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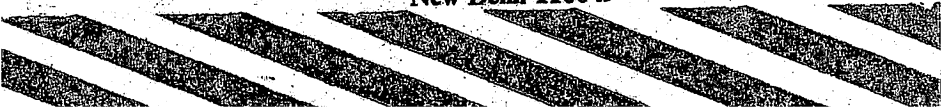
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EDITORIAL



The World Today

From what we see in the newspapers and hear on the radio and television, the world is in a sad state of affairs. Locally there is murder, thefts, rapings, bribery, rioting, just to name a few of the bad things going on. This is not peculiar to any one country, but characteristic of what is going on in all countries. Internationally, we hear of planes being hijacked, terrorism, wars, and the threat of nuclear war. All of that could be very depressing. Certainly it is not encouraging.

There are two ways of dealing with the world today. First, we can become so despondant, so negative about it, that we will give up and quit. In that case, we can become part of the problem instead of trying to find a solution. We can be a hindrance instead of a help. We can gripe and complain instead of finding good things to compliment. We can sit back and wait for someone to help us instead of being out trying to find ways to help others. We can be lazy and fail to carry our load instead of working hard to better our situation and to give a hand to those who need our assistance. Of course we can reason that as one

individual or even as a group of individuals that we can do little to change things in the world as it is. We can argue that we are headed for doom and then sit back and wait for it to happen. Yes, we can do that, and many are doing that today. That is one of the problems that the world faces. Not enough are willing to try to change things for better. Second, or we can make up our minds that we are not going to sit and worry about today or tomorrow but that we are going on and live our lives to the fullest. Just because the world is faced with problems that doesn't mean that there is no hope. The world has always had problems but it goes on. We must be big enough and courageous enough to be optimistic and have faith in mankind that things can be changed for better. But where does all of this begin? It begins with me. Too many are waiting for someone else to do something. But may be as you and I do something, and with others doing something, then this will make a difference. Regardless of what happens, it is better to try and to fail than to have never tried at all. But with enough of us working together on the problem then we'll be able to find a solution. Let's try it and see if it will work. I believe that it will.

We who are Christians in particular have a very significant role to play in the world today. I am not talking about entering into politics or using various kinds of pressure on the governments of the world. Rather, I am talking about the fact that we as Christians are here for a purpose. We have a mission to fill. We represent a higher power, God our Father, who made this world and all mankind, and who is still in control of things. As those who represent him, then He wants us to influence the world for good. This can be done, first of all, as we live pure and godly lives. There is a power for good in righteous living that many overlook. I refer to obeying God, being faithful to him, being law abiding citizens, having Christian homes, providing for our families, being honest in all of our dealings with others, putting forth an effort to help others, being opposed to corruption and all that is bad and wrong, and such like. Yes, there is a power with that kind of living. They are able to influence those around them for good. It may be quiet and hardly noticed, but the influence is there for good and in time it can change people. It can change their thinking, their attitudes, the way they talk and

act, the way they deal with others, and their whole lives and make-up. Now when there are enough Christian people like this in a country, and in the world, then think of all the good that it is going to do. That doesn't mean that all the world is going to accept Christianity, but it does mean that as more and more become Christians and exert this kind of good influence on their fellowman, then in time it will have a noticeable effect on the world for good.

In the second place, the Lord has given us a message to deliver to the world. Christ has commissioned us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15). Again, he has asked us to go and teach all nations. (Matthew 28:19). Why does he want us to do this? Because the world is lost, because it lies in darkness. It may not admit it or even be aware of it, but it is nevertheless. The prophet of old said that it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps. (Jeremiah 10:23). But what are we to take to the world? The gospel of Christ. What is the gospel? It is the good news that Christ died for man's sins, was buried, and was resurrected from the grave. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). It is the good news that man can be saved and have the hope of eternal life. But what will it do for man personally? It will change him. It will turn him from his sin, his old habits, his old life, and make him new, godly, and righteous. How will this change the world for good? The very fact that you have fewer people who are in their sins and doing wicked things is bound to help. Then the more you have doing good, having love for their fellowman, and striving for peace, then this is also going to help.

As Christians, again we can see the important role that we have in the world today because we are the ones who have obeyed God, and we are the ones therefore who have the gospel, and consequently the only ones that the Lord can look to take his message to the world. It is therefore a blessing to belong to the Lord and his church, to be Christians, but it also carries a responsibility. It is our responsibility to take the Lord's message to the world. We are therefore the hope of the world. If we did not exist then the world could not exist because the Lord would have no representation and there would be no need for

the world to continue to exist. The people of the world, therefore, do not know how important we as Christians are to their very survival. If they really knew our significance on the earth then we would be treated as important people. In other words, even though they themselves might not accept our message, but still they would want to do everything in their power to see to it that we succeed. But we are the only ones that the Lord has that he can look to that can do this work. What if we refuse or even fail? Then we will have to answer to God for it, but more importantly, it would not only mean that others would be lost but it could mean, if Christians as a whole failed to do the work that God has given his people to do, the ultimate destruction of the world.

Christians love peace. They want peace in the world. The best contribution we can make then is by following Christ and taking his message to the world. It was prophesied that Christ would come into this world as the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6). Christ taught, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9). He also taught that we should pray for those who persecute us and that we should love our enemies. (Matthew 5:44). The message then that the Lord has given us, and we are to give to the world, is not empty words and that which will not work. Now a corrupt form of Christianity may have the opposite influence on the peoples of the world, but true Christianity when preached and practiced will do only good. It will bring peace and freedom, and will give man something to live for and to die for, that is, having the hope of eternal life. It is that which the world needs more than anything else. It will do more to change the world for good than anything else.

