



**THE
BIBLE
TEACHER**

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

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

September 1981

No 5



EDITORIAL

The Jesus Only Theory

The Bible is simple and plain. God gave us his word to reveal his will to us. He wanted us to know his will. Therefore, he put it in such a way that any and all who love the truth can understand it and obey it.

Sad to say, but not all people love the truth. Many go to the Bible and they read into it all kinds of teachings and doctrines. Not only that, but when they go out to teach those things they seem to always be able to get a following.

A good example of this can be seen among those who teach the Jesus Only Theory. They teach that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, but that he also was the Father and the Holy Spirit. They go to statements like the one in John 17 where Christ said that he and the Father were one. But they overlook verses like Matthew 28:19, 20 where Christ said that one should be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Of course these people would have arguments to try to explain all of this

away. They would probably say that a man may be a father, a son, etc., but still he is one person. But they use this doctrine to distinguish themselves from other churches. It is just another example of man leading man, of man changing God's word, of man competing with God for the souls of men, and of course in the end it will all come to nought. The sad part of it is that many souls will be lost because of it.

Go with me to the Bible and let us note some things that would indicate that there are three persons in the Godhead and that each one is distinct from the other. They are one, but they are three. Someone has illustrated it like this : there is one candle, but there is the stick itself, then there is the string or cord that runs through it, and finally when it is lit there is the fire or the light on the end of it. There are many other illustrations that could be given to bring out this point. But please take note :

1. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1). In the Hebrew language the name of God is given to include the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

2. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (Genesis 1:26). Why did God use the plural term and say, "Let us make man..."? Evidently he was including not only himself but the other members of the Godhead as well.

3. We read of God and his work many times in the Old Testament but we also read of the many appearances of the Son of Man among God's people. The Holy Spirit's work is also there.

4. On the occasion that Jesus was baptized, the record says, "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him : and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him : And low a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16, 17). Here you definitely have three persons involved in the baptism of Christ. There was Christ who was baptized. Then the Holy Spirit descended, like a

dove on him. It doesn't say that the Holy Spirit was a dove but he used this figurative term to help us picture what happened, that is, the Holy Spirit came down on him as a dove would come down and light on him. Then it says that God spoke from heaven and acknowledged the fact that Jesus was his beloved Son and that he was well pleased with him and with what he had done. Now, how could anyone say that Jesus here was not only the Jesus that was baptized, but also it was Jesus that came down on Jesus and it was Jesus that spoke to Jesus? This just shows how absurd man can become with his teaching.

5. At the Mount of Transfiguration, at the time that Moses and Elias appeared with Christ, with Moses representing the Law, with Elias representing the Prophets, and with Christ representing the New Law that would soon come into force, Peter and John being there to see all of this, Peter offered to build a tabernacle for each one of them, and then the record says, "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." (Matthew 17:5). Now there we have Christ in the midst of Moses, Elias, Peter and John, and then there was a voice out of the cloud that said that this was his Son and that he was well pleased with him and that they should hear him, showing that Christ and his law was superior to the others. But would Christ be speaking from that cloud to himself and calling himself Son and that he was well pleased with himself?

6. In John 17 we have Christ praying to his Father, and he said concerning the Apostles, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me, through their word; That they all may be one, as thou, Father, are in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I, in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast love me." (John 17:20-23). Here we have Christ praying to the Father. Does that mean that he was praying to

himself? Since he referred to the disciples as being one, as he and the Father were one, does that mean that if Jesus and the Father were one personality that the disciples are not many personalities but only one personality? Surely you can see the truth in this. God and Christ were one in that they agreed in one, they were one in purpose, and so on, but there was God the Father and Christ the Son and naturally the Son would pray to the Father. Likewise, Christ prayed that even as he and the Father were one that the Apostles, and all that would receive his word through their teaching, might also be one, or be united, or agree in one. Over in 1 Corinthians 12 Paul compares the body of Christ or the church of Christ with a physical body. He shows that there are many members but one body. Likewise, with the church, there are many members but one body. If God and Christ are one personality, namely Jesus, because the record says that they are one, then all of those who make up the body of Christ or the church of Christ would be one personality since it says that there is one body.

7. In Mathew 28:19, 20, we read, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." According to our friends then you would have the Lord to say that one should be baptized in the name of Jesus, and of Jesus, and of Jesus, or in the name of Jesus the Father, Jesus the Son, and Jesus the Holy Ghost. Do you believe that? Christ said that one should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. What does that mean? If it doesn't mean what it says, then how would you know what the Lord was saying when he said something? It is plain that there are three personalities in the Godhead and they are listed here as being God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit. There are those who are trying to get away from the idea that there are three God, and so they end up in teaching another false doctrine.

8. The Apostle Paul said, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord,

one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Ephesians 4:4-6). In this statement we are told that there is one God, who is Father, one Lord, who is the Son, and one Spirit, who is the Holy Spirit. How could that be any plainer?

