gifts they had made for us. It is always a great blessing to see the children and to just be able to observe the smiles on their faces. Most of these children come from a background and lifestyle that brought much harm and difficulty into their lives. I could not help but think of the background of each of the children as I watched their smiles as they welcomed us. God only knows what would have become of many of these children if it were not for the Children's Center.

Ricky Cash, a pharmacist from Grenada, Ms. was the first of the others to arrive. Ricky has been with us now on four trips to Thailand and he is certainly a Godsend, even as are the doctors who accompany us. Ricky makes these

trips at his own personal expense and he does so because of his love for the Lord and his desire to serve Him. We are truly thankful to have Ricky as one of those who go with us.

Upon Ricky's arrival we began to buy medicine and supplies for him and Janice to use as we visited the villages. The buying of medicine and supplies is a daily thing as we go from village to village. On many days Ricky would go with Bro. Anond early in the morning to purchase the needed medicine for the day. At other times he would go even when we returned from the villages late at night to be sure we had the medicine and supplies we would need for the next day.

As we went to the several villages before the others arrived, I would preach in church services, which would usually be followed by a meal. Then Janice would begin to see those who needed medical help. Bro. Anond would do the interpreting for Janice and for those she would be examining. Ricky would dispense the medicine as Janice directed. I try to help wherever I can, but I have found the best help I can give sometimes is to stay out of their way. As always, Janice and Ricky worked tirelessly, as they would not quit each day until everyone received the medical help they needed.

We did this until Dr. Bryan Darling and Hope Greenlee arrived. Dr. Darling is a medical doctor from Tupelo, Ms. and Hope is a therapist from Gaylord, Mi. I mentioned that Ricky Cash makes the trips to Thailand at his own expense. The same is true for Dr. Darling and Hope. All of these take off from their work and practice in

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Mid-Week Service 6:30 P. M. Wednesday

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order to help us in Thailand. Again, it is their love for the Lord and their desire to serve Him that motivates them to make these trips and to give their assistance. Of course, after their first trips to Thailand all of these have developed a love for the children at the Children's Center as well as for the people in the churches, along with a great respect for the work Bro. Anond is doing.

I won't try to tell of each village we visited nor of all of our experiences. But I will state that everyone involved in the medical aspect of this

trip worked very hard, day after day. It was truly a work of love and dedication, but nonetheless, it was very hard work. Counting those Janice examined alone before the others arrived and those Janice and Ricky saw before Dr. Darling arrived, and then those Janice and Dr. Darling examined, it is estimated over 750 people were given medical help on this trip.



ANOND IN BURMA

The work of Bro. Anond in interpreting for them as they examine the people is a strenuous work. I will try to explain how the process works as Janice and Dr. Darling examine the people. Janice and Dr. Darling will sit side by side. In front of them will be three people facing them. There will be two people who need medical help, with Bro. Anond sitting in the middle of them. One of those who need medical help will tell Bro. Anond of their problem and then he will tell either Janice or Dr. Darling. He will interpret for them as they ask questions concerning the symptoms. Then as Janice or the doctor examines the patient, the process is repeated with the other person who needs help. Bro. Anond is constantly interpreting for either one of those being examined or for either Janice or Dr. Darling.

(See REPORT ON THE TRIP Con't page 8.)

THE DECREES OF GOD

By Wayne Camp

Psalm 148:1-6 Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. 2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. 3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. 4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created. 6 He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a DECREE which shall not pass.

Ephesians 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Job 23:13-14 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth. 14 For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him.

Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.