So let's not just sit around and talk and complain about a big bad world. As Christians let us take the problems as opportunities to do good. Let us practice what we preach and change the world into the kind of world we want to live in, a better world for our children and their children. May God help us to do that while there is still time and opportunity.



**associate
editorial**

The Elephant And The Bible

Have you heard the story of four blind men? They were asked to describe how an elephant looked like, and when they were through with their examination all of them gave a different answer to the same question. Because they were blind they were unable to see the elephant. They were brought near the elephant and were told to touch and feel him and then tell what they thought he was like. The first one, after getting hold of the tail of the beast, said the elephant was like a rope. The second blind man, after putting his hand on the huge side of the animal, replied the elephant was like the wall. Then came the third blind man and his hand reached the ear of the elephant and his answer was that the elephant was like a leaf. Likewise, the fourth blind man said that the elephant was like a pole, because he got hold of one of the legs of the elephant. Now, none of the blind men gave the right answer. Because in the first place they were blind, and secondly, they did not examine the elephant thoroughly.

The above story illustrates how blindness and lack of examining the whole thing can cause confusion. This is not only true in the physical matters but also in the spiritual matters. Jesus, speaking to his disciples, concerning the Pharisees, said, "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." (Matthew 15:14). These Pharisees were not blind physically, but they were blind spiritually. Their minds were closed to the truth. The apostle Paul wrote that "their minds were blinded." (2 Corinthians 3:14). They were unable to see the truth.

Many have asked the question: Why there is so much confusion in Christianity today; why different answers are given to the same question by different preachers, and yet all claim to

preach the same Bible?? The problem is the same as above. Many people, and preachers are blind leaders. They do not know what the Bible teaches. They do not read and study the Bible enough. Their teaching is mostly based on the teaching of other men. Most of the messages and sermons that they preach come from the writings of other men and not from the Bible. They do not search or examine the scriptures to be able to learn and teach others from God's word directly. They have been converted to some denominational or man-made teaching and they want to stick to it, regardless of what the scripture says. I know a preacher who once told me that the Bible does not teach that baptism is necessary for salvation from sin. I asked him to show me from the Bible where it says that it is not necessary. He read from John 3:16, where it says, he that believes in Christ will not perish but will have eternal life. His reasoning was that since it didn't say here that one should be baptized to be saved therefore one is saved by faith only. But I asked him to read another verse from the Bible, from 1 Peter 3:21. He read. And it said, "baptism doth also now save us." Then I told him, if you believe that one can be saved by faith only because baptism is not mentioned in John 3:16, then this is also right that one can be saved by baptism only because faith is not mentioned in 1 Peter 3:21. Yet, in Mark 16:16 Jesus taught that both faith and baptism are required to be saved. We cannot read just one verse of the Bible and draw a conclusion. It would be just like catching a leg of the elephant and describe him to be like a pole. Many have taken this attitude in explaining different teachings of God's word. In religious meetings preachers would give invitation to their audience. While one would say, accept Jesus as your personal saviour to be saved; another would exhort his audience by saying, Pray and confess your sins to be saved; yet another preacher is heard saying, if you believe in Christ then raise your hands and I'll pray for you that you maybe saved. Why different answers to the same question? Now the Bible does not teach any such things. When they asked the apostles "What must we do to be saved," they were told to Repent and be baptised for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38). The jailor of Acts 16 heard the word of the Lord alongwith his family members and they believed and were baptized to be saved. Saul (Paul) believed in Christ

and was baptized to be saved. (Acts 22:16). The eunuch also believed in Christ and was baptized to be saved. No, the Bible does not give different answers. It gives the same answer. But to get the right answer or right conclusion we must read the whole context or other related verses. For instance, some would stop at Acts 16:31 to teach that one should only believe in Jesus to be saved. Now this is true that one should believe in Jesus to be saved but this is not all that is required, neither did the jailor and his household stop at the point of believe, but the next verses show that first they heard God's word preached unto them and then they believed and were immediately baptized to be saved.

Have you ever thought that why there are so many, and there are millions, of people in various denominational churches today, while not even one of them is found in the Bible ?

Have you ever thought to investigate your religion, your denomination, your church, your belief in light of what the Bible teaches ? Did God authorize it in his book ? Do you read or have you ever read the name of the church or the religion you belong to ? What about the religious doctrines you believe; the way you worship, the way you do different things religiously are these authorized in the word of God ? Have you ever wondered why people are members of so many different denominational churches, while not even one of them is ever mentioned in the Bible ! Why are people calling their religious leaders as Fathers and Reverends, while the scripture teach that we are not to call men by such titles ? (Matthew 23:9-12; Psalm 111:9). Why creed books of men are being read instead of God's Bible in different churches ? Why are people celebrating religious festivals, such as, Christmas and Easter, without the authority of the Bible. (Galatians 4:10, 11). Are not people doing these things blindly in the name of the Bible and Christianity ? Blinds are following the blinds and Jesus said that both will fall into the ditch. I challenge you and exhort you to investigate, and examine every thing that you believe and do in the name of religion. Don't follow any man or any church blindly. Become like the people of Berea who were commended in the Bible for they "received the word with all readiness of the mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11). Here they

were examining in light of the scriptures the preaching of the apostle Paul to see whether what he preached was written in the scriptures. Should not we do the same today? People today are in spiritual and religious darkness because they have relied on preachers and priests to tell them what the Bible teaches, and have never gone back to the Bible to see or check if those things were also written in the Bible which the preachers and the priests taught.