With the foregoing we will bring this particular study to a close, but if we went all the way through the New Testament then there would be no end to the verses that we would come across that would clearly teach that there are three persons in the Godhead. I would ask you to stay with God's word, to stay with the truth, and to stay away from false teaching and from false theories on this subject and on all other subjects.



**associate
editorial**

"The Church Of Christ Does Not Believe In The Holy Spirit"

One of the reasons the Son of God was rejected and condemned to die on the cross by the Jewish religious leaders was that he boldly preached against their traditions and errors. On one occasion when the scribes and the Pharisees accused his disciples for eating bread without washing their hands and thus transgressing the traditions of their elders. Jesus asked them, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" And, "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and houreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:3, 7, 9). Read also Matthew chapter 23, if you have the Bible or the New Testament. Because of

such a bold preaching by Jesus against their traditions and errors, they began to falsely accuse him by saying that he was a sinner and that no one should hear him. (John 9:24).

Friends, today the same is true about the church of Christ. Because the church of Christ is speaking boldly against man-made denominational churches, against man-made creed books, and commandments and traditions of men, the church of our Lord is being falsely accused today about many things. And among those false charges one is, "the church of Christ does not believe in the Holy Spirit". But if you will investigate the church of Christ in light of Bible's teaching, then, I am sure, you will find that the church of Christ believe in the Holy Spirit just as the scriptures teach. And on the contrary, the denominational churches are the ones who believe not in the Holy Spirit the way the scriptures teach.

For most people the Holy Spirit is merely a force. But the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is a person or a personality in the Godhead, just like God the Father and the Son of God are personalities. According to the Bible the Holy Spirit is able to know and think. He can speak and love. He may be blasphemed, insulted and grieved. (Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:10; 11; Acts 16:6; Romans 5:5; 1 Timothy 4:1; Romans 8:26, 27; Ephesians 4:30; Mark 3:29; Hebrews 10:29). The Holy Spirit led God's spokesmen, such as Moses, Paul and Peter, in their preaching and writing of the books of the Bible. (1 Corinthians 2:9-13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21). Jesus Christ had promised to his apostles that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit that they might be guided into all truth and be able to remember everything he had taught them. (John 14:26; 16:13; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:1-8). This promise of the Lord was fulfilled in Acts chapter 2, after the death and resurrection and ascension of Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit not only were the apostles able to write God's truth in his book, but they were also able to speak in languages of different people, which they had never learned or studied. (Acts 2:4-12). Also, they performed great miracles. (Acts 2:43; 5:12). The apostles also had the power to impart the gift of speaking in unlearned languages and of performing miracles by lay-

ing their hands on other Christians. (Acts 6:3-6; 8:5-7, 13-17). Please notice, that all the baptized believers receive the Holy Spirit at the time of their baptism, according to Acts 2:38, and Philip was already full of the Holy Ghost when the apostles had laid their hands on him. (Acts 6:3, 5). Speaking to Christians at Corinth the apostle Paul said, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" And, "what know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own." (I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19). Therefore all Christians in the body of Christ have the Holy Spirit of God in them and through dwelling in the hearts of Christians the Holy Spirit brings forth the fruit of love, joy, peace longsuffering, gentleness goodness, faithfulness, meekness and selfcontrol. (Galatians 5:22, 23).

Those who say that the church of Christ does not believe in the Holy Spirit, believe that men today can be baptized with the Holy Spirit and therefore they can do things of miraculous nature as the apostles were able to do. What they overlook is the fact that the promise of the Holy Spirit baptism was made by the Lord to the apostles, and not to every body. (John 14:26; 16:13, Acts 1:5-8). Reading from Acts 2 we find that the apostles did receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Also, there is just another case of the Holy Spirit baptism in the entire New Testament, that is, of a man named Cornelius and his household. Reading from Acts chapters 10 and 11 of the book of Acts in the New Testament you will notice that Cornelius and his household, who were gentiles, were baptized with the Holy Spirit to convince the Apostle Peter and other Jews, who had gone to Cornelius' house, that the gentiles were also accepted by God. Because before this incident the apostles were limiting their preaching of the gospel and conversions to Jews only. This incident of the Holy Spirit baptism also fulfilled the prophecy of prophet Joel that God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh, that is, Jews and gentiles, (Joel 2:28). But the apostles of Christ were baptized with the Holy Spirit for a special purpose, that they might be guided into all truth and be able to remember every thing Jesus had taught them while he was with them, and to prevent their going astray in their preaching

and in writing of the books of the New Testament. The baptism of the Holy Spirit also enabled them to speak in foreign languages and to perform signs and wonders. The Lord confirmed their words with signs following. (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:3, 4). Likewise those who had received the miraculous measure of the Holy Spirit through the laying of the Apostles' hands on them were able to do those things. All of this was necessary at that time of the beginning of the church. But when the word was fully confirmed, that is, the New Testament was fully written and the church had grown both in number and spiritually, then the miraculous measure of the Holy Spirit was taken away by God as, God had said. (1 Corinthians 13:8-13). When the Apostles died and they on whom they had laid their hands to impart miraculous gifts also died, then there was no one left who had the baptism of the Holy Spirit or the miraculous measure of the Holy Spirit. Therefore no one today is able to speak in a language he has never learned or studied and no one can raise the dead or do any of the other miracles the apostles did.