INTRODUCTION

Of the Divine Decree, the Philadelphia Confession of Faith says:

OF GOD'S DECREE

1. God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably, all things whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin, nor hath fellowship with any therein, nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty, or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established, in which appears his wisdom in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness in accomplishing his *decree*.
2. Although God knoweth whatsoever may, or can come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet hath he not decreed any thing, because he foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions.
3. By the *decree of God*, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated, or foreordained to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, to the praise of his glorious grace; others being left to act in their sin to their just condemnations, to the praise of his glorious justice.
4. These angels and men thus predestinated, and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number so certain, and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished.
5. Those of mankind that are predestinated to life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, hath chosen in Christ unto everlasting glory, out of his mere free grace and love; without any other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving him thereunto.
6. As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so he hath by the eternal and most free purpose of his will, foreordained all the means thereunto, wherefore they who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ, are effectually called unto faith in Christ, by his Spirit working in due season, are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by his power through faith unto

salvation; neither are any other redeemed by Christ, or effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only.

7. The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination, is to be handled with special prudence and care; that men attending the will of God revealed in his Word, and yielding obedience thereunto, may, from the certainty of their effectual vocation, be assured of their eternal election; so shall this doctrine afford matter of praise, reverence, and admiration of God, and of humility, diligence, and abundant consolation, to all that sincerely obey the Gospel.

This rather lengthy statement on *The Divine Decree* is very comprehensive and points out several characteristics of the Divine Decree. The serious student of God's word will do well to pay careful attention to what it says.

In preparing this study, I read several definitions of the Divine Decree. In the first paragraph of the confession above, there is a good definition, though it is rather lengthy. J. P. Boyce, in his *Abstract of Systematic Theology* gives a rather concise definition.

The decrees of God may be defined as that just, wise, and holy purpose or plan by which eternally, and within himself, he determines all things whatsoever that come to pass.

The Westminster Confession of Faith gives the following definition to the Divine Decrees:

Section I.-God from all eternity did by the most and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby neither is God the author of sin; nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.

Section II.-Although God knows whatsoever

may or can come to pass, upon all supposed conditions; yet hath he not decreed anything because he foresaw it as future, as that which would come to pass, upon such conditions.

Other definitions might be added but these cover the matter very well.

DIVINE DECREE OR DIVINE DECREES?

Is there one Divine Decree? Or, are there several, even many Divine decrees? My answer would be positive to both questions. Scripture indicates that there is one Divine Decree that comprehends all things whatsoever has come to pass or shall ever come to pass. ***Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*** Yet, under the umbrella of the one, over-all decree, we may and do speak of Divine decrees—the decree to create, the decree of election, the decree to send Christ into the world, the decree of reprobation, etc. ***Isaiah 25:1 . . . thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.*** Though I will discuss it under one of my main points in the lesson, I should point out that the decrees of God are not successive nor progressive.

I should also point out that I will use the singular (decree) and plural (decrees) interchangeably, depending on the context.

In this lesson, I am not concerned with listing all the decrees that fall under the Divine decree. Rather, I want to consider first, ***The Fact That There Were Divine Decrees.*** Second, we will consider ***The Designations by Which the Divine Decrees Are Called.*** Third, we will consider some of ***The Attributes Of The Divine Decrees.***

THE FACT THAT THERE WERE DIVINE DECREES

The decrees of God are essential and internal in God. They are ***internal*** in that they are the thoughts of his own heart and counsel of his own will. They are ***essential*** in that they are vitally related to his Godhood.

The very nature and Godhood of God require divine decrees. He is absolutely **sovereign** and must therefore rule over all things according to the counsel of his own will. **Daniel 4:35** *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?* **Ephesians 1:11** *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*

He is **omniscient** and knows and has known from the foundation of the world all that he would ever do. **Acts 15:18** *Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.* I do not speak irreverently but God never learns anything new. He has declared the end from the beginning and knows what he has declared. **Isaiah 46:10** *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.*

God is the **source** of all things and he has decreed all things whatsoever shall ever come to pass. **Romans 11:36** *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

Since God is **immutable**, he cannot change at any time for a change would reflect either a change for the better, which would indicate less than perfection before the change, or a change to the worse, for that would indicate less than perfection after the change. Therefore, God must decree and purpose all that he would ever do in eternity and never change in time or eternity.

