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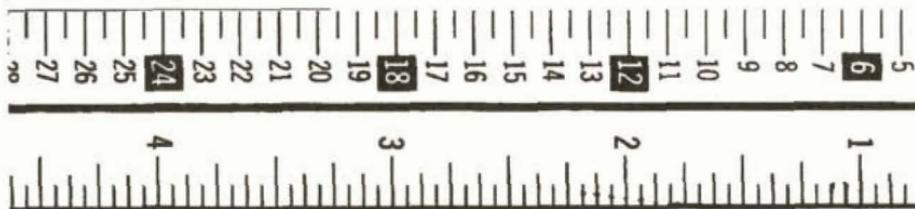
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# 12 Rules of Happiness

- 1. Live a simple life.** Don't plan too many things each day. Be moderate and temperate in your lifestyle.
- 2. Spend less than you earn.** This may be difficult to do, but it pays big dividends in contentment and peace of mind.
- 3. Think constructively.** Store useful thoughts in your mind. As one thinks in his heart, so is he.
- 4. Cultivate a flexible disposition.** Resist the tendency to want your own way. Try to see another person's viewpoint.
- 5. Be grateful.** Begin each day with a prayer of thanksgiving for all your blessings. Let God know you are grateful.
- 6. Rule your moods.** Your mental attitude is all-important in living at peace with others.
- 7. Give generously.** Intelligent giving of your time, talents, personality, and money will bring great joy.
- 8. Work with the right motives.** Seek to grow in favor with God and man, seeking His will first in your life.
- 9. Be interested in others.** In our service to others, we reap happiness as a by-product of a life of self-giving.
- 10. Make the most of today.** Use it wisely so you may look back on it without regret.
- 11. Take time for a hobby.** Time spent on leisure interests should bring you diversion and relaxation.
- 12. Stay close to God.** Enduring happiness depends on continuing spiritual nourishment. As God's children, we have His promise of constant love and care.

## THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL

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### 23 EDITIONS

**"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).**

# GROUNDED IN THE FAITH

J. C. CHOATE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



In the first century, in order for one to be saved it was necessary to hear the gospel [that is, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, as described in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4] (Mark 16:15; Romans 10:17) so that faith might be produced in the heart (Romans 10:10; Hebrews 11:6). This led him to repent of his sins

(Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30), to confess that Christ was the Son of God (Acts 8:37; Matthew 10:32), and to be baptized to have the forgiveness of sins or to be saved. (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16).

There are eleven cases of conversion in the Book of Acts, confirming that these are the things God asks people to do to be saved. Read through that book and see for yourself. You will see that in the beginning of the church there was only one way to be saved, and there is only one way to be saved now.

We must study and understand what God says in His word. Salvation is not based on ignorance and error, but on knowledge and obedience to the truth. One does not accidentally become a Christian and a member of the Lord's church. He does not wake up one day to discover that *somehow, mysteriously*, he is a child of God and in the Lord's family. Rather, he has learned the truth and he knows exactly what he did in his obedience to God.

This might sound over-simplified and too basic, but the Lord deals with all kinds of people at all levels of learning ability. He made the gospel and the plan of salvation so simple that any person in his right mind could understand and respond to it. The prophet put it like this, "*And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein*" (Isaiah 35:8).

In hearing, understanding, and complying with God's will, one becomes solidly planted and grounded in the truth. He becomes a member of Christ's church which is built upon the firm foundation, the rock, Jesus Christ. (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11).

In the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, Jesus stressed the fact that it was not enough for the seed to be planted, though that was very necessary. In order for it to produce a worthwhile harvest it had to fall into good hearts and it had to grow to maturity.

Spiritual seed that is planted must be nurtured so that it will survive and thrive. Only then is the harvest possible. In the life of the Christian, he must not only be saved initially, but he must remain saved. Therefore, after one obeys those basic commands which bring salvation, he must continue to follow Christ and to obey His teaching, being faithful to Him unto death. (Revelation 2:10).

This means that Christians must be **grounded in the faith**. Paul wrote these words to the brethren at Colosse: *"If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister"* (Colossians 1:23).

But what does it mean to be

grounded in the faith? It means, first, that one has built upon Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone. And it means that he has become a member of the church which is, itself, the pillar and ground [support] of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:15).

Now that he is a Christian, it means that he is to continue to read and study God's word that he might grow thereby. It means that his soul is anchored in God's will, that he has every intention of being faithful to the Lord. He knows who he is, what he is, what to teach, how he is to live, and where he is going. There are no doubts, no compromises. He is not perfect, but he is following the One who is perfect. In Christ, he is on the narrow way that leads to heaven.

Unless one is grounded in the faith he will be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14), and will become unfaithful in time of trial. Such a person cannot be depended on, and the Lord's church will be weakened by him. On the other hand, one who is grounded in the truth is dependable, faithful, ready unto every good work. He wants not only to be saved but to remain saved, to stand for the truth, to set a good example, to bear good fruit, and finally to go to heaven.

Those who are grounded in the faith will make the difference. They will change the world. Are you grounded in the faith? †



# ARE WE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE?

**Byron Nichols**  
Managing Editor

Jesus invites all mankind to come to Him, to be His followers, (Matthew 11:28-30). But He does more than *invite*, He *calls* us. He doesn't just extend a casual invitation; rather, He asks, entreats, implores. He truly *wants* everyone to accept His invitation.

Unlike so many others, though, Jesus is totally honest and forthright. He tells us right at the beginning that there is a price to pay if we accept His invitation.

Since there is a cost, we need to count that cost before making our commitment to Jesus. However, we may have already become a follower of His before realizing just what would be involved in such a relationship. Whatever our situation is, we need to periodically "count the cost," reminding ourselves of our part of the agreement that we made with Him. We may find ourselves asking, "Am I willing to pay the price?" If we are not, we need to consider what our alternatives, if any, are.

The cost of being Jesus' disciples is spelled out for us by Jesus Himself in such passages as Matthew 16:24-26; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23-26,57-62; 14:25-33. After carefully reading these Scriptures, we must ask: "Am I willing to **deny myself, take up my cross** (even daily), and **follow Him**?"

Among other things, one who follows Jesus is subject to ridicule, rejection, misrepresentation, disappointment, and discouragement. (1) **Ridicule** is likely one of the more difficult things that a Christian is called upon to endure. No one likes to be the subject of sarcasm, disdain, contempt, scorn, or mockery — but this sometimes comes with identifying oneself with Jesus Christ, who Himself was subjected to much more reproach than any of us

will ever witness. **(2) Rejection.** Trying to live like and for Jesus can sometimes cause us to be cast out by former friends and associates, relatives, co-workers, etc. Our task then is to decide who is most important to us. In deciding, it is well for us to remember that Jesus said His followers must put Him first, ahead of friends, material goods, even our dearest family members. **(3) Misrepresentation.** Isn't it hard when folks depict us in ways that are unfair and unjust! Yet, Jesus became very familiar with this kind of treatment, and He said that *"a disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master"* (Matthew 10:24). **(4) Disappointment** is part of following Jesus. People and events occasionally (or even frequently) disappoint us in that we don't always see the traits of Jesus in others, and we don't understand when it seems that God is no longer really in charge. He seems to be allowing bad people to be in control and bad things to happen. **(5) Discouragement.** It most certainly can be disheartening and discouraging when we see that good does not always prevail over evil, when we see even our brethren in Christ at times not living as they should, yet they oftentimes are more accepted and highly regarded than others who are trying hard to live as Jesus teaches in His Word. Yes, if we are truly His followers, we will even suffer persecution. *"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution"* (2 Timothy 3:12).

Following Jesus involves a cross — **our** cross. It involves surrender, and this is never easy. It is always difficult to forsake our own will in favor of the will of another, but Jesus says that this is part of the price. We cannot have the Christ of the cross without the cross of self-denial.

The devil is not going to allow it to be easy to serve the Lord (1 Peter 5:8; 1 Corinthians 10:12). This is part of the price to be paid. Let us remember, though, that we are not in this situation all by ourselves. The words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 ought to be a real source of encouragement and rejuvenation for the disciples of Christ. Paul says that God is the source of all comfort, giving comfort in the midst of tribulation. He even states that sufferings can bring about consolation and salvation. Remember, too, that every temptation by Satan is accompanied by a way of escape, courtesy of God (1 Corinthians 10:13). In addition, Jesus has promised to be with His followers *"always, even to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20).

Yes, it does cost to be a Christian, and we need to consider that cost, but we need to also consider the cost of **not** being a Christian.

Christian friends, we made a commitment — let's keep it. Non-Christian friends, you need desperately to make the commitment. You can keep it. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will do their part in helping you to keep it. You can do it. Do it.

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### THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL

Please help us to spread the word about **THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL**, to others in the church as well as to share it among friends and loved ones who are not yet a part of the Lord's church. Send it to your missionaries and Bible students overseas. Feedback continually tells us how much good it is doing. *Help it to do more.* **JCC**

## The Answering of Prayer

Betty Burton Choate

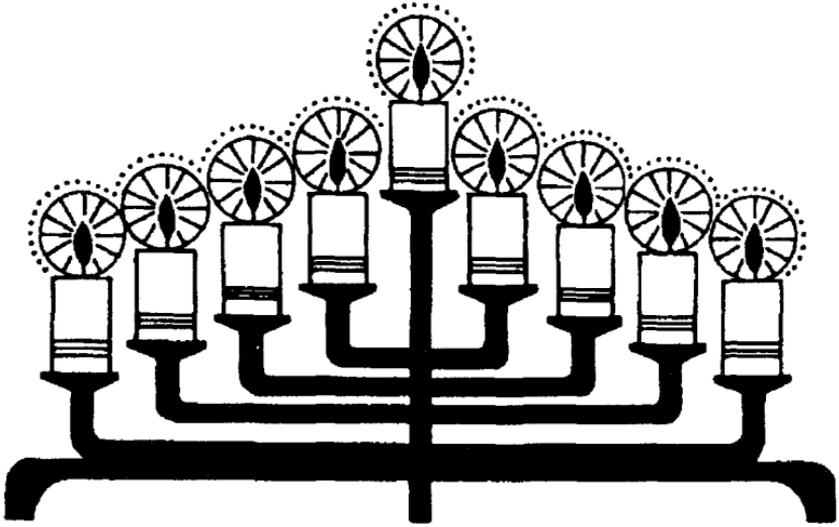
I prayed for patience  
And frustration came my way!  
I prayed for strength  
And could hardly bear  
The burden of the day;  
I prayed for faith  
But there were challenges instead,  
And I questioned:  
"Should I have left  
unanswered prayers unsaid?"

Tired,  
Dispirited,  
I closed my eyes in tears,  
Doubting at the last  
That the Father really hears,  
But the rising of the sun  
Brought new clarity of sight  
And swept away the questions  
Of the stillness of the night.

For frustrations made a patient  
growth  
And the burdens doubled strength,  
And faith had bloomed through  
challenges  
That had pushed me to the brink.

So I bowed with tears of happiness  
To thank Him for His care,  
For the wisdom of His molding  
Through the answering of prayer.  
(James 1:2-8)

— A world Apart



# Jesus Illuminates Life

Randall Caselman

Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, also known as the Festival of Lights. It was a Jewish celebration in remembrance of God's guidance and care of their forefathers during the wilderness wanderings. The celebration culminated with a giant candelabra being lit in the Temple courtyard. It was against this background that Jesus said, "*I am the light of the world.*" Then, during the triumphant entry, He says, "*I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should ever have to live in dark-*

*ness.*"

How does His being light impact our lives?

**Things cannot be hidden in the Light.** When Jesus illuminates our lives we see ourselves as we really are, not as we think we are. Jesus is the Word, Jesus is truth. Jesus is our model of right and wrong. When we hold our life up to the light of Jesus, only then do we see ourselves as we really are, sinners in need of forgiveness. We see our wrong attitudes, our sinful thoughts, words, and actions. Paul tells us that when we contemplate

## God

the Lord's glory, we become changed people. We become like Him. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect (contemplate) the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord. It was James who said that looking into the Light, the Word, the perfect law of liberty, is like looking into a mirror. We see ourselves as we are. Scripture teaches us that we must not compare ourselves with ourselves, but compare ourselves with the Light.

### **Jesus lights the way to God.**

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father except by me . . . If you know me you know the Father"* (John 14:6,7). We must know that there is no relationship with God outside of Jesus. God has chosen His Son as the means to reconcile the world to Himself. *"There is no other name given among men, under heaven, whereby we can be saved"* (Acts 4:12). Paul told Agrippa that God had commissioned him to open the eyes of the Gentiles, so that we might turn from darkness to the light and receive the forgiveness of our sins.

**Jesus illuminates the difficult paths.** God never promised life without troubles, trials, and problems. What He did promise us is His presence and Light for guid-

ance. David knew this when he wrote, *"The Lord is my shepherd,"* and *"Thy word is a light to my feet and a lamp to my path."* Jesus illuminates our difficult times in two ways; one by experience, having been there before us, and two, by accompanying us in that walk. *"I will be with you always . . . I will never leave or forsake you."*

**Light and growth are corollaries.** Where there is light, growth is possible. If you doubt this, plant your garden on the north side of the house. A strong faith, deep commitment, genuine spirituality belongs to those who allow Jesus to illumine their life. John says, *"In Christ there is life, because He is the light of men."* The Hebrews writer pictures some as being weak, immature, and babes because they are not growing in their knowledge of His Word.

**Light can be reflected.** When Jesus illuminates our life others will see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven (Matthew 5:16). No, we are not the light, we are a reflection. Paul admonished the Philippian church to shine like stars in the universe. We must let Jesus be seen in us by having His heart. *"Let the mind that was in Christ be in you"* (Philippians 2:5).

**Light has its limits.** There exists two ways in which light is limited. One is when we place our-

## GOD

selves and personal wants before the wishes of Jesus. We limit the reflection. Who limits good works, Bible study, prayers, faith, commitment, generous giving, and evangelism in my life and yours? Only self. Think about it! Secondly, one day God will limit light. The night comes when man cannot work. Death limits light. Work while it is yet day. Today is the day of salvation, now is the right time.

**Light forgives sin.** Good news! *"For if we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Christ cleanses us from all our sins"* (1 John 1:7). This is what I need. How about you?

Let Jesus illumine your life. †

**Randall Caselman is the preacher for the church of Christ in Bella Vista, Arkansas, U.S.A.**



### What Is Peace?

It is a calmness  
when the trials press;  
It is a confidence  
that God knows best;  
It is a gentleness  
that's undisturbed;  
It is a holy hush  
that's unperturbed;  
It is a quiet trust as on we plod;  
It is a sweet reliance on our God!  
— George B. Adams

### Is Christ's Blood Necessary?

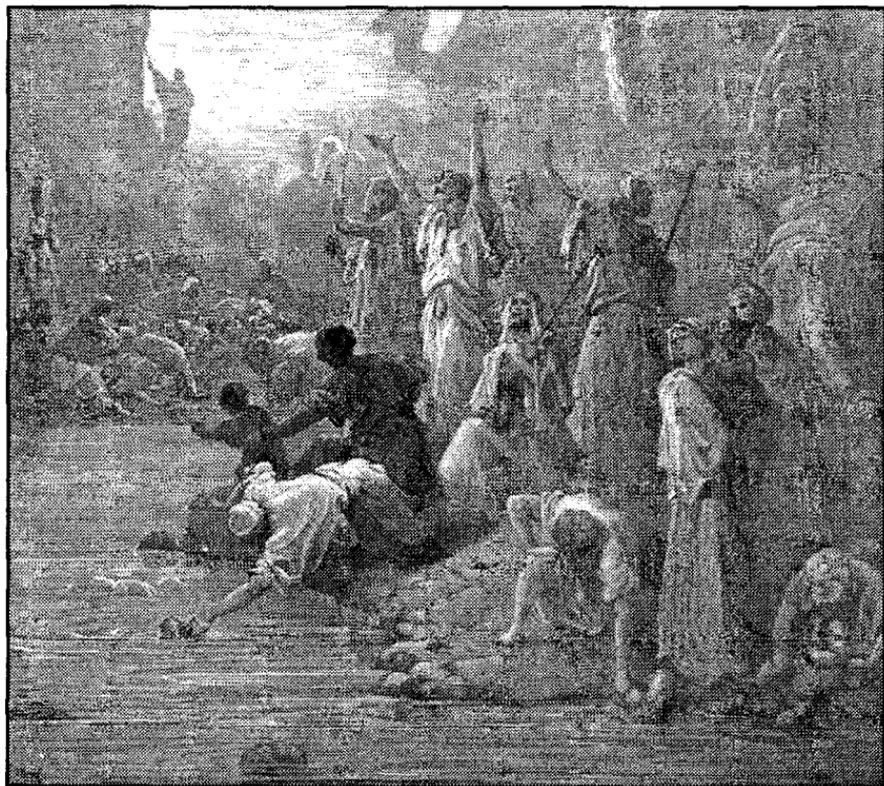
Often people reason, "If I am good and if I treat others well, that is enough. I don't have to follow any particular religion."

But the Scriptures say otherwise: *"...almost all things are purged [cleansed] with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission"* (Hebrews 9:22).

*"In Him [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins..."* (Ephesians 1:7). Revelation 1:5 declares the rich grace of Christ, *"...who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood."*

Is Christ's blood necessary? Yes, *"...if we walk in the light [of truth] as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His [God's] Son cleanses us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7). We can't be 'good enough' to remove one stain of sin. Only the perfection of Christ's blood can do that.

**Next Week: What does 'forgiveness' mean?**



# The Great Provider

**Jeril (Polly) Cline**

It is now three days since the Egyptian army drowned. The Song of Moses and the songs of Israel may still be on the lips of a few Israelites, but the people are in the wilderness of Shur and can find no water. Grumbling has displaced exaltation and praise. Their greatest concern is "What shall we drink?"

And the Lord sweetens the bitter waters of Marah (Exodus 15).

One month to the day since their departure from the land of Egypt, the congregation of the sons of Israel come to the wilderness of Sin. *"And the whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the*

## GOD

wilderness" (Exodus 16:2).

*"Would that we had died by the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (Exodus 16:3).*

The Lord hears their grumbling and tells Moses, *"Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction" (Exodus 16:4).*

So Moses and Aaron gather all the sons of Israel and say, *"At evening you will know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, for He hears your grumbings against the Lord" (Exodus 16:6,7).*

*"So it came about at evening that the quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew evaporated, behold, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flake-like thing . . . and when the sons of Israel saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?'" (Exodus 16:13-15).*

Daily provisions from God, this was also on the heart of our Lord while He lived on the earth. ". . .

*give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11).*

Who is this Great Provider, and can we trust that He is able to take care of our needs, this many years away from those struggling Israelites?

To meet the needs of Moses and three to four million ex-slaves on a daily basis would require a lot of food!

✘ According to the Quartermaster General in the U. S. Army, it is reported that Moses would have had to have **1,500 tons of food each day!** To transport that much food would take *two freight trains each a mile long.*

✘ Being out in the desert, they would have had to have firewood to cook the food. This would take **4,000 tons** of wood and a few more trains each a mile long, **for one day.** Just think what this becomes if multiplied by *365 days and 40 years!*

✘ Oh, yes, they would have had to have water. If they had only enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take **11,000,000 gallons each day,** and a freight train with *tank cars, 1,800 miles long* just to bring water. There were no lakes and few wells in the wilderness where they walked.

## GOD

✱ And another thing, when the Israelites had fled Egypt, they had to cross the Red Sea in one night. Now, if they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would have been 800 miles long and would have required 35 days and nights for the crossing. So there had to be a space in the Red Sea **three miles wide for them to walk 5,000 abreast to get over in one night!**

Do you believe Moses figured out all of this before he left Egypt? No, he *believed in God* and *trusted Him* to take care of their daily needs. God commanded, and Moses obeyed.

Now, what about me? Do I grumble and complain, or pray and praise? How is it in my home? Is God **my God**? Am I **His** person?

Do I daily take Him as my own?  
Do I thank Him for His great provisions?

It was not easy to lead the people of Israel out of bondage, physically or psychologically. They would need teaching and testing once they were free. The wilderness became their great training ground to see if they would allow God to be their God and if they would become His people. He longed for them to make the right choice.

. . . and me? **What is my land of bondage? Where is my testing and training ground? Am I making the right choice, daily?** †

**Jeril (Polly) Cline is a writer and preacher's wife living in Blue Ridge, Georgia, U.S.A.**

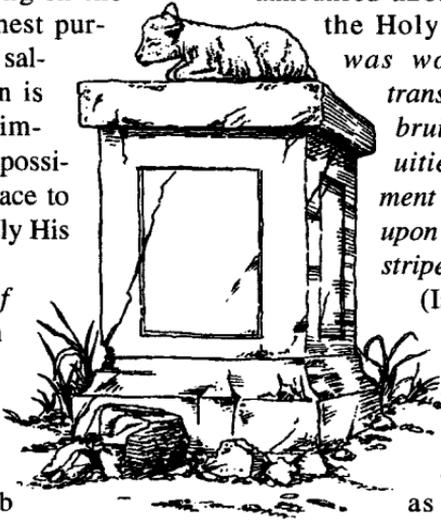
**Great and marvelous are Your works,  
Lord God Almighty!  
Just and true are Your ways,  
O King of the saints!  
Who shall not fear You, O Lord,  
and glorify Your name?  
For You alone are holy.  
For all nations shall come and worship before You,  
For Your judgments have been manifested.**

— Revelation 15:3,4

## GOD

Christ's coming in the flesh is God's highest purpose in His plan of salvation. Fallen man is not able to save himself. God made it possible for the human race to have a Savior, namely His Son Jesus Christ.

"*The Lamb of God*" is God's own offering for sin to satisfy His righteousness, to save a sinful mankind. The Passover lamb



announced through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, "*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed*"

(Isaiah 53:5). The very same man of God spoke about the Christ who would come at the proper time as "*the lamb of*

# BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD

Hans J. Dederscheck

in Exodus 12:1-30 reminded Israel of a great salvation. This Old Testament practice was a shadow whose reality now is Christ, "*the Lamb of God*" (John 1:29,36). When Paul spoke about Christ in 1 Corinthians 5:7, he said, "*Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.*"

Approximately 800 years before the coming of Christ on earth a great prophet of God named Isaiah

*God.*" "*. . . he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth*" (Isaiah 53:7). Even more, John wrote in his Revelation, "*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*" (Revelation 13:8).

Jesus Christ, as the Lamb of God, was innocent. His life was not touched with sin (Hebrews 4:15; 1

## GOD

Peter 2:22). So, the life of the Son of God is our example (1 Peter 2:21). Paul insisted that he imitated Christ's life, and so Christians can follow Paul's example in life and deeds (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Though undisciplined souls accused Him of being a sinner, the Lamb's life was white as snow and pure in every aspect (John 8:46). As we read through the Gospel accounts, the testimony of humans who knew Him show that no reasonable man ever found a fault with our Lord's life:

*"Then Judas, which had betrayed him . . . [said], I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood" (Matthew 27:4).*

*"Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man" (Luke 23:4).*

*"When he (Pilate) was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him" (Matthew 27:19).*

Like a lamb, Jesus was **gentle**. A prophet of the Lord said, *"He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street" (Isaiah 42:2)*. The Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God, never refused a penitent human being (John 8:3-11). Only when gentleness would not reclaim the wayward did He mani-

fest anger (Matthew 21:12,13).

Like a lamb in Old Testament times, Christ was a **sin offering** (Hebrews 10:4-8). *"But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Hebrews 9:26)*. *"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10)*. And so Christ, through His own offering as a lamb for people's sins, shed His blood for many for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28).

Our Lord, like a lamb, was **meek**. He said, *"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30)*. The Word of God tells us that Jesus was *"led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth" (Acts 8:32)*.