The church of Christ believe in all things which are taught in the Bible. The church of Christ believes in rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). The church of Christ believes that the Holy Spirit is not just a force but one of the personalities in the Godhead. He is living and active. He convict sinners through the word (1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

No Church Before Calvary

It is very important to know when the church of the Bible was established because of the many conflicting views and claims made by over five hundred denominations.

Who is right? How can we know when the church was established? As we approach this subject let us begin with specific

proofs which show that the church was not established before the cross:

First of all in Matthew 6:9-10, "our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, **THY KINGDOM COME...**" **JESUS SHOWS HERE HE DID NOT EVEN HAVE A KINGDOM!** The words kingdom and church can be used to refer to the same thing. See Colossians 1:13 and Revelation 1:9. Jesus taught His disciples in what we call the Lord's prayer to pray for the kingdom to come!

Secondly, if the church was established before the cross a church existed that could not even tell anybody about Jesus! Note Matthew 16:20, "He charged his disciples that **THEY SHOULD TELL NO MAN THAT HE WAS THE CHRIST.**"

Thirdly, if the church was established before the cross it had men and women who did not believe the gospel story. Jesus told his Apostles about His coming death and resurrection and in Matthew 16:22 Peter said, "...be it far from thee Lord : this shall never be unto thee." On the resurrection day when the women returned to tell the men that they had seen the risen Christ, we read in Luke 24:11, "And these words appeared in their sight as idle talk, and they disbelieved them!"

Fourthly, John the Baptist was not in the church! In Luke 7:28 we read, "...among them that are born of women there is none greater than John : yet he that is but little in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Fifthly, Joseph of Arimathea did not know there was a church in his day! In Luke 23:51 we read, "a man of Arimathea, a city of the Jews, looking for the kingdom of God."

Sixthly, if the church was set up in the days of John the Baptist why did Jesus say in Matthew 16:18, "And I will build my church...?"

In the seventh place if the church was built before the cross it had no Holy Spirit! In John 7:39 we read, "But he spake of the Spirit, which they that believe on him were to receive, for the Spirit was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified." Can you imagine a church without the Holy Spirit?

In the eighth place Mark 9:1 states, "And he said unto them, verily I say unto you, there are some of them that stand by who shall in no wise taste death, till they see the kingdom of God come with power." This cannot refer to heaven, for if it does, we still have men living who heard that statement from the lips of Jesus!

In the ninth place, if the church was already established before the cross, the Apostles did not know it! Acts 1:6 says, "They therefore, when they were come together, asked him saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Tenthly, if the church had been set up before the cross it would have been a body without a head! Notice Ephesians 1:20-21, "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and made him to sit at his right hand in heavenly places, far above all rule and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body's sake the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Christ became the head of the church AFTER HIS RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION!

Eleventh, know that the relationship of the church and Christ is that of a marriage relationship. Romans 7:4, "Wherefore my brethren, ye were made dead to the law through the body of Christ, that ye might be MARRIED TO ANOTHER, even to him that hath been raised from the dead, that ye might bring forth fruit unto God." If the church was established before the cross,

then the church had no husband for three days while Jesus was in the tomb!

In the twelfth, place, in Isaiah 28:16 we have these words about our Lord, "Therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah, Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, A TRIED STONE a precious corner-stone of sure foundation..." In Psalms 118:22, "The stone which the builders set at nought, is become head of the corner." These words also speak of Jesus. Peter refers to these passages in Acts 4:11, "He is the stone which was made head of the corner." Paul in I Corinthians 3:11 said, "Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Now the point to be taken is that if the church was founded before the cross, it had as its cornerstone a stone that had not been tried (Isa. 28:16) because Jesus had not gone to the cross!

Thirteenth, consider the incident of Jesus and Zacchaeus in Luke 19. After Jesus came to his house we find these words in verse 11 of Luke 19, "And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because THEY SUPPOSED THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD WAS IMMEDIATELY TO APPEAR!" If the church had been established before the cross, why were they still looking for the kingdom to appear?

In the fourteenth place, if the church was established before the cross, it would have been composed of people never redeemed by the blood of Christ! Paul in Hebrews 9:22 said, "...and apart from the shedding of blood there is no remission". Note also Hebrews 10:4, "For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins." Yet, the Bible makes it plain that the church is a blood bought institution.

In Acts 20:28 Paul said to the elders of the church in Ephesus, "...feed the church of the Lord which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Fifteenthly, if the church was established before the cross it would have kept the laws of Moses! Observe Hebrews 9:15-17,

“And for this cause he is the mediator of a new covenant, that a death having taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they that have been called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must of necessity be the death of him that made it. For a testament is of force where there hath been death : for it doth never avail while he that made it liveth.” A will is of no force until the one who made it is dead. We all understand that.