Since God is the **everlasting king** over all things and his dominion is without beginning or ending he must decree all that shall ever come to pass in his dominion. **Daniel 4:34** *I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation.* It is the nature of a king to make decrees. Nebuchadnezzar said, **"I make a decree"** (**Dan. 6.26**). On one

occasion Scripture records that the princes and the king of Israel **"established a decree"** (**II Chron. 30:5**). Cyrus **"made a decree"** (**Ezra 5:13**). In Esther 1:20 we read of **"the kings decree."** Wisdom declared, **"By me kings reign, and princes decree justice"** (**Proverbs 8:15**). It is only consistent that the King of all kings decree all things which shall ever come to pass, and he has.

THE DESIGNATIONS BY WHICH THE DIVINE DECREES ARE CALLED

The decrees are called the **purpose** or **purposes** of God. **Ephesians 3:11** *According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The decrees are called the **counsel** of God. **Isaiah 46:10** *My counsel shall stand.*

The decrees of God are designated his **pleasure**. **Isaiah 46:10** *I will do all my pleasure.*

The decrees of God are identified as the **thoughts of his heart**. **Psalms 33:11** *The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.* **Isaiah 14:24** *The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass.*

The decrees of God are referred to as the **will** of God. **Romans 9:19** *For who hath resisted his will?*

The decree of God is called God's **mind**. **Job 23:13** *But he is in one mind, and who can turn him?*

The decree of God is that which he **desires**. **Job 23.13** *What his soul desireth, even that he doeth.*

The decree of God is what he has **spoken, commanded** and **declared** shall come to pass. **Isaiah 46:11** *I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.* **Psalms 33:9** *For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.*

The decree of God is sometimes indicated by such terms as **whatsoever he pleased**. **Psalms 115:3** *But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.* **Psalms 135:6** *Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas,*

and all deep places.

The decrees of God are sometimes referred to as that which God has **determined, or his determinate counsel and foreordination.** **Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain. Acts 4:28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.**

God's decrees are sometimes referred to as his **hand** as seen in Acts 4:28. **Isaiah 14:26-27 This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. 27 For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?**

God's decrees may even be indicated by that which is **appointed.** **Job 23:14 For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him.**

There may be other ways in which Scripture indicates that which is decreed or the decrees of God. I trust that these that I have given will suffice to show further that God has decreed all things which have come to pass and shall ever come to pass.

SOME ATTRIBUTES OF DIVINE DECREES

The attributes of Divine decrees are like the attributes of God himself. We will notice just a few of the attributes of the Divine decrees.

God's decrees are righteous and holy.

In this portion of the message we are talking about the attributes of the Divine decrees. The first attribute that I've chosen to discuss is that the decrees of God are holy and righteous.

David has declared, **Psalm 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. Revelation 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. Revelation 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and**

night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

The decrees of God are the works of God since he is holy in all his works then he must be absolutely holy in his decrees. Therefore his decrees are perfectly holy. There is no blemish on any of his decrees.

God's decrees are sovereign.

God's decrees are also absolutely sovereign. **Daniel 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?** All the armies of angels and men are incapable of keeping God from fulfilling his decree. None can stay his hand to keep him from fulfilling his decrees. In fact, man does not even have the right to question what God does. Man may harden himself against God's decrees but he will not prosper in his efforts to stop them. **Job 9:4 He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?**

Job declared, **Job 42:2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.** Our great and glorious God declared unequivocally, **Isaiah 43:13 Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?** Notice especially the last part of this verse. God says, **I will work, and who shall let it?** The word **let** means **hinder**. God is sovereign; his decrees are sovereign and no one is able to hinder him from carrying out his decrees.

God's decrees are unchangeable.

God himself is unchangeable. **Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.** Since God is unchangeable his decrees must therefore be unchangeable. This is why God has declared that he will not alter the thing that has gone out of his lips. **Psalm 89:34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.**

Even the false prophet Balaam bore witness to the unchangeable nature of God's decrees. **Numbers 23:19** *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?* If this false prophet knew that God's decrees were unchangeable surely no Christian would dare to dispute the unchangeable nature of God's divine decrees.