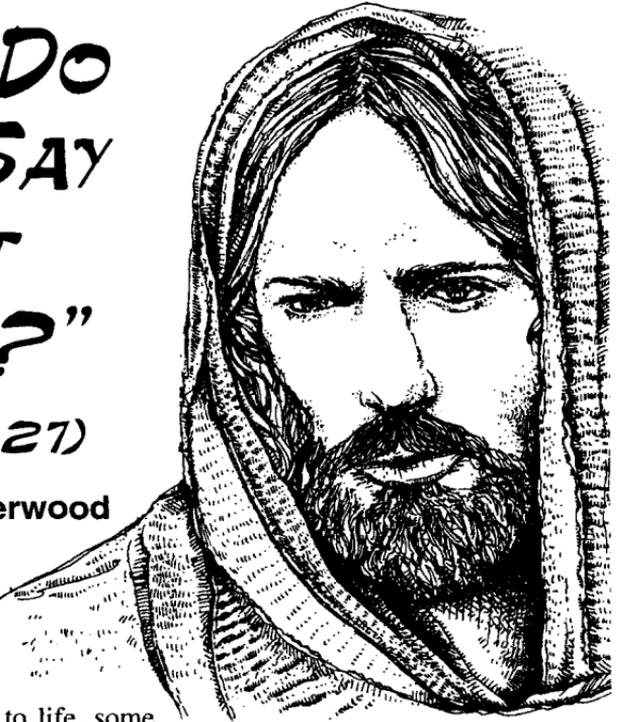
And finally, we see the Lord **submissive** to God and His will: *"Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42)*. †

**Hans J. Dederscheck is an evangelist in Austria.**

**“WHO DO  
MEN SAY  
THAT  
I AM?”**

**(MARK 8:27)**

**Philip J. Sherwood**



The world was vague and uncertain as to who Jesus was. Some said He was John the Baptist raised to life, some said Jesus was Elias or one of the prophets (Mark 8:28). Then Jesus asked the disciples, “*Who do you say that I am?*” (verse 29). Peter replied, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*” (Matthew 16:15). The disciples spoke out of faith, a faith that was transforming them. Jesus’ question was not asked out of ignorance of what the people thought, but to get the disciples to declare their faith and to confirm and strengthen their belief.

Who do we say that Jesus is? A man from history, a good man, a prophet? Is He a part of our life? Is He our Lord and Master? What we think in answer to this question is important, because our actions will be governed by our belief of who Jesus is. If we think He was only a good man, or maybe a prophet, our belief about sin, righteousness, and judgment will not be convicting.

If we think, like Peter, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, then our lives will be governed by the Word of God. After all, where do we go to hear the words of eternal life? “*Then Simon Peter answered*

## GOD

him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life'' (John 6:68). Where shall we find a more gracious master, a more powerful redeemer, a more suitable savior? Only the Bible has all the answers for every part of our lives, what we see, say, think, where we go, and what we do. We must remember that the Bible has set out the commands that we must believe and obey in order to receive the eternal life which has been promised by God.

Many disciples left Jesus when His teaching was hard to comprehend. We need to be careful not to give up when we hear things that seem difficult to understand. Our eternal life depends on our persistent faithfulness to the Son of God: only He has the words of life. Many philosophers try to give us new ideas and opinions concerning our origin, life, and fate, but when they differ from the message of the Scriptures they bring disaster — death, hell, and eternal misery!

The apostles' knowledge, developed during years of living with Jesus, seeing His works, and hearing the truths He taught, provided stability for their faith. We have the Scriptures to give us this knowledge, and we can have faith in them and so have faith in Christ. *"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name"* (John 20:31).

When Jesus asked the disciples the question, *"Who do you say that I am?"* He was questioning them concerning their belief. He was turning their thoughts from others to themselves; just because they *followed* Him did not necessarily mean that they *knew* Him. He examined them through asking themselves to make a confession of their faith.

Do we know Jesus as the disciples did, as the Messiah, as the head of the church (Matthew 16:18)? We, too, need to have a personal knowledge of Him to be able to accept the salvation He offered, or it is meaningless.

We need to understand the fullness that Jesus Christ is. Knowing *about* Jesus is not the same as *knowing Him as brother, friend, and Savior*. He is *our mediator* between our sinful souls and God, and our hearts need to be touched with this truth. Jesus is *the Savior*, there is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved (Acts 4:12). Jesus, the *one and only* perfect sacrifice, deserves our love because He alone died on the cross for us. Let us take this into our hearts today and say with Peter, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* †

**Philip J. Sherwood, before his death, worked with the North Shore Church of Christ in Auckland, New Zealand.**

GOD

# Misunderstanding Jesus

P. K. Varghese

Many great individuals have often been misunderstood. Some deny the wisdom and the ability of a gallant leader. Others, unable to deny his wisdom and ability, question his integrity. The lives of all great men, it seems, include many chapters of opposition from their contemporaries. There were misgivings toward them because of misconceptions about them. Mahatma Gandhi, the great emancipator, was misunderstood. Columbus, who spoke of a westerly route to the East Indies, was looked on as a fool for venturing out near the “edge” of the world, where he would “fall off.” Need we be surprised, then, if Jesus, the Great Emancipator of souls and the one who spoke of a heavenly country, was misunderstood and falsely charged by His contemporaries?

Indeed, Jesus had many misjudgments about Him when He was here on earth. He who taught the way of God in truth was thought to be leading the people astray (John 7:12). He who taught the strictest obedience to the law of God was Himself charged with breaking the sabbath (Luke 6:1,2). He who cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit was accused of doing so by Beelzebub, the prince of the demons (Mark 3:22). He who claimed to be the Son of God, which He was, was considered a blasphemer (Matthew 26:65).

As is to be expected, there are still many, many misjudgments concerning Jesus in the minds of people. In this message we wish to consider a particular class of such today.

Few people today doubt the love and tenderness of Jesus. From the stories told them in Bible school when children, from religious pictures (such as Jesus receiving the little children), and from a one-sided emphasis of Jesus’ spirit of goodness, kindness, and meekness, people today have almost come to think of Jesus as a weak, stand-for-nothing, compromising peacemaker, instead of the strong, godly Christ He is, the Jesus who was anointed “Christ” because He both loved righteousness and hated iniquity (Hebrews 1:8,9). In this attitude Jesus has not changed one bit. He is the “*same yesterday, today, and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8), and He still loves righteous-

## GOD

ness, and He still hates iniquity, and He hates the latter just as strongly as He loves the former. Some people have made all kinds of room in their minds for Jesus' love of righteousness, but they have left no room at all for His hatred of iniquity.

People of all stations, ideas, and affiliations are trusting their eternal destinies to the following thought: "Jesus' love will not allow anybody to go to Hell." Oh, the power that a false idea has over men! Oh, the everlastingness of its effect! It is hard to fathom the complete damage that one off-color idea will sometimes have in us and others.

Nobody is questioning the love of Jesus, but when people blame Jesus if souls go to Hell for the sins they have committed, they are accusing the wrong person and laying the blame at the wrong person's doorstep. The love of Jesus has made salvation possible for all: "*He died for all*" (1 Timothy 2:6), and He sent the Gospel to all (Mark 16:15), inviting "*whosoever will*" to take of the water of life freely (Revelation 22:17). But Jesus has left the decision concerning salvation up to each individual. Man has been created with a freedom of choice. God will *tell* him the way to go, but He does not *make* him go that way. Man can do as he pleases in this world, if that is his choice, but he must face the consequences of his choice in the end.

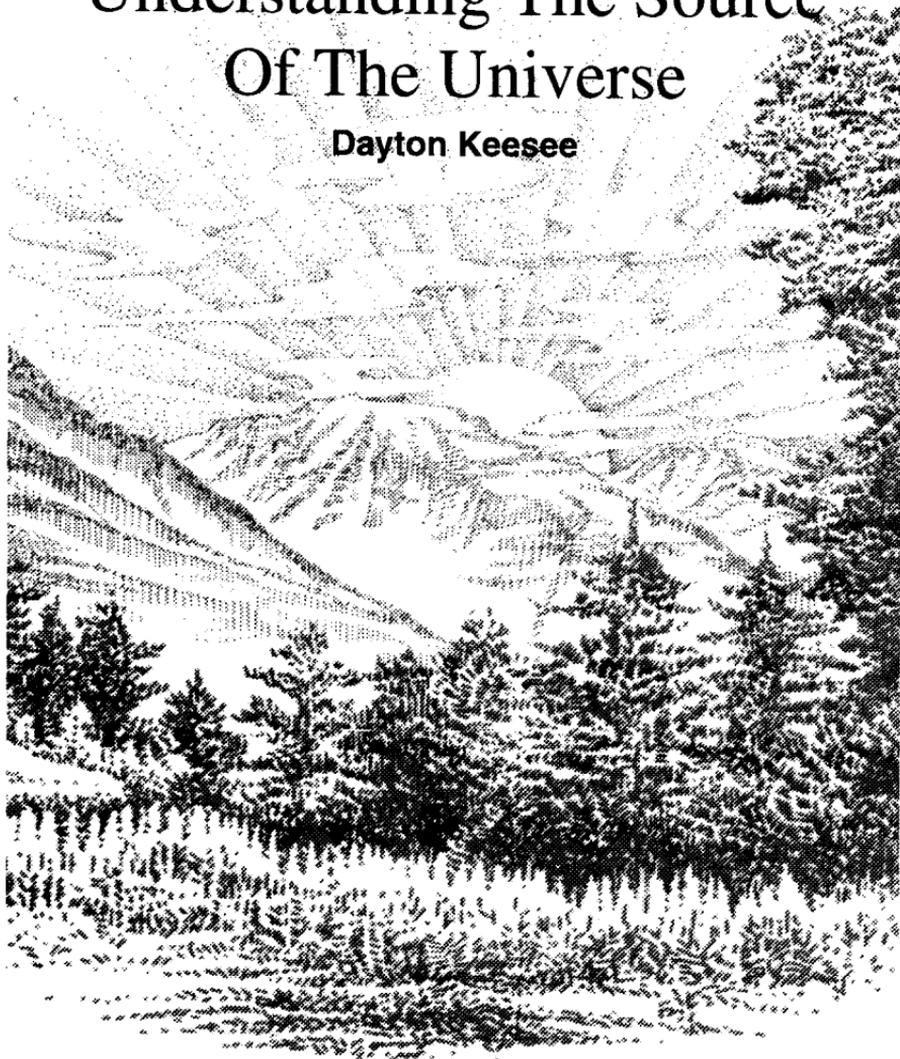
So, Jesus has not forced Himself upon men. He has said, "*Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28), but as in His own day, many will not come to Him that they might have life (John 5:40). Instead of confessing Christ before man "*unto salvation*" (Romans 10:10), they deny Him, and Jesus Himself said, "*Whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven*" (Matthew 10:33). Jesus taught that unless people repented of their sins they would perish, in spite of the fact that His blood could wash away their sins (Luke 13:3). God and Christ will forgive and save if men will but turn from sin to Christ. Jesus said to His disciples that "*repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations*" (Luke 24:47). "Repentance" is man's part. Throughout the Scriptures repentance by man must precede forgiveness by God. Otherwise, God would become a party to sin.

No, God is not wanting to send you or anybody else to Hell, but if you don't turn from sin to God, that is exactly what will happen. If you end up in Hell ("*the lake of fire*"), don't charge God, for God is "*not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9). †

**P.K. Varghese is a preacher at Trivandrum and a radio speaker for the Malayam program in India.**

# Understanding The Source Of The Universe

Dayton Keesee



Recently in Russia, a well-educated Armenian English teacher made the open statement, "I do not believe in the idea of creation." I asked for an explanation of the source for air, gravity, and the earth. Who or what did it? She admitted that she did not know the source for these elements.

The *source* of these elements needs to be sought. Why? Because we

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depend on them every day so that we can exist. Obligation and responsibility are involved. If parents provide food, housing, and education, they deserve a "Thank you" from us. The air we breathe, the earth on which we walk, the gravity that keeps us glued to this globe are no minor gifts. For them we should gratefully say, "Thank you!" However, if one is unaware of the *source* for those sustainers, he or she knows not to whom or to what to be thankful. Caring, honest hearts need answers so that thanksgivings for the chance to live today can be offered.

I hope you, like the Armenian English teacher, will respect and appreciate our need to know and our obligation to be thankful. Do you know the *source*? Can we know the *source*?

Consider the following seven reasonable observations about the power that made the universe. It is reasonable to conclude that: (1) An unseen power did it. Did anyone or group or thing you know, or that you have read about in history (that can be seen), do it? (2) An intelligent power did it. If it required intelligence to make the desk on which I write, then it is reasonable to conclude that the power making the universe would need intelligence. (3) That power is eternal. By our reasoning we know something *is* because something *was*. Therefore, something always *had to be*. (4) That power must have feelings for us. Air is too good to breathe, water is too good to drink, etc., to conclude otherwise. (5) That power must have purpose. That is reasonable. If even a watch has purpose, then the whole universe and peoples of earth must have purpose. (6) That power must be a uniting power. The harmony in the universe (day follows night; seasons, etc.) makes it reasonable to conclude that this is a uniting power. (7) That power must seek to communicate to us. The intelligence, feelings, and purpose factors we have been considering make it reasonable to conclude that that power must seek to communicate to us.

Having agreed that these seven observations are rational, the Armenian teacher was then asked to observe some statements from Scripture. I challenge you to do the same. You see, passages in the Bible parallel with all seven statements and identify to us the *Power* that is the *Source* of the universe. Take time to read the following passages that correlate with each of the seven rational observations: (1) John 1:18; 14:8-11; (2) Psalm 19:1,2; 147:4,5; (3) Psalm 90:1,2; 1 John 1:3; (4) Acts 17:24,25; Matthew 5:45; 1 John 4:8; (5) Ecclesiastes 12:13,14; Psalm 139:14-16; Matthew 4:10; (6) Ephesians 4:6; John 17:17-21; Galatians 3:26,27; (7) Romans 1:16-25; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; Acts 17:15-17; John 7:17.

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The foregoing verses not only prove that the Bible is reasonable, but they also identify that Book as the communicating tool of the unseen, intelligent, eternal, feeling, purposeful, harmonizing, and communicating God. What does that mean to you and me? The Hebrews writer answers, "*By faith we understand (we don't guess, speculate, or wish — we understand) that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen has not been made out of things which appear*" (Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6,9).

Voltaire once said: "If God created us in his own image, we have more than reciprocated." Paul

declares that the attempt to humanize God (make Him into our image) is not only "*vain reasoning*," but it has caused mankind to fail to give Him thanks (Romans 1:21). Have you been thankful to God for His wonderful, life-sustaining gifts?

Any time we deny God or His creating power, we jump the track from the reasonable, and we have immediately lost the *Source* to whom we need to be daily grateful (Acts 17:26-28). Since He has communicated to us, "*Hear ye Him*" (Matthew 17:5). †

**Dayton Keesee preaches for the Eastside Church of Christ in Midwest City, Oklahoma, U.S.A.**

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**Once an atheist** asked a Christian lady if she believed the Bible is true. "Yes," said the lady.

"Then," said the atheist, "tell me how a whale swallowed Jonah, as a whale's stomach is no bigger than a man's head?"

"I don't know," said the lady, "but when I get to heaven I will ask him."

"What if Jonah is not there?" asked the atheist.

"Then you will have to ask him," replied the lady.



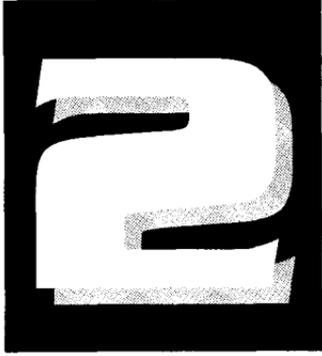
**As humans**, we are formed by our *genetic* inheritance and by our *environment*.

**Spiritually**, too, we inherit *genetically* from our Father, in whose image we are formed.

**And** the *environment* for Christians . . . ? Is it not "in Him" that we *live* and *move* and have our being?

— Betty Burton Choate

# The



# Choices

**Betty Burton Choate**

The universe exists. Only two choices have ever been offered to explain its existence: *the creative hand of God or Evolution's mutations.*

If I accept the Evolutionary process as the maker and controller of all things, what impact does that have in my life?

## **The Evolutionary Choice**

■ Believing that all things – *including humans* – had their beginning in the “primordial soup”, I must admit that *I am of the same essence as a one-celled bacteria.* The primary difference is that I am simply further in my development along the Evolutionary chain.

■ Because we are all creatures in the Evolutionary process, a germ, a roach, or a tree has *as much right to live as I do.* Human life is not “sacred”, and to insist on special protection or deference to *my particular form of life* is unwarranted. So is insistence on the *punishment* of one human who takes the life of another human. Either there should be punishment for *anyone* or *anything* who takes *any* life, or *if the death of a hog could go unnoted, so should the deaths of humans.*

■ Because I believe that humans are the greatest evolved thing in existence, I conclude that there is *nothing* and *no one* to whom humans must answer. No “god” has authority over me with laws to regulate my behavior. In fact, because humans are the pinnacle, and because I am “No. 1” to me, *I* have the right to decide what is good for me, and *nobody* has the right to

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force me to go by an *imposed* set of “rules”. If “lawlessness” and “anarchy” are the result, still I have the right to make that choice.

■ It is ridiculous to think of values, morals, or right and wrong concepts in relation to amoebas or birds or elephants. Since humans are only a different life-form in the Evolutionary process, it is artificial to develop a value system, and it is presumptuous to impose a man-created value system on the universe. Who is man, that he should have the authority to say what is right, what is wrong, and what behavior can and should be punished?

■ Just as animals die and cease to exist, so also do humans die and cease to exist. Values, morals, consciences, belief in good and evil or right and wrong, belief in the soul and after-life — all of these are interrelated and all are based on religious beliefs which are foreign to the Evolutionary concept. The total at the end of a human life is of no more significance than the “original cell” in the “primordial soup” — a bit of nothing.

### The Choice of Belief in God

On the other hand, if I accept God as the Original Cause of all things, what impact does that have in my life?

● Doctors now declare that peo-

ple who believe in God are happier and healthier than unbelievers, with the result that they live longer.

● I can know many things that would be a mystery and a puzzle, otherwise. Multitudes of questions are answered by God in His book, the Bible:

**How did the Universe come into existence?** *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1ff) *“Where were you when I [God] laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened?”* (Job 38:4-6).

**How did man begin?** *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”* (Genesis 2:7).

**What is man’s position in relation to other life-forms?** *“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth’”* (Genesis 1:28)

**Who is in authority over**

## EVIDENCES

**man?** *"...submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good, For this is the will of God that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men — Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king"* (1 Peter 2:13-17).

### **Must man answer to God?**

*"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God...And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books...and they were judged, each one according to his works"* (Revelation 20:12,13).

**Does man have an immortal soul?** *"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell"* (Matthew 10:28).

### **Is there an after-life?**

*"When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the throne of His glory. And all the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another...And these will go away into*

*everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life"* (Matthew 25:31,32,46).

● In the New Testament God has forbidden everything that is *harmful* to me as a human. He has outlined everything that is *good* for me in my *physical and spiritual development* as a human. If I follow His book to the very best of my ability, I will have the happiest, fullest, most rewarding existence possible in this world. I will be a person of honesty and integrity, caring and considerate toward other peoples in God's world. I will be a person of **peace** (1 Thessalonians 5:13), **joy** (1 Peter 1:8), and **hope** (1 Peter 1:3).

● I will be governed daily by God's spiritual laws, convinced that I am an immortal soul who must give account to my Creator for the way I have lived in this world. I believe that obedience to God will be rewarded with eternal life in His presence, while disobedience will be punished eternally in hell. This conviction will ensure that I live under God's authority, not by my own rules, and that I will die in hope and expectation of the resurrection and eternal life.

### **Results of These Opposing Beliefs**

Our study has shown that these two opposing beliefs concerning the origins also dictate resulting beliefs concerning life itself:

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1. The sanctity of life.
2. Authority over life.
3. Behavior toward fellow-humans and other life forms.
4. Recognition or denial of morals and values.
5. Immortality, hope, and belief in the resurrection.

■ Which beliefs result in greater happiness and health for the individual?

■ Which beliefs would create better societal relationships?

■ Which beliefs — followed without reservation — would bring about anarchy and the eventual destruction of humanity?

■ Which beliefs — followed fully — would bring love and peace and harmony to the world?

**Is it better, therefore, for us to believe in God or Evolution?**

Betty Burton Choate is the wife of J.C. Choate, editor of *The Voice of Truth International*.

### Now I Trust You

A young lady was vacationing in Florida when a small boy approached and asked, "Do you believe in God?"

The girl nodded, surprised.

"And do you always go to church on Sunday and do you read the Bible?" he asked.

When she replied, "At every opportunity," he seemed very relieved.

"Well, then," he said, "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"

— Selected

\* \* \*

### One Book, and only one

The Book my Father gave;  
One Book, and only one,  
The Book with power to save.  
One Book, and only one,  
That points the pilgrim way;  
One Book, and only one,  
To keep me, lest I stray.

— Selected

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**A Christian farmer** was in a big city. He went into a nice restaurant for lunch and sat down at a table beside some young men. When his food came he bowed his head in silent prayer, thanking God for the food. One of the young men yelled over, "Hey, Farmer, does everyone do that where you come from?"

The farmer finished his prayer and calmly replied, "Nope, son, the pigs never do!"

— Selected

## EVIDENCES

# None So Blind

**Bruce Buckley**

The beautiful Psalm 119 begins with a declaration: "*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.*" To declare is to make known. This declaration is true at all times, but especially true at certain times when nature is particularly noteworthy.

Unfortunately, not all see the glory of God in nature. As the poet declared, "There is none so blind as those who will not see." They are not lacking in physical eyesight, but just refuse to see what is so evident.

Nature does declare the existence of God. Unfortunately, there are many all around us who refuse to see what is so plain. "*The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God*" (Psalm 53:1). The Bible does not call every man a fool, but it does label the one denying the reality of God a fool, denying Him as the creator of all that is.

Nature does declare the existence of God, but it does not reveal how to obey Him and live a Christian life. That comes from the revelation of the written Word. The revelation of nature and the revelation of the Scriptures are in complete agreement.

Something did not come from nothing. Only nothing is produced by nothing. But God created the universe and all in it. Nothing existed before creation but Divine beings. Let the doubters just look to Genesis 1 and see how all began. "*In the beginning God . . .*" Let us never doubt either the declaration of nature or that of the inspired Word.

May we never be so blind as to refuse to see what is so clearly declared, both in nature and in the Scriptures. †

**Bruce Buckley is an elder in the Chapel Avenue congregation in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.**

Every man must live with the man he makes of himself, and the better job he does in molding his character and improving his mind, the better company he will have. — Selected

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## THE WORD OF GOD

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I recently listened to a religious debate on video where one speaker loudly and plainly announced, "God has not authorized how He wants His people to worship Him."

Our Lord teaches differently: "*But in vain they do worship me,*



family (Galatians 1:16). Don't let your family cause you to lose your soul!

Are "the creeds of men" the correct standard of authority? Why are there so many churches today? *Because there are so many creeds.*

Jesus prayed, "*...that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe....*" (John 17:21).

Paul pleads, "*...speak the same thing... (have) no divisions among you ....*" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

"Practice your own creed" and "join the church of your choice" can cause you to lose your soul (Revelation 22:18,19; Ephesians 4:4; 1:22,23).

Is "I think" the correct standard of authority? Jeremiah 10:23 says, "*... it is not in man . . . to direct his steps.*" "Good thinking" can be wrong thinking (Proverbs 14:12). "I think" or "you think" can cause you to lose your soul.