Are you sure that you have done what God says in His Bible that man must do to be saved? Are you sure that you are saved? Are you sure that you will go to heaven? Are you sure that you are a member of the church of which we read in the Bible? Are you sure that every thing that you do and believe as a Christian comes from the Bible? Are you sure that your religion is based on the teaching of God's word? Christ says, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). He also taught that God's word is truth. (John 17:17). Only God's word can free man from spiritual darkness, but this is possible only when man will do what it says. (John 5:39; Revelation 1:3).

Preaching : God's Plan

Jimmy Edwards

An imaginary story is told of a conversation which took place when Jesus went back to heaven. One of the exalted angels asked: "Master, what provision have you made to save the world?" Christ replied, "I outlined a plan of salvation for all the world and entrusted its spread to a little band of men—my disciples." "But Master, suppose they fail you? What then?" Jesus replied, "I have no other plan."

God chose to bring the world to salvation through the "force of ideas" rather than through the "force of might." The Apostolic Commission, or Great Commission, was committed to the apostles and gave them authority to preach the gospel and proclaim the terms of salvation offered by Christ. (Mark 16:15,16).

Phillips Brooks in his *Lectures On Preaching* gives a definition of preaching. He wrote that "preaching is the communication of truth by man to men." In *Baker's Dictionary of*

Theology Carl G. Kromminga wrote that "preaching is the word of God to men by men under assignment from God." Webster defines the word preach; "to deliver a sermon; to urge acceptance or abandonment of an idea or course of action; to exhort in an officious or tiresome manner; to set forth in a sermon; to advocate earnestly." Each of these definitions accurately describe preaching.

There is nothing more beautiful than the message-bearer of God. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? even as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:14,15).

Save the world by preaching. "It was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Corinthians 1:21). Human wisdom cannot bring about the salvation of any individual. We are totally dependent on the message of God revealed through the preaching of the gospel. When we accept the teaching of the gospel as true wisdom we have hope of salvation.

Burton Coffman in his commentary on Romans wrote: "Men must look again at the method God has chosen; and remember the omnipotence of him who chose the divinity of the message, and the power of the living word." He added. "We must dare to trust and use the means God elected as the instrument of his holy will.

It is imperative that men today preach the gospel. It is absolutely necessary to preach the word of God. It is through the preaching of Christ crucified that the wisdom and power of God is to be made known. There is no other means available to proclaim the message of Christ!

The Church : Bride of Christ

Clem Thurman

"The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...Husbands, love your wives even as Christ loved the

church, and gave himself for it...For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."—Eph. 5:22-32

Jesus promised, "I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18). And He did, and added the saved to it, according to "the eternal purpose of God". (Acts 2:47; Eph. 3:11). The church is designated by many terms: *kingdom, body, house, temple*. (Mat. 16:18-19; Col. 1:13, 18; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:3-5; Eph. 2:19-22). But no term paints a more beautiful picture than the one God uses in this passage in Eph. 5: "The Bride of Christ!"

Christ is Married to Only One Bride

Jesus promised to build one church. (Mat. 16:18). When people heard the gospel, and responded in obedience. (Acts 2:41), the Lord added all of them to one church. (Acts 2:47). The apostle writes in Col. 1:18 that Christ is "Head of the body, the church," and in Rom. 12:5 he declares we are "one body in Christ," that is, the church described in Eph. 5 as the bride.

To show our relationship to Christ, we are told, "Ye are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another even to him who is raised from the dead." (Rom. 7:4). When Paul preached Christ in Corinth, (1 Cor. 2:1-2), people believed and were baptized. (Acts 18:8). He then wrote them, "For I have espoused you to one husband: that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." (2 Cor. 11:2). Those who are in the church are married to Christ, because the church is His bride!

Look around you: you will see a multitude of religious bodies, all claiming to belong to Jesus Christ. Denominationalism would make a bigamist of the Lord Jesus! Friend, Christ has only one bride. He doesn't have "plural wives" nor "concubines." He has one bride, the church which is His body.

Christ, as Husband, is Head of His Church

Notice again, "The husband is the head of wife, even as Christ is the head of the church." (Eph. 5:23). In this day of "ERA and women's lib." that teaching may not be popular: but it is

still true! The husband is head of the wife. And in the same way, Christ is head of the church. "*He is the head of the body, the church... And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*" (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23).

Headship implies primacy, or authority or responsibility. "*Adam was first formed, then Eve*". (1 Tim. 2:13), and the woman was to be a "*help meet*" (or, "*suitable partner*"). From that time, the man has been responsible for the wife: to love, protect and cherish her. Jesus is head of His bride, the church: "*All authority hath been given unto me*". (Matt. 28:18). He is "*Head over all things to the church.*" (Eph. 1:22). And He loves, protects and cherishes His bride.

