

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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## **You're Too Smart for That**

**By John C. Robertson**

Thursday evening I spent time with Herb and Estelle Sims at the Kell West Hospital. Herb is suffering from pneumonia and congestive heart failure but seems to be recovering quite well. While in the room, Herb's heart doctor came in to give a report on his condition. The doctor was a tall man with a thick Indian accent. As he began to tell Herb about his condition, well you know what's coming; Herb began to tell the doctor all about garlic. It wasn't long before the doctor knew a whole lot about Herb's service in the Marines, his love for the horns in marching bands, and his regiment of exercises. The patient doctor replied, "He has a lot of memories... this is good!" The doctor proceeded to ask Herb about drinking alcohol and smoking. Herb replied, "Don't do it... it's against my religion." This sparked a religious conversation between the doctor, Herb, and me. The doctor wanted to know if we considered it a sin to take alcohol for medicinal purposes. He proceeded to tell us that he was a member of the First Baptist church here in Wichita Falls. As I quizzed him on the one church and the Baptist's beliefs on salvation, he replied, "As long as one believes that Jesus is the Christ he is ok no matter what church he attends." I asked him about the current divisions that exists among all the denominational bodies... doesn't this seem to contradict I Corinthians 1:10? The patient doctor's reply was that this should not be seeing that all believe in Jesus and the trinity (i.e., the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). The Doctor then proceeded to tell us about Ezekiel's prophecy of a coming nuclear disaster (I didn't get a chance in the conversation to tell him that he was seriously misguided on such a thought).

The Doctor had very good qualities about him. He seemed to genuinely care and be interested in Herb, Estelle, I, and Aryelle (she was with us) than one would expect from a busy doctor. He was very patient and seemed to enjoy our conversation. As I drove home that night I pondered the conversation. What words could I have said better that would have caused the Indian doctor to seek out the truth? I concluded that such a man was just too smart to be talking about faith only and Ezekiel's prophecy of an atomic bomb hitting earth in the future. If only more people would consider the Bible as carefully as they consider their secular work they would come to a precise knowledge of truth.

I left the Baptists church at the age of 23 (1989). I had been studying the Bible quite a bit. One of the requirements for all forestry majors at Stephen F. Austin State University was a summer field station (an 8 hour

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

**Herb Sims** went back into the emergency room this past Thursday due to difficulties with his breathing. He was diagnosed with pneumonia and congestive heart failure. He is currently at Kell West Hospital room 105 and doing very well.

**Thomas and April** will be making a trip to OK City in the next few weeks to have some test run on their new born son **Benjamin**. Keep them all in your prayers.

Please remember **Nina Gray and Pam Husak** in your prayers as they are continuing their health struggles.

### Last Sunday of the Month Singing Tonight!

If you would like to have a favorite song sung tonight get with one of the men who lead singing.

### Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

**Bessie Murphy**  
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

summer session of intense class and field work). At night, I would lay on the top bunk reading the Bible while my roommate, Victor Cordova, lay below. I would tell him about the things I was reading... it excited me. Victor thought I was a religious nut; however, he respected my interest in the Bible. The more I read the more I learned and the more I learned the more I questioned the Baptists faith. I eventually left the Baptists church and became a member of the church of Christ after a series of visits and memberships to the Presbyterian, Methodists, Catholic, and back to Baptists again stints. All in all my religious quest for truth took about 9 years (i.e., from my junior high days of walking to various churches up through college days at the Oak Grove Baptists church in Nacogdoches Texas). I have never considered myself very sharp as far as intelligence goes. The only reason I graduated from College was due to an intense effort (most of my friends seem to effortlessly breeze through school). My point is that if I can find truth and make the distinction between it and a lie most all of the world can (except, of course, for the mentally handicapped).

