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THE BIBLE TEACHER

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No. 10



EDITORIAL

The Influence Of Christianity

Have you ever stopped to think about how much Christianity has influenced the world? This applies to those areas where the people believe in Christ and also to those areas where they do not. Even here in India, where only two per cent of the over-all population profess Christianity, the whole country has been influenced by it in every walk of life.

The morality of the people, such as is found in the laws of marriage, honesty in dealing with one another, refraining from murder, and so on, all go back to Christianity and the Bible. Even the secular laws of the country, taking Sunday off each week, the calendar that is used, dating everything from the death of Christ, and Christian influence in language, art, and literature, show the tremendous weight Christ has had upon this nation and all other nations of the world. While many not be aware of these things, nevertheless, the influence is definitely there.

Where would India be, as well as the whole world, if there had been no Christianity? What would happen to all of you if all signs of the religion of Christ were completely wiped out at this time? It would be a very frightening thing to experience.

As bad as the world may be today, it is as good as it is because Christ came into it. Man has never been the same since his arrival almost two thousand years ago. Although he had no armies, fought no wars, exercised no secular power, still he came and he conquered. No other person ever spoke as this man. No other person ever challenged the world as Christ did.

The coming of Christ changed the history of mankind, and its effects are still being felt. Christianity today is a testimony to the fact that Christ not only lived but continues to live.

All of the people of the world today are affected in one way or another by the life of Christ and therefore are blessed to that extent. This is true even in spite of the fact that the overwhelming majority of the people do not accept Christ as the Son of God. But just think of the difference even this makes. Now imagine, if you can, what it would mean if the greater majority of the people believed in Christ.

Universal belief in Christ, and the acceptance of Christianity, would do away with wars since hatred and envy would be replaced by love and respect for each other. It would do away with lying, stealing, and killing. It would bring an end to immorality and every kindred sin. This is not to say that everyone would be perfect, and therefore living sinless lives, but it would indeed change all people and would influence the world for good.

Even denominational "Christianity" has had its moral impact upon man, but if all people could come to accept pure Christianity, then think of what that would do for the world today. With the teachings of Christ being fully applied to the problems and ills of a troubled and divided world, the result would be a new society, one like man has never known. It would unite people around the globe. All would be brothers and sisters, concerned about the needs of each other. Hunger could be removed from every land. Every man would work to help his fellowman. There would be more sharing. Each one would be benefitted.

Religiously, all would worship the same God, look to the same saviour, Jesus Christ, and be guided by the same book, the Bible. All would be members of the same church, wear the same name, and teach the same gospel. Therefore, forgiveness of sins could be enjoyed by all and each one would have the hope of eternal life.

Of course, we are talking about an ideal situation and of what it might be like if all the world would truly accept Christ and Christianity. Even though this might be possible, it is highly unlikely. That, however, doesn't mean that **you** cannot become a believer in Christ and allow him to be a force in your life for good. If you will learn of him, come to believe in him, and obey him, he will save you and bless your life; and then as a Christian, as you live for him and serve him, he will not only bless you but he can work through you to bless many others.

You are encouraged to read and study the Bible, to learn of Christ and his will for you. See for yourself what a difference this can make in your life.

ASSOCIATE EDITORIAL

Facts Concerning Christ's Second Coming

Several hundred years before the birth of Jesus prophecies were made concerning his first coming into the world. Moses, for example, in the book of Deuteronomy 18:15, and Isaiah in Isaiah 7:14 spoke of Jesus coming into the world as a Saviour. And accordingly, when the time was fulfilled, he was born. Later, when Jesus was about to give himself as the sacrifice for the sins of the world, he told his disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled : ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many many mansions : if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a

place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself ; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:1-3).