With God there is no variableness nor shadow of turning. **James 1:17** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

God has decreed the end from the beginning what he decreed he will surely bring to pass. Not one decree will ever change. **Isaiah 46:10** *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.*

The decrees of God are eternal.

God's decrees are eternal. The wise man Solomon declared, **Ecclesiastes 3:14** *I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.* Not only does this verse declare that the decrees of God are eternal but it also bears witness to the fact that God's decrees are unchangeable. Nothing can be put to them and nothing can be taken from them. They shall remain for ever the same.

THE DECREES OF GOD ARE ALL INCLUSIVE

When I say that the decrees of God are all-inclusive I mean that they include everything that has come to pass or ever shall come to pass. That does not mean that God is the author of sin. It does mean that all things that come to pass are within the scope of God's decrees.

That the decrees of God are all inclusive in their scope is clear from Paul's words to the Ephesian congregation. **Ephesians 1:11** *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance,*

being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will. Notice the last part of this verse says that God works all things after the counsel of his own will.

Paul tells us in Romans that all things are of God. **Romans 11:36** *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.* Again Paul tells us that all things are of God and all things are by Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 8:6** *But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

While it is difficult for the finite minds of men to comprehend, Solomon tells us that God has made all things for himself. This includes making the wicked for himself. **Proverbs 16:4** *The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.*

Paul also tells us that all things were made by Christ and for Christ. **Colossians 1:15-16** *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.* John teaches us a similar thing in the first chapter of the Gospel according to John. **John 1:3** *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

In view of the all-inclusive scope of the divine decrees how could any ever say that God has not decreed all things which have come to pass or ever shall come to pass? In spite of our inability to understand how all this can be the Bible abundantly teaches that it is true and who are we to reply against God? **Romans 3:4** *God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.* Shall we condemn God that we may be right? **Job 40:8** *Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?* God forbid that we should be guilty of such blasphemy!

(REPORT ON THE TRIP CONTINUED)

To emphasize the hard work done by Janice and Dr. Darling, along with Bro. Anond, in one village they all sat on the floor of a bamboo house for three hours, without getting up, examining those who needed help. Of course Ricky was with them all of this time dispensing medicine as Janice and Dr. Darling directed. Hope would assist wherever she was needed. At times she would assist Dr. Darling or Janice with the patients and at other times she would assist Ricky in the dispensing of medicine. She was always willing to do whatever was needed in each of the villages.

This process was repeated over and over in many of the villages. In each of the villages we visited there was a very noticeable improvement in the people where we have been able to supply clean, safe, drinking water. There is a tremendous difference in their health as well as in their personal hygiene. Dr. Darling commented that the people, for the most part, were far healthier now that they have a safe water supply. The people there are very appreciative and thankful for all who helped us in filling this great need. They will never be able to thank you personally, so I will do it in their stead. THANK YOU!

One day we went to Mai Sai, the northernmost city in Thailand, to meet with members of churches who came over from Burma. There were two pastors and about fifty people who made the trip to meet with us. Mai Sai is between four and five hours from Chiang Mai. The people who came to meet with us also had traveled about five hours to come to Mai Sai. Our travel was in a van, their travel to be with us was much more difficult. Our trip to Mai Sai was very tiring, but I am sure their trip was even more so.

The two pastors from Burma seem to be good men and doing a good work in Burma. They have a great desire to learn more and are making plans to come to the Bible school in Thailand for the next term. The people who accompanied them were all sick and needed medical help. Some of these were in greater need than others, but all needed help. I have explained the process as Janice and Dr. Darling examine the people. This same process was

followed in Mai Sai. But as Janice was examining one lady she became very concerned. When Dr. Darling had finished examining another person, Janice asked him to look at the lady she was examining. The doctor confirmed what Janice had seen. They determined that if this lady did not get medical treatment in a hospital immediately, she would probably die. After conferring with Bro. Anond, I asked one of the pastors if he would accompany this lady to a local hospital in Mai Sai, and he was glad to do so. We finished examining the others and we returned to Chiang Mai.

