



**THE
BIBLE
TEACHER**

WORSHIP GOD

IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

WITH

CHURCH OF CHRIST

AT

**E-10/B, Defence Colony
Near Andrewganj Bus Stop
New Delhi.**

EVERY SUNDAY AT 10.00 A.M.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

**For Free Bible Correspondence
Courses**

**Write To
NEW DELHI BIBLE COLLEGE
Box No. 3815
New Delhi-110049.**

THE BIBLE TEACHER

Editor :

J. C. CHOATE

Associate Editor :

SUNNY DAVID

Published by Church of Christ, Box 3815,
New Delhi-110049.

Pleading for the restoration of pure New Testament Christianity

Vol. 12

August 1981.

No 4

EDITORIAL



What Shall We Preach ?

There are always some who are writing us to tell us what we should preach, or not preach. The ones who send letter are generally those who don't like the things that we are saying. They tell us that what we say upsets them, that the denominational people are unhappy with it and that we should try to please everyone.

I wonder if such people realize what they are saying. Suppose we requested that all of our readers send us suggestions on what to preach. What kind of response would we get ? What would they want us to preach ? I would imagine that we would get all kinds of suggestions and that if we would follow the advice given that we would be constantly contradicting ourselves. Neither would we be able to preach the truth of God if we listened to men in general because most people, even many who claim to believe in Christ, do not abide by the Lord's teaching in the things that they teach and practice.

Actually, we cannot preach the kind of sermons that would

please everyone. How could we do that when even Christ was unable to do it? If we preach that there is a God in heaven, then we will disturb those who do not believe. If we preach faith in Christ, then we will upset all of the ones who reject him as the Son of God. If we preach repentance, that will bother those who are in sin. To tell you the truth, I know of no subject that we could preach on without bothering someone.

Now what our correspondents are saying is, that we should preach sermons and write on subjects that agrees with their beliefs. Never mind about the other fellow. Just as long as what we say doesn't bother them, then they don't mind for it to bother others.

But what does the Bible say? Do I really have a right to preach what I want to preach? Sure, I can preach what I want to preach, even if it contradicts what the scriptures say. The Lord does not force me to preach the truth. But I cannot preach what I want to preach, if what I want to preach is out of harmony with the word of God, and still please the Lord.

The Lord himself, in his word, places restrictions on me and all preachers and teachers when it comes to our preaching. We would do well to take note of that. We must then preach what the Lord wants us to preach whether people like it or not. We cannot preach to please men. Of course we would hope that in preaching God's will that it will be well received, but the truth has to be proclaimed nevertheless. God has given the message, but we as the messengers must deliver the message and that with love and concern for the lost.

The Apostle Paul says, "For we preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." (2 Corinthians 4:5). But if we are not to preach ourselves, then what are we to preach? Peter says that we are to speak as the oracles of God. (1 Peter 4:11). Again, Paul exhorts that we should preach the word. (2 Timothy 4:2). Christ said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15, 16). Then Paul says that if we

preach another gospel, other than that which has already been preached, that we will be cursed of God. (Galatians 1:6-9). Jude exhorts that we should "contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3). Christ reminds us that if we add to the word or subtracts from the word then we will be punished for it. (Revelation 22:18, 19).

Now what is all of this telling us? It is saying that if we are going to preach then we should preach the truth and the truth only. We are to preach God's will just exactly as it is. The Lord has not given you, me, or anyone else the authority to change his word and to preach that which contradicts what he has said.

But someone says, "Why don't you just preach Christ?" I do, and in doing that I preach the things that Christ commanded. In Acts 8 we read where Philip preached Christ to the Ethiopian eunuch but when they came to some water, even out there in the desert, he wanted to be baptized. Why would he want to do that? How would he have known anything about baptism? Surely Philip wasn't talking about baptism! He was preaching Christ to that man. But, you see, in preaching Christ to him, he was also preaching the commands of Christ, that which Christ has asked for one to do to be saved. Consequently, eunuch knew that baptism was a part of what the Lord required that he do, and on coming to some water, he wanted to obey the Lord. Philip asked him if he believed with all of his heart and he replied that he believed that Christ was the Son of God. Then they both went down into the water and he baptized him and then they both came up out of the water and the man from Ethiopia went on his way rejoicing.

Another suggests that we should forget about baptism, the church, and all of that, and preach faith only. But the faith of the Bible is all comprehensive and covers all the things that Lord commanded. How could one possibly preach what the Bible teaches and not preach the importance of baptism, that there is one church, that one must wear the name of Christ, and many other similar subjects?

My friends, I must tell you the truth. The Lord has

commanded me to do it and if I love him, and if I want to be saved, and if I want you to be saved, then I must tell you what the Bible teaches. I know that you may not like all that I say, and the truth may even hurt, but still I am duty bound to tell you. In the words of Paul, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:6).

I would like to urge you to really think about the things that I am saying. Go to your Bible or New Testament and compare and investigate it. See if what I say is in harmony with the word of God? If it is not, then tell me about it. If you find that I am telling you the truth, then accept it, not because I said it, but because it is what the Lord has said. Surely that is fair.

There is one Bible and it reads the same to you as it does to me. If we differ on what it teaches, it is not the fault of the Bible, but it is either because you are wrong or because I am wrong. Both of us might be wrong, but both of us cannot be right if we are divided religiously.