The New Testament did not come into reality until Christ who made it died. The point is, you cannot have a New Testament church without a New Testament! If you want to be in a church supposedly founded before the cross, you would worship on Saturday, you would offer animal sacrifices, you would burn incense, you would have to observe every law of Moses. Yet, the denomination that claims it was established before the cross will not go back to all of the laws of Moses. This is a little inconsistent! Paul in Galatians 5:4 said, “Ye are severed from Christ, YE WHO WOULD BE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW. YE ARE FALLEN AWAY FROM GRACE.” We cannot go back to the laws of Moses and be saved! Finally, if the church was established before the cross it had a Christ who did not have all power. Only after his death and resurrection could Jesus say as he did in Matthew 28:18, “...all power hath been given to me in heaven and in earth.” How could Christ be head of the body without full control of all powers in heaven and on earth?

Old Testament Taken Away; New Testament In Force

Garland Elkins

Those who contend that the Old and New Testaments are

identical have either not studied them carefully or at least they certainly have not learned how to rightly divide the word of truth (II Tim. 2:15). It is impossible for a person to live by both of them (Rom. 7:1-4). The Hebrew writer makes clear that the Old Testament was taken away that the New Testament might be established. "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Judah" (Heb. 10:9, 10). "And for this cause he is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead : otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Heb. 9:15-17).

In the fullness of time God sent His only begotten Son into the world to abolish the first covenant and to establish the second. On this point Paul said, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" (Col. 2:14).

The Old Testament was sealed by the blood of calves and goats. "Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you" (Heb. 9:18-20). Those who embrace the old law and try to keep it must of necessity reject the priesthood of Christ and accept the priesthood of Levi. "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law" (Heb. 7:12). "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant which was established upon better promises" (Heb. 8:6).

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS BINDING

The New Testament is to be supreme in the lives of all who would be blessed of God. In the matters pertaining to eternal salvation men must subject themselves to the revealed will of God. Men must discard the opinion that "faith only" will save, since inspiration states that "...faith without works is dead" (Jas. 2:26). Preachers who teach that the Holy Spirit acts directly and independently of the word must heed the Holy Spirit's statements, "The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation..." (Rom. 1:16); and "...receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (Jas. 1:21). The gospel of Christ says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:16). This Scripture eliminates the false doctrine of praying through to pardon.

Isn't it amazing that men will deliberately set aside the revealed will of God for their own thoughts and ways? The Bible says: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8, 9). "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (I Cor. 1:23-25). "Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein" (Hos. 14:9).

Men who will not subject themselves to the will of God teach directly opposite to His word in many things. Marriage, as per such men, has become a farce, fornication a common thing, and some have even publicly defended the view that "A person may be unscripturally divorced and unscripturally married and remain in such a state with God's approval." Who can believe such

teaching? Unfortunately there have always been and apparently still are, pseudo men-of-God willing to teach people "after their own lusts" (II Tim. 4:5). Misguided men also loudly, and piously proclaim that social and moderate use of alcoholic liquors is quite all right. However, the Bible still declares that those who practice such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-22).

As the Israelites journeyed to Canaan, there were foes on every side. If they had always kept their minds on God, they could have gone directly to the land of promise. But because they thought their own ideas better than the Lord's, it took them forty years to get there, and the majority never made it. They did not follow the safe course by walking with the Lord. Man's only safe refuge is in the Lord. David said, "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance" (Ps. 32:7).

As Christ made Himself subject to His Father's will (Lk. 22:42), so must those who would live in heaven for ever. The inspired apostle John has written this wonderful promise "...he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (I Jno. 2:17).

Origin And Fall Of Satan

John Stacy

Man's fiercest foe, from the Garden of Eden to the end of the world, is not cancer, communism, disease, or death. It is the Devil! The Devil is real. He is not a medieval spook or goblin. He is not a thing or an it. He is not a bogey-man, a figment of man's imagination, or an invention of the clergy. Satan is the fourth person of importance in this universe. The three members of the Godhead are the only beings higher than Satan!

Where did the Devil come from? How did he originate? what do we know about his genesis? Did God create the Devil? If so, how could He create an evil being?

Charles B. Hodge, Jr., in his **A Biblical Study of Satan**, reviews a few basic theories that have been formulated throughout the centuries concerning the origin of Satan. The Rabis taught that on the sixth day God created Satan and assigned him to the territory of earth. Then when God created the so called "new man," Satan and the other angels rebelled because of resentment. The early church fathers argued from Genesis 6:1-2 that angels and women produced offspring. But angels do not marry! (Matthew 22:30). Others believe that God created the Devil to do the evil that He cannot do. Thus, God created a monster to do His dirty work. God cannot tempt (Jas. 1:13); He cannot behold evil. (Heb. 1:13). Finally, a large number of Biblical scholars believe Satan was created as an angel. He is then they say, a good angel that went bad (II Pet. 2:4). I believe that this theory is correct. Let me explain.

In Luke 10:18 Jesus said, "and he said unto them, I behold Satan as lightning fall from heaven." We should know that before Satan was the Devil, a personification of evil, he was created perfect. Ezekiel 28:15 says, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Satan is a created being. Only God has no genesis. (See Col. 1:15-17, John. 1:1-3).