**What God says in His word is the correct standard of authority!** See Matthew 28:18; Jude 3; and 1 Peter 4:11. Precious soul, can you give book, chapter, and verse from the New Testament for what you practice in religion? †

**Daniel S. Hamm preaches for the Bishop Street congregation in Union City, Tennessee, U.S.A.**

# Standard of Authority?

**Daniel S. Hamm**

*teaching for doctrine the commandments of men*" (Matthew 15:9). Doctrines (teachings) of men are condemned; (Galatians 1:8). Doctrines of Christ are upheld (2 John 9-11).

By what authority do you practice the things you do in religion?

Is "the majority" the correct standard of authority? Where was the majority when the flood came? See 1 Peter 3:20,21. Matthew 7:13,14 shows that the majority are going to hell. Don't let the majority cause you to lose your soul!

Are "kinsmen" the correct standard of authority? I love my family, but not more than I love God! See Matthew 10:37 and Luke 14:26. When Paul was converted to Christianity, he did not confer with



# Reasons for Studying the Old Testament

John Thiesen

Occasionally someone asks the question, "If we are living today under the teachings of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, why should we study the Old Testament?"

Although it is true that Christ nailed the law of Moses to the cross and we don't live under it, this does not mean that God doesn't want us to learn from the great lessons and teachings in the books of the Old Testament. Paul said that they were written for our learning today that we might gain patience, comfort, and hope from those old Scriptures (Romans 15:4).

## **Historical Reasons**

The Old Testament deserves

first place in all the literature of the world as a source book of ancient history. It alone gives the most accurate and full account we have of the origins of the nations. More is said about the world ruler Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel than in any other ancient record.

As a source book of the study of the ancient worship of the true and living God, Jehovah, the Old Testament stands out alone. No other book can compare or is as authentic as it is for the period before Christ came into the world. Its truths regarding historical places, events, and people are constantly

## THE WORD OF GOD

being confirmed by archaeology and historical research.

### Reveals Mystery Of Origins

The Old Testament is the only book that answers the great mysteries of the origin of man and the nature of man's Creator. It tells of the creation of the universe and all life forms, the beginning of man, his sin against God, the penalty of death, and the preparations to send a Savior into the world to rescue man from sin and death.

### Prophecies Of Christ

The Old Testament was the book from which Jesus Christ and the apostles taught, before the New Testament was given. Its writings proved that Jesus was the Son of God by comparing the prophecies in them with the facts about Jesus' life and deeds. Today, the Old Testament is a powerful source book to prove that Jesus is the Christ, because He fulfilled all its prophecies relative to the Messiah who was to come. Several New Testament passages cannot easily be understood without some knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures which foretold the Lord's coming. These are just some of many reasons why we should include those ancient writings in our reading of the Bible. †

**John Thiesen, a former missionary to Malawi, now lives in Buffalo, Missouri, U.S.A.**

### Are You an Active Member?

Are you an active member,  
The kind who would be missed,  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,  
And mingle with the crowd,  
Or do you stay at home  
And complain both long and loud?

Do you take an active part  
To help the church along,  
Or are you satisfied to be  
The kind that just belongs?

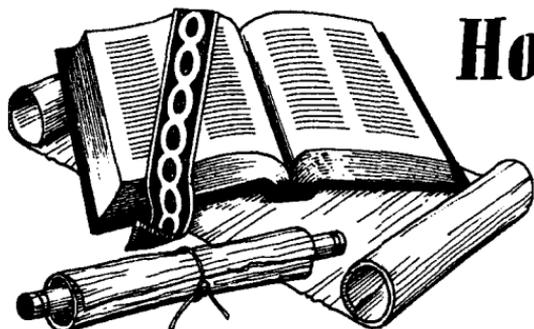
Do you ever go to visit  
A member who is sick,  
Or leave the work for just a few  
And talk about the "clique?"

There's quite a program scheduled  
That means success, if done  
And it can be accomplished  
With the help of everyone.

So attend the meetings regularly  
And help with hand and heart,  
Don't be just a member,  
But take an active part.

Think it over, member,  
Are we right or are we wrong?  
Are you an active member  
Or do you just belong?

— Anonymous



# How We Got the Bible

Maxie B. Boren

In recent weeks I've done considerable re-study and new research on "how we got our Bible." I have been deeply impressed afresh with the tremendous dedication exemplified in certain notable ones who sacrificed so much that others might read the Scriptures in their own language. There are many who could be mentioned, but for brevity's sake I have chosen just four who stand out in my mind.

**Origen**, who lived from 185 to 254 A.D., spent 28 years of his life in the monumental undertaking of his famous **Hexapla**. With what we would consider very crude writing instruments and materials, he produced six parallel columns of the Old Testament. One column was the Hebrew text itself, one the Greek equivalent, and then four versions or renderings of the text. This is truly a classic example of dedication to what was so important to him — God's Word.

**Jerome**, 340-420 A.D., after

spending about three to six years in translating the New Testament, then journeyed to Bethlehem where he spent fourteen more years translating the Old Testament from Hebrew into Latin. His famed work is known as the **Latin Vulgate**, the product of approximately twenty years of his life! What a great example of much sacrifice and work . . . for the Word of God.

**Mesrob**, from about 375 to 450 A.D., invented a written language for the Armenian people, consisting of 36 originally devised letters, just so they might have the Bible in a language they could read, and he made that a reality for them by doing the work of translating. This same man, reaching out to others, also invented a written language for the neighboring country of Iberia (ancient Georgia), that they too might have the sacred Scriptures. Such devotion to God's Word!

**William Tyndale**, 1484-1536 A.D., must surely be one of the real-

## THE WORD OF GOD

ly great men in all history. This noble man willingly exiled himself from his homeland of England, never to return, that he might pursue his avowed purpose of getting the Bible into the language of his people. Before leaving England, he said, "I defy the Pope and all his laws; if God spares my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the Scriptures than thou dost," these words being spoken to a prominent man of that day.

Tyndale risked his very life in his zeal to translate the Bible into the English language, and somehow he managed to master seven languages in the process. Finally, the far-reaching effects of the infamous inquisition, initiated and augmented by the papacy, took the life of this great man. On the charge of heresy, he was tied to the stake on October 6, 1536, strangled, and burned. He didn't go to his death unwittingly. H. S. Miller wrote that the German Emperor Charles V, a staunch Roman Catholic, had made it a crime, "punishable by torture, burning, or burial alive, for anyone to

read, purchase, or possess any proscribed book or any New Testament prohibited by the theologians . . . ." Tyndale undoubtedly knew this decree.

Some four to five years prior to Tyndale's demise, he had written the King of England, Henry VIII, "offering my body to suffer what pain or torture, yea, what death his Grace will, so that this be obtained." So that what be obtained? That the people of England might have the Bible in their own language. What tremendous willingness to sacrifice . . . for the Word of God!

Yet today, in the midst of liberty and freedom, when the Bible is available in unlimited supply with all sorts of helps and aids, very few, relatively speaking, even take time to read it. What a contrast! How sad — how tragic — how pathetic! What will God render at the day of judgment?

How great is your devotion to God's Word? Would you die for it? †

**Maxie B. Boren preaches for the Brown Trail Church of Christ in Bedford, Texas, U.S.A.**



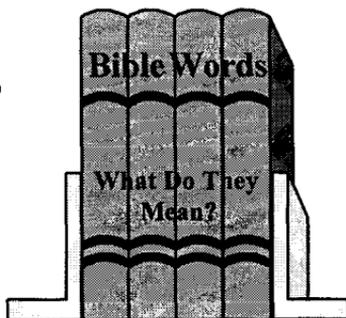
**Augustine (354-430 A.D.) once said: "Bad times, hard times...this is what people keep saying; but let us live well, and times shall be good. We are the times: such as we are, so are the times."**

**Good words for our times!**

# It Helps to Enrich Your *BIBLE WORD POWER*

By FENTER NORTHERN

Are you sure you are understanding the richest meaning of the Bible? Test your comprehension of the following words used in the context found in Hebrews chapter 2, (KJV) After making your choices, turn the page for the correct answers.



1. **slip** v.—A: glide by the anchor point B: A small piece of paper C: an unsteady step D: to speak an idle word
2. **angels** n.—A: seraphim B: teraphim C: messengers of God D: benevolent people
3. **steadfast** adj.—A: Character in *Pilgrim's Progress* B: make sure C: dependable D: to chain or tie together
4. **transgression** n.—A: to step across a line B: to do evil B: carelessness D: dysfunctional
5. **disobedience** n.—A: Not carrying out orders B: not taking advice C: disorderly conduct D: not paying attention
6. **recompense** v.—A: to repay B: destined to suffer C: vengeance D: to strike back
7. **escape** v.—A: run for your life B: to break open a lock C: to scale a fence D: to elude the police
8. **neglect** v.—A: to forget B: to avoid responsibility C: make light of D: to make a mistake.
9. **great** adj.—A: a dignitary B: massive size C: royal D: wonderful or enjoyable
10. **salvation** n.—A: the soul's safety from destruction B: to join a church C: to be baptized D: take communion
11. **lord** n.—A: a common byword B: the owner of a house C: one who owns slaves D: one who has control over another
12. **visiteth** v.—A: to look upon for the purpose of caring for B: drop by for a chat C: to sit by the bed of a sick person D: to speak with on the phone
13. **witness** v.—A: to answer a lawyer's questions B: to see an accident C: to take an oath D: to share or join together in
14. **signs** n.—A: something transcending the common course of nature B: dreams C: visions D: anything unusual
15. **wonders** n.—A: great things B: to question C: strange to behold, thus demanding attention D: to ponder in mind
16. **miracles**—A: psychic readings B: deeds by the power of God C: to recover from a serious illness D: A good job offer



## Answers to

### *"It helps to Enrich Your Bible Word Power"*

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- slip**—(Gk. pararrhueo) A: to glide by the anchor point, like a ship that passed its mooring point because the captain was not paying attention
- angels**—(Gk. angelos) C: messengers of God. A heavenly or earthly being who is divinely appointed of God to speak (Note the messengers to the seven churches of Asia in Rev. 2 & 3).
- steadfast**—(Gk. bebaios) B: make sure or certain.
- transgression**—(Gk. parabasis) A: to step across a line, i.e. to violate the line drawn in the conscience by a knowledge of God's word.
- disobedience**—(Gk. parakoe) D: not paying attention; to fail to act responsively because your mind was not seriously fastened on what you were being told
- recompense**—(Gk. pathetos) B: destined to suffer; disobedience breeds a destiny of pain for those who fail to hear.
- escape**—(Gk. ekpheugo) A: run for your life; there is no place to run for safety for those who fail to hear Jesus
- neglect**—(Gk. ameleo) C: make light of; to forsake the assembly or treat with disrespect the mercy of God (Heb. 10:25ff).
- great**—(Gk. telikoutos) B: massive size. Our salvation in matters of worth to us and the cost to God are immeasurable. (Matt. 13:45-46; Acts 20:28; Jno. 3:16)
- Salvation**—(Gk. soteria) A. The soul's safety from destruction. It denotes deliverance, whether national (Lu. 1: 69-71) or personal salvation in Jesus, Acts 4:11-12). This salvation is achieved through faith (Heb. 11:6); Repentance (Lu. 13:3); Confession (Matt. 10:32-33); and water baptism (Acts 2:38; I Pet. 3:21)
- lord**—(Gk. kurios) D: one who has control over another. A title of great significance, occurring in nearly every book in the New Testament. It can mean owner (Lu. 19:33)
- visiteth**—(Gk. episkeptomai) A: to look upon for the purpose of caring for. Signifies to visit with help, of the act of God (Lu. 1:68, 78; 7:16; Acts 15:14) It can also mean to visit the sick and the afflicted (Matt. 25:36, 43; Jms. 1:27).
- witness**—(Gk. sunepimartureo) D: to share or join together in. In this context, God is sharing with the apostles their testimony by confirming their word with signs and miracles. These signs were to cease when the total word of the New Testament was completely revealed. (I Cor. 13:9-13)
- signs**—(Gk. semeion) A: something transcending the common course of nature. A sign never is given for the sake of itself. It always points to something else. Jesus' signs were not given to cause people to marvel or lust for miracles, but were given to point to, and confirm the word as being from God.
- wonders**—(Gk. teras) C: strange to behold, thus demanding attention But always calling attention to the power of Christ and His word. His name was wonderful (Isa. 7), the Israelites were asked by Isaiah to stop and wonder at God's word (Isa. 29), and the Pentecostians said that they heard the apostles preach the "wonderful" words of God.
- miracles**—(Gk. dunamis) B: deeds by the power of God (See 14 & 15)

*Some Say:* **We Don't  
Need Critics!**

**Hollis Miller**

The philosophy of optimism affirms that we are living in the best possible world. But is the philosophy correct? Not according to the Bible. The best possible world existed only when God said of His creation, "It is good." The moment sin entered the world, the best possible world ceased to exist. From that moment forward the world knew separation from God, and the consequences thereof.

There are those who say we do not need critics. But are they right? The Old Testament prophets were critics. Jesus was a critic. The apostles were critics. What greater evidence does one need that critics have a place among us? *A critic is one who deals in the worth of things.* If no one ever evaluated anything, the world would indeed be a place of chaos and bewilderment.

Jesus thought so little of the ideas of certain Jews of His day that He warned His disciples against

them (Matthew 16:6-12). John urged Christians to evaluate (practice criticism) prophets who came to them (1 John 4:1). Paul was eager to inform Timothy that the metalsmith, Alexander, was worthy of censure (2 Timothy 4:14f). One of the principle responsibilities of elders in churches is criticism (Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:9).

Positive, biblically-oriented criticism will always be needed because sin and degradation will accompany men until the Lord returns. What is not needed is *slander, gossip, and proud, arrogant attitudes.* All of these are sinful, in part because they practice criticism from impure motives. We must, therefore, be careful when we become critics, that we criticize in harmony with the teaching of the Scriptures. †

**Hollis Miller is a gospel preacher in Elkton, Kentucky, U.S.A.**

*Be bold in what you stand for, but be careful in what you fall for.*



# Baptism: What Is It For?

Ken Tyler

“Every Christian should be baptized, not in order to save him, but because he is saved.” “. . . we are saved before and without baptism . . .” “Baptism for the remission of sins is essentially Romish” (meaning that it came from Roman Catholic Church).

Are these statements correct? The minds behind these statements believe that baptism does not have anything to do with the taking away of sins. What does the Bible teach? In this article we will look at the statements of Jesus, Peter, and Ananias about baptism, and then you can decide what is the purpose of baptism.

First, Jesus said a man is not saved before he is baptized. Listen to Mark 16:16, “*He that believeth*

*and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*” Jesus did not say, “He that believeth is saved and **then** baptized.” Yet, one of our quotes says, “. . . We are saved before and without baptism . . .” Jesus made it plain, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . .*” I believe I will listen to Jesus. How about you?

Second, Peter said we are to be baptized “*for the remission of sins*” and that baptism “*saves us.*” Listen to Acts 2:38 and 1 Peter 3:21, “. . . *Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*” and “*The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us . . .*”

## DOCTRINE TO LIVE BY

In view of these two statements, how can anyone say that baptism is not for the remission of sins and that baptism does not save us? Yet, one of our quotes says, "Every Christian should be baptized, not in order to save him, but **because he is saved already.**" Again, I will listen to Peter. How about you?

Third, Ananias said we are to be baptized to "*wash away our sins.*" He told Saul of Tarsus, "*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*" (Acts 22:16). How could it be any plainer? We are to be baptized to "*wash away our sins.*" Again, I will listen to Ananias. How about you?

In Romans 6:3-7, Paul makes it plain that we are baptized into Christ's death, that we are buried with Him, and that we arise to walk in newness of life. In His death, Christ shed His blood. Baptism is the only thing that brings us in contact with His death. Our sins are removed and we arise as new creatures in Christ. It is so simple! Why not just accept what the Bible says baptism is for? This is the only way that you, I, or anyone else will go to heaven. †

**Ken Tyler preaches for the church of Christ in Arab, Alabama, U.S.A. and has preached in several campaigns in Trinidad, West Indies.**

### Acts 8

(A Proper Conversion)

Brother, have you read Acts chapter eight?  
How the Eunuch was led to the pathway  
straight?

Coming from Jerusalem that wonderful day  
And reading Isaiah as he went on his way.

Now Philip understood the Eunuch's need  
And asked him, "Understand thou what  
thou doest read?"

"How can I," he said, "except someone  
guide?"

So Philip climbed up and with him did ride.

He preached him words the Eunuch had  
not heard,  
A wonderful sermon from God's Holy Word.

They came to a certain water, the Eunuch  
said, "Whoa",

I must obey Jesus ere onward I go.

Philip asked, "Do you believe Christ is  
God's Holy Son?"

If you make this confession it can be done.

They went down into the water, for the  
Eunuch's immersion,  
Not for sprinkling or pouring, but proper  
immersion.

But, brother, do you believe that in the very  
same way,

We can be saved by repentance, confes-  
sion, and baptism today?

— Raymond G. Hayes

DOCTRINE TO LIVE BY

# Observations Concerning Homosexuality

G. F. Raines

One of the most frequently and heatedly discussed issues of the present day is that of homosexuality. Is homosexuality a socially, morally, and spiritually acceptable alternative life style in the sight of the Almighty God?

For a very clear and decisive answer to this exceedingly important question from a scriptural perspective, please read Genesis 19; Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:20-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

*"...Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).*

*"...although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor*

*were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools ...Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lust of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen*

*"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men, committing what is shameful, and receiving the penalty of their error which was due.*

*"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all*

## DOCTRINE TO LIVE BY

*unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness...*

*“Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Romans 1:21-32).*

*“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination” (Leviticus 18:22).*

Each person will settle the homosexuality issue in his own mind on the basis of whether or not he believes that the Bible was “given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16,17) and whether he wholeheartedly respects the will of God revealed in the Bible.

Through many centuries of time, the precious Holy Bible has proved itself to be (as it claims to be) the true, inspired Word of God. We must, therefore, diligently observe its prohibitions and carefully and conscientiously follow its instructions. Please read Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Revelation 22:17-19.

In my judgment, the world’s greatest social and spiritual problem is the fact that it is a manifest certainty that too many people are adamantly determined and resolved to “do their own thing,” that is, to do whatever they have a strong

urge, inclination, or propensity to do, and they do not have a sufficient amount of knowledge of and reverence for what the Bible teaches.

The Bible very plainly and unequivocally says, “*And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead*” (Acts 17:30,31).

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences” (2 Corinthians 5:10,11).*

*“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).*

*“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9) †*

**G. F. Raines writes and preaches in Newton, Mississippi, U.S.A.**

DOCTRINE TO LIVE BY

# *Being Clothed With Christ*

**Bill B. Gibson**

Hugo McCord, in his **New Testament of the Everlasting Gospel**, translates Galatians 3:27 like this: *“For as many of you as were immersed into Christ clothed yourselves with Christ.”* There can be no doubt this is the correct translation, but what does it mean to be **clothed with Christ**?

◆ To be clothed with Christ is to take on the “mind of Christ.” One takes on His characteristics.

◆ To be clothed with Christ is to do our very best to “walk in the steps of Jesus” (1 Peter 2:21).

◆ To be clothed with Christ is to live so that people can tell “we have been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).

◆ To be clothed with Christ is to trust Him with all our hearts, acknowledge Him in all our ways, and let Him direct our lives (Proverbs 3:5,6). It is to accept Him as our Lord and King, saying, “*Not my will, but Thine be done*” (Luke 22:42).

◆ Just as a child in a fleshly birth takes on the likeness of his parents, the Christian, being clothed with Jesus, takes on the appearance of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

◆ Being clothed with Christ in baptism we take His name — “Christian” — and it is required that we always honor that name (1 Peter 4:15,16).

◆ We often sing what it means to be clothed with Christ in such songs as “Jesus Is All the World To Me,” “I Surrender All,” “Take the World But Give Me Jesus,” “None Of Self and All Of Thee,” and “Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen In Me.”

◆ To be clothed with Christ is to be clothed with the most beautiful of all garments. It is to be pure like Jesus, to love like Jesus, to forgive like Jesus, to empathize like Jesus, and to speak like Jesus. In short,

## DOCTRINE TO LIVE BY

Christ lives in us and we live for Him (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21).

◆ To be clothed with Christ in baptism is to wear the most expensive garments in the world. He purchased them with His own blood (1 Peter 1:18,19).

◆ When one is clothed with Christ in baptism, he is from then on protected by Christ, as long as he wears Christ in honor (Matthew 28:20).

◆ Being clothed with Jesus, we are new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 12:1,2).

It should be obvious that when we are clothed with Christ in baptism, we are not automatically changed into His exact likeness (Philippians 2:5; Romans 13:14). But, each day the Christian lives he does his best to be more like Jesus. He grows in Christ. †

**Bill B. Gibson preaches the Gospel of Christ in Vinita, Oklahoma, U.S.A.**

Life is tragic for those who have plenty to live on and nothing to live for.  
— Selected

## How Do We Wear Him?

On the one hand, the Scriptures speak of the Christian being clothed with Christ, being washed in His blood in baptism, and as wearing His righteousness. As we go about our daily lives, people are to see Christ in our behavior, not ourselves.

On the other hand, the Scriptures speak of Christ dwelling in the Christian: "...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" (Ephesians 3:16,17). This means that whatever we do, wherever we go, we take Christ with us — that He is in us (Romans 8:9,10).

- Do we subject Christ to fits of anger, pouting, grudges, and bad language, in worldly response to problems which occur in life?
- Do we mistreat our bodies (and Christ, who dwells in us) through our worldly habits as we partake of alcohol, nicotine, and other harmful substances?
- Do we take Christ to places where He would not choose to go?

Do we make ourselves a house where our Lord can be pleased to dwell, loving God and our fellow man, worshipping, doing good, teaching the lost to be saved?

Or do we live in such worldliness that He is continually hurt and stifled by our behavior? Will He stay with us, or might we force Him to leave?

— Betty Burton Choate

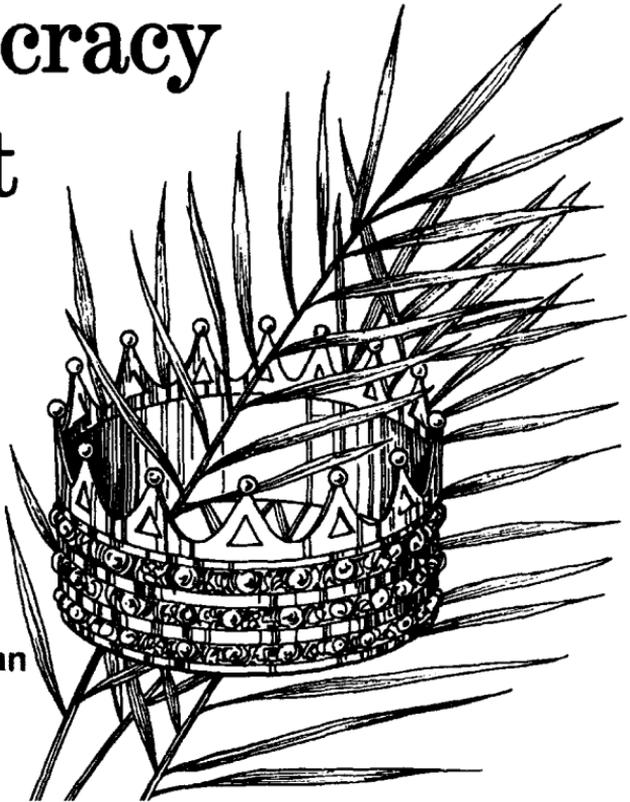
# Verse Search

Supply the missing information from the gospel of John, chapter fourteen.