Again, I ask you to have enough interest in your soul to go to the word of God itself to see what it teaches on salvation, the church, the name, worship, and many other subjects that are so vital to the eternal destiny of your soul. While you do that, I will be doing the same, and if you and I love the truth and will obey it, then instead of being divided and opposing one another, we will be united in Christ, and we will then speak and preach the same thing.



**associate
editorial**

Back To The Bible

The churches of Christ all over the world are making every

effort in carrying out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, as written in Matthew 20:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16. However, we are not only concerned about those who are ignorant of Christ and his eternal salvation, but we are also concerned about the religious adulteration in present day's Christianity, about denominationalism and all the errors being taught today in the name of Christianity. We are pleading for the restoration of the pure New Testament Christianity. We are asking people to go back to the Bible for every thing to believe and practice in religion. We need to go back to the Bible because most of the things believed, taught and practised in the name of Christianity today are not part of real Christianity, of the New Testament, but are man-made and full of errors. Christ said, "Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?" (Luke 6:39). We cannot follow man and be saved. To be saved we must follow God and to follow God we must follow His Word. And therefore we must go back to the Bible.

Now let me give you an example. The game of cricket in our country is a very big game we really get excited over it when a cricket team of another country visits our country, or our cricket team visits another country, to play a series of cricket matches. Now the game of cricket is an international game, because most countries take great interest in it. This game is governed by an international law or rule. But suppose, if in the next two thousand years this game gets corrupted by various new rules and laws and even to the extent that all countries start playing it with their own different rules and even different teams follow different rules. Soon there would be a great confusion. People wouldn't know what is being played. There would be disagreement and fightings among the players and the time would come when no one would be interested in it. But then let us suppose some interested people see the need of restoring the game to its original form just as it was played two thousand years ago. What would then be necessary to do to restore it to its original form? Naturally, the only way to do it would be to go all the way back to the original book of its rules, to the blue print, and when it would be followed all confusion and disagreement would vanish away. On the other hand, there could be conferences and meetings to bring about the

necessary agreement and unity in the game, but this wouldn't help. Because all different representatives from different organizations would like to have their views and rules accepted by others. Therefore the only solution to the problem, as already seen would be to go back to the original pattern which was accepted and followed by all people two thousand years before.

This helps us to understand what we must do today to restore the Christianity of the New Testament in the 20th century. Christ is the author of Christianity. He founded it almost two thousand years ago. At that time it was united by one name, one church and one doctrine of the New Testament. There were no Catholic or Protestants at that time. The Christians in the beginning were not known as Methodists, Pentecostals, Baptists, etc. They were all Christians only. (Acts 11:26), and as congregations they were all churches of Christ. (Romans 16:16). They didn't follow then any human creed book or man-made orders from a diocese or head quarters or a Pope but Christians in the beginning followed only the New Testament, or the Apostles doctrines (Acts 2:42), which is also the doctrine of Christ (Matthew 28:20). Thus they were united as one in their preaching and practice and worship.

However, since the last few hundred years people have deviated from the teaching of the New Testament of the Bible. There is confusion and disagreement among the followers of Christ today and Christianity is divided in various sects and denominations by different man-made rules and laws. Instead of saying, this is not what the Bible teaches, today they say, this is not what our church believes. Simple and obvious commands of the Lord are being rejected for fear of excommunication from a church or denominational office. For sure, all denominational churches follow contradictory doctrines, if not they would be united and not divided. This division is not on what the Bible teaches but actually on things the Bible does not teach. The Bible says, God is not the author of confusion but of unity (1 Corinthians 14:33). Division, confusion and disagreement is there not because of God's teaching but because of the teaching of men. But God wants unity. (Ephesians 4:1-6). Christ prayed for unity. (John 17:20, 21). Christ built only one church (Matthew 16:18). Therefore the burning

question before all of us today is what can be done to bring about the unity (not union !) among the followers of Christ? Surely, there is only one solution, that is, we must all go back to the Bible and follow only what God teaches in His book. When people will do this, all confusion and disagreement will vanish away. As a result of it we will all be Christians only and we will all be members of the same church of the Lord. We will speak the same thing, there will be no division among us, but we will be joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. But this wonderful result cannot be achieved by conducting conventions and conferences or by bringing several denominations together under the name of a C.S.I. or C.N.I. church, etc.

Jehovah's Witness And The Bible

Alvin Jennings

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

The organizer of this movement was Charles Taze Russell (1854-1916). He embraced Adventism early in life, but at the age of 20 abandoned it primarily due to his opinion that the date fixed by Wm. Miller for the second coming of Christ was erroneous. He insisted that the date of the second advent was 1874, the same year he began to preach (Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. II, p. 240). In our opinion it, seemed not to matter to him that Jesus had said that neither the Son nor the angels knew, but "the Father only" (Mark 13:32).

"Pastor" Russell formally organized his followers in Pittsburgh in 1872, with himself as President. Headquarters were moved to Brooklyn, New York, in 1909. It is reported that about 13,000,000 of Russell's Studies in the Scriptures (Volumes 1-6) have been circulated. These laid the foundation for the new sect known before 1931 as Millennial Dawnists, International Bible Students, and Russellites.