Jesus Christ Died on Calvary for His Bride

Jesus one time told His disciples, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*" (Jno. 15:13). The Lord did just that. Very few would be willing to die for someone else, but He did: "*Scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners: Christ died for us.*" (Rom. 5:7-8). But who is the "us" of that verse? Read again in Eph. 5:25, "*Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.*"

In order that the church could live, Jesus died. The shedding of His blood was to effect the life of the church: "*Feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood.*" (Acts 20:28). God had said, "*The life is in the blood*". (Gen. 9:4 Lev. 17:11; Deut. 12:23). Thus, without blood, the church could have no life. But spiritual life is imparted by the blood of Jesus Christ: "*Being justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*" (Rom. 5:9). And again in Eph. 1:7, "*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*" His death establishing the New Testament, (Heb. 9:15); was also to take away sins: for, "*Without shedding of blood is no remission.*" (Heb. 9:22). When Christ died for the church, His blood (that cleanses us from sin) purchased the church. (Acts 20:28).

The Bride of Christ is to Be Pure and Holy

In our modern age, some may think that purity in a bride is out of date. But God doesn't think so! Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 11:2, "*For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I might present you as a pure virgin to Christ.*" Jesus died for us so that we would live for Him. (2 Cor. 5:15). And to return to sinful pursuits after we have been "*called out of darkness and into his marvelous light*". (1 Pet. 2:9) is spiritual adultery. Thus the warning in Jas. 4:4, "*Ye adulterers, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?*" As Paul describes "*Christ and the church*" as husband and wife, he writes in Eph. 5:25-27, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present the church to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*" That is Christ's plan for the church. "*Be ye holy*". (1 Pet. 1:16).

The purity demanded by the Lord is likened by the inspired writer to "*pure virgin.*" Our dedication and commitment to Him is to be such that we "*Forsake all others and cleave to Him.*" Or that we "*Seek first the kingdom of God.*" (Matt. 6:33). That means we put Him first in all that we do. We dare not allow other pursuits, or other religious commitments, to have part in our lives. As Paul exhorted with regard to false religions, and their activities, "*Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.*" (2 Cor. 6:17). The Lord Jesus will not permit a divided loyalty. His bride must be true to Him: pure and holy.

Jesus is Lord and Saviour of His Bride

As we noticed before, Christ is the head of the church. But continue reading in Eph. 5:23, "*The husband is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*" Christ saves the church, the body, His bride! When people were baptized 1900 years ago, the record says: "*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*" (Acts 2:41, 47). Christ is the only

Saviour. (Acts 4:12), and when He saves people, He adds them to His church which is His bride.

How can we become a part of "*the bride of Christ*" today? Just as they did 1900 years ago! Those people heard the gospel, believed and were baptized. (Acts 18:8): thus, they were saved according to the Lord's promise in Mk. 16:16, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*" When those in Jerusalem did that. (Acts 2:36-41), the Lord added them to the church, His bride. (Acts 2:47). Paul speaks of baptism in connection with our cleansing in Eph. 5:25-27, '*Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.*' That was the bride of Christ then. And today.

Dear reader, are you a part of the bride of Christ? The one bride for which He died and for which He shed His blood? The bride which is saved by Him, cleansed by His blood? The bride that is cleansed with the washing of water by the word? If not, study again the passages above. Determine to do completely the will of Him Who died for you.

The Wonderful Blessings Of Faith

Romans 5: 1-5

Martel Pace

This is one of the great passages in Paul's writings. He almost sings of his joy because of his confidence in God. Trusting faith has done for him what works of the Law could never do. He now has *peace* with God! Before Jesus came no man ever got this close to God.

Justified by Faith (5:1). It is plainly justification by faith, but it is never "faith alone." The justification by faith in Scripture is always the same. Hebrews 11 demonstrates this: verse 4 shows that Abel's every act was of faith—building an altar, killing an animal, getting the wood and making the sacrifice. Verse 7 shows that Noah prepared an ark by faith. But who would affirm

he was saved from the flood the very moment he believed and before beginning to build? The walls of Jericho fell by faith, only after they were compassed thirteen times (v. 30).

To be justified by faith is therefore the same as being baptized for remission of sins since justification amounts to the same thing as remission. When one was baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27) it was an act of faith, for only those are sons of God by faith who "have been baptized."

Wonderful peace! (5:1). It is sad that so many do not possess this peace. Swinburne wrote:

His hidden face and iron feet,
Hath not man known and felt them in their way
Threaten and trample all things every day?
Hath he not sent us hunger? Who hath cursed
Spirit and Flesh with longing? Filled with thirst
Their lips that cried to him?

Many people feel that God has sent them all these things—hunger, cursing, thirst—but that he has not provided them a means to peace. Some want to blame God for everything that goes wrong but credit "good luck" with all that goes right. H. G. Wells wrote of a man whose mind was so tensed and strained that he was in danger of a complete nervous breakdown. His doctor told him the only thing that could save him was to find peace with God. The man replied, "What! To think of that, up there, having fellowship with me! I would as soon think of cooling my throat with the milky way or shaking hands with the stars."

William Barclay told of Rosita Forbes who travelled the world. One night in Chinese village the only abode was a pagan temple. When the moonlight shone in she saw the faces of the gods; on every face there was a snarl or sneer. They appeared as being haters of men. Such is the way men often reflect on the gods of their own making.

What is this peace? It is right relationship with God. When we have this we are no longer at war with the Father. It does not mean one is always in a state of serenity or tranquility.

