

# The Baptist Defence

Hear ye my defence (Acts 22:1)

First Baptist Church - Harrison, Ohio

December, 2009

## Mental Blindness

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

John 9:41 *Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.*

### SEEING AND NOT SEEING

Jesus, in verse 39, says that he came into the world for judgment, but this is not for final judgment but a judgment of seeing or not seeing.

Jesus did not say "that they which are blind might see," but "that they which see not might see." There is a difference in these two things. The blind are those who have no capacity to see anything, but those who see not are those who have some sight but not their full sight. Jesus came to give a perspective sight to his disciples, that they may see eternal things, which are by nature "not seen" (2 Cor. 4:18).

Every human being has a responsible nature before a holy God if he can literally see and mentally comprehend what God has done in his creation, but this is not enough knowledge to bring him into the perfect light of God's revealed knowledge to his disciples.

Some people see with their eyes and see by their understanding (mind) that God exists, but they do not see Jesus Christ as the One whom God sent to the earth to die for sins and the necessity of that transaction.

The Pharisees in our text are concerned that Jesus is making claim that they are blind. Now, they are not speaking of physical

blindness but of mental blindness. They were very educated people, and they would be offended to think that someone would accuse them of having less than perfect knowledge of God and his law, but Jesus confronts them with the piercing truth

of their condition. His statement to them becomes important to us, also.

Jesus said, *If ye were blind, ye should have no sin.* That is, if they were mentally blind and had no reasoning about themselves and could not think mentally and know of God's creation and his existence, then they should have no sin; for

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Blind Faith



Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced or cried aloud:  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody but unbowed.

It matters not how straight the gate  
How charged with punishment the scroll,  
I am the master of my life;  
I am the captain of my soul.

"Invictus" (unconquered)  
by William Ernest Henley

*Adapted from The Berean Baptist Banner*

### Seeing Faith



Make me a captive, Lord,  
And then shall I be free.  
Force me to render up my sword,  
And I shall a conqueror be.  
I sink in life's alarms  
When by myself I stand:  
Imprison me within Thine arms,  
And strong shall be my hand.

My will is not mine own  
Till Thou hast made it Thine;  
If it would reach a monarch's throne,  
It must its crown resign.  
It only stands unbent  
Amid the clashing strife  
When on Thy bosom it has leant,  
And found in Thee its life

by Geo. Matheson

# FIND-A-WORD

## Revelation 4:1-7

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

S X M H O L Y P N E V O I C E W R Q D T  
 C E R C B M O W P T Y F Z D S P O R V R  
 P I A D F S Z S T I R I P S B N I E O U  
 P P W T R T S E A W O R G K L H S P W M  
 E F L W S G L A S S R E X C L S N G A P  
 M Y L O H N O J A S P E R E C B W G L E  
 C V N B I P E T Y A N C B N E N O R H T  
 I C P N L G E M E R A L D S K N R Q Z E  
 O G N I G H Y W C D M S K F L A C D X V  
 E B E A S T S D Y I O X P M D S L J F C  
 V R Y R C W P Q K N O I L A D Y L O H S

VOICE  
 TRUMPET  
 SPIRIT  
 THRONE  
 JASPER  
 SARDIN  
 RAINBOW  
 EMERALD  
 SEATS  
 CROWNS

FIRE  
 GLASS  
 SEA  
 BEASTS  
 LION  
 CALF  
 MAN  
 HOLY  
 HOLY  
 HOLY

### BLIND

(Continued from page 1)

those who have no knowledge have no sin, because only those who know to do good and do it not are sinners (James 4:17). With knowledge comes responsibility.

But the Pharisees cannot claim to have no sin, for they say *We see*. In other words, they are saying that they understand, perceive something of God. They are admitting that they have enough knowledge to be guilty before God. Therefore, their sin remains, or continues to be present. These Pharisees were very guilty before God, because they professed to know much about the law and about God; and though they were very knowledgeable

about many things pertaining to the law and God, they were not given sight by Jesus himself. They remained in their sins. This was Jesus' judgment, and it is not for us to question why Jesus gives sight to some and not to others—that they which see might be made blind, vs. 39.

Now we know that infants and imbeciles have no sight—they are blind mentally; therefore, they are not responsible before God. I know this is a controversy among Baptists, but this is my opinion (and a biblical one, I think). Paul said he was *alive without the law once*, which, I think refers to his youth, before he could understand the rights and wrongs of the law, *but*

when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died (Rom. 7:9). When he began at an early age to understand God's commandments, he became guilty before God. It was not until his experience on the road to Damascus, however, that he really was made to see. He saw Jesus, not only with his physical eye, but with his spiritual eye. He was no longer among those who "see not" but among those who see.

Matt. 11:25 *At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.*

Aren't you thankful that God sent Jesus Christ to judge who would receive spiritual sight and who would not? He planned to give sight to "babes." I am thankful to be one of those babes.

The wise and prudent of this world are so knowledgeable about the things in which they are experienced, but many of them have never experienced the personal salvation that is found only in Jesus Christ.