In his six volumes (he prophesied he would write seven, but death overtook him before the task was finished) he maintained that the plan of God was unfolded and made known through him "as never before," and added that "the opening of the books of divine revelation will soon be completed" (Vol. 2, p. 189). In addition to this claim of "divine revelation," Russell maintained that probably never before had anyone (this would include the apostles!) "understood any part" of the book of Revelation (I, p. 27).

It is the old story of an ambitious man claiming that the Bible truths are hidden "from all except the consecrated" (Finished Mystery, p. 65), and saying, "Lo! Here is my writing, the long-awaited true explanation." And thus, one sect after another is born. In these pages, the reader may judge how "true" the doctrines of Russell and Rutherford were, under the search-light of the Bible.

THE WATCHTOWER HIERARCHY

Hebrews 8:5

"To the intent that now the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God" (Ephesians 3:10).

The Hebrew writer (8:5) exhorts Christians that the new priesthood and the new "tabernacle not made with hands" (the church) were to be designed exactly according to the pattern shown by Jehovah God. Disciples are to go and preach and teach all things that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:18-20), and it was the good pleasure that in so doing they glorify God "IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO ALL GENERATIONS FOR EVER AND EVER" (Ephesians 3:21). Any organization that supercedes or overshadows or displaces the church of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot be according to the pattern "once delivered to the saints." Even if the Watchtower did teach the whole truth of the gospel, its hierarchial form of government practically identical to that of the church of Rome, is diametrically

opposed to the congregationally independent arrangement with No earthly headquarters, which is so evident in the New Testament. How often have you read this in your New Testament: "A Bible study using the Watchtower magazine?"

Truly, without the Watchtower hierarchy, the slaves would pass into oblivion as sheep without a shepherd...and this is precisely what the Watchtower said would happen to a man who lays Russell's books down and reads the Bible only! "Within two years he goes into darkness!" (September 10, 1910, p. 298). I challenge every Jehova's Witness to wean himself from the emissions of this monstrous multi-million-dollar mother, and to live "by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

THE NAME "JEHOVAH'S WITNESS"

Isaiah 62:1, 2

"Christian...glorify God in this name" (I Peter 4:16).

Charles Taze Russell's first book was published in 1886 which he entitled *Millennial Dawn*. The name was changed to *Studies in the Scriptures* in 1916, but the disciples of Russell came to be known in the early stages of the movement as "Millennial Dawnists," "Russellites," or "International Bible Students."

After 'Pastor' Russell's death in 1916, his adherents were slowly culled out and pushed out of the newer organization now headed by Judge Rutherford. Russell's old Watchtower Society passed into oblivion by federal court order in 1918. Finally, with all of Russell partisans out of the way, it was evident to all of Rutherford's adherents that a new name would have to be selected. This new name was given at a convention held at Columbus, Ohio, October, 1931. (*Theocracy*, p. 34). The new name, Jehova's Witnesses, identified the new sect headed by Rutherford.

In an effort to cover up the newness of the name, it was contended that Jehova had witnesses from the time of Abel, and that Isaiah 62:2 prophesied the giving of the new name in 1931. Each

issue of the Watchtower magazine carries these words on the cover: "You are my witnesses, says Jehovah—Isaiah 43:12."

According to New Testament inspired testimony, the new name, the ONLY new name given to God's people that positively fulfills Isaiah 62:2 was the name "Christian" (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; I Peter 4:16). This is the name the mouth of Jehovah named, not "Jehovah's Witnesses"...a term which does not appear anywhere in the Bible.

THE IMAGE OF GOD

James 3:9

"So God created man in his own image" (Genesis 1:27a).

Does Ecclesiastes 3:19 teach that man is wholly mortal? The whole tenor of Solomon's writing is the vanity of all earthly pursuits when they are made the chief end in life. Death ends all man's earthly accomplishments, and in that sense he has no pre-eminence over beasts; as the beast dies, so does man. That man is mortal, or subject to physical death, scriptures do not deny. But that man is wholly mortal and ceases entirely to exist at death, scriptures do deny.

Man was made in the image and likeness of God. This likeness is not physical, since God is not physical but a spiritual Being (John 4:24; Luke 24:39). Man has a spirit (I Corinthians 2:11), and this is the basis of Man's likeness to God. We are the offspring of God (Acts 17:29). Hebrews 12:9 speaks of God as the "Father of spirits." Here God as the Father of our spirits is contrasted with the fathers of our flesh. God's order has always been "everything after its own kind." As the fathers of our flesh beget mortal offspring, so God, being immortal, begets in us an immortal quality after His own likeness.

The account of the rich man and Lazarus recorded in Luke 16:19-31 reveals that there is something about man that maintains conscious existence after the death of the body, or rather separation

from the body. There is no evidence that this is a parable, but even if it be granted that it is, still it teaches truths that are wholly incompatible with the tenets of the Watchtower Society.

THE DIVINE NAME

I Corinthians 12:3

“And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:11).

In the Foreword of the New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures, the “New World Bible Translating Committee” (no scholars’ names given) labours through fifteen pages (10-25) to show that the names Jehovah should appear wherever the Greek word KURIOS and THEOS are found in the text. Even though the name of their translation would suggest that they have been extremely careful to give an exact rendering of the original Greek texts, they admit that the opposite is true on page 18: “The evidence is, therefore, that the original text of the Christian Greek Scriptures has been tampered with.”

