



## First Baptist Church

# The Baptist Defence

Acts 22:1 *Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you.*

2007 - Issue 5

September, 2007

### Inside this issue:

Plebanianism	1
Glory of God	1
Glory of God (Cont.)	2
We Love Children	2
Victory of Life	2
Two Poems	3
Praise Weekend	4

## Plebanianism And Church Polity

*Plebanianism* is a word used by Roman Catholicism to designate a church which has rule over other churches, so a recent article in a church paper explained. This theology comes from the prominent Catholic doctrine of Apostolic Succession and abuses biblical church polity.

In biblical church polity, each church has a right to conduct its business according to its own leadership from the Holy Spirit, and no other church has any authority over that church to make or change any policy whether it be proper or improper policy.

Some Baptists seem to believe that, if we as Baptists believe and teach the succession of true churches down through history, we are practicing Plebanianism. This is not true.

When a few members of a church of the Lord Jesus Christ desire to have their own church, they cannot usurp the authority of their own church by simply proclaiming that they are a church, leaving their membership unchecked and loose at their own church. They must in some way get their membership from their own church to the new church.

Just as all other work in God's vineyard is done through the auspices of a local New Testament church, so is starting a new church done under the same auspices.

The doctrine of Apostolic Authority claims that apostles pass authority from one person to another and from one generation to another. This is not what happens in organizing a new church. Church authority is not passed from one church to another, therefore continuing that line of authority. Rather, God gives authority to the new church as the

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Service Schedule

- Sunday School, 10 AM
- Sunday Worship, 11 AM
- Sunday Night, 6 PM
- Wednesday Night, 7 PM

## The Glory of God

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

Psalm 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

### The Heavens Declare His Glory

Every time we look into the heavens, we see the glory of God. It shines out like a great beam of bright light as we try to comprehend his person, understand his love,

and contemplate his might. We should be thankful to a God who is greater than the heavens and whose glory makes the heavens glad. 1 Chron. 16:31 *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.*

### God's Glory Is Shown In His Secrets

Prov. 25:2 *It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.*

God does not spend his time searching out knowledge—God is not a scientist. God can only dispense knowledge—he cannot acquire knowledge.

But as for the glory of man, it is to search out

*(Continued on page 2)*

Age is a quality of mind;  
 If you've left your  
 Dreams behind,  
 If hope is cold,  
 If you no longer look ahead  
 If your ambitious fires  
 Are dead,  
 Then, you are old.

**We may be the  
 church you are  
 looking for! Try us  
 and see.  
 If you are a  
 previous visitor and  
 have stopped  
 attending, we miss  
 you. Come back  
 and visit again!**

### Victory In Life

Lord Bulwer's life was a succession of failures, crowned with final triumph. His first novel was a failure; his first drama was a failure; so were his first speeches and poems. But he fought both defeat and ridicule and finally won a place with Thackeray and Dickens.

Franklin, Patrick Henry, Clay, Jackson, Douglas, Lincoln, Grant, all were sons of poor parents. They faced many obstacles, but they finally surmounted them successfully.

## The Glory of God (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

knowledge. We must learn things, experience things, and study things. That is our glory. Solomon searched it all, and he concluded that all is vanity and vexation of spirit. This is the way with man: 2 Tim. 3:7 *Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

### We Have All Come Short Of His Glory

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

The reason that we cannot understand God's glory is that we have all come short of it. We have missed the mark—we have not hit bulls eye.

What a shame to come short of the glory of God! The verb here shows us that we presently and continually come short of the glory of God. The verse does not say "have come short of the glory of God," but "come short of the glory of God." We miss so many blessings because of our lack of meeting God's standard. We are only depraved human beings, but God has brought us to his glory in salvation.

### We Are To Do All To His Glory

1 Cor. 10:31 *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

We are reaching beyond what we can attain. We are

servicing God in a human body and with human restrictions and limitations; but God requires us to do all to his glory. This is the standard that God has set for us.