1. Six days before the \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus came to \_\_\_\_\_ where \_\_\_\_\_ was. (V. 1)
2. Who served at the supper? (V. 2)
3. What did Mary do? (V. 3)
4. What objection was made by Judas Iscariot? (V. 5)
5. Jesus said, "\_\_\_\_\_"; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_." (V. 7)
6. What did the chief priests plot to do? (V. 10)  
Why? (V. 11)
7. As Jesus was entering Jerusalem, what did the people do? (V. 12, 13)
8. Jesus rode on a young donkey. This was the fulfillment of a prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 which said, "\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_; Behold, \_\_\_\_\_ is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." (V. 15)
9. The Pharisees said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, \_\_\_\_\_!" (V. 19)
10. Jesus, knowing that He was soon to die, said, "Now My soul is \_\_\_\_\_, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Father, \_\_\_\_\_ name." (V. 27)
11. What did the voice from heaven say? (V. 28)
12. Jesus said, "And I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_." (V. 32)
13. Though many, even among the rulers, believed in Jesus, why did they not confess Him as the Messiah? (V. 42, 43)
14. "He who rejects \_\_\_\_\_, and does not receive \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_." (V. 48)
15. Whose message did Jesus speak? (V. 50)

[See inside of back cover for answers.]

# Democracy Is Not The Best!



Allan E. Flaxman

It comes as a shock to some people to hear that the Lord's church is not a democracy! This information is even something of a surprise to some church members. You see, many of us have been raised in countries that are governed as democracies. We've been taught all of our lives that the democratic form of government, with its faults admitted, is the best kind of government, that it is superior to dictatorships, and is even better than the

"old style" monarchy used by England and some other countries up until a few centuries ago.

The conclusion then, even if not expressed in words, would be that Christ's church would have the best — therefore, it would have a democratic form of government.

Wrong! It definitely has the best form of government, but that is not a democratic government. Rather, it is an absolute monarchy! You see, where an absolute monar-

## THE CHURCH

chy is as bad as a dictatorship for human governments, it works beautifully with the church, because we have the Perfect Monarch (Hebrews 4:15; John 8:46). He is not only sinless, but it is impossible for Him to make a mistake in any way. Further, He loves us to the point that He gave His life so that we could become citizens in His kingdom (John 3:16).

Now Jesus Christ reigns supreme in His kingdom, the church. Jesus made this clear to His apostles shortly after His resurrection, saying, "*All power (authority) has been given unto me in heaven and on earth*" (Matthew 28:18). The inspired apostle Paul tells us that Christ is "head" and that we are all "subject" to Him, and that He is to be given absolute pre-eminence by us. That does not leave room for anyone to occupy a position of authority above or equal to Him (Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18).

It was a failure to keep this important fact in mind that led to the creation of such unscriptural offices as "Arch Bishops," "Patriarchs," and later to "Cardinals," all of this by the 3rd and 4th centuries. These offices, in turn, led to a complicated hierarchy, and ultimately to the appointment of a supreme "arch-bishop" called the "Pope." He was vested with enor-

mous power and declared to be infallible.

Efforts to correct this blindness to the complete authority of Christ only yielded other errors with "synods," "presbyteries," "councils," "general assemblies," and other decision-making conferences, with powers vested in them never authorized by the New Testament. Many of these problems arose during the "Reformation," and in turn led to denominationalism as we have it today, all because people overlooked the fact that Christ has absolute authority as our KING.

"Elders," "bishops," "pastors," "overseers" (all referring to the same office in the New Testament) have their place in the church, with there always being more than one elder in any one congregation, and there never being one elder over more than one congregation. Their work is to see to the spiritual welfare of the local congregation, and they themselves are completely subject to the authority of Christ, as expressed in the New Testament.

This is how the Lord's church operates today. Are you a member of His church where He is recognized as, and seen to be in practice, the **Absolute Monarch**? †

**Allan E. Flaxman is a pioneer gospel preacher in New South Wales, Australia.**

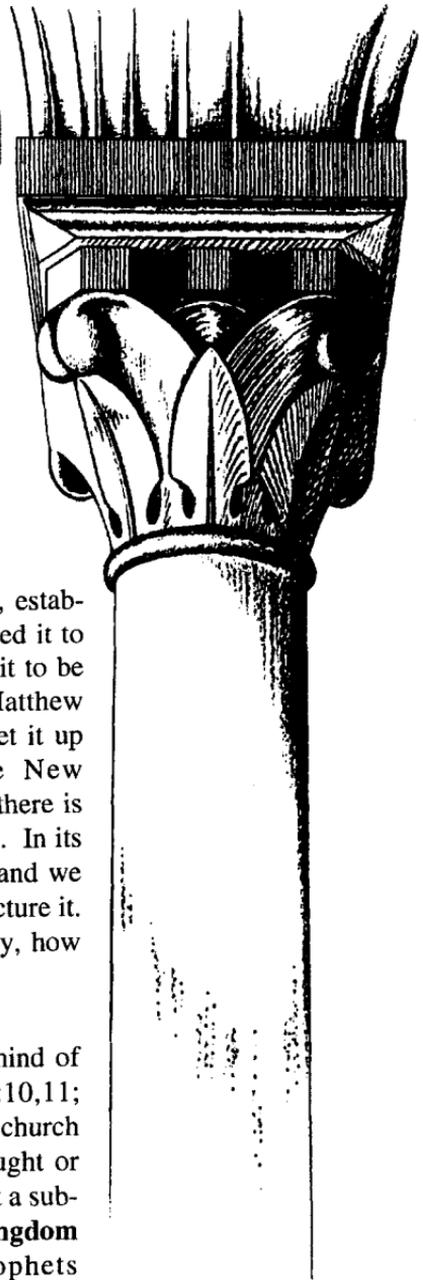
# The Church As Jesus Built It

W. Douglass Harris

When Christ, through His apostles, established His church, it was what He wanted it to be in every respect. If He had desired it to be different, since He was the builder (Matthew 16:18), that was the time for Him to set it up differently. All who accept the New Testament as divinely inspired believe there is a pattern for the church revealed therein. In its divine aspects, it was as Jesus built it, and we have no authority to change it or re-structure it. But looking at the religious world today, how can we identify that church?

## Planned Eternally

According to Paul, it was in the mind of God from eternity past (Ephesians 3:10,11; Colossians 1:26). This means that the church as built by Christ was not an afterthought or contingency action of Christ. It was not a substitute for the kingdom, but **it is that kingdom** foretold by the Old Testament prophets (Daniel 2:44; Matthew 16:18,19). Did John



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the Baptist, the twelve apostles, the seventy sent out by Christ under the limited commission, and Christ Himself, who proclaimed the kingdom was “at hand,” prove to be false prophets (Matthew 3:1,2; 10:7; Luke 10:1-9)? This is what the “postponement theory” does to eighty-four God-sent preachers — it makes them false prophets.

### Time And Place Of Origin

Inspired prophetic statements specified the time and place of its origin as the last days in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:1-3; Luke 24:46,47). “Last days” refers to the last age of time covered by the Bible (Hebrews 1:1,2). This was fulfilled on the Pentecost of Acts 2. All prophecy about the church before that day points to Acts 2; all references to the church after that day point back to its origin on the Pentecost of Acts 2 (see Acts 11:15). Any church started at another place and time could not be the one Jesus built.

### Divine Designations

Although the church Jesus built has no proper name, there are certain designations that are used by inspiration to distinguish it. A variety of designations are applied to its members collectively and individually. Collectively, they are called “*churches of Christ*” (Romans 16:16), “*churches of God*” (2 Thessalonians 1:4), and “*churches of the saints*” (1 Corinthians 14:33). Individually, they are called “*Christians*” (Acts 11:26), “*saints*” (Philippians 1:1), or “*brethren*” (Romans 12:1). All of these designations are of divine origin and have special significance. The church, as Jesus built it, accepts these divine designations only. Designations unknown to the New Testament would be a departure from the divine pattern and not as Jesus intended.

### Government

As described in the New Testament, each congregation was an autonomous unit with Christ as the only head (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22,23). “Autonomous” means “self-governing; independent.” There was no organizational structure which tied together a diocese, district, parish, conference, or association. There was no such distinction as “clergy,” who wore high-sounding titles, as distinguished from the “laity.” The highest organization was that of the local congregation with its elders and deacons, when fully organized. Divine wisdom is indicated in this arrangement to prevent all congregations from going into apostasy if one does. Any church under any other head with any form of man-made government could not be the church as Jesus built it.

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### Plan Of Salvation

Jesus built His church to be His exclusive body of the saved, and His inspired ambassadors were authorized to stipulate the conditions by which sinners could be saved and added thereto (Mark 16:15,16; Matthew 28:19,20; Luke 24:46-49). With the authority to bind these conditions (Matthew 16:19; 18:18), the book of Acts records the acts of His apostles in obedience to His commands (chapters 2,8,9,10,16, etc.). When properly analyzed and collated, we learn that they all obeyed the same commands (believed, repented, confessed, and were baptized for remission of sins), and were added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:47). Any church that does not teach and bind this divine plan surely is not the one that Jesus built.

### System Of Worship

Christ authorized the worship of the church He built (John 4:24; Colossians 3:17). It must be directed to the right object (Matthew 4:10; John 4:24; Revelation 19:10), and through the divinely-authorized avenues (Acts 2:42; Galatians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16), for such does the Lord seek to be His worshippers (John 4:23). Curses are pronounced against those who would add, subtract, or substitute human-authorized acts for these divine acts (Galatians 1:6-8; 1 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Peter 4:11). Any church which does more or less than teach the Gospel, observe the Lord's Supper weekly, pray, give of its means, and sing (a cappella) is not the church as Jesus built it.

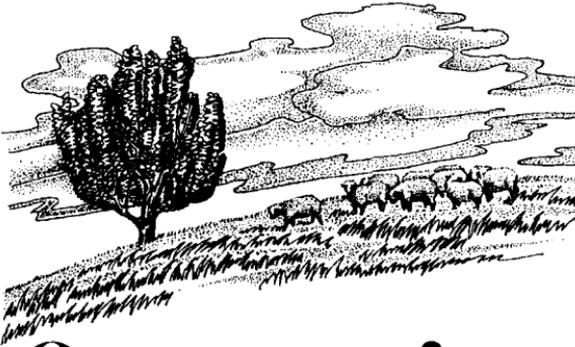
### Conclusion

We dare not lay unholy hands on any of these divine aspects of the divine elements of the church as Jesus built it, to change them by perversion, adulteration, substitution, or deletion. To do so is to defy the authority of heaven and rob Christ of the glory He is to receive through His church throughout all ages as He built it (Ephesians 3:21). †

**W. Douglass Harris is the editor of the *Caribbean Messenger* and lives in Decatur, Alabama, U.S.A.**



*The cross is easier to the Christian who takes  
it up than to the one who drags it along.*



# Overseeing The Flock

Jerry Jenkins



When Paul met with the Ephesian elders at Miletus he instructed: *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood"* (Acts 20:28).

Elders have always had my admiration. Usually they serve without pay and are often unappreciated. I have heard of preachers

who felt they were severely mistreated, but all of the elders under which I have served have been fair and supportive. I have seen them anguish over some dilemma they were presented, when whatever decision they made would cause hurt and ill will.

As elders take the oversight of a congregation there are a number of factors which must be remembered.

**(1) The oversight is not to be dictatorial.** Elders are not a board of directors of a corporation called the church, but they are exemplary *leaders of a family of servants.*

One way elders can

tell if they are becoming executives rather than humble workers is the amount of time spent in business meetings. Elders should be alarmed when they spend more time in managerial type meetings than dealing directly with hurting or wayward members.

**(2) The oversight is to be from elders, plural not singular.** The authority that elders exercise is never to be singular unless one elder

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is delegated to look after a particular work. Members of the Lord's church have clearly understood that one elder is not to exercise authority, singularly. If a congregation has two elders and one dies, the remaining elder must resign, because God never organized His flock to be overseen by one man.

Members can help a godly elder not to overstep his bounds by never "cornering" him with some question and insisting that he give them an answer. We have all seen members who tried to befriend an elder to get some favorable influence. Such un-Christ-like action will desist if each godly elder will wait until decisions are reached by the eldership before he responds to any question.

**(3) The oversight that elders exercise is to be of the flock and not of themselves.** By this I mean that elders must always have the interest of the flock on their heart. The easy way to function when there are problems might be by mass disfellowship, but godly elders know that Jesus died for *each* member in the congregation and that *one soul* is worth whatever effort necessary to assist in going to heaven. The easy way to discipline would be for elders to mail a letter of correction, but godly elders understand that there is no communication like personal, face to face, teaching.

Long ago Ezekiel gave instruc-

tion to the Shepherds of Israel which would serve well the shepherds of God's spiritual flock today.

*"And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of Man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.*

*"And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them" (Ezekiel 34:1-8). †*

**Jerry Jenkins is the preacher for the Roebuck Parkway congregation of the church of Christ in Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A.**

# Quick Commentary On Crucial Verses

## Acts 10:33

The only acceptable response to a request from God. See Gen. 19:15-16

Not just any preacher, only the one designated by God was acceptable

The perfect example. Can we say that about our household of worship?

Immediately therefore I sent to thee; . . . Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things . . . commanded thee of God.

Not a mere formality. He was conscious of God's presence at preaching. Are we?

God's commanded him to be baptized. (Ac. 10:48)  
Obeying these words saved Cornelius (Ac. 11:14)

Gather at worship to hear God's word! Just being present is insufficient for growth

Cornelius was not prepared to "edit" out anything he did not agree with in the sermon

—Fenton Northern

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## CHURCH GROWTH

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When I think of heaven, I'm moved with the beauty and wonder of a place where there is no more pain, no more sorrow, no more death.

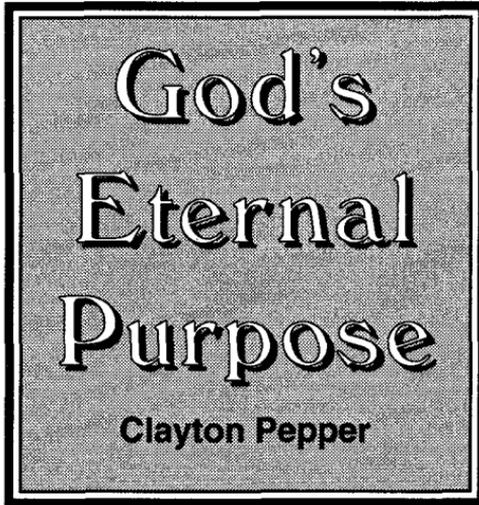
When I think of hell, I am stunned by the terribleness of a place of torment, a place of eternal darkness where there is no hope.

The line between these two places is drawn by the Gospel and I am awed when I realize that the Gospel is now in earthen vessels. The eternal destiny of men is in *our hands*.

The Bible contains much information on many subjects and we could preach and teach from now on and probably say little about reaching the lost, if we choose to do so. We could teach Bible classes from now on and say very little about our personal responsibility for winning the lost, if we choose to do so. **The eternal purpose of God according to the scripture is the redemption of man.** *"And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery,*

*which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the*

*manifest wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Ephesians 3:9-11).



God's plan for man's salvation began to unfold even as early as Genesis 3:15. Ultimately Jesus was born of the tribe of Judah and everyone who becomes a Christian enjoys the blessing that Almighty God promised through the Seed of Abraham.

Isaiah wrote, *"...the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the earth"* (Isaiah 11:9). **Now that was God's hope and God's intention and God's plan.** God had high expectations of His church!

I doubt that there has ever been a time when this prophecy could

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more likely be accomplished than today, because of modern means of communications. We can do things now that were unforeseen even a few years ago. In Isaiah 2:2, God's expectations of the church are described, "*It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountain and all nations shall flow into it.*"

There are many people today who do not know the name of Jesus.

There are others who have never heard the gospel in its purity and its simplicity. Therefore, we have the awesome and fearful responsibility and privilege to try to get this message of salvation to as many people as we possibly can.

It was said of Jesus before He was even born, "*He will save the people from their sins*" (Matthew 1:11). I like the song "Jesus Saves." I wish we could get on our minds the thought that people urgently need to be saved. How much of our thought-time is spent on the fact that *people all around us are lost and need salvation?*

Someone has described John 3:16 not only as **the golden text of the Bible**, but as one that **glows**

with the **flame of divine love** for a world of lost souls. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever should believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" That's a **precious and important passage** of Scripture.

Jesus healed the sick, restored the sight of the blind, raised the dead, and taught many great lessons. But in Luke 19:10 He tells why He really came: "*For the Son*

4000 years of preparation went into getting everything ready so that when the time was right, Jesus would be born; the church would be established; and **the great salvation that He intended would be available to all men.**

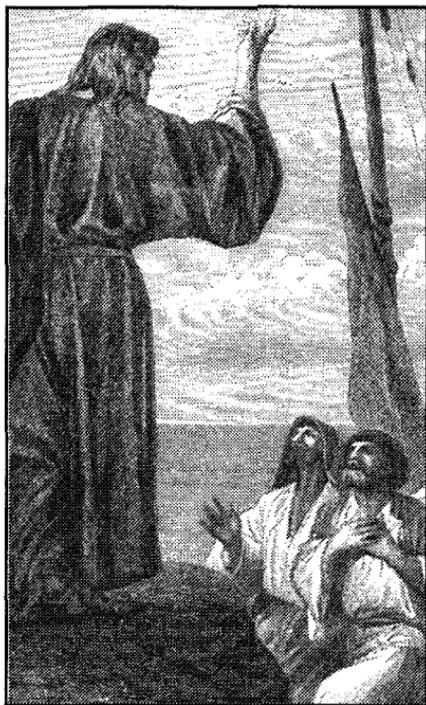
*of man hath come to seek and save that which is lost.*" If we want to know what the **business of the church** is today, then we need to re-discover what the **business of Jesus was: to**

**save the lost!**

In the first four books of the New Testament Jesus began to set in motion the most effective plan for carrying the gospel to the world that has ever been known. He called twelve men to be His apostles. In the process of training them for their work, He was associated with them closely. He insisted they be **consecrated, committed, and dedicated**. He taught them what they needed to know, to become

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what He wanted them to be and to do the work He wanted them to do.



He did demonstration teaching, showing them how the work was to be done, and He set the example for them. Then He began their practical training by sending them on the limited commission (Matthew 10).

Jesus supervised the work His disciples did, and they reported to Him the great things that had happened. He devoted three and a half years to training these chosen men.

Jesus' death on the cross to save the people from their sins was the ultimate act in this sequence of

events. He died in man's stead, taking the punishment men deserve for their sins. Then He arose from the dead. So, then, the Gospel — the glorious **good news** — is that **Christ died, He was buried, and He arose on the third day** (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Forty days later, with His apostles gathered around Him, He gave what we often refer to as the **Great Commission**. Mark's account says, "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be condemned*" (Mark 16:15,16). Matthew puts it a little differently, "*Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*" (Matthew 28:18-20).

### Three things:

- ✓ go and teach,
- ✓ baptize,
- ✓ and teach them to observe *all things*.

Jesus did not say his disciples have a **choice** in the matter. He said, "*Go and teach,*" but a better version says, "*Go and make disciples.*" This difference in thought may explain why many Christians feel the Great Commission has been fulfilled as long as we are *teaching*,

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even if our methods are not effective and if there are very few, if any, converts. This is why many are not greatly concerned even if no one is saved through our efforts.

The Phillips' paraphrase version quotes the Great Commission as, "*You must go out into all the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. He who believes it and is baptized will be saved, and he who disbelieves it will be condemned.*" He said, "You must."

Somebody once said that the **Ten Commandments** were treated as **Ten Suggestions**. How many Christians treat the Great Commission more as a **suggestion that we can choose to obey or ignore**, rather than as a **command**? As the Lord's people, we need to get serious about our responsibility to obey the Great Commission: to go and preach the gospel.

I believe the parable of the talents is parallel to the Great Commission, because it describes the Kingdom of heaven as a man traveling into a far country, who gathered together his servants and delivered unto them his goods and straightway took his journey (Matthew 25:14-30). I believe that man represents Jesus. The servants to whom He delivered his goods represents us. We are the earthen vessels, charged with the spread of the gospel.

The parable says he gave one man five talents, another was given two, a third was given one, and then the master went on his journey. After a time he returned and there was an accounting as to what the servants had done, how much profit they had made with what he had entrusted to them. All but the one-talent man had doubled their talents. He had buried his.

In the final day, the master gave a commendation to those who had done well with what they had been given, and then there was condemnation of the one-talent man who had been afraid. *How many times have you refused to do something for God because you were afraid?* To be controlled by fear is a dangerous thing. Revelation 21:8 says that *the fearful will be lost.*

The one-talent man said, "*I was afraid...*", and the Lord said, "*...you wicked and lazy servant...*" (Matthew 25:29). Then He said "*...cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth*" (Matthew 25:30). I believe this forewarns how God will deal with those people who do not take His gospel that was put in their hands and dispense it to all the world.

So often we think that not committing the sins of the flesh is the primary measure of a Christian. There is more to faithfulness than

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abstinence. Is there no condemnation if we ignore what God has commanded us to do? Will God reward silent disobedience?

In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul clearly

*forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God is spread abroad; so that we need not speak anything."*

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...

Christ so loved the world that He came to seek and save the lost...

### THEIR PURPOSE:

*To save the lost . . . To save the lost . . . To save the lost . . .*

Unless the saving of the lost is the focus of the church — and my focus as an individual Christian — the work God left in our hands is not actually being done.

related God's plan to Timothy, *"The things that thou hast heard of me, the same commit to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also."* That was God's plan to take the gospel to the world: It must become the work of the converted to teach and convert others. The message cannot remain bottled up in the heart of the receiver; it must be shared; fruit must be borne.

Lost souls are won in the arena of sacrifice and there are few won in the arena of convenience. Yet the winning of souls is the reason God has left Christians in the world. We need realize this and commit ourselves to this Great Commission of carrying the gospel to the lost.

Paul told the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 1:8, *"For from you the word of the Lord has sounded*

**Everything we do in the church must reflect God's eternal purpose — the saving of souls.** Sadly, in the church today, the use of our many resources does not reflect this intent. Our preaching, our educational programs, and our various other programs are designed to maintain the status quo in the church, rather than train and motivate us to be soul winners. We need to re-focus, centering on God's purpose for us in this world.

Unfortunately, today the Great **Commission** too often is the great **omission**. The result is millions of lost souls dying untold. How long will we allow this tragedy to continue? †

**Clayton Pepper is a preacher of the gospel who works with mass media evangelism through Restoration Radio Network in Nashville, TN, U.S.A.**

# CHARACTERISTICS OF "A GROWING CHURCH"

Clarence DeLoach, Jr.

Several volumes have been written on church growth. Most have within them helpful thoughts, though not all ideas advanced adhere to Scripture. Dr. Win Arn has one chapter in which some penetrating thoughts are gleaned from a look at the growing church at Antioch in the book of Acts. Let us consider some of those characteristics.

## **First, a strong commitment to worship.**

The public assemblies of the church are vital to growth. Worship periods need to be quality times of praise, celebration, and joy. If worship periods are cold and formal, they don't win people. Worship requires plan and preparation. The focus is on God! The by-products are fellowship, sharing, reinforcing of our love. Prayer, the Lord's Supper, singing, giving, and teach-

ing must be entered into with enthusiasm and zeal.

## **Second, a strong commitment to outreach.**

They were not smitten with passivity. They did not wait for the world to come to them. They were active, daring to confront their world. So must we! They made personal contact. We must establish relationships with people if we want to successfully channel the blessings of Christ into the lives of people. There is no substitute for personal contact.

## **Third, a strong commitment to the edification of the saints.**

In the body of Christ everyone found love and acceptance. From all walks of life they came, but in Christ they were one. In that atmosphere they were edified. A major

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thrust of their assemblies was edification (1 Corinthians 14:26). Look at the “edify” passages (Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 8:1; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:12,16).

### **Fourth, a strong commitment to people.**

Every reference Jesus made to the word “church” always had people in mind. The church is *people serving people*. At Antioch they were “members one of another”—devoted to, honoring, minding, admonishing, forbearing, submissive, and caring for each other (Romans 12:5,10; 15:5,14; Ephesians 5:20,21). Jesus reached out to people—touching, healing, and saving. *So must we!*

### **Fifth, a strong commitment to sacrifice and faithfulness.**

They offered themselves as “living sacrifices.” They learned the meaning of “denying self and taking their cross” (Romans 12:1; Matthew 16:26). There was a loyalty and steadfastness that enabled them to triumph in Christ (Romans 8:37).