But note how enmeshed they became in making such a rule with reference to KURIOS and THEOS (rendered “Lord” and “God” in all other English translations), that they will uniformly translate as “JEHOVAH.” This is the rule. But look at their rendering of the text above, Philippians 2:11. Here, they FAIL to follow their rule! Why? It would have read, “and every tongue shall openly confess, that Jesus is Jehovah to the glory of the Father.” I Corinthians 12:3 would have read, “and no-body can say: Jesus is Jehovah except by holy spirit.”

They violated their own rule! Why? In order to maintain their false doctrine against the deity of Christ. In 237 instances they followed their rule; in 37 places they failed. Who can trust such arbitrary juggling by obviously biased men?

WORSHIP CREATURE OR CREATOR ?

Philippians 2:5-11

“They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever, Amen” (Romans 1:25).

Jesus is either creature; a created being, or else He is Creator. He cannot be both Creator and created.

Jehovah's Witness publications teach that Jesus was the first created being, but deny that He was One with the Father, and “Creator of all things” (John 10:30; 8:58). In a treacherous effort to separate the Father from the Son, they add the word “OTHER” in their own translation (interpretation) of the New Testament: “Because by means of him all OTHER things were created” (Colossians 1:16, NWT). Hebrews 1:8 is also perverted in NWT; in the ASV we read: “But of the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever.” John 1:1-3 in the NWT reduces Jesus to “a god”! What inconsistency!

Jesus did that which was sinful for men or angels to do. He accepted worship. Only God is to be worshipped (Matthew 4:10) yet we find angels worshipped Him (Hebrews 1:6) and He freely and repeatedly accepted worship from men (Matthew 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 20:20; Mark 5:6-7).

Jesus never rebuked anyone who attempted to worship Him, although good men and holy men refused to accept worship (Acts 10:25; Acts 14:8-18), and angels do not suffer men to worship them (Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9). Only GOD and BAD BEINGS (Deuteronomy 32:15-17; I Corinthians 10:18-20; Luke 4:7) accept worship! If Jesus was “mere man” while on earth, then why did He accept worship? If he was the “first creature,” the first created being of Jehovah, then God will give up all who worship Him (see text above).

Jesus is Creator, Immanuel, “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).

GOD'S PEOPLE—DIVIDED FOREVER ?

I Peter 1:14-23

"They will become one flock..." (John 10:16),

Jehovah's Witnesses teach that God's people will be divided into two groups, the "heavenly church" class (consisting of only 144,000 which will spend eternity in heaven with God and Christ) and the "Kingdom" class "which will live upon this earth" (Let God Be True p, 113). Strange as it may seem, in this same publication, p. 260 they offer John 10:16 as a proof text in which Jesus said "other sheep I have which are not of this fold." Their claim is that the "other sheep" refers to the "Kingdom" class which are to spend eternity on the earth separate from the "church" in heaven. The thing they completely ignore is that Jesus is teaching in this passage that all His sheep are to be brought together and said, "they will become one flock, one shepherd" (NWT). Jesus taught that His sheep would all be together; there would be ONE fold—not two folds.

The apostle Paul makes the truth clear in Ephesians 1:9, 10 (NWT) when he said, "It is according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, namely, to GATHER ALL THINGS TOGETHER AGAIN IN THE CHRIST, THE THINGS IN THE HEAVENS AND THE THINGS ON THE EARTH." Paul goes on to say that "the congregation, which is His body," is "the fulness of Him who fills up all things in all" (Ephesians 1:23). If the body is "the fulness of Him" then it is complete with all that belong to Christ. He does not have another class outside His body, the church.

The apostle Peter leaves no doubt that the Christian's inheritance is reserved in heaven (I Peter 1:4) and this includes all that have been born again and lived holy lives (vs. 14-16, 23).

LEADERS CLAIMED TO BE INSPIRED

Deuteronomy 18:20-22

"A faithful witness will not lie, but a false witness will utter lies" (Proverbs 14:5). "Yea, let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

This may be denied by some but the facts are against them. Charles T. Russell was referred to as the messenger of the Lord to the church, "a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord would make ruler over all His household, to give them meat in due season" (Studies in the Scriptures, VII:3. Cf. 337, 381). Rutherford said that Russell's books were "the first clear explanation of the divine plan ever published." God "used Charles T. Russell to write and publish books known as Studies in the Scriptures" (Creation, p. 131; Cf. J. F. Rutherford, Millions Now Living Will Never Die, p. 107). Thus Russell is endorsed by Rutherford and by the "Jehovah's Witnesses" who circulate the books which contain these claims (Theocracy, p. 37).

Rutherford has been referred to as Jehovah's prophet, "No man of responsibility has had the courage to come forward and the clergy have done exactly what Jehovah's Prophet said they would do, crawl in their holes." (Ed Kellar, Asst. Sec'y in letter to Loyd L. Smith, of Fresno, Calif., Nov. 15, 1940. Smith wrote Rutherford to try to get him to debate a minister of the church of Christ).

We shall test these prophets with Bible teaching and by the prophecies which they have uttered (Cf. Deuteronomy 12:32; 13:5; 18:22; I Thessalonians 5:21). This is done without malice and with the request that the "Jehovah's Witnesses" weigh what we have to say.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH

II Peter 3

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

Jehovah's Witnesses teach us that the earth will never be destroyed; "But the end of the world is no literal burning up of the earth." (Let God Be True, Brooklyn, 1946, p. 253). The "purging" of the people of the earth will usher in the "New World order" and righteousness will dwell in the new earth according to Witnesses.