They remain among those who do not see despite all of their learning, *ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth* (2 Tim. 3:7).

Open mine eyes that I may see  
 Glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
 Place in my hands the wonderful key  
 That shall unclasp and set me free.

Clara H. Fiske Scott

*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him* (James 1:5). This is a message to God's children. After we are saved by grace through faith, we need to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Gazing eyes upon the leaves,  
 The word of God with hope receives,  
 Gives the wisdom needed most,  
 And glorifies to the LORD of hosts.

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

**SUNDAY EVENINGS****New Hampshire  
Confession of Faith****Studies in Doctrines  
Of Our Church****Taught by  
Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe****6:00 PM****EVERYONE  
WELCOME****All Members  
Should Attend****18 Weeks of Studies**

These studies are on our  
w e b   s i t e   a t  
[www.firstharrison.org](http://www.firstharrison.org).  
They are in printable PDF  
form, so they can be printed  
out in a presentable form.

I have linked this study  
on the front page of the web  
site for the time being.

***Everyone Is  
Welcome At  
First Baptist  
Church***

**I Am Persuaded**

Dr. M. J. Seymour, Sr.

It is written: "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 powers, 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. 8:37-39)

Life can sometimes be a strange thing in and of itself. There are ups and there are downs, and there are many twists, turns, and pit falls along the pathway that leads to the end. For many believers there are times that cause us to wonder if faith in God and Christ Jesus is worth all the heartaches and despairs multiplied upon us since we believed and surrendered our lives into their noble hands. At a glance one would consider it absolute lunacy to endure so much when there is a seemingly easier pathway. Why suffer such onslaught and wrenching of the heart and mind? What motivation is there to endure?

The answer is the love of God!!! How can one experience the love of God expressed upon the cross of Calvary in the midst of His saving grace and walk away unchanged? How can one be made alive by the love of God and not crave its constant nurturing? How can one encounter God face-to-face and turn back to the dark shadows of the valley of death? How does one look into the eyes of our suffering Savior and think we are better than our Redeemer and Master? How could our eternal souls ever be torn from so great a love by accident or by purpose? Is this love of God so feeble that it cannot secure every object of His affection?

If "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose," and "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us," then we most certainly must be persuaded that "If God be for us, who can be against us"!!! Shall our eternal heavenly Father allow anything of all His creation to tear us from His love that is fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ? I am persuaded that it is an utter impossibility, though the demons of hell will surely struggle at their best, to rip the saints from the hand of God. I am persuaded we are secure in His sovereign power eternally! Thanks be unto God for the surety of His love!!!

# A Necessary Separation

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

2 Cor. 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you . . .*

Recently I spoke to a lady whom I met incidentally in a family situation and began to talk with her, intending to witness to her about the Lord. She began to tease me about being a Baptist. She said, "When my people greet one another [in the country she is from], we just say, 'Do you love Jesus?' and that is all." We don't worry whether a person is a Baptist.

Then I began to talk with her about separation. I explained that, when a person believes in God, he immediately separates himself from those who do not believe in God: secularists and humanists, etc.

Then I explained that, when a person believes in Jesus Christ as personal Savior, he separates himself further from world religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Confucianism, etc.

Then I explained how that, when a person begins to believe

that salvation is completely by grace through faith and not by works, he further separates himself from major Christian religions such as Catholicism, Arminianism, many Pentecostal and Methodists, etc.

As a person learns more and more about the Bible, he continues to separate himself from the world and from religions of the world. If he begins to believe in the doctrines of grace, he separates himself from many Protestant religions. If he believes in eternal security, he separates himself from even more religions.

Now as a person studies the perpetuity of the Lord's churches and understands the meaning and application of baptism, he separates himself from denominationalism and becomes a part of a very distinct group of believers in Jesus Christ.

He will be persuaded against any and all doctrine that teaches works for salvation, and he will accept nothing less than salvation to the uttermost: eternal salvation; and he will not be satisfied in any

church that teaches anything but basic biblical doctrine. That is because he has grown in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When this believer understands that there is a group of people who have lost their lives by the millions over the doctrine of baptism and have been martyrs (witnesses) of the truth of this doctrine, and if he accepts the same truth of baptism for which these many have died, he will become a part of an even smaller and more distinct group: he will be called a Baptist.

Now, I am a Baptist, and I speak somewhat from prejudice; but truth is truth, and truth is worth defending. The more truth that a person defends, the more he will be separated from the world.

Keep reading, keep listening, keep meditating, beg God for understanding, and you, too, will become a part of a very distinct people.

I do not say these words out of pride, but I am simply stating a basic Bible principle, that of separation. God commands us to come out from among the world and be separate. There is no doubt that we should be a separate people, so don't hesitate to admit what biblical learning has made you to be.

## The Baptist Defence

First Baptist Church  
P. O. Box 201  
Harrison, OH 45030

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage

**PAID**

Harrison, Ohio 45030  
Permit 101