May our pattern of growth always be Biblical in content and thrust. †

Clarence Deloach, Jr. preaches for the Walnut Street church in Dickson, Tennessee, U.S.A.

### **AN ATHEIST SAID...**

✘ If I firmly believed, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of Christianity in this life influences destiny in another world, Christianity would be to me, *everything*.

✘ I would cast aside earthly cares as follies and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity.

✘ Christianity would be my *first* waking thought, and my *last* image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness.

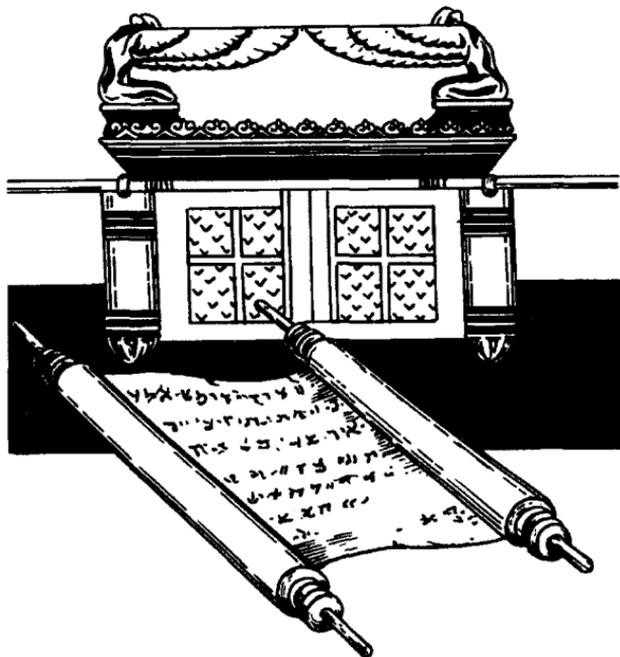
✘ I would labor for its cause alone.

✘ I would take thought for the morrow and eternity alone.

✘ I would go forth to the world and preach Christ *in season* and *out of season*, and my test would be:

**“What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”**

— Author Unknown



# No Place For A Wagon

Frank Chesser

Though yet fresh, slavery in Egypt was now a memory. In just three weeks, a year of sojourn at Mt. Sinai would expire and Israel would continue its journey toward Canaan. Surely the heart of the nation must have quickened in anticipation of the proximity of the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:7).

The three sons of Levi had charge of the tabernacle, its furnishings, and the utensils to be utilized in connection with its services. The sons of Gershon were responsible for the curtains and their accessories. The family of Merari was

charged with the framework, and Kohath with the furniture, of which the ark of the covenant was the pivot (Numbers 4).

Six wagons were set aside for use in transporting the tabernacle. The Gershonites received two and the Merarites four. *"But unto the sons of Kohath he gave none; because the service of the sanctuary belonging unto them was that they should bear upon their shoulders"* (Numbers 7:9). There was no place for a wagon in the service of the Kohathites. Their's was a "shoulder" affair.

Now the period of the priests

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and judges had passed. Israel had been a kingdom under Saul, and was now ruled by David. In the process of these changes, the Ark of the Covenant had been separated from the tabernacle for seventy years. David was eager to reinstate this symbol of God's presence in its proper place. Tragically, he resorted to a wagon. His error paved the way for Uzzah's death (2 Samuel 6:1-7). David later acknowledged, ". . . we sought him not after the due order" (1 Chronicles 15:13).

God is the sole object of true worship. *Homage paid to His name must conform to His way.* God wants singing, not playing (Colossians 3:16); the heart, not a machine; a divinely-tuned voice, not a humanly-designed instrument. The human touch short-circuits the acceptability of worship and renders the experience an exercise in futility (Matthew 15:9).

There is no place for machinery in God's pattern of worship. God's musical choice is singing. Our's is a "heart" affair (Ephesians 5:19). The blending of voices in song is the "due order." God will not accept music by mechanical equipment, conveyed on the wagon of man's rebel will. †

**Frank Chesser preaches for the Panama Street congregation in Montgomery, Alabama, U.S.A.**

## "I'm Yours Lord"

*"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20).*

### Let us give the Lord

★ **Our heart:** *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart" (Matthew 22:37).*

★ **Our eyes:** *"The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light" (Luke 11:34).*

★ **Our ears:** *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 2:7).*

★ **Our hands:** *"Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you doubleminded" (James 4:8).*

★ **Our feet:** *"Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 4:25).*

★ **Our tongue:** *"Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another" (Ephesians 4:25).*

— Charles Box

## WORSHIP

# The Worth of Worship

Bill Dillon

Worship is the Christian's spiritual vitality. Worship is to the soul what bread is to the body. In periods of praise to God we are renewed and rededicated to high aims and holy purposes. Worship tempers us against evils in the time yet to come.

In the difficult business of daily living worship enables us to seek a source of strength outside ourselves. It causes us to be humbled by thoughts of the majesty and immensity of God. Worship helps us to keep life in proper focus and saves us from drowning in puddles of pettiness.

One of the finest statements ever made on the value of attending worship services came from a grief-stricken father whose oldest son had been killed in a traffic accident. Funeral services were conducted, and the two remaining small brothers, with their heart-broken parents, proved themselves equal to the terri-

ble challenge of sudden tragedy. The following Sunday, the family was first to arrive at the church building. Their faces bore the shadows and strains of the deep grief through which they were passing, but the father explained, "We're here today because we couldn't think of a better place to be!"

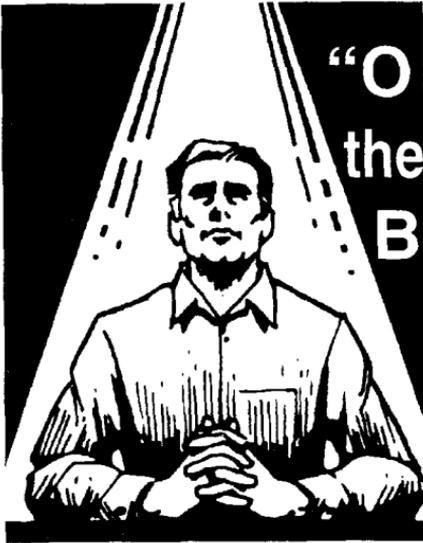
The father was right. Worship gives comfort as we lay the weight of sorrow and of every problem at the feet of God!

The very observance of the first day of the week is a shining memorial of the Lord's resurrection and His triumph over death. Guilt, grief, and the grave are vanquished in the brightness and glory of the Lord's victory. This fact alone is enough to dry every tear on the earth! †

**Bill Dillon is editor of *Gospel Gleaner* and preaches for the Lord's church in Mountain Home, Arkansas, U.S.A.**



**Worship is more than being at the right place at the right time. It is more than just the right form and emotion. It is entering wholeheartedly into an experience God wants us to have.**



# “O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness”

Ron Bryant

Love is a multifaceted response, involving and stirring to life the deepest and most intense feelings in the human heart. Love for God, once brought to life, once active in the heart, is the source of the deepest and most intense spiritual feelings a human can experience. It moves to produce the fullest utterance of which the soul is capable — worship.

Worship is the adoration and praise of God. It is homage paid, tribute given. Genuine wholehearted adoration and praise of God are among the most beautiful aspects of the Christian life. These are the heart and soul of Christian worship. Worship of God is at once glad, bright, uplifting, and winsome. It is sunshine and joy in a world filled with darkness and sadness. At the

same moment, worship of God is the noblest form of human utterance, for it combines the soul's deepest and holiest thought in the perfect garment of praise. Worship is magnificent in its source, in its course, and in its benefit. It is given birth by the grace of God and arises from the joyful heart of the redeemed. It springs from gratitude, flows with exultation, and continues with delightful adoration and honor.

The admonition to “*worship God in the beauty of holiness*” (Psalm 96:9) speaks of a course that is taken with but one desire — to be set apart unto God. In this holiness a beauty is bestowed, and out of it worship is to flow. It is reasonable to affirm, “worship is the norm, not the exception, in a life made beautiful by holiness.”

**Ron Bryant preaches for the Camelback congregation in Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A.**

# If You Believe, Say So

**Jimmy Jividen**

One of the greatest tools of the devil is intimidation. If he can cause people to be afraid of social rejection or physical persecution, he is satisfied. A man who will not stand up for what he believes will soon stop believing at all. A man's faith does not fail all at once, it is lost one compromise at a time. One little compromise will lead to another, until there is nothing left to compromise.

In many social circles it is discomforting to speak of one's faith in God, of love for Jesus, or of faith in the Scriptures. It does not seem like the time or the place to discuss spiritual things. Social intimidation causes one to remain quiet when others profane God's name or sneer at His teachings. It is hypocritical

to confess faith before an approving audience and then keep silent when others would be disapproving.

One of the most cowardly groups recorded in Scriptures were faint-hearted Jewish rulers. John says about them, "*Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God*" (John 12:42,43).

These rulers had faith, but they wanted to keep it a secret. A secret faith cannot last. The secrecy will destroy the faith, or faith will overcome the secrecy.

Peter was bold to confess his faith when summoned before the Council. Forbidden by the rulers to speak anymore in the name of Jesus, he said, "*Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard*" (Acts 4:19,20).

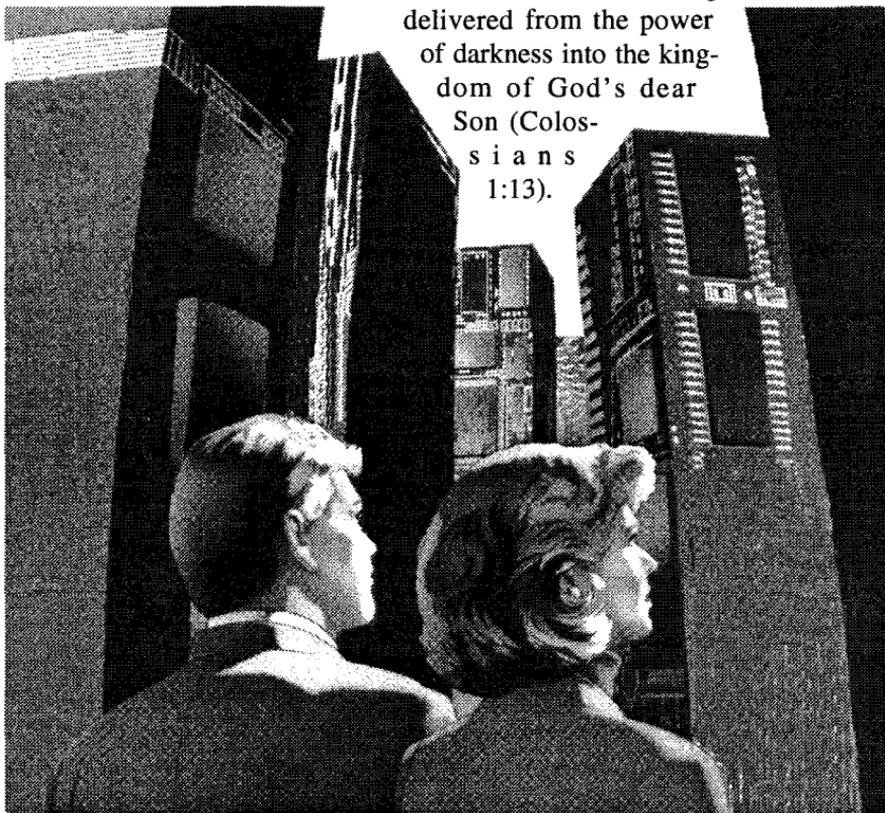
Those who believe in someone or something strongly enough will welcome the opportunity to speak up. If you are a Christian, stand up for Jesus and His teachings. †

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## DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING

Where is "home" for you? Most of us have quickly answered, giving either the city of our birth or the place we now live as "home." But, is it really? Jesus came to call us out of this world and its habits to a different way of life. He said that His disciples were "in the world but not of the world" (John 15:19). Jesus said of Himself that He was not of the world, and neither should we be. He calls us into a different kingdom. We are

delivered from the power  
of darkness into the king-  
dom of God's dear  
Son (Colos-  
sians  
1:13).



# *This World Is Not My Home*

Leon Barnes

## DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING

Our citizenship is in heaven and not in this world (Philippians 3:20).

Peter says of us that we are "*strangers and pilgrims in this earth*" (1 Peter 2:11). It is very easy to become too much at home down here. This world can become our goal, our dream, and there is no anticipation of the better world which awaits. This leads to selfishness, taking care of our own needs and wants, and forgetting the greater cause of the kingdom of God. It is vital for us to remember — *this world is not our home.*

### So What?

Why does it matter? So what if the world is not my home and I'm just passing through? What difference does it make in me today, now?

✿ It should lead me to think every day about whether my life is right with God *just as it is this minute*. If this world is passing away with everything in it, as the Bible promises, wouldn't it be rather foolish for me to stake my eternity on this world and its events?

✿ It should lead me to think of my influence on others. Even though we are not at home in this world, we are the light of the world which leads people from here to God (Matthew 5:13-16).

✿ It should cause me to think more of where I will spend my eternity than of what I will do in retirement. If I retire wealthy in this life, I can't take a dollar of it with me. Wouldn't it be the greatest misjudgment of all to stake my life and health on what is only temporary, while ignoring the eternal?

### Well, What Should I Do?

We should live each day of our lives on this earth as though it might be our last, because that is exactly what might happen. Solomon said, "*Do not boast yourself of tomorrow, for you do not know what a day will bring forth*" (Proverbs 27:1). If your life is not right with God at this very moment, don't waste another day unprepared to meet Him. Today declare your faith in Him, repent of all your sins, and be baptized now, because tomorrow may be too late. Then live for Him all the time as His holy child in this world. †

**Leon Barnes preaches the Gospel of Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas, U.S.A.**

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***He who has no  
fire in himself  
cannot warm  
others.***

# The Other Beatitudes

Robert Brooks

The “blesseds” in Matthew 5:1-11 are called the “beatitudes.” Some have spelled it like — “Be-Attitudes,” because blessedness or happiness is basically a matter of one’s attitude.

Jesus never promised His followers a “rose garden.” Over and over He warned them of persecution, trial, sorrows, and death, but He also said that true happiness can come when one endures such things for the kingdom’s sake. The kingdom is the church.

I want to list some other beatitudes which are given in the book of Revelation. To do so will help us to know how God looks at things.

There are seven “blesseds” or “beatitudes” in Revelation. They are:

- (1) *“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein” (1:3).*
- (2) *“Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth, yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them” (14:13).*
- (3) *“Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame” (16:15).*
- (4) *“Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb” (19:9).*
- (5) *“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection, on such the second death hath no power” (20:6).* The first resurrection is of those souls mentioned in verse 4. The second death is for those cast into the lake of fire, 20:14. There is no way to live wrong and die right. We live right when we live by the Book.
- (6) *“Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book” (22:7).*
- (7) *“Blessed are they that do his commandments” (22:14).* †

Robert Brooks preaches for the Springhead congregation in Plant City, Florida, U.S.A.



# A Balanced Life

Jane McWhorter

Jesus was very active during His personal ministry. He and His followers were constantly moving about from one place to another as they taught, healed the sick, fed the multitudes, and ministered to people's needs.

The press of the people prompted Christ's statement: "*Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately*" (Mark 6:31,32).

Christ lived in a human body, and thus grew tired at times. As much as He must have felt a sense of fulfillment in His active ministry, there were times when He longed to get away from the people, who were coming and going all the time. The sick needed to be healed. Various problems had to be solved. People cried to be taught the truth. The responsibilities were so great, however, that there was not even enough time to eat a meal.

God's work has a balance to it. There is a time to be born, and a time to die . . . a time to weep, and a time to laugh . . . a time to get, and a time to throw away. . . a time to keep silence, and a time to speak (Ecclesiastes 3).

There is a time to actively perform tasks in God's service, and also a time to retreat from the world to a place of quietness.

We have so many demands made upon our time. Much of it is worldly; a great deal is composed of daily trivia. There are also so many good activities and so many good endeavors that we sometimes feel guilty if we are not showing filmstrips, teaching classes, visiting the sick and lonely, encouraging the weak and the newcomers, and actively DOING something in the work of the church. We often forget that quietness and time to think are also part of His plan. †

**Jane McWhorter is the wife of a gospel preacher, and they live in Fayette, Alabama, U.S.A.**

# CHRISTIANS ARE DIFFERENT

**Tex Williams**

Jesus constantly amazed those who listened to His teachings. What He taught and what He expected of His followers was very different from anything they had ever heard before. For instance, James and John asked for the privilege of sitting at Jesus' right and left hand when He came to power. They did not understand the spiritual nature of the kingdom of God. Jesus' answer was, "... but whoever wishes to become great among you will be your servant" (Mark 10:43). When one becomes a Christian, he accepts and develops a completely different spirit, attitude, and lifestyle.

Actually, the Christian way of thinking and living does not match usual ways that most people think and live. It is super-natural, revolutionary, and radical. However, Christians accept these new ways of life because they are confident they are true. Many times the new ways of living are very different from the Christian's desires and inclinations, but he adds them to his life anyhow.

Christians learn to distrust the world's values, lifestyles, and moral standards, even when they seem the more preferable way.

When one becomes a Christian, he doesn't just *add* something else to his life. This new way demands a complete revolution. Jesus called it being "*born again.*" Paul wrote, "*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come*" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Bible teaches that there are two kingdoms in the world. In one the devil and his ways are followed. In the other, Jesus Christ is the Lord of life, and His followers conform to His ways. This idea is outstanding in Christ's teaching. He said there are two roads: "*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it*" (Matthew 7:13,14).

## DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING

He contrasted the wheat and the tares, growing together in a field, and He told of their ultimate end: *"Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn'"* (Matthew 13:24-30).

He described the separation of fish: *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away."*

*"So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth"* (Matthew 13:47-50).

Jesus also talked of the two masters: *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon"* (Matthew 6:24).

Christians must keep in mind that they are a part of the church of our Lord, the kingdom of God, which is heavenly. It is made up of a group of people whose lives have

been changed, who *"beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory"* (2 Corinthians 3:18). It is made up of those who have been given *"exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"* (2 Peter 1:3,4).

These changed people, though they belong to heaven, still live briefly here upon the earth so that they can be used by God to reach out to others. As *"ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God"* (2 Corinthians 5:20)

But the influence is for good only if Christians are continually aware that the world and Christianity represent two entirely different systems. One cannot mix with the other. We must choose whom we will serve: *God or Satan.* †

**Tex Williams is the Director of World Bible School, which is based in Austin, Texas, U.S.A.**

**The Son of God became the Son of Man that He might change the sons of men into sons of God.**

**— Selected**



**Michael L. King**

There seems to be a greater search in the world today for a genuine meaning of life than in recent decades. The hunt is complicated by society's warped values and the tangents upon which man is sent by materialism, humanism, and theism.

The greatest quest of all is to be found in the very heart of man, that of learning who he is and how he relates to the "big picture" of life, death, and beyond. In general, each person is asking, "What is my

worth?" or "What is my reason for living?" Too much stress cannot be placed upon the importance of finding a correct answer for these and other questions about self-worth.

The strength of the church is contingent upon an affirmative conclusion to these questions. The fulfillment of the role of mother, father, employee, elder, preacher, student, etc., depends upon the confidence that comes from the strength of a healthy self-esteem.

## DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING

*"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he,"* so states Proverbs 23:7. Inspiration's counsel is that we are limited or driven by our self-view. The ability to be forgiven or to undertake the Lord's work in any capacity rests solidly upon the fact that I must in some way feel that I am "worthy." Too often we see ourselves as impure, unfit, guilty, and abhorred in the presence of the Almighty! "How can one who is so finite serve a God who is so infinite?" we ask. We see ourselves somewhat "chasing the wind" striving to answer the colloquial question, "What on earth are you doing, for heaven's sake?" Dear reader, how do you view yourself in God's sight? Do you love yourself? What is your relationship with others? Do you feel loved by God?

This discussion is not entertaining self-infatuation, exaggerated affection for self, or arrogance. It is so critical that we see ourselves as the workmanship of a loving and caring God. Do you remember the bumper sticker that said, "God don't make no junk"? If you can overlook the grammar, the thought is profound! There is within each of us the "breath of God" which makes us eternal beings (Genesis 2:7), formed in the very likeness of God. When we demean self, it is an indictment to God's ability to make, salvage, restore, and maintain His

creation. It is not just a devaluation of yourself, but it also appears as if "your God is too small"!

David, in all his sin and rebellion, still had the clarity of mind to declare, *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well"* (Psalm 139:14). The apostle Paul reminded the Romans to *"love thy neighbor as thyself"* (Romans 13:9). This is the same healthy love for self that our Lord spoke of in Matthew 19:18.

A failure to find the love for the person that we are can lead to egotism, haughtiness, superior attitude, and braggadocio spirit. Ironically, all of these seemingly "proud" traits are born of insecurity and display a tragic deficiency of self-respect.

Lack of a proper measure of self-love can lead to depression, suicide, substance abuse, unfaithfulness in the home and church, and can cause problems in our associations with others. If we cannot love and respect self, chances are it will be difficult to have much fondness or kindness toward anyone. The greater appreciation one has for self, the better he cares for his physical well-being and the greater concern he will show for the salvation of his eternal part, his soul which lives forever.

## DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING

An equation is made between a person's attitude toward his body and the Lord's attitude toward the church. *"For no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church"* (Ephesians 5:29). This must have been the reason the Lord declared that the person who commits fornication *"sinneth against his own body"* (1 Corinthians 6:18). The following verse explains why: *"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"* Peter charges us to *"Sanctify (set aside room or purify for spiritual purposes) the Lord God in your hearts"* (1 Peter 3:15). This "heart treatment" is done by an application of the Word of God (John 17:17).

"Worthy" on my own merits? Not on your life! *"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8,9), paying the price (Acts 20:28) to make me justified ("just-as-if-i-'d never sinned). The measure of one's worth is determined by the value of the life of a babe in a manger in Bethlehem almost 2,000 years ago. When we *"look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith"* (Hebrews 5:8,9; 12:2) rather than the world, we conform to *"the image of his Son"* (Romans 8:28).

Dear friend, you are special!

You belong to God who paid a magnificent price for you! How can we *"neglect so great salvation?"* (Hebrews 2:3). Good is not innately within you, but it has been planted there and preserved by our loving God. If God sees beauty and worth in you, why can't you?

*"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"* (Isaiah 40:31). †

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Fear God for His power;  
Obey Him for His authority;  
Seek Him for  
His forgiveness;  
Trust Him for His wisdom;  
Love Him for His goodness;  
Praise Him for  
His greatness;  
Thank Him for His mercy;  
Believe Him for  
His faithfulness;  
Adore Him for His holiness.

# God Helps His Children Every Day



Wayne Barrier

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Every Christian should be strongly motivated by the promise of eternal life and happiness after the triumphant return of Christ to claim his church and return with it to heaven. If we are honest about ourselves, we readily realize that such a reward is far greater than anything we could ever deserve or hope to achieve, based on our merit. By God's grace we have the hope of heaven and this hope can keep us going if we only take time to think about what it means to us.

It is even more remarkable that God not only promises heaven and its rewards, but will bless us every day in many other ways. These blessings are also especially important and should be understood if we are to remain faithful till the end of our earthly existence. A few of these promised daily blessings are as follows:

**God's Constant Presence** — In Matthew 28:20, as Jesus concludes his commandment for us to evangelize the world, he also makes a special promise: *"I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* This means *every day, everywhere, in every situation.*

**Pure Conscience, Freedom from Sin** — Paul declares in Romans 8:1 that *"there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."* Freedom from condemnation and guilt is essential for Christians to work and live productively for the Lord. Through Christ

## DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING

we can have this freedom, every day of our lives.