Our Lord sets forth the truth in our text above when he states that "heaven and earth shall pass away" (Matthew 24:35). Any candid view of this statement will reveal the finality of it. Our Lord's word is authoritative. He spoke truth. The heaven and earth shall pass away, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God stated this.

Peter was guided by the Holy Spirit when he described this "passing away of the earth." "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up." Please tell me how Peter would have made a statement of the earth being burned up if he had wanted to so state. My friends, this is not mere symbolic language! These words are specific. Jehovah's witnesses indicate that Peter here was speaking only of a purging or cleansing of the earth; that the earth itself will not be destroyed by fire. However, the inspired Peter states that the "earth AND the works that are therein shall be burned up." This involves all. It is conclusive! Believe it! Prepare for it! Be ready for the coming of the Lord. Live righteously!

BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

Leviticus 17:10-16; Acts 15:28, 29

"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (II Peter 1:16).

A faithful Jehovah's Witness will not permit blood transfusions to be made to himself or any member of his family. Many

speculations are offered as to why they feel this way, but the truth of their feeling is that they believe this is the same as eating blood according to their own publications. (See tract, "Blood, Medicine, and at the Law of God," and Make Sure of All Things, pp. 47-48.)

The Bible has nothing to say about blood transfusions as such. It does state that the blood must not be eaten. The Bible connects reverence with blood because it is the life element. We should therefore realize that blood and food have two different functions primarily. They parallel in one aspect and that is that they both sustain life. Now note : The food satisfies hunger and supplies vitamins and not minerals for the body. The blood takes these elements along with oxygen and gives this food to the body tissues and they live. God designed the food to be enjoyed and to supply strength and life in this sense. The blood is the vehicle that transports these elements plus oxygen where they are needed. A blood transfusion does not feed the body in this sense. A person could not live on repeated transfusions. He must have the normal intake of food. We conclude, therefore, that a transfusion is like a repair on the vehicle and not a loading on of more food which it is carrying.

"For What Is Your Life?"

Grady Miller

In James chapter 4, verses 13-15, we find this reading : "Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain : Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life ? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

Notice the question James poses in verse 14 : "For what is your life?" No doubt, James is trying to make us see the uncertainty of life. Our plans are not as concrete and fixed as we

sometimes like to think. Life has a way of changing : suddenly, completely, dramatically. Our plans for next year—or even tomorrow—may have to be aborted, often times with little or no warning.

The question, “What is your life?”, also points out the need for self-inventory. All of us need to stop from time to time and reassess our situation in life. Just where are we going ? What am I doing with my life ? My friend, we will suggest that, according to the word of God, your life is nothing unless it is being used for the service of the Lord.

Certainly, our life is nothing from the standpoint of duration. James says that is “even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away.” Those who have lived their threescore and ten are often heard to say that life is so short, so brief. Therefore, our life must be measured not as to *quantity*, or how long we live; instead, it must be measured as to *quality*, or what we are doing with it. Methuselah lived to be 969 years old, but yet what did he ever do that was worthy of record and glory ? Jesus, on the other hand, lived a scant thirty-three years, but His life, changed the course of the world!

What are you doing with your life. Some follow the principle of “eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.” But, surely, there must be more to life than this. The certainty of the future judgment should prompt us all to reject this false philosophy. Others operate on the principle of “get all the wealth you can while you can.” But again, Jesus asked, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:26). The old adage is still true : You can’t take it with you.

Hear the words of Solomon, the wise king of ancient Israel. Indeed, Solomon tried it all : wealth, power, immorality, adultery, drugs; every vice that we can imagine, Solomon was familiar with. Near the end of his life, after he had seen his mistakes in judgment torment him time after time, he wrote, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter : Fear God, and keep his commandments : for

this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). Would to God that every single one of us would take this advice to heart. My friend, what is your life worth apart from Jesus?

"Whose Mouths Must Be Stopped"

Ernest S. Underwood

In giving the qualifications of God's appointed overseers of the church, the apostle Paul stated in the latter part of verse nine of the first chapter of Titus that each individual man must be one who is "holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers." There is a definite reason for this qualification, and that reason is given with explanation in verses ten and eleven. Here Paul continues, "For there are many unruly men, vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped." We shall deal with the consequences of such deceptiveness, and the evaluation of the apostle, later on in this article. At this time, however, let us turn our attention to the above text and learn some lessons contained therein.

We learn first of all that men, not women, are God's appointed overseers in the church. When a woman takes it upon herself to assume such an office, or to preach, lead singing, lead prayer, or to lead in any way over the man she becomes a usurper of authority—a thing which no Christian woman will ever do. These men are to be such as are both able and willing to uphold the sound doctrine. (It should be noted here that there is such a thing as *the sound doctrine* which also implies the existence of doctrine which is *not sound*). These elders are to both exhort, and to convict the gainsayer. The original Greek word which is translated as "gainsayer" is *antilegontas* and means "to speak against, to contradict, to gainsay, to deny, to oppose." (Greek Analytical Lexicon). The word "convict" comes from the Greek

word *elegchein* and means : "to put to proof, to test, to convict, to refute, confute, to detect, lay bare, expose, to reprove, rebuke." (Also, Greek Analytical Lexicon.) Thus Paul says that there will be those who will contradict, speak against, deny, and oppose the sound doctrine, and that such persons must be put to proof, tested, refuted, exposed, and their pernicious ways laid bare. It is the responsibility of the eldership of each local congregation of the Lord's church to see that this very thing is done in the preaching and teaching programme under their oversight. This is not an optional matter—it is a command of God!