If so, it would mean a person is lost (without peace) who temporarily loses his composure. There would be no security in that. Peace is something that grows and develops. Paul desired that God would continue to fill them with "all joy and peace in believing". (Rom. 15:13). Every saved person has some degree of peace. However, this varies depending on one's level of trust. It is possible to have the "peace that passes understanding" by committing all things to the Father (Philippians 4:6-7). We cannot begin to have it until we are right with God.

Introduction Into Grace. (5:2-4). "Access" in verse 2 is the word for an *introduction* or *ushering* into the presence of royalty. It is the regular word for the *approach* of a worshipper of God. Paul says that "Jesus gives us peace with God and ushers us into the very presence of God. He opens the door to the King of kings. There we have grace, not condemnation, and God's kindness." The word also applied to a place where ships come in for safety in riding out a storm. Our Savior provides the calm safety and security for our souls.

In spite of this grace and peace Paul knows Christians are up against it. In Rome it was hard to be a Christian. It is only through tribulation we enter the final kingdom (Acts 14:22). They learned to count this as evidence of God's approval and not "health and wealth" as some today advocate (II Thess. 1:3-5). Trouble can actually be a proof of God's blessing rather than continual prosperity and good health.

This tribulation blesses because it "produces perseverance" (v. 3b). Nothing is more vital to a Christian than perseverance, for without it there will be no ultimate crown of life. "Tribulation" is from *thlipis* meaning "pressure." Everyone has pressure but some do not view it as a blessing from God and are overcome by it. When we have faith and peace this *pressure* produces *perseverance* or *fortitude*. This may well be the greatest treasure in the Christian life.

When brother G.K. Wallace had a stroke it made him deaf. Years of tribulation had given him fortitude, so what did he do? He began to study lipreading and has benefitted us all by offering suggestions in a recent *Gospel Advocate* article on how to speak to

the deaf or hard of hearing. He evidences the real *character* (5:4) which should be our goal.

This Hope Is Not An Illusion (5:5). This hope is not just an illusion for it is founded on the love of God. There is no disappointment in the hope God provides (R.S.V.). All worldly hope soon turns to ashes, but hope in God is real and lasting. We learn of Gods' love (which provides the hope) from the word of God (John 3:16). If we learned it directly from the Spirit we would not need the Bible and it would seem the Spirit would be obligated to infuse it directly into all men. Verse 5 declares the Holy Spirit was given to the Romans. If the Spirit is given to us now, and I believe he must dwell in our hearts by faith just as Christ does. (Ephesians 3:17-19). It is interesting to note that the Spirit dwelling in us produces this love just as Christ in our hearts produces the love of Christ. (Ephesians 3:19).

How wonderful to have justification by faith, peace with God, rejoicing in hope, and through these, tribulation is allowed to produce perseverance that makes of us proper character.

Amos & Amaziah

Bob Duncan

Amos was a shepherd turned preacher. His congregation was made up of the high society people in the nation of Israel, including the king himself. He preached to them, but not at their invitation. They did not consider him as being refined enough nor his preaching elegant enough for their polite society. They would have fired him had they had it within their power to do so. But they could not fire him, because they had not hired him.

"Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel : the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land. Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the

land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there : But prophesy not again any more at Bethel : for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court". (Amos 7:10-13).

Amaziah was the kind of preacher who would preach what his hearers wanted to hear rather than what they needed to hear. He ridiculed the idea that judgment was to come upon Israel because of her sins, as Amos had prophesied. The king, no doubt, was pleased to hear Amaziah rebuke Amos for condemning the sins of the nation. Amaziah told Amos to "flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there." By these words Amaziah insinuates that Amos is preaching for money, i.e., that in Judah his preaching would be appreciated more, and he would be paid better.

It is not so very uncommon in our own time to hear some disgruntled individual accuse preachers of preaching for money. We realize that not all who preach do so from purely noble motives. We are firmly convinced, however, that as a rule, those who are preaching the gospel of Christ are receiving less remuneration than they would be receiving if they were expending their energies and using their talents in the secular field.

The reply that Amos made to this charge of Amaziah is as follows : "I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son: but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: And the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel". (Amos 7:14, 15). In other words, Amos had not planned to be a prophet. He had not gone to the school of the prophets. He was now a prophet because he was told by God to prophesy. I wonder why Amaziah was prophesying. Was this a case of one's attributing to another his own guilt ? Was Amaziah not prophesying for gain ?

How pleasant it would be to have a preacher like Amaziah ! He would never be so rude as to disturb a congregation by calling attention to their sins or by calling upon them to repent. No one would ever leave a single service with any feelings of guilt; instead they would be persuaded that whatever they might choose to do is perfectly all right. There would never be a ruffle on the stream of tranquility because of someone's taking a stand against sin.

On the other hand, think of the disturbance, the unrest, the bitterness, the harsh rebukes, the guilt feelings, etc. which resulted from the preaching of Amos. It might not always be pleasant to be a member of the congregation to which he preached. There might be troublesome times, especially if some of the members of the congregation were more interested in their own selfish satisfaction than in the will of the Lord.

Which preacher would you prefer? Amaziah, or Amos? Really?

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

W.A. Holley

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” is the most momentous question to be found in the whole history of man. The Philippian Jailor addressed this question to Paul and Silas, the complete story being told in Acts 16:19-34.