Satan was also a being of sinless perfection (Ezk. 28:15). He was holy or morally upright. How long he remained so, only God knows.

The Devil was also beautiful. He was perfect in beauty (Ezk. 28:12). A further description of Lucifer's beauty is found in verse 13 which says, "Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius; topaz, the diamond, beryl, onyx, jasper, sapphire, emerald, and the carbuncle and gold..."

The fierce foe of man was also highly intelligent. He was brilliant. He was full of wisdom (Ezk. 28:12). Eventually Satan's beauty was more important to him than his wisdom. Note Ezekiel 28:17, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast

corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness : I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee."

Satan was also the anointed Cherub that covereth (Ezk. 28:14, 16). He had access to the holy mountain of God. The Cherubim were stationed above the throne of God. Their primary function was that of guarding or covering. They guarded the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve were the Covenant, which was in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle (Ex. 25:22). Further descriptions of the Cherubim and their functions can be seen in Ezekiel 10:1-22 and Revelation 4:8-11.

In spite of all these wonderful characteristics and opportunities, iniquity found its way to Lucifer. Ezekiel 28:16, tells us what happened to Satan as a result of his iniquity: "...therefore, will I cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God, and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire."

Now let us learn that Ezekiel describes the why of Satan's fall but Isaiah gives us how. Isaiah writes, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God : I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the North : I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High" (Isa. 14:12-14).

Let us now take a look at the five "I wills" that tell how and why Satan fell.

First, Satan said, "I will ascend into heaven." In this first aspect of Satan's sin, he apparently wanted to dwell in the third or highest heaven where God resides (II Cor. 12:1-4). The abode of angels is evidently on a lower plane; for when Jesus returned to heaven after his resurrection, Christ is said to have been seated, "far above..." (Eph. 1:20-21) Satan, whose abode was that of angels, even though apparently his duties gave him access to earth

and higher spheres (Job. 1:6; Ezk. 28:14), in unholy self promotion determined that his abode should be higher than that to which he had been appointed to by God. Satan simply was not going to be satisfied until he had a permanent residence in the highest of the heavens.

Secondly, the Devil declared, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." In Job. 38:7, we read about the stars of God. Stars do not have life that responds to the will of God. They are inanimate objects. They do reflect the glory of God (Psm. 19). But they do not voluntarily submit to the will of God. What then did Satan wish to do? In Job. 38:7 God asks, where were you when the morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy? In this text the morning stars are equated with the sons of God. Thus, these phrases "Morning stars and sons of God" refer to angels. Satan wanted to be over all of the angelic world. He wanted no doubt, authority over Michael and Archangel Gabriel who both seem to be the prominent angels of the Bible.

Thirdly, the old serpent said, "I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the uttermost parts of the North." It is conceded that the "mount" in this passage refers to the seat of divine government on earth (Isa. 2:1-4). The word "congregation" no doubt represented Israel and I think the Church. The Messiah, we are told in Psalm 48:2, will reign from Mt. Zion, on the sides of the North. This reign is not a literal, earthly, millennial reign but is a spiritual reign. The church is likened to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and Mount Zion (Heb. 12:22). Thus, it seems to me that Satan wanted to share in the Messianic reign of our Lord.

Fourthly, the dragon declared, "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds." In Exodus 16:10 we read, "And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud." Read also Exodus 40:34, "Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." Note also I Kings 8:10, "And it

came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord." In Matthew 24:30 Jesus promises to come again in clouds and with great glory. The clouds in both the Old and New Testaments have been used as a visible sign that God was with His people. They were also associated with the glory of God. In this point, Satan is saying that he will take to himself greater glory, than that which belongs to God!

Finally, our archenemy proclaimed, "I will be like the Most High." Here Satan expresses the desire to be like God. But even Satan knew that no created being could be exactly like the "Most High", a title that means, "possessor of heaven and earth" (Gen. 24:19:22). Satan's purpose then was to gain authority over heaven and earth.

The Devil then, wanted to be the Pharoah, the Caesar, the Napoleon, the Hitler, the Lenin, the Stalin, the Mao-Tse-Tung of the universe! The "I will" spirit is the spirit of rebellion. He acted boldly to dethrone God! He wanted to be worshipped. He did not want to worship God!

Edward P. Myers in his book: **A Study of Angels**, wrote, "If we do not accept the belief that Satan was at one time a good angel, who because of the freedom of will rebelled against God and fell from his position, then we are pressed into a belief that good and evil have been in existence from eternity. We then must believe that they have been locked in everlasting combat and that sometime in the distant future, the outcome will become known."

Though there are many unanswerable questions that have been raised about the origin and fall of Satan, there is no doubt in my mind, that what I have attempted to convey in this lesson is as close to the truth, as we can get. This is certainly not true because I said it, but because of the evidence from the Bible offered for your consideration.

THE DEVIL

Who dogs the steps of the toiling saint
and digs the pits for his feet ?