Note Paul's statement, "Whose mouths must be stopped." Read this again, putting the emphasis on the word "must". How does one stop the mouths of the perverters of the sound doctrine? Is physical violence to be used? Of course, it is recognized that a negative answer is required. The mouth of the false teacher can be effectively stopped when his false teachings are exposed to the truth. A false teacher is afraid to a fair investigation of his doctrine. He deals in spiritual treachery and he knows it. He will studiously avoid all contact with those who would challenge his teachings. He will continue to spew his venom, but when he has been challenged by the truth, and has refused that challenge, his effectiveness will be diminished.

There are some who love the hire of wrong doing, and there are those who will pay to have their ears tickled with false teachings of the hireling. (Cf. II Tim. 4:3-4). However, we believe that there are still multitudes of honest, God-fearing folks who earnestly desire nothing but the truth. For this reason we must lay bare before their eyes the deceptiveness of the false teacher and his teachings. We must then present the pure and holy truth to these people.

In our text (Titus 1:5-16) Paul gives the consequences of following false teachers. In verse eleven he states that whole houses are overthrown, and in verse fourteen he says that it causes men to turn away from the truth. Dear reader, has this described you? How can you be sure? There is one, and only one, way to determine the answer: Put your doctrine and your practice along side

of the Holy Scriptures. Can you find the name by which you are called applied to God's people in those Scriptures? Can every act of worship which you offer be substantiated by a proper division of God's word? Is how you were taught to be saved the same as is found in Holy Writ, or were you taught "faith only", "grace only", "works only", or other doctrines of men? The writer of the Book of Revelation states that we will be judged by the things written in God's Book. (Cf. Rev. 20:11-15). Therefore, it is this Book to which we must adhere.

In closing, may your attention be called to verse sixteen of four text. Here the peerless apostle gives the *inspired* description of the false teacher. He states, "They profess that they know God: but by their works they deny him, being abominable and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." They make great profession of their love of and devotion to God. They speak much of being "born again Christians." Yet Paul says that, by their words—their false teachings—they deny the very One whom they claim to do ardently love. Not only that, but in the eyes of God they are abominable and disobedient. They have no love for the truth of God and are counted by Him as reprobate—"unable to stand test, rejected; worthless, refuse." (Greek Analytical Lexicon).

My friend, is this the kind of teaching you really want to follow? Truly, there are such as "whose mouths must be stopped."

Is There An Eternal Sin?

Maxie B. Boren

An arresting question! One that really grabs our attention! "Is there an eternal sin?" Most would readily reply in the negative, and vehemently affirm, "there is no such thing!"

But is such a conclusion really being honest with what the

New Testament teaches? Please read *Matthew 12:31:32*, *Mark 3:29*, and *Luke 12:10*. Read these verses from every translation available...and then ask yourself the question again? If language means anything, then there is indeed an eternal sin, and that sin is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit! And it is my conviction that no amount of rationalization and/or "explaining it away" can alter the import of what Jesus said.

What is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? Read the contexts of *Matthew 12:22-37* and *Mark 3:22-30* where the sin is clearly defined. The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the "prince of the demons," Beelzebub. But Jesus plainly said it was by "the Spirit of God" that He did so. (*Matthew 12:28*). Therefore, the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit was attributing to Satan what was done by the Spirit through Christ. Such blasphemy could only come from hearts that were extremely hardened and calloused, which, through repeated and obstinate rebellion to God could have reached a point where they would utter such an impious, irreverent, defaming, hurtful, and evil thing. But the fact is, those Pharisees had reached that point, and did speak forth the blasphemy, and Jesus said, in essence, "you have gone too far... you have placed yourselves beyond the provisions of forgiveness in doing this...you have committed a sin that will never be forgiven."

But some object, and say, "Wait a minute...all sins can be forgiven...there is no such thing as going beyond the provisions of God for forgiveness." *I would agree with that concerning every sin imaginable, with this ONE EXCEPTION.* Jesus said that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven...it is an eternal sin!

Can such a sin be committed today? Again, most say "no." Many equate the sin with the rejection of the gospel, but obviously, the texts clearly show it goes beyond that. Others maintain that it was a sin that could have been committed only in the presence of Jesus during "the day of miracles." But, I inquire, could not the same depths of degeneracy and depravity be attained in hearts today that have given themselves over to evil and rebellion to God, as in the case of the Pharisees of old? And could not such

persons be guilty of exactly the same blasphemy of which the Pharisees were guilty? I believe so. And therefore, in my understanding, there is an eternal sin which was committed at least one time, and perhaps has been committed since then, and could possibly be committed in our day and time, though it is highly unlikely.

We all need to be penitent in attitude, and humble submissive to God, and if so, we will never have to worry about committing the eternal sin.

True Disciples Of Christ

Paul H. Epps

“And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them...” (Matthew 5:1, 2).