It is a question of the greatest significance and, because of its bearing on the eternal destinies of men, it should receive the most careful consideration, from President Reagan in the White House, to the beggar on the street. The Jailor realized that he was lost; hence, he asked for information that would guide him to salvation. Those of whom he inquired were abundantly qualified to direct him into the right ways of the Lord. (Acts 9:15; 26:16-18; Galatians 1:11-12).

The Jailor, although not selfish, desired to know what he must do to be saved—he was not thinking so much of others as to lose sight of his own needs—he asked, “What must I do to be saved?” While it is desirable for one to be concerned about others, one must not neglect or forget one’s own salvation.

The question: “What Must I Do To Be Saved?” has two parts. Man’s part and God’s part. “What must I do,” is man’s part. “To be saved,” refers to God’s part. The question is: “What must I do so as to have God save me?” This shows that I want to be saved on God’s terms; not man’s terms. The question

under consideration is found in varying forms in three specific references in the book of Acts, namely, Acts 2:36-38; 9:6; 16:30-34. Hence, these passages must be considered together if the truth regarding them is to be ascertained. We shall not attempt to answer the inquiry, "What must I do to be saved?" according to human wisdom, but we shall answer according to the Holy Scriptures. We ask for your careful consideration.

(1) I must hear the gospel of Christ. Unfortunately, many have refused to listen to Christ. (Matthew 17:5; Acts 3:19-23). But, Jesus said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me". (John 6:44-45). Hence, one must be taught, hear and learn the truth in order to come to God Almighty. "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear," said Jesus. (Matthew 11:15). There are two passages of great significance which have a bearing on this point. The first is Mark 4:24, which says, "Take heed *what* ye hear," and the other is Luke 8:18, which says, "Take heed therefore *how* ye hear." What and how one hears will determine whether one is saved or lost.

(2) I must obey the Lord Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 5:8, 9 we read, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

But one cannot obey Christ and disobey his commands. We are aware of the fact that some teach that obedience to the commands of Christ is non-essential. In Hiscox's Standard Manual For Baptist Churches, note 8, page 20, we read: "Baptism is not essential to salvation . . . but it is essential to obedience, since Christ has commanded it. It is also essential to a public confession before the world, and to membership in the church which is his body. No true lover of his Lord will refuse these acts of obedience and tokens of affection." Here is a contradictory statement! "Baptism is not essential to salvation . . . but it is essential to obedience," we are told. Is it possible for one to be saved in disobedience? What about those

preachers who have long insisted that a sinner can be saved and never be baptized? The statement admits that baptism is a command of the Lord. Can one be saved short of obedience?? Jesus commanded baptism. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 10:47-48). And besides, the quotation states that "no true lover of his Lord will refuse these acts of obedience and tokens of affection," but what if he does refuse? Will he still be saved in his stubborn disobedience to Christ? More, "baptism is not essential to salvation . . . but it is essential to membership in the church . . ." What a strange statement! According to this statement more is required to get into the church than is required to get into heaven!! Is it possible for an honest man to read Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4, and come to the conclusion that Jesus taught that baptism is a non-essential?? Here, dear reader, we make our appeal to Scripture and to common sense.

(3) I must worship God acceptably. Upon the first day of the week, Christians assemble together for the expressed purpose of worshiping God "In Spirit and in truth." There are five items or acts of worship in which each Christian participates, namely, Bible study, singing, praying, the Lord's supper, and giving. (Acts 20:7; 2:42; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). It is a sin to forsake the Lord's assembly. (Hebrews 10:24-25).

(4) I must live a faithful Christian life. We must let our "light so shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify [our] Father which is in heaven". (Matthew 5:16). Paul urges Christians to deny ungodliness and worldly lust, and to live "soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world". (Titus 2:11-12). "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord," is the way Paul stated the matter, (Hebrews 12:14). Those who become children of God, but return to the world and are overcome, cannot go to heaven in such a condition. (II Peter 2:20-22). Of himself Paul wrote: "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:27). A "castaway" is one who is cast into hell. We shall notice how Jesus stated the matter: "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth". (Matthew 25:30).

The beauty of a Christian life is not exterior but interior; we should not be so concerned about outward dress, but more concerned about adorning the "hidden man of the heart" (I Peter 3:1-7; I Timothy 2:9-15).

Christians are truly the *salt of the earth*, the *light of the word*, and the *leaven that can permeate the whole lump*. (Matthew 5:13-16; 13:33; I Corinthians 5:6-8). In spite of what you may think, you can contribute a grain of salt, a ray of light, and a particle of leaven that can help restructure, transform, convert, and save the world from eternal damnation. Will you obey Jesus Christ today? Why not now?

Worship of God

Edwin Kearley

The nature of man requires that he worship. Man has been found worshipping animals, inanimate or dead objects, his fellow-man or according to the direction of the creeds of men. It is distressing when people worship their pleasure, power, wealth, youth, beauty, popularity or their intelligence. All of these vanish with time. It is sad to see people worship falsely. Jesus said concerning the Jews of his day "but in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men". (Matt. 15:9). He would say the same thing about the commandments of men today found in the creeds which came from the minds of men.

WHAT IS WORSHIP? The Greek word *proskun* found in Matt. 4:10 and John 4:24 means "to kiss (the hand) toward". (*Youngs Analytical Concordance to the Bible*, by Robert Young). W.E. Vine defines *proskuneo* to mean "to make obeisance, do reverence to (from *pros* 'towards,' and *kuneo* 'to kiss'); is the most frequent word rendered to worship. It is used of an act of homage or reverence". (*An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, by W.E. Vine).