In many other passages of the Bible, likewise, Christ taught his disciples about his second coming, and the purpose of his coming again. The disciples grew impatient, and wanted to know what would be the sign of his coming and of the end of the world ? We read, "And Jesus answered and said unto them. Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars : see that ye be not troubled : for all **these things** must come to pass, but the end is not yet." (Matthew 24:3-6). Jesus knew that after him many scoffers or deceivers would come who would claim to be the Christ, and so he warned them. History shows that after Christ's death, resurrection and ascension into heaven several men, even in the early centuries, claimed themselves to be the Christ. Even today, followers of Bahauallah believe that Christ came into the world as Bahauallah. Likewise, Saibaba and a few other gurus of today are being acknowledged as Christ.

Many today say that wars and rumours of wars are the sign of Jesus coming. But remember Christ said that all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. In fact, Jesus proclaimed, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." (Matthew 24:36). However, through the centuries men have not spared efforts to set different dates of Christ's second coming, and each time proved themselves to be false prophets. Instead, Christ taught, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 25:13).

Like the followers of Bahauallah; there are also people who claim to be Christians and believe and teach that Christ has already come the second time in the year 1914. They have reached this conclusion on the basis of some passages from the Bible which they have highly misunderstood and misused. However, not only does the Bible teach that Christ is coming again but it also emphatically teaches that certain things must

take place when he comes again, and since none of these things have come to pass, as we shall see, therefore it is evident that Christ is coming again some time in the future.

The Bible teaches when Christ comes again a general resurrection will follow, that is, all will be resurrected, and the faithful of the Lord shall be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord. Writing in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17, Paul said, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God : and the dead in Christ shall rise first : Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air : and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (See also John 5:28, 29 in your Bible).

The record in the Bible, in Acts 1:11, states that Christ was taken up in the clouds and that he will come again in the like manner, that is, in the clouds. It would be wise to remember here that Paul earlier said that the disciples of the Lord would be caught up in the clouds, and up there in the air they will meet the Lord. Thus we know, for sure, that the Lord will never come upon this earth again the second time.

Apostle John revealed another fact which will take place when Jesus comes again. He said, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him : and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him, Even so, Amen." (Revelation 1:7).

There are also some other facts which deserve our attention concerning the second coming of Jesus. Peter, the Apostle, said, "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 melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Peter 3:10).

Furthermore, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." This fact is revealed in 2 Peter 3:9. In Revelation 22:20, Jesus said, "Surely I come quickly." But, remember, Jesus is coming this second time to be the judge. He will judge all people, of every nation, great and small, living and dead. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 5:10, says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (See also Romans 14:10 and Matthew 25:31-46). "Therefore be ye also ready : for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 24:44). Will you be ready when Jesus comes again ?

"Win a Prize" Bible Quiz, No. 10

Send in all correct answers and you will receive a book entitled "Back to the Bible" by Bro. Harvey Childress. Kindly follow these instructions :

- (a) Send in your answers within two weeks.
 - (b) Do not tear out the quiz from the magazine.
 - (c) Give a verse where it is asked for.
 - (d) Use only the book of Acts, King James Version.
 - (e) Don't give up, keep trying.
1. Paul knew Hebrew. True or False. Give verse.
 2. Paul never supported himself while he preached.
True or False. Give verse.
 3. Who told Paul what he must do to wash away his sins ?
Give verse.
 4. Give a verse which shows one can pray to God even
out in the open.
 5. Did Jesus say, "It is more blessed to give than to
receive" in the book of Acts ? Yes or No.

6. "For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity." Peter said this to Elymas, the magician. True or False.
7. Herod placed Peter in prison. What was the church doing during this time? Give verse.
8. Give a verse which shows the church increased in numbers daily.
9. Who spent their time in nothing except talking or hearing something new?
10. Who commanded that Paul be kept in Herod's judgment hall?

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUIZ, NO. 9

1. False, John 12:12.
2. Bildad the Shuhite, Job 25:2, 3.
3. Queen Vashti, Esther 1:10, 12.
4. Paul, Acts 18:9.
5. Paul 1 Corinthians 2:2.