**Strength** — In Ephesians 3:16, Paul states that we can be strengthened, “*according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.*” Strong Christians obtain strength from God, and can resist and overcome the power and influence of Satan.

**Wisdom Granted** — James 1:5 states, “*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*” Many have knowledge, mistaking it for wisdom. We need both in order to live in spiritual safety in this world.

**Prayers Answered** — Jesus states in Luke 11:9, “*Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you...*” Our most powerful weapon in daily life is prayer.

**Providence, Purpose** — In Romans 8:28 the promise is made, “*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*”

**Freedom from Anxiety, Worry** — Philippians 4:6,7 reads, “*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” Anxiety and worry destroy more people than any disease.

These are a few of the things God promises to his faithful children. These promises affect our lives on a personal basis every day. How can anyone reject God and the wonderful things He wants to do for us? All God asks is that we submit to His will in obedience and live our life for *Him* instead of living for *Satan*. †

**Wayne Barrier lives in Florence, AL and is part of the World Evangelism team in the United States.**

### My Brother's Keeper?

My brother died last night. I should have often sought his door. I might have reached a hand to help him bear the load he bore. I might have said some word that would have made a dark day bright. He does not need me any more.... My brother died last night!

# Fear

**Betty Burton Choate**

He didn't come, and the time was past,  
Yet he didn't come.

I watched the road for lights,  
My ears strained for the motor sound  
But there was only darkness, silence,  
And a fear began.

Slowly at first,  
A nagging uneasiness in my heart,  
An ache for the anxiety to be ended,  
Yet there was no end, and the fear grew.

A nervous edginess filled me up inside,  
Creeping over my arms and legs,  
Taking away their strength

And a numbness began to build,

A coldness,

A deadness,

Invading every tissue of my body  
With paralyzing fear

So that, at last, my thoughts,  
my being,

Were reduced to the hugeness

Of one engulfing,

Overwhelming,

All-pervading

Fear.

Yes, he came,

And relief came,

And thankfulness came.

And a thought came:

I had been so deeply afraid

That every part of my body

Was totally given over to the fear,

Yet my dread,

My agony,

Had not swept me to the extreme

Of "sweating, as it were, great drops of blood."

What must have been His horror

That night,

Alone in the garden,

When He, one with God,  
Eternally pure,  
Struggled in mortal fear of "being made sin"?  
You say it was the cross He dreaded?

No!

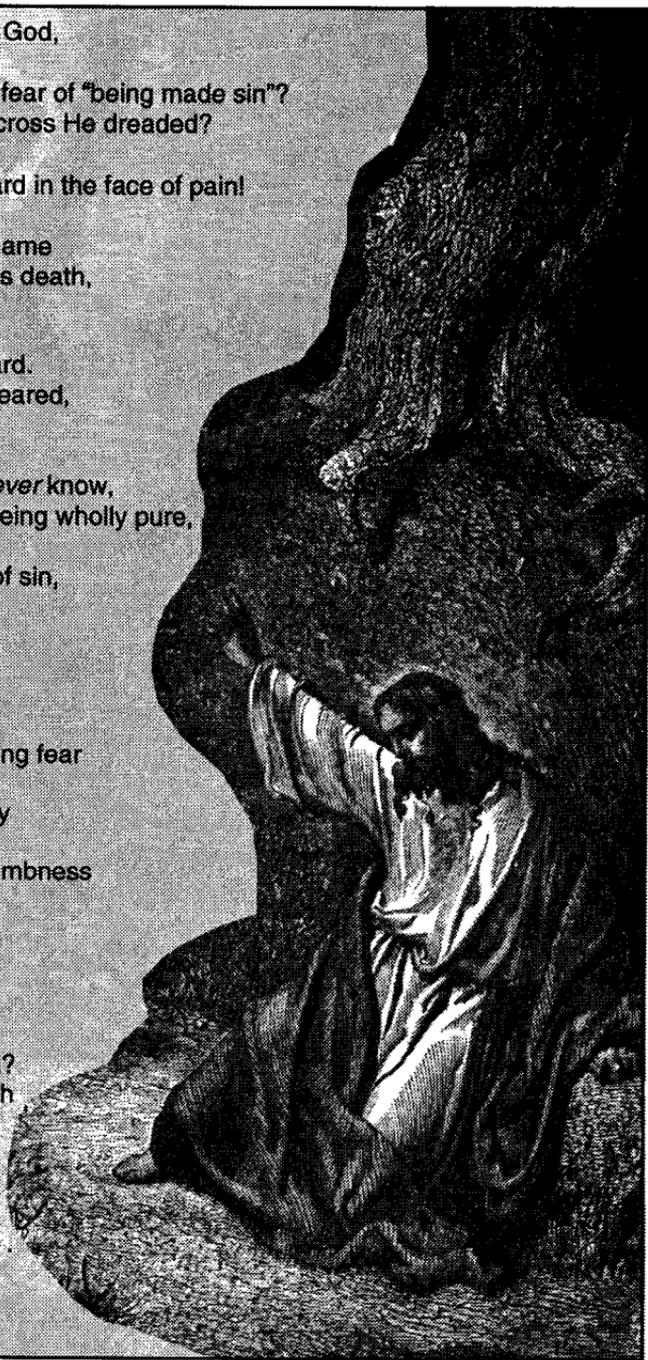
Don't call Him coward in the face of pain!  
Since that day,  
How many for His name  
Have died a martyr's death,  
And died with joy?

No —

Don't call Him coward.  
It was not pain He feared,  
Or death,  
But He knew,  
As you and I can *never* know,  
The divineness of being wholly pure,  
And He knew  
The alien ugliness of sin,  
And He knew  
What it would cost  
To be "made sin",  
And the horror  
And the dread  
And the all-consuming fear  
Of that knowledge  
Swept over His body  
With a coldness  
And a paralyzing numbness  
Of sweat  
As great drops  
Of blood.

I wonder . . .

Is sin really that bad?  
And am I really worth  
That much to Him?  
    and if it is,  
    and if I am,  
God have mercy  
on my smallness. . . .



# Parenting Is Not Just For Mothers

Gary C.  
Hampton

Thank God for mothers who love the Lord and teach their children to love and respect His Word! There is no doubt that some adults are faithful Christians today because they had a godly example in the lives of their mothers. The apostle Paul saw such results in the life of Timothy. *"When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also"* (2 Timothy 1:5).

However, God never intended for Christian mothers to handle child rearing alone. Paul said, *"Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become dis-*



*couraged"* (Colossians 3:20,21). It is clear that Paul thought both parents would be involved in teaching and correcting their children. It is also clear that we fathers need to watch to be sure we do not provoke and thereby discourage the children God has entrusted to our care.

Before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, He decided to tell Abraham His plans. *"For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord*

## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him" (Genesis 18:19). God had promised to bless all nations of the earth through the seed of Abraham, but that promise was contingent upon his guiding his children and household into the path of obedience.

The wise man wrote, "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; For they will be graceful ornaments on your head, and chains about your neck" (Proverbs 1:8,9). Fathers must be actively involved in instructing their children so that their adult lives can be filled with joy.

Of course, our ultimate aim should be the salvation of the precious souls God has placed under our care. "My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you . . . Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God" (Proverbs 2:1,5). Obviously, those fathers who would long for a great family reunion in heaven will constantly want to point to the love of God. "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights" (Proverbs 3:11,12). †

Gary C. Hampton is the preacher for the Central Avenue congregation in Valdosta, Georgia, U.S.A.

## Lifetime Memories

**Pause** with your child when others hurry by; **walk** with your child when others are running.

**Smile** with your child when others can find only frowns; **listen** to your child when others appear preoccupied.

**Talk** with your child when others prefer shouting; **praise** your child when others can find only fault.

**Hug** your child when others fail to sense the power of touch; **read** with your child when others prefer television.

**Learn** from your child when others have forsaken curiosity; **play** with your child when others prefer being entertained.

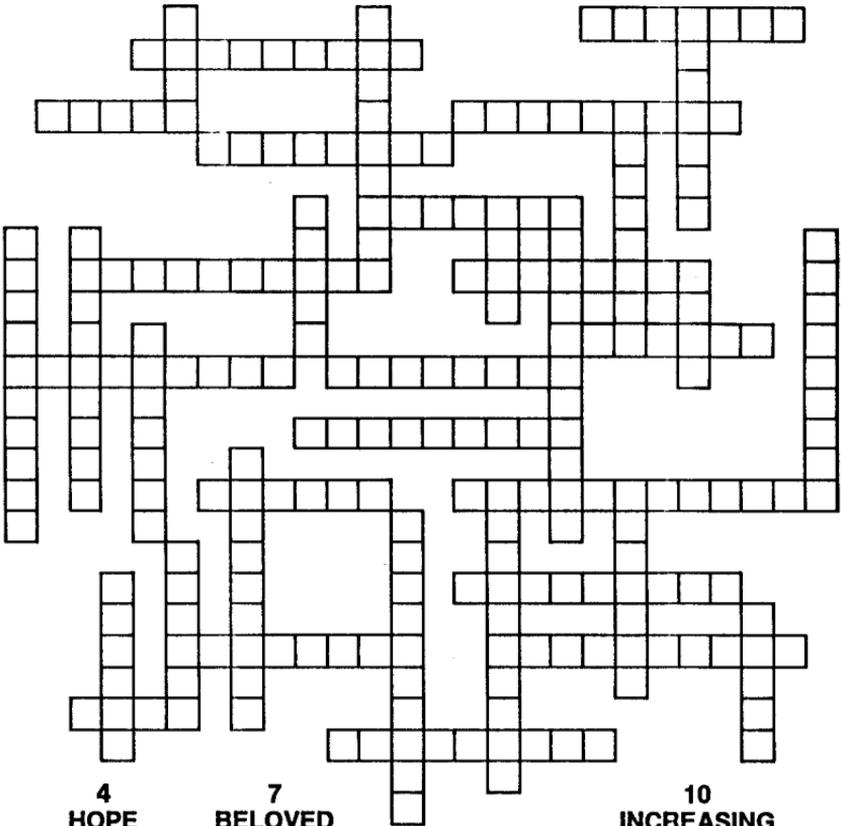
**Discipline** your child when others fail to establish limits; **apologize** to your child when others pretend perfection.

**Pray** with your child when others have lost faith; **dream** with your child when others have become too cynical

— Anthony Witham

# THE BOOK OF 2 Thessalonians for adults

Paul encouraged all followers of Christ to press on. Use the words below to fill in the puzzle.



- 4  
HOPE  
LOVE  
PRAY  
REST
- 5  
GRACE  
GLORY  
PEACE
- 6  
CALLED  
EXHORT  
WORTHY

- 7  
BELOVED  
EXAMPLE  
GLORIFY  
GUARDED  
GROWING  
KINGDOM
- 8  
FAITHFUL  
JUDGMENT  
OBEDIENT  
PEACEFUL  
THANKFUL

- 9  
BELIEVERS  
COMFORTED  
CONFIDENT  
DELIVERED  
ENDURANCE  
IMITATORS  
QUIETNESS  
RIGHTEOUS  
STEADFAST  
SUFFERING

- 10  
INCREASING  
PERSECUTED  
SANCTIFIED  
TRADITIONS  
TRIUMPHANT
- 11  
ESTABLISHED
- 12  
STRENGTHENED

Five

C's

Christ-centered  
Consecrated  
Conscious  
Compassionate  
Consistent

# of Personal Evangelism

John R. Vaughan

Jesus emphasized personal evangelism in His ministry. We have His example in teaching Nicodemus, Zaccheus, Matthew, and a woman at the well of Samaria, to name a few cases. Another beautiful illustration of personal work is seen in the life of Andrew who brought his brother Simon to Jesus.

There are a number of advantages to personal work: it can be done anytime, any place, and with anybody. It can be done face-to-face, so the one being taught can ask questions. Or it can be done by phone or through the postal system,

or by using any number of other methods.

Someone once mentioned five principles of personal work, all of which begin with the letter "C." It will be worthwhile to note these "c's" so they can be of help to us as we reach out to others with the gospel story.

First, personal work must be **Christ-centered**. "*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ*" (Galatians 3:27). It has been said, "If your religion does much for you, then you can do much for others." The only way we

## CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

can be a light in the world is to reflect the light of Christ.

Secondly, we must be **consecrated**, set apart, made holy unto the work of saving the souls of men. A beautiful hymn, says, "Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine. Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope and my will be lost in thine." A part of consecration would include prayer. We would do well to remember, "We must go to God for a lost world before we can go to a lost world for God."

Thirdly, personal workers should be **conscious** of a divine mission. The Great Commission was not given only to missionaries and preachers but to every disciple. Wherever one travels in this world he will find men and families who are living and working as foreigners in various countries, men whose sole purpose in being there is to make money. The Christian's attitude should be, "If others can live here for material gain, I can live here for the sake of God and the gospel."

Fourthly, the personal worker must be **compassion**. Jesus said, "*I have compassion on the multitude . . .*" (Mark 8:2). We must have compassion for the souls of men before we will do much to save them. Compassion is not simply an internal emotional grief or sorrow

for the plight of others; it is a motivating force that causes us to leave home and family and comfort in order to bring the bread of life for which the lost are starving.

Lastly, the personal worker must have the quality of **consistency**, or patience. The only way we can reach people is to persuade them concerning *the truth*. Coercion is not conversion. It takes time and a great deal of patient work for the seed that has been sown to sprout and grow.

But while the personal worker is waiting in prayer, he is also realizing that there is no joy like that of being a lifesaver. There is no thrill like plucking the souls of men from the hands of the devil. We have been saved to save others. We have been won to win. We have been found to find. We have been sought to seek. Let us be up and about the Master's business. †

**John R. Vaughan preaches for the Graymere congregation in Columbia, Tennessee, U.S.A.**

*First-century Christians went out into the world to tell the story of Jesus. Too often, twentieth-century Christians go to the church building to have the story of Jesus told to them. . . .*

*Is it not so?*

*— Selected*

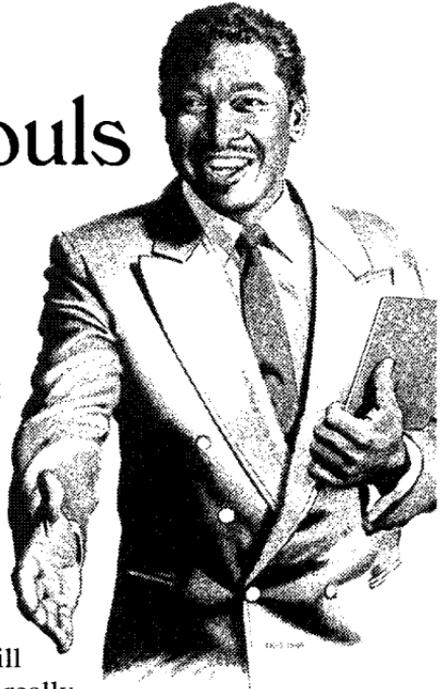
# Winning Souls Is Wise

**Dale Grissom**

The Lord's church is not growing because we are not taking the Gospel to the lost. We are not confronting people face to face with the Gospel. There are many prospects. There are those all around us who are lost and have not heard the Gospel of Christ — each one of these is a prospect.

We tend to think that no one will listen. We feel that if people were really honest and sincere, they would come to our services. When they do come, about all we do is invite them back. Then we usually say, "*Well, they are just not listening.*" Friends, the problem is not that no one is listening — the problem is that we are not talking the Gospel. Some of the things we do are not confronting, even though they are things we must do as Christians. *Doing such things as inviting folks to worship and living in such a way that hopefully will cause someone to ask about the church is not confronting.* It is not confronting until we get a person concerned and talking about his soul and where he will spend eternity. You have heard it said, "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care." This is a very true statement. We must care enough to confront the lost with the Gospel of Christ.

In Matthew 28:19,20 Jesus said, "*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*" When Jesus said, "*Go ye and teach all nations,*" He was speaking to eleven



## CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

men. What did these eleven men think? Did they think — impossible, incredible, unattainable?

Imagine that Jesus said these words to eleven men today and that you were one of the eleven. What would be your reaction? Would you think Jesus really means *me*? If so, then say with Paul, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*” (Philippians 4:13). Paul told of the reactions of the early Christians in facing this task. “*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; We are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed*” (2 Corinthians 4:8,9). What are your reactions when you realize that “*go ye*” really means “*go me*”?

“*Go ye*” is a part of the Great

Commission. It is the commission for New Testament Christians to go teach. Many Christians will admit that “*go ye*” means “*go me*” as much today as when Jesus spoke those words from the mount of ascension a short distance from Jerusalem — *but they do little about it.*

It is clear that Christians are to accomplish two major things if we are to obey the Great Commission of the New Testament. **First**, we are to teach and baptize the alien sinner. **Second**, we are to try to restore delinquent or unfaithful Christians, “*teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.*” Friends, we must begin **now** to reach the lost. †

**Dale Grissom works with the North One Mile Road church in Dexter, Missouri, U.S.A.**

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## A Guide to Build the Church

In the book of Nehemiah we read of the work of the people of Israel in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. The key points which were their guidelines would help us to be successful in building the Lord's church today if we would only employ them. Please note the things they did:

- ✓ They prayed.
- ✓ They planned their work.
- ✓ They encouraged each other.
- ✓ They ignored criticism.
- ✓ They involved every person in the work.
- ✓ They focused attention on the right thing and refused to be distracted.
- ✓ They remembered that **God** was fighting *for* them and *with* them.

— Selected

# Who Am I?

*Can you identify me? Read each clue and think carefully. If you guess my name after the first clue, give yourself a score of 100 points. If you know who I am only after the fifth clue, your score is 60, etc. When you are sure of my identity, look up the passages of scripture following each clue to verify the facts from God's word. I am a good example of faithfulness through good times and bad.*

1. **100** I was called a Tishbite, from the trans-Jordan area of Gilead (1 Kings 17:1).
2. **90** After making a dire prophecy, I was told by God to go and hide by the Brook Cherith (17:1-3).
3. **80** A widow of Zarephath gave me some food (17:9).
4. **70** Another woman hated me so much she swore she would kill me (19:2).
5. **60** It was during my lifetime as a prophet that numerous miracles were performed (1Kings 17-2 Kings 2).
6. **50** Ahab was king of Israel, and Jezebel was his wife (1 Kings 16:29,30).
7. **40** Jezebel had brought in many prophets of Baal, and they had led the Israelites into idolatry (16:31-33).
8. **30** After my victory over the false prophets on Mount Carmel, I became afraid and I ran for my life (19:1-3).
9. **20** The angel of the Lord brought me to Mount Horeb (Sinai, the mountain of God, where God first revealed His name — Jehovah — to Moses, and the site of the giving of the Law to Moses after the Exodus). After a strong wind had passed and an earthquake had shaken the mountain, followed by a fire, the Lord Himself spoke to me in a still small voice. He asked me what I was doing there, and then He gave me instructions concerning Israel (19:4-18).
10. **10** I did not die but was taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2:11)



**My Score** \_\_\_\_\_

*See answer on inside back cover.*



## “When the Fullness of Time Was Come”

G. Devadanam

By the time Christ came to the earth, the spiritual world view was in such a despicable condition that it was desperately in need of a Savior. Several things brought about such a wretched condition. We need to envisage some of those things in order to rightly evaluate the true picture of Christ's mission to the earth.

**The first one is:** *the damage caused by the misuse of the Law of Sin and Death* (Romans 8:2). Truly God must be acknowledged (Romans 1:17-20), feared and

obeyed (Ecclesiastes 12:13,14), if not for any other reason but that He created us in His own image, after His own likeness (Genesis 1:26). That is why He gave this law. Introducing it in the Garden of Eden, the Almighty God commanded Adam, “. . . *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die*” (Genesis 2:17).

The law of sin and death simply is this: **God's commandment is the law or rule, the transgression**

## SALVATION

of which is sin (1 John 3:4), the inevitable consequence of which is death (Romans 6:23). In other words, sin disconnects man from the life which is in God (Ephesians 4:18). Therefore, when Adam transgressed God's commandment,

threat to sin's slaves (Hebrews 2:15), death followed sin. ". . . By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). Consequently, death began to reign over

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Humans, trying to cope with life on this earth, need to realize that certain laws govern us. Built into those laws are the inevitable consequences of breaking them. For instance, *sin results in death*. This is not an arbitrary punishment imposed God because He is cruel and unloving; it is simply the *inevitable end of sin*. Only God can intervene for us and set aside the natural consequence of sin, as we obediently wash ourselves in the blood of His Son.

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the law of sin and death automatically became operational (Genesis 3:17,22,23).

In this, man loses the sonship of God. Sin stands in between the holy God and the disobedient unbeliever (sinner) as a barrier hindering all contacts (Isaiah 59:1,2). Man desperately needs a mediator, without whom he is eternally lost!

**The second one is:** *the devastating work of both sin and death*. From a very humble beginning in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:17), and from its surroundings (Genesis 4:7), sin grew in strength and took control of human thinking (Genesis 6:5). Finally, it rose up to the heights of making man as its own slave (John 8:34; Romans 6:16).

On the other hand, posing a

all men. Without proper atonement for sin, sinful man was doomed for eternal damnation. Nothing less than a voluntary and vicarious sacrifice of the just for the unjust was required, if man was to have any hope at all.

**The third one is:** *the law of Moses*. Because of the faith of Abraham, Israel was chosen to carry out God's purposes on earth (Isaiah 41:8,9). They were given the law of do's and don'ts, which if they heeded carefully would guard them against the eternal consequences of the law of sin and death. Therefore, the law of Moses is also known as the law of righteousness. "*But Israel which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.*"

## SALVATION

*Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith but as it were by the works of the law, for they stumbled at that stumbling stone*" (Romans 9:31,32).

Therefore, the law, because of transgression, instead of being a blessing to the Jews, rather turned out to be a curse (Galatians 3:10,11). It truly became an unbearable yoke for all their generations (Acts 15:10). Jews under the law could find no other alternative, unless God graciously provided one.

The villain of the plot and the power behind all this evil and chaos is none other than the Devil himself. Through lying words of deception, he has been successful in causing men to disbelieve and disobey the God of heaven ever since the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:17; 2 Corinthians 11:2).

However, God was not unconcerned about man's pathetic condition. By His determinate counsel and foreknowledge (Acts 2:23), God was prepared to meet any eventuality and He planned a perfect solution to man's problem, in Christ, even before the foundation of the world. "...the Lamb slain

*from the foundation of the world"* (Revelation 13:8; Ephesians 1:4-6).

God was only waiting for the proper time that He might reveal His abundant love which He has for mankind, through the giving of His Son (John 3:16). "*But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons*" (Galatians 4:4,5).

*"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the (Mosaical) law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"* (Romans 8:1-4). †

**G. Devadanam is a gospel preacher and writer in Madras, India.**

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**He does not love what is good  
who does not hate what is evil.**

**— Selected**



# Message From The Cross: Life After Death

Royce Frederick

*"Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him . . . But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly . . . but this Man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said to Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.' And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise'" (Luke 23:39-43).*

"Paradise" ("park" or "garden") is a comfortable waiting place for the spirits of righteous people who have died (see Luke 16:22). It is in "Hades," the realm of departed spirits. Hades also contains a place of torment (Luke 16:23; 2 Peter 2:4,9).

At the end of the world, all people who have died will return from Hades to be judged, then go to never-ending punishment or never-ending life (John 5:28,29; Matthew 25:34,41; Revelation 20:12-15, 21:7,8).

The thief to whom Jesus spoke these words received salvation, but he is **not a complete example** of how to be saved today. The New Testament of Christ did not become God's law for His people until after Jesus died (Hebrews 9:17). When the thief was pardoned, the law of Moses was still God's law for His people. Later, Jesus died and God took away the law of Moses, "*having nailed it to the cross*" (Colossians 2:14; see also Romans 7:4,6; Galatians 3:24,25).