In a few days Bro. Anond was able to get news concerning this lady. The doctors at the hospital said if she had not arrived when she did, she would have died in a matter of hours. They were able to treat her and after some days in the hospital, she was able to return home and the last we heard from her, she was doing well. I am still amazed that the hospital would accept this lady from Burma and I am equally amazed they would let us send them the money to pay her hospital bill after her discharge.

All of the services in the churches were good. We always enjoy being with the churches there and noticing their spiritual growth. They all seem to be growing in grace and in knowledge. The pastors are continuing to mature in the faith and in their understanding of biblical truth. The services are all carried out in an orderly fashion with the preaching of the gospel being at the center of each service. Bro. Wayne Camp's work in the Bible school has a tremendous affect on the pastors and churches in Thailand. The pastors are able to take what they have learned in the school back to their villages and churches. Bro. Camp's teaching will have an affect in these and other churches for years and generations to come. None of us in our lifetimes will ever know all of the impact Bro. Camp's teaching in the school in Thailand is having, and will yet have, on the saints of God in Thailand, Laos and Burma. We are just thankful the Lord has allowed us to have this school and our prayer is that it will always be to the glory of our God and the edification of His people.

We spent one day at the Children's Center. During this time Hope shared with the children all of the games and other things she had

brought for them. Hope has developed a real connection with all of the children. They really look forward to her being with them. She always brings a suitcase of things to share with the children. On this day Dr. Darling and Hope always have a good time playing games with the children. Hours are spent throwing Frisbees, water balloons, and playing with whatever else Hope has brought. The children look forward to this time and it gives them a welcomed break from their normal routine at the children's center.

Also on this day, Dr. Darling and Janice take time to examine all of the children. Of course, as with most children, the children had much rather be playing with the things Hope had brought than being examined by Dr. Darling and Janice, but they all were very well behaved as they waited their turn for examination. Then, immediately after each was examined, they would return to the fun and games. Over all the children are in good health and seem to be happy. Dr. Darling and Janice found a few things that needed attention with some of the children, but nothing major.

The rebuilding at the Children's Center after the storm destroyed some of the buildings is in progress. The work on one building is complete and work is even now going on another of the buildings. The rebuilding has been a slow process because of the weather. Chiang Mai has experienced a good bit of rain, as they do at this time every year. This has caused the rebuilding to be a slow process, but thankfully it is still making progress. Once the building we are now working on is completed, we still have two more that we must rebuild. We are thankful for all who have been so generous in helping fill this need at the Children's Center. While there is still much work to be done, we are confident we will be able to rebuild what was destroyed in the storm where it will be even better for the children than it was before the storm.

Over all the Lord's work in Thailand is continuing to grow both in the number of villages where the gospel is being preached, as well as a spiritual growth in grace and in knowledge. Bro. Anond is still being asked to go to more and more villages to preach the gospel and he is doing this as time permits. The churches that

have already been established are continuing to mature as they are grounded more and more in God's word. There is still opposition to the work there from other denominations and from several of those who are engaged in "spirit worship". Bro. Anond and all of the pastors there need our continual prayers and support. They are faced with challenges most of us will never face here in the U.S.



SARAH, BROTHER ANOND'S DAUGHTER

Again we thank all of those who have joined with us in the work. Together we are able to get the gospel of Jesus Christ into many villages and even among people who have never before heard. The Lord continues to bless in so many ways and our desire is that He will always

receive the honor and the glory for all things. The Lord willing in our next issue we will have an update on the Bible school in Thailand and the plans for the next session of school.