Who sows the tares in the fields of time,
whenever God sows the wheat.

The Devil is voted not to be,
and of course, the thing is true;

But who is doing the kind of work
that the Devil alone can do ?

We are told that he doesn't go about
as a roaring lion now;

But whom shall we hold responsible
for the everlasting row,

To be heard in home, in church and state,
to the earth's remotest bound,

If the Devil by unanimous vote
is nowhere to be found ?

Won't someone step to the front forthwith
and make their bow end show

How the frauds and crimes of a single day spring up ?

We want to know !

The Devil was fairly voted out, and of course,
the Devil's gone;

But simple people would like to know,
who carries the business on.

The Second Coming

Grady Miller

Perhaps there is no single subject in all the Bible which excites more controversy than the nature of the second coming of Jesus-Christ. Ever since Jesus promised His disciples that He would

“come again and receive you unto myself” (John 14:3), mankind has marvelled over the scope of this prophecy and speculated concerning its details. Needless to say, there is much confusion concerning not only the how of His return, but also the why of His return. While we cannot cover every aspect of this complex subject in this brief article, we would like to consider several important points.

To begin with, we need to recognize the certainty of his coming. Jesus promised His disciples, “I will come again” (John 14:3). When he ascended to heaven to reign with the Father, the angels declared unto these same disciples, “...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). The apostle Paul affirmed that upon that last, great day “the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God” (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Yes, we must always keep in mind that Jesus is coming again. While many may scoff (2 Peter 3), we can be assured that “the day of the Lord will come” (verse 10).

The Bible also reveals the manner of his coming. In 1 Thessalonians 4 Paul informs us that it will be a personal coming; the same Jesus that suffered and died for the world on Calvary will be coming back again to judge the world. Not only will He descend with a shout, the ringing cry of the archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet, but He will also come with the clouds (Revelation 1:7). Furthermore, His coming will be without warning. Paul affirmed that it would be as “a thief in the night” (1 Thessalonians 5:2). Jesus declared, “Therefore, be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 24:44). Later, he told His disciples that His return would be in glory (Matthew 25:31).

Concerning the time of his return—no man knows. We have already noted that it will be an unannounced coming, even as “a thief in the night.” Jesus Himself was unaware of the time of His return when he said, “But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but

the Father" (Mark 13:32). Because of this, He instructed His disciples to "watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:13). But yet, in spite of these clear-cut affirmations that man does not and cannot know the time of His return, foolish men have insisted on setting a date. In the past century or so, William Miller announced that Jesus would come in 1843; his disciple, Samuel S. Snow, later declared that the world would come to an end on October 22, 1844. Fantastic as it seems, one prominent cult teaches that Jesus has already returned and that He established His kingdom in 1924! Nevertheless, the Scriptures contend that mankind has no inkling whatsoever of the time when Jesus shall return.

In view of the fact that Jesus is going to return and judge all nations, what should our attitude be? Peter encourages us to be given over to a holy manner of life and godliness (2 Peter 3). Ideally, we should be living in such a way that the second coming, like death itself, will be a source of comfort and anticipation, rather than fear. With this attitude we can pray as did the aged apostle John, exiled on Patmos: "Even so come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

A Matter Of Salvation

Much is said about salvation. So much that is said causes confusion and misunderstanding of the matter. Although much is said of the subject, much more must be said in order that error be exposed and truth made plain. Only truth will make us free of bondage to sin (John 8:32). A few simple facts concerning salvation follow.

AGE OF INNOCENCE

One is born free of sin. Sin is an act done by an individual: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). The child is not responsible for or guilty of the sins of the parent: "the son shall

not bear the iniquity of the father" (Ezek. 18:20). Jesus taught that little children are not under the condemnation of the sins of their father, neither are they accountable to God for sins while in the earliest stages of youth (Matt. 18:3; 19:14).

LOST AND WITHOUT CHRIST

With the quick passing of youthful years and the approach to young manhood or womanhood comes the responsibility unto God. Sin stains the soul because of either deeds done, or deeds not done, (1 John 3:4; Jas. 4:14). All then become accountable to God as sinners. All responsible minded souls sin and depart from God (Isa. 53:6). All sin and come short of the glory of God.

Sin separates man from God. Adam, in sinful transgression is sent forth from the Garden from the presence of the Holy. Sin and iniquity separate the sinner from God's saving grace (Isa. 59:1, 2).

LOST ARE DECEIVED

Man now stands in need of salvation. The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). Christ is able to give life (John 20:28). Yet so many are never saved! Why O' Why?

There are many reasons why so many are lost. They have been deceived into thinking they are saved. They assume they are saved. It never occurred to them that their will has never submitted to the will of God. Others are lost and won't face the thought that they are lost. These do not want another to talk to them about their soul's salvation. So many others have been taught that all one has to do to be saved is "trust in Jesus, only believe." Never do they realize that such would also save devils (Jas. 2:19).