Today, the New Testament is God's only law for His people. Sinners who desire to be saved must hear the Gospel, believe it, repent of their sins, confess their faith in Christ, and be baptized in water for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; 8:35-39; 22:16; Romans 10:9,10,17; 6:3-5,23). †

Royce Frederick is editor of *International Gospel Teacher*, Central Church of Christ, Lufkin, Texas, U.S.A.

# What Does Your Name Mean?

Mark N. Posey

I have a book that gives the meaning of many names. It is for expecting parents when choosing a name for their child. It probably has the meaning of your name. My name "Mark" means "defender." Other names mean "noble spirited" and "handsome, quick."

But what about your spiritual name, "Christian"? What does it mean? We cannot go to a name book for this answer, however. We must go to THE BOOK.

Galatians 3:26,27 says, "*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*"

2 Corinthians 5:17 states, "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*"

"*The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch*" (Acts 11:26).

"Disciples" occurs 72 times in Matthew, 44 times in Mark, 38 times in Luke, 77 times in John, and 30 times in Acts — 261 times in the

first five books of the New Testament; but this word is not used even once in the last 22 books of the New Testament. The significance of this is further emphasized by the fact that the apostle John, after using it 77 times in his account of the Gospel, never used it even once in his short epistles and in Revelation. After the book of Acts, no follower of the Lord was ever called a disciple. The conclusion is rather obvious, that "disciple" as a name for members of the body of Christ was countermanded and replaced by the Holy Spirit with the name "Christian" and with the designation "brethren", signifying the family relationship in Christ.

"*Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You almost persuade me to become a Christian'*" (Acts 26:28).

"*Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter*" (1 Peter 4:16).

"*For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them*

## SALVATION

*brethren...*" (Hebrews 2:11).

Unfortunately, the word **Christian** has lost a great deal of significance over the centuries, and in many people's lives it no longer means "one who has turned from sin, trusted Jesus Christ, and received salvation through baptism and grace." Many people who have never been born again consider themselves "Christians" simply because they say they are not "pagans." After all, they may belong to a church, attend services somewhat regularly, and even occasionally give to the work of that church! But it takes more than this for a sinner to become a child of God. It takes faith in Jesus Christ, repentance from past and present sins, confession of the good name of Jesus Christ, and baptism by immersion into the death and burial of Jesus Christ, followed by the resurrection and new life through His blood.

Christians in the early church suffered because they wore the name and were Christians (1 Peter 4:16). The question I must ask is, "If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" The answer is a matter of life or death! †

**Mark N. Posey preaches for the  
Austinville Church of Christ in  
Decatur, Alabama, U.S.A.**

### YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

Said Yesterday to Tomorrow:

"When I was young  
like you,

I, too, was fond of boasting  
Of all I meant to do;  
But while I fell a-dreaming  
Along the pleasant way,  
Before I scarcely knew it,  
I found I was Today!

"And as Today, so quickly  
My little course was run,  
I had not time to finish  
One-half the things begun.  
Would I could try it over,  
But I can ne'er go back;  
A Yesterday forever  
I now must be, alack!

"And so, my good Tomorrow,  
If you would make a  
name

That history shall cherish  
Upon the roll of fame  
Be all prepared and ready  
Your noblest part to play  
In those few fleeting hours  
When you shall be Today!"

— Author Unknown

# A Death Blow In A Velvet Glove

Betty Tucker

**"for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman"  
(Judges 4:9).**

Israel suffered for twenty years under the rule of King Jabin. He and the Canaanites made their lives miserable, so the people cried for release.

Deborah, a prophetess of Israel, gave counsel and advice from her home under a palm tree (Judges 4:5). She told Barak, captain of Israel's army, that God would deliver the Canaanites to his hand at the river Kishon.

Barak, in a moment of panic, decided that he needed her presence to face the mighty Canaanite army. He is remembered for his cowardly statement, ". . . *if thou wilt go with me, then I will go . . .*" (Judges 4:8).

Deborah agreed to accompany the fearful warrior. However, she announced that "*the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.*" Barak would receive no honor for the defeat of the Canaanites (Judges 4:9).

Barak, with his 10,000 men, met Sisera's 900 chariots of iron in a mighty test of strength. An unseen ally intervened on the side of the Israelites in the form of a fearful hailstorm.

Later, Deborah and Barak sang of the victory (Judges 5) — "*the earth trembled, the heavens dropped, the clouds dropped water . . . the mountains melted . . .*"

Sisera's soldiers were discomfited, and that cruel general fled on foot in the confusion of battle. He entered the tent of a woman named Jael, and begged for water. Jael gave Sisera warm milk and covered him with a blanket, urging him to rest. When he fell asleep, she drove a sharp tent spike through his head and into the ground.

When Barak came looking for Sisera, he found him dead in Jael's tent. The cruel warrior had died at the hand of a woman, just as Deborah had foretold. Death came in an unusual fashion, delivered in a velvet glove. †

**Betty Tucker is the wife of a gospel preacher, and they live in Linden, Tennessee, U.S.A.**

# So Right But So Wrong

Owen Cosgrove

Luke 15:11-21

He was so right. Everything he said was true. "*Lo these many years do I serve thee . . .*" He had been a diligent and dependable worker.

"*I never transgressed your commandment . . .*" He had kept the rules faithfully. He stood by his father and helped to keep things going while the younger son was breaking his father's heart.

He was clean morally, as far as we know. Immorality was totally out of character to him. He was a good son, a good man. But in the parable the Lord told in Luke 15, he wound up being his father's problem child. He was so right, but he was so wrong.

**He was wrong in his attitude toward his brother.** Could it be that he was part of the reason the younger brother wanted to leave home? His religion and his attitude were so hard and inflexible that he could not show any grace or mercy. *He could not forgive.* And when everyone else was rejoicing and celebrating at the prodigal's repentance, he was seething in anger and bitterness. He was so intent on playing God that he could not even show common courtesy.

**He was wrong in his attitude toward his father.** That dear old man, after suffering years of heartache, now was being robbed of what comfort might have come from seeing his younger son again. How many nights had he cried himself to sleep? How many times had his heart broken with grief? How many times had he wondered, "Is my son dead? Is he in prison? Is he cold and hungry? Is he in any serious trouble? Will I ever see him again?"

Now, in this precious reprieve from disaster, the "good boy" gives his father a tongue-lashing he will never forget. So right, but so wrong. He had so many things to learn.

**He had the wrong attitude toward himself.** The person who sings his own praises usually pitches the tune a little too high. He did not know that the Lord despises self-righteousness as much or more than any other sin. He

## TEXTUAL STUDIES

did not perceive that judgment will be without mercy to those that show no mercy. He did not realize that he, too, was a problem child — one who needed to repent and apologize. And it was easier for the father to deal with the penitent sinner than with the arrogant fanatic and bigot.

We are all sinners, and all of us need mercy. We may be right in a thousand things, but we still are not perfect, and we still are not God. And whenever we try to play God, however right we are, we will still be wrong, painfully and dead wrong. And in such a state, we cannot be happy, and neither can those who are around us, and neither can God be pleased. †

Owen Cosgrove preaches Christ in Waxahachie, Texas, U.S.A.

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### The Gift That I've Got

In the church today, this is my task  
For the members like me to take time to ask,  
In the work of the Lord, what can I do?  
And be Christian enough to carry it through  
Never complaining that others don't teach  
Or try with me, some soul to reach  
But use for the Master the gift I've got  
Even though I may not be given a lot.

Like a picture puzzle, I'm but one small part  
If I'll find my place and then just start  
To fill that place the best that I can  
And show Christianity to my fellowman  
The church today will continue to grow  
The limits of which we'll never know.  
So let us unite our vision and dreams.  
Christianity is not as hard as it seems.

In the church today, we each have our call.  
There's none of us that can do it all.  
So let's each develop the gift we're given  
And all work together on our way to heaven.

— Anonymous

# A Plea For Unity

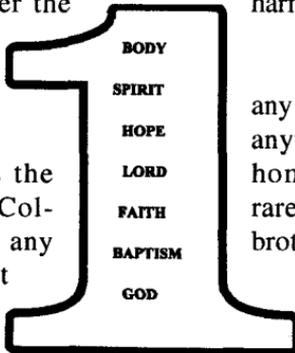
Kenneth Tipton

**“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:3-4)**

As we examine the text of Ephesians 4:3, the objective is to make every effort *“to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.”* I do not believe that Paul was writing instructions for ecumenical efforts among denominations. Neither do I believe that he was giving an outline for “unity talks” between factions of the restoration movement. It is my impression that this text is a guide for unity between brethren who are sitting and worshipping in the same church building week after week and who are unable to resolve their differences. What is the real basis of unity? Consider the following thoughts on unity from Ephesians 4:4-6.

## ONE Body

Since Paul defines the body as the church in Colossians 1:18, how could any two brethren brought together in the same building be divided on



this point? This is further reinforced by the conclusion that we are the *“temple of the living God”* (2 Corinthians 6:16).

## ONE Spirit

The only Spirit mentioned in this context is the “Holy Spirit.” There should not be any problem with this point. Some get confused in their terms and semantics and try to argue about whether the Holy Spirit works *only* through the Word or *primarily* through the Word. Congregations can have individual members who hold differing views on this point and still work together harmoniously.

## ONE Hope

I have never known of any brethren who hoped for anything except an eternal home in heaven. Only rarely have I heard of one brother purportedly feeling with enough hatred for another brother to say, “If *he* makes it to

## TEXTUAL STUDIES

heaven, I sure hope that I'm not there."

### ONE Lord

"Jesus Is Lord" is the title of a beautiful song. This statement is repeated in numerous other songs, hymns, and verses. How could we sing these words from the heart and not believe it to be the truth? How can we sing it and not feel the anger toward our brother just melting away?

### ONE Faith

In the wonderful conversion example in Acts 8:26-38, Philip asked the Ethiopian to confess his faith as a prerequisite before baptism. The answer was, "*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God*" (Acts 8:37). The unwavering faith in that statement and the scheme of redemption that it represents fit perfectly with the concept of "*things not seen*" as we consider the grand definition of faith that is given in Hebrews 11:1.

### ONE Baptism

For those who might want to debate over baptism, Mark 16:16 states that the one baptism is for "believers." Romans 6:4 shows that the one baptism involves being buried and raised, thus the form of baptism must be immersion. Acts 8:38,39 describes the element that the candidate "went into" and "came out of" as water. Therefore, we could conclude that the standard for baptism is believers immersed in

water.

### ONE God

Christians broadly defined are united in the belief of "one God." Even Jews and Moslems refer to the same God as Jehovah, or Allah.

In John 17:20,21 Jesus prayed "*for them also which shall believe in me . . . that they all may be one.*" What would happen if we were united? Read the rest of John chapters 17-21, where Jesus concluded, "*that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*" None of us could even begin to imagine the amount of church growth that would occur if we had scriptural unity. According to what Jesus is saying, unbelievers all over the world would come to believe in Him if they saw a united church.

Regardless of how much you may think your congregation is plagued with problems concerning unity, I cannot imagine it being worse than the situation at Corinth. Paul wrote two letters to those brethren to help them to solve their problems. In the last few verses of his final greetings, his plea was for unity so that "*the God of love and peace shall be with you*" (2 Corinthians 13:11).

This is also my plea, that we all strive for unity. †

**Dr. Kenneth Tipton is a school superintendent and is active in the congregation in Cameron, Missouri, U.S.A.**

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## PROVERBS 17:22

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Two very elderly ladies who had been friends for many years walked together regularly. One day, one turned to the other and said, "Well, I just have to ask: *What is your name?*"

The friend replied, "How soon do you need to know?"

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Trying to stir the congregation to more sober thought concerning life, a preacher had gotten into the habit of asking in each sermon, "Why are we here?"

One day he was asked to speak to the inmates of a mental institution. Through force of habit, he began with "Why are we here?"

One of the patients spoke up from the audience, "Well, I don't know about you, preacher, but we're all here because we're *not* all here!"

I read about a preacher who submitted an article to a magazine for consideration for publication. He didn't receive any reply, so he wrote again and said, "As I have other irons in the fire, I would appreciate an answer soon." He soon received his manuscript with this note attached, "Put with other irons."

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If crime doesn't pay, and if we don't get paid for overtime, isn't working overtime a crime?

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Did you hear about the preacher who met a big bear way out in the woods? Luckily, he started one of his sermons, and the bear fell asleep.

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*Manager:* "I'm sorry I can't hire you, but there isn't enough work to keep you busy."

*Applicant:* "You'd be surprised how little it takes."

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*Question:* If a man smashed a clock on the floor, could he be charged with killing time?

*Answer:* Not if he could prove that the clock struck first.

## PROVERBS 17:22

*Church Songs for Driving Speeds:* 35 MPH — “Drifting Along”; 45 MPH — “God Will Take Care of You”; 55 MPH — “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”; 65 MPH — “Nearer, My God, To Thee”; 75 MPH — “Nearer, Still Nearer”; 85 MPH — “This World Is Not My Home”; 95 MPH — “Lord, I’m Coming Home”; 100 MPH — “Precious Memories.”

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A little boy asked his father, “Dad, did you go to Sunday School when you were young?” The father replied proudly, “Never missed a Sunday.” The son’s quick reply was, “Bet it won’t do me any good either!”

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“It’s a strange world of language in which skating on thin ice can get you into hot water.”

—Franklin P. Jones

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A salesman drove into a small town that had only two hotels, both of which were run-down. He saw a local resident and asked him, “Which of these hotels do you recommend?” The man replied, “Makes no difference. Whichever one you stay in, you’ll wish you were in the other.”

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A preacher was trying to talk religion with a fellow, and he asked him, “Sir, are you ready for the Judgment Day?”

The fellow said, “I don’t know. When is it?”

The preacher said, “Well, I don’t know. It could be today, could be tomorrow.”

The fellow answered, “Well, whatever you do, don’t tell my wife. She’ll want to go both days!”

---



*Sunday School teacher:* “What are you drawing, Willie?”

*Willie:* “A picture of God.”

*Teacher:* “But, Willie, don’t you realize that nobody knows how God looks?”

*Willie:* “Well, they will when I get this done.”

---



When Lou Holtz was head football coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks, he said something we can all relate to about the troubles we face in the living of these days: “I know God doesn’t send us more trouble than we can’t handle, but sometimes I think He overestimates my ability!”

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We pass this way just once. Unless your spouse is reading the road map, that is.

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## BIBLE CHARACTERS

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Like many in the Bible, she was called by a nick-name. Her given name was "Tabitha," which means "gazelle." The dictionary describes the gazelle as a swift-running animal. Most people appreciate the beauty of any deer-like animal — their soft eyes, slender limbs, and their ability to move gracefully and swiftly. Did Tabitha of the Bible show any of these characteristics? "Dorcas" is the Greek translation of her name.

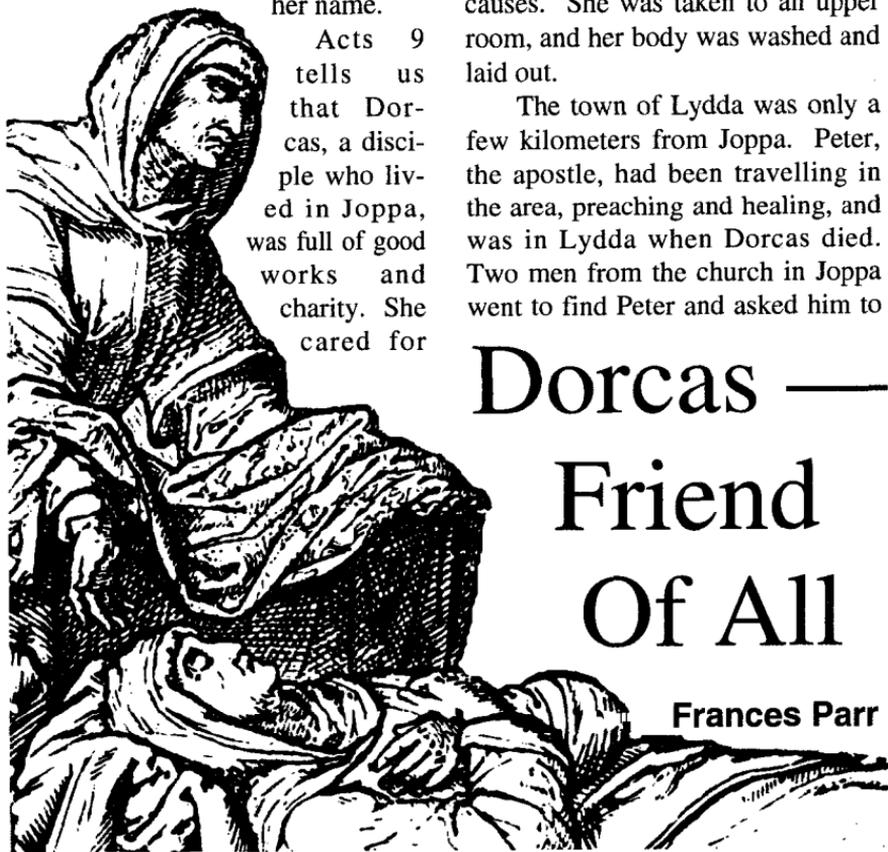
Acts 9 tells us that Dorcas, a disciple who lived in Joppa, was full of good works and charity. She cared for

widows and their children and used her time and money to furnish clothing for them. She made the garments herself. In a time when women were generally unable to earn for themselves, Dorcas apparently had sustenance to spare. There is no mention of a husband who supported her. It might seem that she wasn't an old woman because of the words "*fell sick and died*," rather than dying of natural causes. She was taken to an upper room, and her body was washed and laid out.

The town of Lydda was only a few kilometers from Joppa. Peter, the apostle, had been travelling in the area, preaching and healing, and was in Lydda when Dorcas died. Two men from the church in Joppa went to find Peter and asked him to

# Dorcas — Friend Of All

Frances Parr



## BIBLE CHARACTERS

come with them without delay. Do you think they thought he would raise Dorcas from the dead? Perhaps they wanted Peter to comfort the sad people.

Peter went to Dorcas in the upper room. Many widows were there weeping. They showed Peter the tunics and clothing Dorcas had made for them. How bewildered they must have felt when Peter asked them all to leave the room. Imagine how shocked and overjoyed they were when Peter opened the door, and there stood their beloved Dorcas, very much alive!

The Bible tells us no more about Dorcas, but because of her death and the fact that Peter, with the help of God, bought her back to life, we know that many believed on the Lord.

There are several lessons we can learn from the few verses in the Bible about this godly woman.

- \* With a small needle, she accomplished much good.
- \* She was beloved by the people who knew her.
- \* God used circumstances in her life to further His cause on earth.

One never knows what effect his or her efforts will have on others. Do you think Dorcas thought about notoriety when she was sewing small tunics for orphans? She saw a need and did what she could to fill that need.

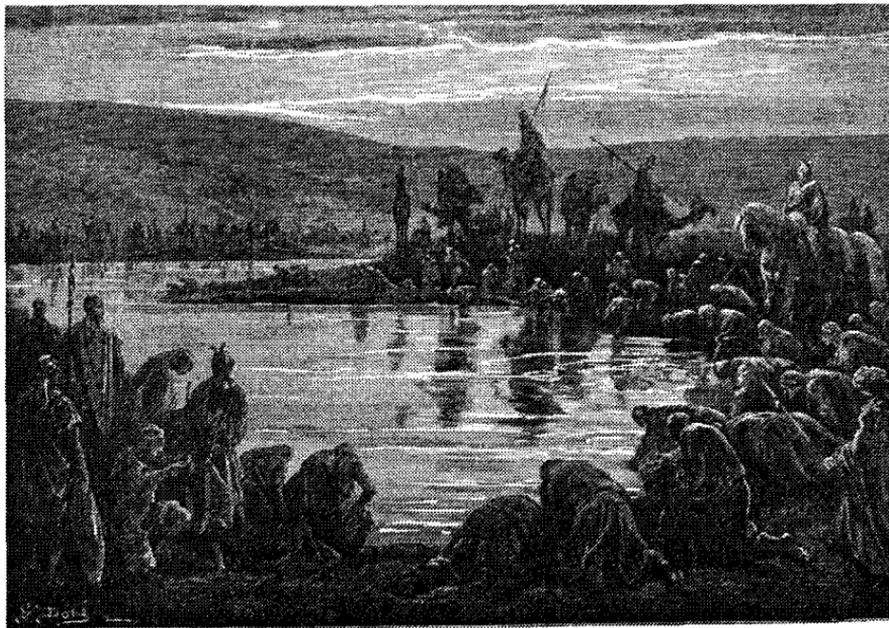
There is a spot for everyone in the Lord's church. No task is so small or unimportant — even one which seems to go unnoticed — but that it makes a difference to someone. Each of God's children is unique, and there is a job that each one can do. This is God's plan. Think about what you can do, right now! †

**Frances Parr is a Christian writer living in Eldon, Missouri, U.S.A.**

How long has it been since you . . .

- ✿ took the time to go see someone who lives alone?
- ✿ wrote a letter to someone far from home?
- ✿ read the Bible to someone too ill to read for themselves?
- ✿ encouraged someone who is having a hard time being a Christian?
- ✿ prayed earnestly for someone who was faltering?
- ✿ tried to have a Bible study with someone you know is lost?
- ✿ told a teen that you are proud of his efforts to live for the Lord?

Every Christian can do something to encourage someone else! — Selected



# Gideon, Man Of Faith

**Don L. Norwood**

Gideon, also called Jerubbaal, lived in the time of the judges of Israel (about 1256 B.C.). The son of Joash, of the tribe of Manasseh, he was the fifth of the named judges during this time.

Israel had turned from obeying God, so He allowed the Midianites to overrun them and oppress them for seven years (Judges 6:1). When they cried out unto the Lord for help (6:7), God sent a prophet to remind them of their disobedience. Then He sent an angel to Gideon to tell him that he had been selected to help deliver the people from the Midianites (6:11-14).

Gideon was skeptical at first and had to be reassured that the Lord was with him in this great task. He tested God twice, putting a fleece of wool on

## BIBLE CHARACTERS

the threshing floor, and first requiring that the fleece have dew and the ground be dry, then that the fleece be dry and the ground be wet (6:36-38). "And it was so. . ." (Judges 6:38).

Gideon gathered about 32,000 men together to fight the Midianites but God told him that was too many (7:2-8). He instructed Gideon to let all who were afraid go home, and 22,000 of them turned back. With only 10,000 men left, again God said there were too many. So He told Gideon to watch these men drink water from a stream. He was to keep those who would lap water from their hands, and those who bowed down upon their knees to drink were to be sent home. Now Gideon had only 300 men left, but his enemies were numberless (filled the whole valley).

Gideon heard a man telling a dream to a friend, and it revealed that God would deliver the Midianites into his hand. Gideon took courage from this and proceeded to carry out God's instructions. He divided the three hundred men into three companies and put a

trumpet in every man's hands, along with empty pitchers and lamps within the pitchers (7:16). The Israelites surrounded the Midianite camp while the enemy was asleep.

When Gideon gave the signal, all three hundred men blew on the trumpets, broke the pitchers so that the lamps would suddenly show light, and they shouted, "*The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.*" This terrified the Midianites, and they began to kill each other and to flee in all directions. Gideon chased them throughout the valley and beyond. It was a total defeat and rout for Israel's enemies.