BROTHER ANOND PREACHING IN PRISON SERVICE



LITTLE OBSTINATE

(Alexander Whyte, "Pictures from Pilgrim's Progress")

"Do not be like the the mule . . ."
Psalm 32:9

Little Obstinate was born and brought up in the City of Destruction. His father was old 'Spare the Rod', and his mother's name was 'Spoil the Child'. **Little Obstinate** was the only child of his parents. He was born when they were no longer young, and they doted on their only child, and gave him his own way in everything. Everything he asked for he got, and if he did not immediately get it you would have heard his screams and his kicks three doors off! His parents were not in themselves bad people, but, if Solomon speaks true, **they hated their child**, for they gave him all his own way in everything, and nothing would ever make them say 'no' to

him, or lift up the ROD when he said 'no' to them.

Little Obstinate's two parents were far from ungodly people, though they lived in such a city; but they were daily **destroying their only son** by letting him always have his own way, and by never saying no to his greed, and his lies, and his anger, and his noisy and disorderly ways. Eli in the Old Testament was not a bad man, but he destroyed both the ark of the Lord and himself and his sons also, because his sons made themselves vile, and **he restrained them not**.

The meekness, the sweetness, the docility, and the love of a **chastised child** has gone to all our hearts in a way we can never forget. There is something sometimes almost past description in the way a chastised child clings to and kisses the hand that chastised it. But poor old 'Spare



the Rod' never had experiences like that. And **little Obstinate**, having been born like Job's wild donkey's colt, grew up to be a **man** like **David's unbridled mule**, until in after life he became the author of all the evil and mischief that is associated in our minds with his evil name.

In old 'Spare the Rod's' child also this true proverb was fulfilled, that **'the child is the father of the man'**. For all that **little Obstinate** had been in the nursery, in the schoolroom, and in the playground; all that, only in an aggravated way; he was as a **youth** and as a grown up **man**.

As to **the cure of obstinacy**; the ROD in a firm, watchful, wise, and loving hand will cure it.

And much agonizing prayer will above all cure it.

"He who spares the ROD hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." Proverbs 13:24

"Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the ROD of discipline will drive it far from him." Proverbs 22:15

"Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the ROD, he will not die. Punish him with the ROD and save his soul from death." Proverbs 23:13-14

"The ROD of correction imparts wisdom, but an undisciplined child disgraces his mother." Proverbs 29:15

EXPULSIVE POWER!

(J. C. Ryle, "The Gospel of John")

The woman left her water jar beside the well and went back to the village and told everyone, "Come and meet a man who told me everything I ever did! Can this be the Messiah?" John 4:28-29

She had left her home for the express purpose of drawing water. She had carried a large vessel to the well, intending to bring it back filled.

But she found at the well a **new heart**, and **new objects of interest**.

She became a new creature!

Old things passed away!

All things became new!

At once everything else was forgotten for the time. She could think of nothing but the truths she had heard, and the Savior she had found. In the fullness of her heart she "left her water jar," and hastened away to tell others.

We see here the **expulsive power** of the grace of the Holy Spirit. Grace once introduced into the heart drives out old tastes and interests. **A converted person no longer cares for what he once cared for!**

A new **tenant** is in the house!

A new **pilot** is at the helm!

The whole world looks different!

All things have become new!

Conduct like that here described is doubtless uncommon in the present day. Rarely do we see a person so entirely taken up with spiritual matters, that attention to this world's affairs is made a secondary matter, or postponed.

And why is it so?

Simply because **true conversions to God are uncommon**. Few really feel their sins, and flee to Christ by faith. Few really pass from death to life, and become new creatures.

Yet these few are the real Christians of the world.

What are WE ourselves? This is the question, after all, which demands our notice. Do we feel the supreme importance of spiritual things, and the comparative nothingness of the things of the world?

Where is the reality of OUR Christianity?

Let us take heed lest we awake too late, and find that we are lost forever, a wonder to angels and devils, and, above all, a wonder to ourselves, because of our own obstinate blindness and folly.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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FALL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 13, 2009

EVANGELIST
ELDER RON CRISP

PASTOR: ELDER BILL LEE

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