Jesus taught His disciples in private sessions, knowing that they had great possibilities and great influence that could reach the hearts of others. Jesus sympathized with the multitudes, knowing that they had souls that would live on and on throughout eternity. He estimated their personal values as no one else could. He paid the enormous price for the redemption of their souls! This picture of Jesus seeing the multitudes and being concerned with their souls should teach us to be sympathetic with humanity—with our neighbours, our kinfolk, our close friends, even our enemies, if such we have!

A true disciple will deny himself for Christ! In *Luke 14:25-27* Jesus teaches the condition of discipleship. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, and a great multitude was following Him. As Jesus continued His journey, the multitude increased. They thought that He would establish an earthly kingdom, and that they may be on the receiving end without any change of conduct.

But Jesus made it clear that a disciple must choose between man and Christ! *Verse 26* says that he must "hate his own father, mother, wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, and his own life" in order to be a disciple (learner, follower) of Jesus. Of course, the word "hateth" means to love less, as seen in *Matthew 10:37*, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

To choose between relatives and Christ is a cross that many must bear; to choose between our own life and Christ is also a burden that each of us must bear! Every disciple must bear a cross!

The Lord also teaches the cost of discipleship in *Luke 14: 28-33*. He discusses a man building a tower. First he must sit down and consider the cost to see if he has sufficient funds to complete the work. Then Jesus discusses a king encountering another king in war. He will estimate forces on both sides, desiring to know the strength and weakness of the opposing king.

To become a disciple of Christ, one must give thought to being faithful - worshipping, working, serving in every capacity wherein he may be needed, studying, continuing in a prayerful attitude daily! One must give of his influence, his money, his energy, his all! The early disciples left their nets (*Matthew 4: 19-20*). Peter said, "Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee." (*Mark 10: 28*). What have we left? What have we given up? Our answer will prove our discipleship.

God Wants You!

Daniel S. Hamm

God wants you to recognize him as owner of all things. *Psa. 24:1*, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the

world, and they that dwell therein.”

God wants you to be a faithful steward of his. If you are a wise steward, you will hear God say, “Well done, thou good and faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of the Lord.” (Mt. 25:21).

God warns you of your appointment to give an account for your stewardship. Rom. 14:10-12, “...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

God wants you to use your time wisely, to his glory. Eph. 5:15, 16, “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” (N.I.V.) (A noted psychologist was asked to give reasons why so many people fail to live successfully. He gave the following answers, all of which indicate poor stewardship of time :

(1) Finding fault with the other fellow but never finding our own faults.

(2) Doing as little as possible and trying to get as much as possible for it.

(3) Spending much time showing up the other fellow's weak points and too little time correcting our own.

(4) Slandering those whom we do not like.

(5) Putting off until tomorrow something we should have done day before yesterday.

(6) Talking friendly to the other fellow's face and stabbing him in the back as soon as he turns around.

(7) False belief that we are smart enough to reap a harvest of pay before sowing a crop of honest service. James 4:14 reminds us that we "know not what shall be on the morrow..." Let us use our time constructively to praise and serve God!

God wants you to use your tongue appropriately. Matt. 12:36 reminds us, "every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Eph. 4:29 reads, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

God wants us to be liberal in our giving to His cause. I Cor. 16:2 tells us to give on "the first day of the week". II Cor. 9:7 tells us to "purpose in our hearts" what we give. We are reminded in Luke 12:48 that the more we have, the more we are to give. To purpose as God would have you to, sit down today with your family and count your blessings, decide how much you can give weekly to the Lord, and then give that amount week after week. You will be happy that you did.

Are You Living The Abundant Life ?

"... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10).

The greatest life that can be lived is the Christian life! If you are not a Christian, a member of the family of God, the church of our Lord, you are missing the *abundant life* which Christ came to give to all who are washed in the blood of the Lamb! Of course, one must live a faithful godly life in order to have the blessings of Christ in *abundance*! The word "abundantly", as used in our text, is related to the word as found in *John 6:13*, which speaks of the *abundance* that was left over from feeding the five thousand.

Since the child of God has a new life, he should not follow

the fatalistic doctrine of DEFEATISM! There has been a pronounced tendency among many to follow that doctrine. Instead of thinking about our limitations in living for the Lord, we should give much thought to the development of our possibilities! Let us not permit man to consign us to the role of a mere cog in a machine, as it were. Instead, let us live our new life with optimism, not with pessimism!

To live the Christian life "*more abundantly*", means that we must not live in the past, permitting our mind to dwell upon our mistakes of yesterday. Too many of us are guilty of saying, or at least thinking, "Oh, I've wasted so much time", or, "my ability is so limited", or, "there is no use of my trying to change now." No doubt, all of us have wasted time, and our abilities are not the same, but let us not have the spirit of defeatism! Why not say, "The Lord being my helper, I am going to do my best to make up for today what I lost yesterday."

We can, very easily, become "stuck in the rut of hopeless despondency, crawling in the valley of indecision." We need to lift our spiritual eyes toward the horizon of hope where new possibilities await us, where we can have life in Christ *more abundantly!*

Too many of us are not enjoying our life in Christ because we have become cynics, malcontents, failing to trust the promises of the Lord. Why cheat yourself of the joys of a full life in Christ? Remember David? When he went to fight the giant, Goliath, he did so with optimism! But the other Israelites were afraid. David encouraged himself, because he had God on his side! Just remember.....you and God make a majority! Jesus has given us the key to happiness, "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have *abundance...*" (*Matthew 13:12*). How is your life?