Some are deceived in that they think that religion is salvation. Paul had lived with all good conscience, yet a great part of his old religion was one of persecution of the Lord's church, even giving voice unto the death of Christian men and women. Some claimed to prophecy, cast out devils and do many wonderful works in the

name of Christ, yet were lost (Matt. 7:21-23). These are usually satisfied with their religion. They have "joined the church," or have had "an experience of grace," perhaps have been sprinkled or even immersed in water.—But—they aren't saved.

False teachers have deceived the hearts of many, and the people love it this way. They defend the false teacher and the false doctrine they have embraced with a greater love and fervor than they have ever contended for the truth. They have never "Searched the Scriptures" to see if those things are so. Until they do they will go on being deceived and lost.

SAVED GOD'S WAY

Salvation is a gift: "...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Jesus said "And I give unto them eternal life" (John 10:28). Peter said that those who obey the command of baptism would have sins remitted and thus receive salvation with it attendant blessings, "and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). By grace, by mercy are we saved (Eph. 2:5; Tit. 3:5).

Although salvation is a gift, therefore it cannot be bought or earned, yet it is a gift that must be appropriated. Paul said, "For by grace are ye saved through faith" (Eph. 2:8). Grace is God's part which provides salvation. Faith is the obedient action of man that allows him to receive the gift. One is justified by faith and by that faith he partakes of God's grace (Rom. 5:1, 2).

Faith is the activity of belief, "By faith...Abel offered...Enoch was translated...Noah...prepared an ark...Abraham...went out... Moses forsook Egypt..."(Heb. 11). Faith is obedience to the word of God.

Zeal of faith saved those of New Testament times. The Pentecostians presented themselves for the preaching of the word of God, "Now when they heard this..."(Acts 2:37). What did they do about that which they had heard? "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized" (v. 41). The obedience of faith

of penitent believers brought the remission of their sins and salvation (Acts 2:38).

Saul of Tarsus, on the Damascus road, asked Jesus of Nazareth, "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" He was told to "arise and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (Acts 9:6). When Ananias came to him there he told Saul to "arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). This Saul did (Acts 9:18).

The Jailer at Philippi did the same. He heard the truth about Jesus in order that he could believe and be saved (Acts 16:31, 32). His obedience of faith led him as a penitent sinner to the waters of baptism, the forgiveness of sin and the rejoicing of salvation (Acts 16:33, 34).

This is God's way of salvation. There is none other way. Have you searched out the truth about your salvation? That truth is revealed only in His word, God's power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16, 17).

A Little Person

Glenn B. Ramsey

Neither God's way nor His thoughts are like man's ways and man's thoughts (Isa. 55:8-9). In his own conceit man often thinks himself to be something and thus become nothing (Gal. 6:3). Just like the little boy who became envious of his friend's marble playing ability, many become envious of others and say, "If you don't play like I want to, I'll take my marbles and go some place else!" Such is a poor commentary on one's spiritual maturity. One who will not work in one area of the kingdom thus forfeits his fitness to work in other areas or in other congregations (Titus 3:1).

The little person is the one who is not humble with respect to his ability. He is proud of his abilities and accomplishments and envious of others whom he assumes are receiving favour over himself. A Bible example of this attitude is in the case of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 4:30). Such an individual continually seeks ways

to display his own virtues and is not content with doing what he can. He is like the Pharisee of Luke 18:11f. The little person desires the praise of his fellows and wants to be in the forefront of all happenings. Jesus warned about this kind of person in Matthew 6:2 and 23:5-7.

With such self conceit this "little person" demonstrates his jealousy of others' ability. As Paul says he is "yet carnal : for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (I Cor. 3:3).

These "little people" boast of their ability, wear a permanent chip on their shoulders and allow their own selfrighteousness to separate themselves from others. He should learn the truth of Proverbs 27:2 : "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips."

All faithful Christians must refrain from becoming "little people."

Christ At The Door

Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

It has long been my personal conviction that the closing verses of Revelation 3 portray one of the most lamentable and yet mercy-filled scenes found within Sacred Scriptures. Lukewarmness had conquered Laodicean hearts and the saving Jesus had been ejected from their congregational midst. Had our lovely Lord possessed less that perfect patience and marvelous mercy, he might have cast them off forever to their deserved fate. But his compassionate mercy prompted Him to linger at the door of each Laodicean's heart with the hope of re-entrance. In the Lord's marvelous message which he vouchsafed to John, the Prophet of Patmos, we see unmerited favour toward His faltering followers in heavenly action. The Bible says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock : if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Rev. 3:20).

The Messianic pleader at the door in this precious passage has inspired many a sermon, prompted musical poets to set the pathetic scene to hymnal music, and has furnished the challenge for gifted artists to portray the rejected Redeemer upon lifelike canvass. As a small child my first Bible contained a picture of Jesus at the door. That picture has been stamped indelibly upon my mind through the intervening years as the Interested Intercessor pleaded for an invitation to re-enter. The following story was told in my presence more than a quarter of a century ago and is one of the fixed memories of my mind. May I share it with you?