WHAT ARE THE CORRECT OBJECTS OF WORSHIP? People have always had a tendency to worship the wrong thing.

When Paul went to Athens, he found a very religious people. They had a diverse worship. Paul said, "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD**. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you". (Acts 17:23).

Jehovah God, the originator of all things, must be worshipped. (John 4:23). Jesus rebuked Satan and said, "... thou shalt worship the Lord thy God..." (Matt. 4:10).

The wise men from the East worshiped Jesus. "And when they were come into the house, and fell down, and worshiped him..." (Matt. 2:11). Since "Christ died for the ungodly". (Rom. 5:6) and as Christians we are "reconciled to God by the death of his Son". (Rom. 5:10), we have greater reason to worship Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Since the Holy Spirit is a part of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit is to be worshipped also.

HOW SHOULD WE WORSHIP? Jesus said, "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth". (John 4:24). This passage states two conditions of acceptable worship: (1) in spirit, and (2) in truth. We must worship with the correct attitude toward God. Also, our worship must be as God directs us in his word. There are five items of worship found in the New Testament church. They are the Lord's Super. (Acts 20:7), apostles' teaching (study), prayers, fellowship (giving), singing. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

With what kind of spirit must it be done? It must be done: (1) with a *SPIRIT OF HUMILITY AND CONTRITION* because God is holy. (1 John 2:20), (2) in the *spirit of gladness and gratitude* because God is a benevolent Spirit. (James 1:17), (3) in the spirit of *FEAR AND REVERENTIAL AWE*. (Rev. 1:12-18), (4) with all the *faculties of mind* because God is an intelligent Spirit. (Matt. 22:37), (5) in the *spirit of love*—love for God and man. (Matt. 5:23-24; I John 4:8), (6) with a *forgiving spirit* because God is a forgiving Spirit. (Matt. 6:14-15), (7) in the *spirit of faith*—of implicit trust in his word because God is invisible. (Ex. 20:45; II Cor. 5:7), and (8) in the *spirit of a child* because God is a Fatherly Spirit. (Matt. 6:9).

Worship is a great opportunity and responsibility. May we never forget these two facts. Gratitude and love should draw us to the time and place of zealous worship. David wrote, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of Lord". (Ps. 122:1).

Some Facts You Need To Know

Douglass Harris

Origin of the Churches

In condensed form, the following are historical facts as to the time, place, and person by whom the denominational churches originated. Documentary and unimpeachable proof can be furnished for all statements.

1. *Roman Catholic Church* (the first and mother of all denominations), crystalized into its present form in 606 A.D. with Boniface III as the first pope.

2. *Lutheran Church* (the first Protestant denomination), founded by Martin Luther in 1521 A.D. at Wittenburg, Germany, in protest to the selling of indulgencies and other corrupt practices of the Roman Catholics.

3. *Church of England* (later known as Episcopal in America), founded by Henry VIII in 1534 A.D., the final break with Rome coming about in 1543 A.D. because the Catholic Church would not annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon so he could marry Anne Boleyn.

4. *Presbyterian Church*, grew out of Calvinism which was first taught in Geneva, Switzerland, around 1535 A.D. The name is derived from their form of church government with presbyters in each local congregation.

5. *Congregational Church*, grew out of Puritanism in England in 1602 A.D. in favour of congregational church government.

6. *Baptist Church*, founded by John Smyth (who baptized himself by affusion) in Amsterdam, Holland, in 1607 A.D. First Baptist Church in America founded by Roger Williams at Providence, R.I., in 1639 A.D.

7. *Quakers* (also called the Society of Friends), founded by George Fox, 1650 A.D. at Derby, England.

8. *Methodist Church*, founded by the Wesleys (Chas. and John) at Oxford, England in 1739 A.D. in opposition to the formalism and ritualism of the Church of England, in which they lived and died as members. Name derived from their insistence upon using certain methods in their practices.

9. *Mormon Church*, founded by Joe Smith at Fayette, N.Y., in 1830 A.D.

10. *Seventh Day Adventists*, founded by William Miller in 1845 A.D. at Low Hampton, N.Y.

11. *Christian Scientists*, founded by Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy (she was multi-married) in Boston, Mass., in 1879 A.D.

12. *Jehovah's Witnesses*, founded by Charles T. Russell in 1884 A.D.

13. *Church of God (Holiness)*, founded by Richard G. Spurling in East Tennessee in 1886 A.D., according to the Minutes of the 42nd General Assembly of the Church of God held at Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 28-31, 1948.

14. *Nazarene Church*, founded by P.F. Bresee and J.P. Widney at Los Angeles, Calif., in 1895 A.D., so states the Nazarene Church Manual.

The Churches of Christ

A casual reader can see from the foregoing historical facts that all of the churches listed are too young by many hundreds of years to be the church revealed in the New Testament. They

were likewise established at the wrong place by the wrong person to be the church of the Lord. In contrast to them, the Church of Christ was established by Christ (Matt. 16:18) in the city of Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-4; Lk. 24:46-49; Acts 2) on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ in 33 A.D. The first denomination did not come into existence until approximately 600 years later, as is shown in the preceding. All of the other denominations have been founded since that time, as can be seen from the foregoing, also.