Herb's doctor is too smart to be misled by the religious ideas of man. One must ask where faith originates. The apostle Paul told Timothy, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work*" (II Tim. 3:16-17). If faith originates with the word of God why not turn to it for answers to all spiritual matters? The Bible tells us that there is only one faith and one church (Eph. 4:1-4 compared to Eph. 1:22-23). God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33). Confusion; nonetheless, exists in the religious world. Just ask the Baptists what one must do to obtain salvation and then ask the Catholics, Methodists, and Presbyterians. There is a plethora of answers given for any given religious question. Most Baptists I have ever known believe that once they have been saved they are always going to be saved no matter what they do in this life (i.e., the Calvinistic theory of "Impossibility of Apostasy"). Through history, many men have taught varying doctrines that are responsible for confusing people. Whether it be Muhammad, Calvin, Joseph Smith, Rutherford, or even a church of Christ preacher if their doctrines do not parallel the Word of God they should not be believed. Paul said, "*Take heed lest there shall be any one that makes spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ*" (Col. 2:8). To find one's self in the Baptists church at a certain point of life and think that it is impossible that you have been misled is the height of arrogance. I challenge you to begin reading your Bible. The more you read your Bible the more you will find that the denomination you are attending is in error.

Herb's doctor said that he was proficient in teaching and debating. If he believes so strongly in the Baptist's faith would he be willing to debate its errors. I aver that Baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). I aver that a Christian can so live as to lose his salvation. I aver that the Baptists church is in error for their acts of worship (their system of one "Pastor" that the good doctor spoke of). Would the kind and patient doctor be willing to debate any of these issues? I plan to give him this bulletin.

# Final Words for the Year 2007

## Introduction:

Today marks the final Sunday in the year 2007. What type of final words for this year would you say to the world of sinners and to brethren who would give an ear? My final words for the year 2007 will be heard by you this morning. I would like to use this time to review some things that you and I have learned in our studies this year.

## I. The Bible teaches about Eternity:

- A. The Bible is unlike any book I have ever read. I can read other books for entertainment, put them down upon completion, and move on to something totally different. The finished book served its purpose... it entertained me.
- B. The Bible however, is a book that teaches eternal principles for a people who desire an eternity with God (see II Pet. 1:10-11).
- C. God has placed within the nature of man a knowledge of eternity and it is something thereby that we gain purpose and satisfaction from out of this life (see Eccl. 3:11).
- D. Eternal heaven and eternal hell exists and you know it!

## II. Are You Convicted of the Bible Truths?

- A. Many today are simply going through the motions of spirituality as though they think that if they can fool their parents they can fool the Lord God Almighty on the Day of Judgment.
- B. Convicted people are those who are “convinced... a fixed or strong belief” (AHD 320) in the reality of God, judgment, heaven, and hell. This strong belief has as its origin one’s good nature that God created within:
  - 1. You are created with the innate knowledge that there is an eternity (Eccl. 3:11).
  - 2. You are created with the innate ability to observe your surroundings and conclude that God exists (Rom. 1:18-20).
  - 3. You are created with the innate knowledge of right and wrong ways (see Rom. 2:12-16).
  - 4. You and I are created to be good and holy (Gen. 1:31; Lev. 11:44-45; I Pet. 1:16).
  - 5. It stands to reason that divine revelation should greatly appeal to man seeing that it explains the things that man knows by nature (Rom. 3:1-3)
- C. Convicted people see the value of holding to the truth and nothing but the truth (Acts 4:12; Col. 3:17).
- D. Convicted people see that God does not tolerate erroneous teaching and thereby they purpose within their heart to inflexibly stand and oppose any doctrines that contradict divine revelation (Deut. 20:16-18; Matt. 7:15ff; Gal. 2:3-5; II Pet. 2:1ff; Jude 7-14; Rev. 12:3-11) (when you read these do you burn with a sense of conviction?).
- E. Are you convicted of truth?

## III, Do you believe, love, and fear God?

- A. So many today claim a **faith** in God (see Jn. 3:36).
- B. So many today claim to **love** God (Jn. 14:15).
- C. So many today claim to be “God **fearing**” (Deut. 5:29; 6:1-2; Titus 3:8; I Pet. 1:17).

## Conclusion:

Ok, you have now heard my Final words for 2007. Let me summarize: When I look back over all our studies in 2007 I conclude that there has never been a time in my life when I have been more convicted of truth than now. I know that there is an eternity, Day of Judgment coming, Heaven and Hell. I know that my adherence to truth will save me from the awful consequences of sin. I know that God is and that He loves me. I do believe, fear, and love God. I want more than anything to experience eternal exaltation and glorification with God!