The great lesson for us today is that when a person completely trusts God and obeys Him explicitly, God will always do what His Word has promised. Christ said to His followers: ". . . *Go make disciples of all the nations . . . and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age*" (Matthew 28:19,20). †

**Don L. Norwood is involved in mission work in India, as well as serving as the preacher for the church of Christ in Mason, Texas, U.S.A.**



**Life is a book in volumes three,  
The past, the present, the yet-to-be;  
The past is written and laid away;  
The present we're writing day by day;  
The last and best of volumes three  
Is locked from sight; God keeps the key.**

— Selected

## *Two Questions Regarding Baptism*

Max Patterson

### *Question #1: Why Was Jesus Baptized?*

Jesus submitted Himself to the baptism of John (Matthew 3), and John's baptism was for the remission of sins (Mark 1:4). However, Jesus had no sins to be forgiven. John suggested that, instead, *he* needed to be baptized by Jesus (Matthew 3:14).

Jesus did not argue, as many do today, that baptism was not for the forgiveness of sins. Instead He stated the reason to John why He was being baptized — “*to fulfill all righteousness*” (Matthew 3:15). He had come into the world, not to do His own will, but to do the will of the Father who had sent Him. If Jesus was to be successful in convincing the people that nobody is exempt from obeying God, then He would need to obey, thus fulfilling all righteousness.

In being baptized, Jesus, in effect, said, “Nothing that God has commanded is optional, and in being baptized, I am demonstrating to the world that there is nothing to which we should not submit.” Thus, Jesus, who had no sins, provided the ultimate example of obedience.

### *Question #2: Was The Thief On The Cross Baptized?*

Many, attempting to get around being baptized, claim that the thief on the cross was saved, even though he was not baptized. Such, of course, is an assumption. The Scriptures say that Jerusalem and all Judea came out to be baptized of John in Jordan (Matthew 3:5,6). How could one possibly know the thief was not in that number? One cannot make an argument, and expect a correct conclusion, when the thing one is trying to prove is based on assumption.

However, let us assume the thief was saved and had not been baptized. That really matters little. Why? Because the thief lived and died under the law of Moses. It was not until after the death of Christ that Christianity became the law wherein the statement is made, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16).

Baptism for the remission (forgiveness) of sins was stated as a command on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:38, when the first gospel sermon was preached. Since the cross, all men have been required to be baptized (Luke 24:47). †

**Max Patterson preaches for the Hillcrest brethren in Neosho, Missouri, U.S.A.**

## BIBLE QUESTIONS

# What About Philip's Daughters Who Prophesied?

Wayne Jackson

**Question:** The Bible states that Philip had four virgin daughters “who prophesied” (Acts 21:9). Does this provide authority for women preachers?

It is clear, from the passage just cited and from others, that some women in the early church did prophesy. Acts 2:17 mentions both sons and daughters prophesying, and Paul requires that women who pray or prophesy do so with covered heads (1 Corinthians 11:5).

The word “prophesy” simply means “to speak forth” (from pro, “forth”, and phemi, “to speak.” The term sometimes denotes a public proclamation of a divine message, as in the case of the prophets in the assembly of the early church (1 Corinthians 14:4). However, it is possible to prophesy in a strictly private setting. Hulda “*communed*” with certain men of Israel in this fashion (2 Kings 22:14). Miriam prophesied, but only to the women of Israel (Exodus 15:20,21). “Prophesying” can even be used as acts of worship (1 Chronicles 25:3). There is a sense in which we prophesy when we sing, for singing is a form of teaching, and teaching is a form of prophecy (Colossians 3:16;

1 Corinthians 14:3). Prophecy can denote a message that is spoken (1 Samuel 10:10), or one that has been written (Revelation 22:18,19).

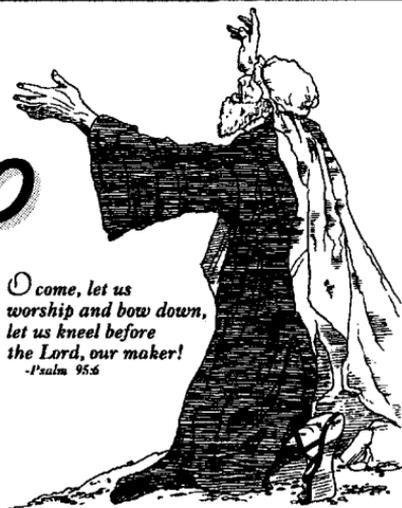
The usage of the word in a given setting, therefore, must be determined either by the immediate context of the passage in which it is found, or else by the larger context of the New Testament as a whole. Now if it is the case that the New Testament forbids a woman to assume the official position of a public teacher in sexually integrated audiences (and it *surely does* — cf. 1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:12), then it follows that Philip's daughters, if obedient to God, did not prophesy in any circumstance that put them in violation of New Testament restrictions.

There is no authority for women “preachers” in Acts 21:9, or elsewhere in the Scriptures. †

**Wayne Jackson is the editor of *Christian Courier* and is a preacher in Stockton, California, U.S.A.**

# Worship

David Marube



*Come, let us  
worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before  
the Lord, our maker!*  
-Psalm 95:6

## I. What it is to worship.

A. It is to give honor, glory, and praise to God because of what He is and what He has done for us.

1. He is the creator of all, all-powerful and holy.
2. He has given us all we have, physical life and eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ.

B. Thinking of these and many other things about God makes us want to worship Him wholeheartedly.

C. God has always been worshipped in Old Testament and New Testament times.

## II. Prepare to worship.

A. Many people think that God is only to be worshipped on Sunday or the first day in a week and then that they may live as they please the rest of the week.

1. Matthew 5:14-16; Ephesians 6:7,8; Colossians 3:17,23.

B. We are to praise and honor God every day by what we say and do at our home, school, market place, church building, etc.

1. Work Place: Practice humility — be a servant even when we are the supervisor. Be honest, avoid dishonest gain in our business, sell something only for what it is worth, keep time even when our employer is not around to watch, etc.
2. At Home: 1 Timothy 5:8. Take care of our family well. Some Christians claim to be worshippers of God while they are terrible husbands, wives, or parents.
3. Husbands: Love your wife, cleave to her, don't be harsh to her, don't beat her (this is very common in African men). Don't

## CHARTS AND OUTLINES

- say anything to hurt her, be patient with her in everything.
4. Wives: Be submissive to your husband, respect him, obey him in the Lord, love him, and as one sister in Christ said, "Be a pillow to him and not a rock!"
  5. To all: "*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men . . .*" (Colossians 3:23).

### II. Corporate worship and attitudes of worship.

1. Christians should be conscious of God's presence with us, maintaining a spiritual and worshipful attitude, able to "*pray without ceasing*" (1 Thessalonians 5:16).
2. Designated worship assemblies take on an added dimension, being the specific occasions for the gathering of the church as a unified body, to worship God together. In these worship periods we are to sing praises to God, to pray, to remember the Lord's death in partaking of His Supper, to study from God's word and to give of our resources in order to financially support the work of the church.

### Conclusion:

We have seen what worship is and we have dealt with the preparation for worship which is often ignored. We have learned that we are to praise God in the activities of our everyday lives. Whenever and wherever we do good, we praise, glorify, and honor God, and we also become an example to others to do the same. Read again Matthew 5:16.

In everything you do and say, ask yourself, "Is this giving God honor, glory, and praise?" Let's worship God on the Lord's day and live for Him throughout the week! †

**David Marube is an evangelist with the church in Kisii, Kenya, East Africa.**

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## How to Express Christianity

**In the home** — by love and unselfishness.

**In business** — by honesty and diligence.

**In society** — by purity, courtesy, and humility.

**Toward the unfortunate** — by sympathy and mercy.

**Toward the weak** — by helpfulness and patience.

**Toward the wicked** — by overcoming the evil.

**Toward God** — by reverence, love, and obedience.

— Selected

# ***“The Beginning” On Pentecost Day***

***Acts 11:15***

**E. Claude Gardner**

## **I. Introduction**

- A. Peter refers to events which transpired on Pentecost of Acts 2.
  - 1. This was the first Pentecost festival day after Jesus was raised.
  - 2. Pentecost always came on the first day of the week (Leviticus 23:15,16).
- B. An understanding of what began “*at the beginning*” is basic to a proper understanding of the Bible.

## **II. Discussion**

- A. Beginning of Preaching the Full Gospel Plan of Salvation.
  - 1. For the first time the apostles began to carry out Christ’s command of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38).
    - a. Believers were commanded to repent and be baptized.
  - 2. The divine and human sides of salvation were preached (Acts 2:22-24,38,47; Ephesians 2:8,9).
- B. Beginning of the Church.
  - 1. Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4.
  - 2. Jesus promised it and it came to pass (Matthew 16:18; 26:29; 1 Corinthians 11:23).
    - a. The kingdom has come already so we should not pray that it come at some future time (Colossians 1:13).
  - 3. The Lord added 3,000 to the church (Acts 2:47). This is the first mention of its being in existence in perfection.
- C. Beginning of the New Covenant and Christian Dispensation.
  - 1. Prophecy fulfilled — “*this is that*” (Joel 2:28,29; Acts 2:16).
  - 2. We are under the New Testament and not the Old Testament (Hebrews 9:16,17; 10:9,10).

## CHARTS AND OUTLINES

- D. Beginning of Divinely Approved Worship.
  - 1. The first church, Jerusalem, gives a model for approved worship (Acts 2:42).
  - 2. The apostolic church also sang (Ephesians 5:19).
  - 3. We can discern between true worship and vain worship (John 4:23,24; Matthew 15:7-9).
  - 4. There was great fellowship (Acts 2:44-46).
- E. Beginning of the Reign of Christ on David's Throne.
  - 1. Peter declared that Jesus is on the throne of David (spiritually), which gave Him authority (Acts 2:30-33).
  - 2. Hence, Christ will not reign for a thousand years on David's throne as premillennial people claim.
  - 3. As head of the church, He has final authority (Ephesians 1:20-23).
- F. Beginning of the Special Work of the Holy Spirit.
  - 1. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to empower the apostles (John 14:26; 16:13).
    - a. These verses do not show these are direct promises to all Christians today.
  - 2. The Holy Spirit baptized the apostles on Pentecost to enable them to speak the will of God (Acts 2:1-4,16,17).
  - 3. "Pentecost revivals" announced today are unlike Acts 2.

### III. Conclusion

- A. If one has learned these "beginnings," he or she can "rightly divide" the Word of God.
- B. These truths answer much false teaching being propagated. †

**E. Claude Gardner is President-Emeritus of Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee, U.S.A.**



## The Word of God

Feelings come and feelings go,  
And feelings are deceiving;  
My warrant is the Word of God  
Naught else is worth believing.  
I'll trust in God's unchanging Word  
Till soul and body sever;  
For, though all things shall pass away,  
His Word shall stand forever.



*The student body of Namwianga Christian Secondary School.*

# Zambia

**Kelly and Eleanor Hamby**

President Chiluba, the current president of Zambia, has declared Zambia a Christian nation. That makes for an excellent atmosphere for sharing the gospel. The country has 73 ethnic groups and 7 major languages. Over the past decade the economy has declined, resulting in a lower standard of living for most people. About 70 percent of the population lives in poverty. In spite of all of this, the Zambians are a

very happy people and extremely appreciative of what they do have.

Zambians are a warm and welcoming people. They show great respect to the elderly and persons of high status. The care of the elderly is considered a privilege rather than a burden.

It is difficult to determine how many people practice any one religion in Zambia. Many people adhere to a combination of two or

## FROM THE HEART OF...

more religions or belief systems. Estimates concerning the number who practice Christianity vary between 50 and 90 percent. Many of these would combine Christian principles with indigenous religions.

The mission work of the Lord's church in what was then Northern Rhodesia began in 1920 when John Sheriff began making preaching trips which carried him across the Zambezi River. One of his African co-workers, Peter Masiya, was also highly instrumental in bringing the gospel to Zambia. A few years later missionaries arrived to help with the work. Some of the early missionaries were the Shorts, Lawyers, Merritts, Scotts, Reeses, Browns, Hobbys, Brittells, Shewmakers, and sister Rowe.

Three mission sites were opened, Sinde, Namwianga, and Kabanga. These early missionaries began schools for the African people, teaching them to read the Bible and promote the cause of Christianity. Throughout the ensuing years, a vast number of the leaders of the country and church have been taught at these schools.

When Zambia gained its independence in 1964 the mission operated 26 primary schools. At that time the government decided to nationalize all primary schools but did ask Namwianga to build a secondary school on the mission's

6000 acres. Funds were raised and the school was built. From 1964 to 1982 Namwianga Christian Secondary School was staffed and directed primarily by American missionaries. At the beginning of 1980, approximately 250 congregations of the church of Christ had been established, mostly as a result of the efforts of the missionaries and graduates of the mission schools.

From 1982 to the present a significant expansion program both in facilities and outreach has taken place. We now have 6 elementary schools, 4 junior high schools, 2 high schools, 1 vocational center, 3 medical clinics, and George Benson Christian College. Bible is taught in all these schools, and the students are trained to become church planters. The Zambian government requires religious education to be taught in all schools up to grade 9, and it is an elective in grades 10-12.

One of the more significant developments since 1982 is the turning over and the running and staffing of the mission to Zambians. At the present time the mission is directed by Lister Mweemba, who serves as Superintendent. All other administrative roles are filled by the Zambians, and the teaching staff is now 99% Zambian. Missionaries serving now are Roy and Kathi Merritt, Sheri Sears, John and

## FROM THE HEART OF . . .

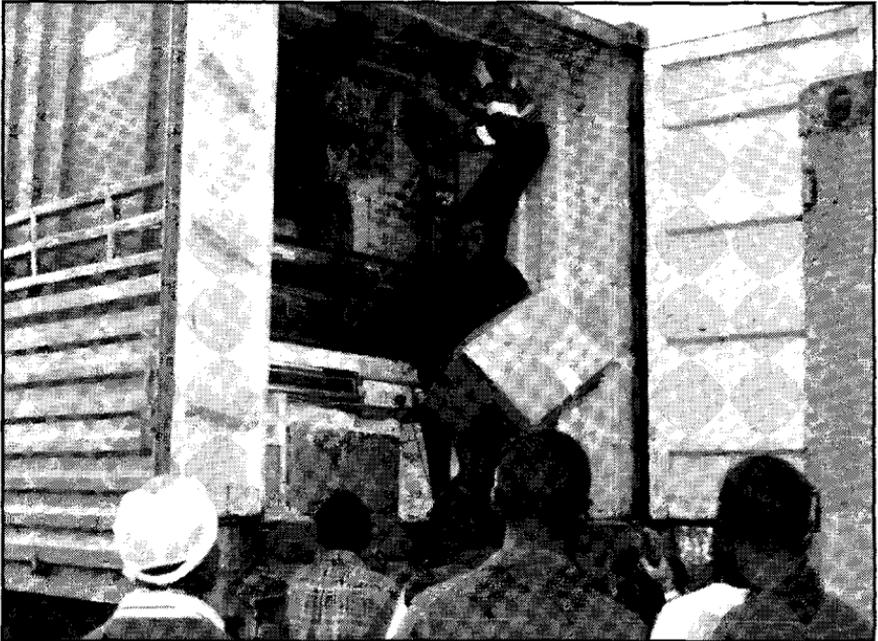
Wendy Lauterbach, and Ken and Iris Elder.

Before 1980 there were 215 congregations in Zambia. In the past 16 years there has been 166% congregational growth, with 205 congregations begun in the 80's and 153 new churches started since 1990. Most of these have been planted by Zambian brethren, particularly as congregations set up new meeting places in neighboring areas where the church did not exist. Joseph Siamugande has played a vital role in the planting of a number of these congregations.

Significant emphasis is being

placed on the efforts of George Benson Christian College, which is affiliated with the University of Zambia and is one of only three colleges in the country for training teachers of secondary schools. Recently the grand opening and first graduation ceremony was held, with dignitaries from all over Zambia in attendance.

All of the graduates are given teaching jobs by the government. In interviewing new students, one of the main criteria for admission is their willingness to be placed in areas where the church is weak or does not exist, after their graduation.



***A container of clothing and medical supplies being unpacked.***

## FROM THE HEART OF . . .



***The 1996 medical missions team led by Kelly and Eleanor Hamby, with Dr. John Estes.***

### *Medical Outreaches to Zambia*

Two highly successful medical mission outreaches, under the direction of Kelly and Eleanor Hamby of Abilene, TX, have taken place in Zambia the past two summers. The team works with Elizabeth Halale, the Director of Clinics for Namwianga Mission. Dr. John Estes and his wife, June, provided the backbone of these two trips, along with several doctors, nurses, and other support personnel.

The team worked at five sites and saw over 2000 patients. Unfortunately, they were not able to

minister to all the people who came, as the number was overwhelming.

One of the highlights of the outreach this year was the involvement of nine Christian Zambian nurses who work for the government. They worked overtime or took personal leave in order to assist.

Another encouraging aspect was the involvement of five Zambians who worked with the spiritual needs of the people seeking medical care. Because of their efforts over 25 souls were baptized into Christ.

## *Zambians Reach Out to the Angolans*

A few years ago the Zambian brethren decided it was time to reach out to their neighboring country, Angola, with the gospel of our Lord. At that time Angola was involved in a civil war, making it unsafe to travel there. Over 20,000 Angolans had sought refuge in Meheba Refugee Camp in Northwestern Zambia.

The mission had a young Zambian, Leonard Mujala, who attended Namwianga Christian Secondary School and also completed work at the Bible college at Namwianga. While Leonard was not an outstanding scholar, he was dedicated to studying God's word and striving to learn God's plan for his life. Leonard was a gifted linguist, being fluent in 6 languages. One of these was Luvale, the language spoken by most of the Angolan refugees.

Considering these things, the Zambian brethren chose Leonard to send to the refugee camp. He made the arduous journey and began his work for the Lord with great resolution and prayer. Interestingly enough, the first convert Leonard made was named Cornelius!

Leonard went through all the proper channels to start the church

but when the Area Chairman discovered that the church was meeting, he immediately began telling Leonard to abolish the church. When Leonard would not stop, the Area Chairman threatened to kill him.

At that time the mother of Cornelius went to the Area Chairman and told him to kill her instead of Leonard. She said that what Leonard had done for her son was worth her life. When the authorities heard what was happening they ordered the Area Chairman to allow the church to meet without interference. Remarkably enough, the Area Chairman was later taught and converted by Leonard and is now one of the leaders of the church.

At the present time 3 congregations have been started and over 100 souls are meeting together. Now that the civil war has ended, the Christians who will be able to return to their country are eager to spread the gospel there. They have worked diligently preparing themselves to take the message of our Lord and Savior back to Angola with them.

It is indeed encouraging to see the Zambian and Angolan brethren working together for the cause of Christ in the country of Angola.

## FROM THE HEART OF...



***Baptism at the Meheba Refugee Camp among the Angolans.***

### *Zambia School of Biblical Studies*

Jerry Sullins has operated a biblical studies school in Botswana for a number of years. The school has now been relocated in Zambia. Gordon and Beulah Wonsey have recently joined the school. Gordon will assist with some of the teaching as well as be involved in evangelistic outreach with the students. One of the great needs of any school is to assist students in applying what they learn. Gordon's main thrust will be in this much-needed area of training.

Shipments of Bibles, song

books and other printed materials, as well as clothing, tools, medicines, and office supplies have been made by American and Canadian brethren, for distribution by the missionaries in Zambia. In a country where there is much physical poverty and yet much zeal for the spreading of the gospel, these things have been a multiplied blessing. As one woman wrote, "Thank you for the Bible which you gave me. My heart is always filled with joy when I read the Bible and I feel loved by God Himself, too."

## ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

### *Verse Search* — 14 (from page 42)

1. Passover, Bethany, Lazarus.
2. Martha.
3. She anointed Jesus' feet with spikenard and wiped them with her hair.
4. That the oil should have been sold and the money given to the poor.
5. "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial."
6. To put Lazarus to death, because many believed on Jesus because of him.
7. They covered the street with palm branches and cried out praises to Jesus.
8. "Fear not, daughter of Zion; your King.
9. "...the whole world has gone after Him!"
10. "...troubled. ... for this purpose I came to this hour. ... glorify Your..."
11. "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."
12. "...if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."
13. They did not want to be banned from worshipping in the synagogue.
14. "...Me, ...My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."
15. The Father's.

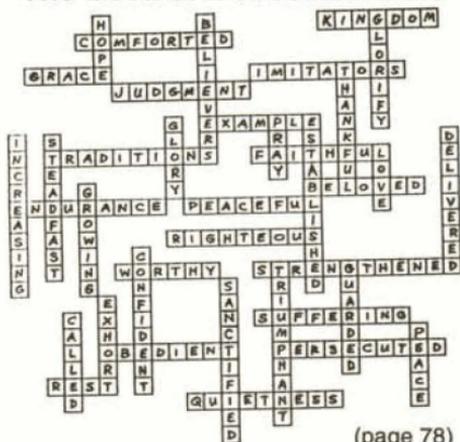


**Who Am I?**

(from page 83)

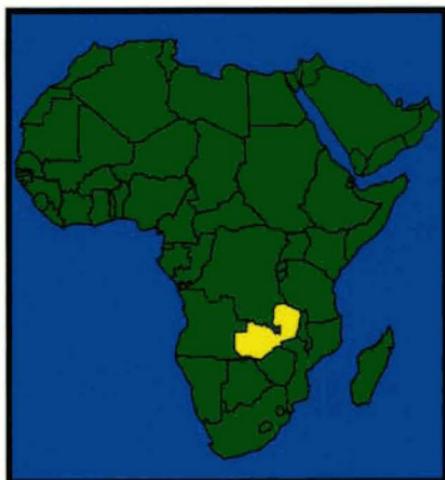
**Elijah**

### The Book of 2 Thessalonians

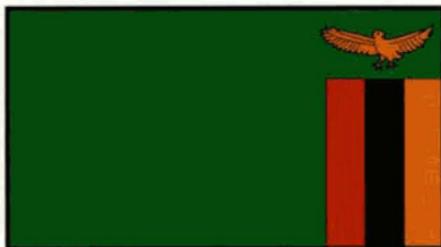


(page 78)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**



## Republic of Zambia



**Government:** A Multiparty Democracy

**President:** Frederick T.J. Chiluba

**Vice President:** Levy Mwanawasa

### Secular Facts:

**Location:** A land-locked country in south central Africa; mostly a plateau rising 8,000 feet on the eastern side.

**Land Mass:** 290,586 Sq. Mi.

**Population:** 9,100,000.

**Major Cities:** Lusaka, Kitwe, Ndola, Chingola.

**Language:** English and local dialects.

**Literacy:** 75.7%.

**Religion:** Christian, 50-75%; Islam and Hindu, 1%; remainder, indigenous beliefs.

**Economy:** **Arable land is 7%.** *Agricultural products* include corn, tobacco, rice and sugar cane. 85% of the people depend on agriculture for a living.

*Major industrial products* include copper, textiles, chemicals, zinc, fertilizers.

*Natural resources:* copper, zinc, lead, cobalt.

**History:** Formerly known as Northern Rhodesia after its founder, Cecil Rhodes, Zambia was ruled by the British South Africa Company until the British government took over administration in 1924. Declared independence in 1965.

**Monetary Unit:** Kwacha

### The Church:

**Congregations:** There are approximately 550 congregations. Since 1990 Zambians, themselves, have begun about 100 new congregations, as existing churches have reached out to neighboring areas where no brethren were meeting.

**History:** The Lord's church was begun in Zambia when **John Sheriff** began making preaching trips across the Zambezi River in 1920. An African co-worker, **Peter Masiya**, was greatly instrumental in bringing the gospel to Zambia. Other early workers were the **Shorts, Lawyers, Merritts, Scotts, Reeses, Browns, Hobbys, Brittells, Shewmakers**, and sister **Rowe**.

**Modern History:** Through the efforts of Namwianga mission, 26 primary schools were operated. When Zambia gained independence in 1964, the new government asked the mission to establish a secondary school. Missionaries and graduates of these schools have done tremendous work evangelizing the country. At the present time, 6 elementary schools, 4 junior high schools, 2 high schools, 1 vocational center, 3 medical clinics, and George Benson Christian College are operated by the church.