### God Has Shone His Glory In Us

2 Cor. 4:6 *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

We have the knowledge of his glory only through Jesus Christ. Our hearts were dark, but now they are light. They were lost, now they are saved. They were blind, but now they see. We have the knowledge of the glory of God, which shines in the face of Jesus Christ. Our hearts are now saved, thanks be unto the glory of God which shined in our hearts.

### One Day We Will See The Glory Of God

Rev. 21:9 *And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear*

as crystal;

Rev. 21:23 *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

### One Must Believe To See God's Glory

John 11:40 *Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?*

If we believe, then we can see the glory of God. You saw it when you were saved. You can see it as you live a Christian life if you will truly believe as you live in this world.

Faith as a grain of mustard seed is enough—only believe. All things are possible if we believe. This is the glory of God.

You cannot see the glory of God at all no matter how much you try unless you believe on him.

Acts 16:31 *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*



**You cannot bring up  
 your children in the nur-  
 ture of the Lord without  
 bringing them to church**

**WE LOVE CHILDREN**

## Two Poems

### Good-bye World

Funeral of Danny Dennis - June 13, 2007  
By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

The passing world has lost its luster  
And the mundane things have passed.  
My mind has gone a-wondering  
T'ward my final home at last.

Seems the beauty I once harbored  
And the joy I once employed  
Are gently fading with the hours  
With the world I once enjoyed

Coming soon my home in Heaven  
And the fellowship divine.  
From the Savior's invitation  
In my heart to "come and dine."

Peace I have and no regretting  
Stepping off this world mundane,  
Climbing gracefully to Heaven  
With my Savior there to reign.

Good-bye world and all its troubles  
Soon I'll bid to you farewell.  
In my new home I'll be harbored  
In a place so far from Hell.

Good-bye world and hello Jesus  
Take my spirit, take it now.  
I will come to you in praises  
In your presence humbly bow.

### Looking Death In The Face

Funeral of Everett Pence - August 14, 2007  
By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

Today I looked at death in the face.  
"Ah," he said, "one day soon I will come for you."  
"No," I said, "you will not."

When my body is weak, my eyes are dim, and my  
heart is slow, You may visit me,  
But when these eyes are blind, these ears are deaf,  
and this heart is cold, You will be imprisoned in the  
grave with my body,

But I will not be there.  
You must stay there in the morning dew,  
The heat of noon, at dusk, and in the frost of the  
night,  
But not I!

I will be in Glory Land  
Where I shall never die,  
And you must wait here in the grave until my Savior  
comes to raise my body And snatch it from your  
clutches.

And you must stay behind to answer your own call to  
destruction. The victory is mine!"  
Yes, I looked at death in the face,  
And he stared back at me.  
He could not answer my hope nor understand my joy.  
I just stood there, and he left me ... for a while.

## Plebanianism And Church Polity

(Continued from page 1)

first church releases the membership of those members desiring to begin a new church. The authority does not come from one church to another but from God himself through the pattern set down in scripture.

Until these members are released from membership, the first church has authority over them as members by their own permission by submitting to that authority when they came into the church. They cannot dismiss that authority lightly or haphazardly. Just as a person cannot become a member of a church by simply announcing that he is a member, neither can he dismiss himself from a church simply because he announces that he is a member of another church.

Plebanianism takes church authority too far

and confuses church polity, depending upon man's wisdom to carry on the tradition of the Catholic Church rather



than depending upon the Spirit of God.

Jesus is the Head of his churches; man is not. He must wield the final authority, not man and not the churches. Let's leave the authority with Jesus Christ, the Head, and practice the patterns set down in scripture to give him all the glory.

1 Cor. 10:31 *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

-Pastor Ronnie Wolfe



PRAISE WEEKEND

### PRAISE WEEKEND

November 16-17, 2007

7:00 PM

Richland Quartet Singing

Mark Poiles Preaching

Bring Family & Friends

**We're on the Web**  
**Firstharrison.org**

### The Baptist Defence

First Baptist Church  
P. O. Box 201  
Harrison, OH 45030-0201

### RETURN SERVICE

### REQUESTED

Non-profit Organization  
U. S. Postage

PAID

Harrison, Ohio  
45030  
Permit #101