Christian Development

There are many misconceptions regarding Christianity. Ironically, many of those who profess to being a Christian have some of the most far-fetched ideas about their religion. So many who

claim to be Christian have given little thought or concern about their spiritual growth and development. Such is little wonder! With so many "Pastors" and "Reverends" teaching that God "In His own good time; in His own good way will touch the heart of the sinner and save him" have dulled the sense of personal responsibility of those who are under their influence. Naturally, if one believes there is nothing for him to do in becoming a Christian he would give little thought concerning his development as a grown child of God. Consequently he does nothing about spiritual growth. Some others who realize that there is a difference of spiritual depth among believers leave the development of their spirituality to chance. It might be expressed in the thought: God made me what I am; If He wants me to be more He will surely make me so.

The Holy Scriptures command spiritual growth. Consider a few passages from the writings of Peter: "As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:2). "...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue...knowledge...temperance...patience...godliness...brotherly kindness...charity, For if these things be in you and abound..." (2 Pet. 1:5-8). His final words of inspiration encouraged Christians to "grow in grace, and in knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18). The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews makes a distinction in the baby Christian and the Christian of full age. The baby is the one who is undeveloped and drinks only milk as the chief substance of life where the full grown Christian is one who eats strong meat. The babe, because of a lack of development, can comprehend only some of the bare fundamental of the gospel. He even needs to be taught (re-taught) them again. He is not always able to discern between good and evil. But not so with the developed Christian. Their spiritual sense are "exercised to discern both good and evil." (Read Hebrews 5:12-14).

The source of spiritual growth is the word of God (1 Pet. 2:2). To be approved of God one must "study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:16). The word of

God is able to impart spiritual life and growth to those who study it. Those who abide in its teachings develop in grace, knowledge and spiritual power as God so desires them to do. Their growth, although never completed, leads them unto a closer likeness of Christ, their Saviour.

One who is not growing in the spiritual likeness of Christ is in great danger. Those who have not grown in adding to their faith "is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." Such a one is barren and unfruitful (2 Peter 1:8, 9). There is the threatening danger of his going back into the world of sin and perdition for one cannot long stand still in his relation of Christ. He will grow closer in spiritual development, or he will grow colder and colder and finally fall away.

Christian growth furnishes the zest and thrill of Christianity. The child of God that grows day-by-day is one who never wearies in the faith, never falters in the trials of life, is never bored by the constant day-to-day affairs of life.

Let us grow unto the fullness of faith, hope and joy in Christ.

Did You Know

That you cannot be taught wrong and baptized right? (See Jn. 8:32; Rom. 10:17).

That you cannot be baptized wrong and worship right? (See James 2:10).

That you cannot worship wrong and live right? (Jn. 4:23, 24).

That you cannot live wrong and die right? (Mt. 25:31-41).

EXCELLENT OFFER!

For Readers Only! If you would like to receive fine Christian books, you can choose any number from the following. For each book you should send 50 paise postage stamp.

1. Sound Doctrines.
2. Preach the Word.
3. Children of Obedience
4. New Testament Conversion.
5. Exhortations, Vol. 1
6. Exhortations, Vol. 2.
7. New Delhi Sermonettes, Vol. 2.
8. Let us Reason Together.
9. We Live by Faith.
10. Good News
11. The Christian Reader
12. Topical Index of the Bible
13. Contending for the Faith
14. 70 Short Sermons, Vol. 2
15. Back to the Bible
16. The Bible is the Answer
17. Lessons from the Bible, Vol. 1
18. Lessons from the Bible, Vol. 2
19. Soul Saving Sermons
20. Fiftytwo Short Sermons
21. Gospel Treasure, Vol. 1
22. Gospel Treasure, Vol. 2
23. Is it the Truth?
24. Bible Themes
25. Sermons on False Doctrines
26. Thirty five thought Provoking messages.
27. A Ready Answer For Every Man, Vol. 1
28. A Ready Answer For Every Man, Vol. 2
29. A commentary on 1 & 2 Peter
30. Have you been wondering what the Bible Teaches? Vol. 1
31. Have you been wondering what the Bible Teaches? Vol. 2
32. God Made Them Male and Female
33. Bible Solution to Human Problems
34. Outstanding Characters of the Old Testament
35. The New Testament Church
36. Sermon Outlines with a Message, Vol. 1
37. Sermon Outlines with a Message, Vol. 2
38. Sermon outlines just for you
39. Bible Men and Women of the New Testament
40. Voice of Truth Radio Sermons, Vol. 1
41. Voice of Truth Radio Sermons, Vol. 2
42. Voice of Truth Radio Sermons, Vol. 3
43. Voice of Truth Radio Sermons, Vol. 4
44. Voice of Truth Radio Sermons, Vol. 5
45. Voice of Truth Radio Sermons, Vol. 6
46. Voice of Truth Radio Sermons, Vol. 7
47. Scriptural organization of the churches of Christ.

Address : THE BIBLE TEACHER

Box 3815

C-22, N.D.S.E. II

NEW DELHI—110049

KINDLY NOTE

If you are receiving more than one copy of The Bible Teacher you are requested to let us know your Mailing Numbers written on the label of your Address. This will help us check duplication of Addresses.

Thank you.

TO:

From :

The Bible Teacher

Post Box No. 3815
New Delhi-110049