NOT AN OVERSIGHT

A famous artist was inspired by Revelation 3:20 to paint the Saviour as He stood before the door. With brush in hand and a canvass before him the gifted hand began the long and painstaking process. Finally, the great picture stood completed. The artist was ready for its unveiling before the critical eyes of his artistic colleagues. As they surveyed the picture one of them pronounced it a masterpiece but offered one criticism. He remarked that the artist had Jesus stationed before the door with no door knob. There was no apparent way for the Lord's re-entrance. The producing artist quickly explained that such was not an oversight on his part at all but that the door knob was on the inside—nor the outside. Such had not been purposely omitted at all. The producing artist said in essence, "The door knob is on the inside of the person's heart—not the outside where the Christ is standing." The artist had recognized the Biblical doctrine of man's free moral agency.

THE APPLICATION MADE

Jesus desires entrance initially into alien hearts and this is accomplished by the alien's hearing the gospel (Rom. 10:17), by his faith in Jesus as God's Son (John 8:24), by the repentance of his sins (Luke 13:3, 5), by the confession of his faith in Christ (Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9, 10) and by his baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Jesus desires re-entrance into backsliding hearts. This is accomplished by repentance (Acts 8:22), by the confession of

wrong(s) (1 John 1:9) and by prayer (Jas. 5:16). But as desirous of human communion as He is, the very nature of His religion forbids His making a compulsory entrance. The door knob is still on the inside of our hearts. That is the ONLY place it has ever been; that is the only place it can ever be. Unless we allow Him the desired entrance He will remain outside.

Dear, Reader, perhaps you have never allowed the Gentile Galilean Prophet into your heart and life by primary obedience to the gospel. If not, will you not hear Him as Jehovah's Prophet today, believe in His Deity, repent of your sins, confess your faith in Him as Son of God Most High and be immersed into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit this very day? Jesus has often been at your door and knocked initially for admittance. This He has done by the marvelous means of His proclaimed word. Will you not let this faithful friend into your heart and life? The sweet consolations of His redeeming love can be yours upon complete submission to His prescribed conditions of salvation.

But perhaps I am writing to other hearts wherein Jesus was very much present at some point in the past. You heard Him preached; you believed upon Him from the heart; you repented of your sins; you graced your lips with that memorable confession and through baptism the door was fully open for Him to come into your hearts which He did upon your submission to the stipulations of His wonderful will. Your early Christian experiences (and I use this expression with a Scriptural connotation in mind) were warmly engaged in as you heartily rendered loving service to your newly accepted Lord. Are you still rooted and grounded in His love and find your deepest satisfaction in serving Him or are you among those who have turned their backs upon man's greatest benefactor? If in the latter group you find yourself, then Jesus is truly outside again. I plead that you let him back in today for He stands there now as your Savior. Tomorrow, you may stand before His door of judgment. Without doubt you will do so on some tomorrow! Remember that what you do with Him today at your door determines what He will do to you when before the door of His judgment you once shall stand.

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE !

Radio Sri Lanka Broadcasts

ENGLISH—*The Voice of Truth*—Speakers : Reggie Gnanasundaram and J.C. Choate.

All correspondence should be sent to The Voice of Truth, Post Box 3815, New Delhi 110049.

Sundays—9 : 30 to 9 : 45 A.M.

Wednesdays—9.00 to 9. 15 P.M.

HINDI—*Satya Susamachar*—Speaker : Sunny David.

All correspondence should be sent to Satya-Susamachar, Post Box 3815, New Delhi 110049.

Tuesdays—9 : 00 to 9 : 15 P.M.

Thursdays—9 : 00 to 9 : 15 P.M.

Fridays—9 : 00 to 9 : 15 P.M.

Sundays—1:30 to 1 : 45 P.M.

TELUGU—*The Voice of Truth*--Speaker : Joshua Gootam.

All correspondence should be sent to The Voice of Truth, Post Box 80, Kakinada 533001.

Sundays—2 : 30 to 2 : 45 P.M.

Mondays—2 : 30 to 2 : 45 P.M.

Tuesdays—2 : 30 to 2 : 45 P.M.

Wednesdays—2 : 30 to 2 : 45 P.M.

Thursdays—2 : 30 to 2 : 45 P.M.

Fridays—2 : 30 to 2 : 45 P.M.

Saturdays—2 : 30 to 2 : 45 P.M.

TAMIL—*The Way of Truth*—Speaker : P.R. Swamy.

All correspondence should be sent to The Way of Truth, Post Box 3301, Bangalore 560033

Tuesdays—5 : 30 to 5 : 45 P.M.

Thursdays—6 : 45 to 7 : 00 P.M.

Fridays—6 : 45 to 7 : 00 P.M.

MALAYALAM—*The Voice of Truth*—Speaker :

John Chandy.

All correspondence should be sent to Church of Christ, Thevally, Quilon—9 (Kerala).

Tuesdays—3 : 45 to 4 : 00 P.M.

Fridays—3 : 45 to 4 : 00 P.M.

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO LISTEN

Bible Correspondence Courses and Christian Literature are available in these different languages from the addresses listed. Also the radio sermons are available in books form.

Print India New Delhi-110064.

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