Churches of Christ everywhere plead for the restoration of the church just as it was (without addition or subtraction) in the first century under the direction of the inspired apostles of Christ. They are not seeking the reformation of any existing institution, which started many of the Protestant denominations, but they seek to go back of Catholicism and Protestantism and restore the New Testament church in name, organization, worship and practice as it was set in operation by Christ's apostles. In the modern sense of the terms, they are neither Protestant nor Catholic, because no such divisions existed in the days of the apostles.

Churches of Christ are undenominational in nature, since they are not a denomination or part of any other existing body of religious people, as the term "denomination" implies, but they are body of Christ. (Col. 1:18). "Their whole appeal is to 'speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent,' to have a 'thus saith the Lord,' either in express terms or by approved precedent." Their mottoes are: No book but the Bible; no creed but the Christ; no name but the Divine; no plea but the Gospel; no basis of unity, but the scriptural; in essentials, unity; in opinions, liberty: in all things, charity.

Churches of Christ recognize no earthly head, but exalt Christ as the ONLY head of the church. (Matt. 28:18; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22, 23). And, the headquarters is with the head in heaven. Their aim is to save souls through the preaching of the gospel. (Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 15:1-4); Gal. 1:6-9); teach Godly living. (Titus 2:11, 12; I John 2:15-17); and help all of those in need. (Gal. 6:10; James 1:27). They "call Bible things by Bible names, and do Bible things in Bible ways." (I Pet. 4:11). They

also plead for unity upon the scriptural plan of salvation as set forth in the following :

What Must I Do To Be Saved ?

This is the most important question ever asked by mortal man. It should be the chief concern of every accountable person, because it is both personal and imperative. The right answer can be found only in the word of God, the Bible. It is asked three times in the book of Acts of Apostles and answered many more times.

To be saved man must have his name written in the "book of life," for all whose names are not found written therein will be "cast into the lake of fire". (Rev. 20:15). All those who are members of the "church of the firstborn" have their names written in heaven. (Heb. 12:13). Thus one must be a member of Christ's church to be saved. In fact, the church is the saved and the saved are the church. (Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:47).

To be saved one must obey the Gospel of Christ. When Christ comes again, He will come "taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord". (2 Thess. 1:6-8).

Jesus commanded, and the apostles guided by the Holy Spirit taught that in order for one to be saved from past sins one must :

1. *Hear God's word* (Rom. 10:14-17; John 8:32; I Cor. 4:15; Jas. 1:18; Acts. 15:7).

2. *Believe in Christ* (John 8:24; 20:30, 31; Heb. 11:6).

3. *Repent of all past sins* (Lk. 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30).

4. *Confess faith in Christ* (Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37).

5. *Be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the remission of sins* (Mk. 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3, 4; Gal. 3:26, 27; 1 Pet. 3:21).

Those who obey these commands become such as should be saved and are added to the church by the Lord. (Acts 2:47),

You cannot "join" the Lord's church. According to the New Testament one is added to the church by the same process that saves him. Those added to the church are "Christians", "saints", or "brethren" and nothing else. As such, they are to meet upon the first day of the week to worship and eat the Lord's supper (Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Cor. 16:1, 2). To be saved eternally in heaven, a Christian must remain faithful until death. (Rev. 2:10; Matt. 24:13).

Dear Reader, if you are not a member of the Lord's church, you owe it to yourself to investigate the New Testament to learn about it. **YOUR SOUL IS AT STAKE!** More information will be furnished you upon request.

The Importance of Planning

J.R. Sullins

Nothing is really achieved by accident or happenstance. Achievement is the result of well-laid and well executed plans. We may fail to accomplish all we plan to do but it is certain we *will accomplish nothing unless we plan to do it.*

Someone has said, "To fail to plan is to plan to fail." This is true in every area of life whether it be in the field of education, business world, or activities in the Lord's church, etc. If we don't plan to succeed we won't. If there are no definite plans, there will be no great achievement and sometimes no achievement at all. Many members of the Lord's church accomplish practically nothing for Christ because they don't have a plan or goal for their Christian life. Individual Christians and congregations alike only reach a fraction of their potential because they move along haphazardly without well defined goals and plans of action.

Some guiding principles to help us in our planning to be what our Father desires us to be are :

Time and forethought are necessary. Many times we are "so busy" doing relatively non-important things that God only gets the scraps of our time and we operate only on an emergency basis as a Christian. When this happens we certainly don't have the time for planning. Paul instructed Timothy to, "Give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching; be diligent in these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy progress be manifest to all". (I Tim. 4:13). Hours of meditation, prayer and planning are necessary for us to achieve the progress we need to be making in and for the Lord.

Goal setting is a must. Many will say, heaven is my goal. Indeed it is the highest goal of every child of God. But just as we build a building, setting and meeting certain levels of construction until we reach the final goal of a completed structure, so is the Christian life. Christians wonder why they haven't done more for the Lord even when they have a tremendous desire to work and achieve. The problem is a lack of well-defined goal-setting. Do you want to save souls? How many have you planned to reach this next quarter? What plans have you made to reach this goal? We may never achieve all of our goals but we will achieve very little without setting goals. We will never rise above our goals.

A successful congregation must have sufficient planning to establish clear-cut goals in attendance, spiritual growth of the membership, missions, benevolence, soul-winnig, and every other area of the local work if it is to experience lasting growth. This type of spirit will cause us to "press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (ASV-Philippians 3:14).

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