Bible Questions And Bible Answers

These questions come from a friend in Jackanari, the Nilgiris, Tamilnadu.

1. "What is your opinion if the Hindus or other religious people say that the father of Jesus Christ is our God, who has supreme power over his son Jesus Christ?"

Answer : My opinion is no better than the opinions of others when it comes to religious matters. Neither can I force anyone to believe what I believe. However, I believe the Bible is truth and it teaches that there is one God (Ephesians 4:6) and that Jesus Christ is his Son (John 3:16), through whom He created all things. (Colossians 1:9-20).

2. "Do you believe in a resurrection? If so, can you prove it?"

Answer : Yes, I believe in a resurrection. Jesus raised various ones from the dead and so did Paul and Peter. (John

11:1-43; Acts 20:7-12; Acts 9:36-43). Above all, Jesus himself was resurrected from the grave. (Matthew 28:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8). The Bible, Christianity, and history itself bear this out. Finally, we are told that all will eventually be resurrected. Christ tells us: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28,29). Also, read 1 Corinthians 15.

3. "Is there a heaven? Has anyone been there so far?"

Answer: Yes, there is a heaven. It is a place where God dwells. (Matthew 6:9.) Christ came down from heaven. (John 3:13). The angels of God dwell there. (Matthew 22:30). It is the home of the soul. (1 Peter 1:3-5).

4. "What is sin?"

Answer: It is the transgression of God's law. (1 John 3:4)

5. "One who has killed, raped, stolen up to his 60 years of age: at last he begs Jesus for forgiveness and is forgiven. Who is responsible for all these sins and who will bear all these losses?"

Answer: Regardless of what one's sin is, or how long he has been sinning, if he will believe in Jesus and genuinely repent of his sins, or turn from them, and confess Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized as the Lord has commanded, then he may be forgiven of all his past sins. (John 14:1; Hebrews 11:6; Act 17:30; Mark 16: 16; Acts 2:38). Now in the eyes of the law he may still be counted as guilty of his deeds and may be punished for them, but in the eyes of God he is pure and clean if he has sincerely obeyed his teaching.

6. "Why is a prisoner given punishment? If there is no punishment he will do the same again."

Answer: Punishment for wrong doing is a means of discouraging an individual from doing wrong. Even God will punish all of those who fail to obey him. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Furthermore, Paul has written: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Galatians 6:7,8). It should be pointed out, though, that if one truly repents of his sins as the Bible teaches then he will not continue to do those things that are wrong.

7. "I can boldly say that all rich people who are living in the world are sinners. They are getting all facilities and leading happier life than other people, who have not done any sin. Why has God not punished them?"

Answer: Rich people are sinners but poor people are sinners also. The scriptures say, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). The rich may have more money, and have more material things, but this doesn't necessarily mean that they are happier people. God does not directly punish people today for their sins, if so he would also have to punish the poor as well as the rich. The rich are material minded in what they have but the poor are material minded in seeking material things. Man is responsible for his problems, not God. At the proper time, God will judge all people according to the way they lived and reward them accordingly. (2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31-46).

8. "Who is a real Christian? Why are there so many branches in your religion?"

Answer: A real Christian is one who follows only Christ, doing only the things that he has commanded. (Matthew 16:24). He is one who is a member of Christ's church (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:38, 39) and one who wears the name of Christ. (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16).

There is division in Christianity, but the division is not of God, but rather of man. The Bible condemns the many "branches" or man-made churches which represents division. (1 Corinthians 1:10; Romans 16:17,18). Rather, Christ prayed

for unity, for oneness. (John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:1-6). You are invited to go to the New Testament to learn of pure Christianity. When you follow the Lord only then you will be a Christian only.

9. "What is the difference between Catholics and Protestants?"

Answer : The Catholic church came into existence in the six hundreds as a result of some members of the Lord's church departing from the faith. Paul warned Christians concerning this. (Acts 20: 17-38; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).

The Protestant churches resulted from the Reformation Movement in the fifteen hundreds which means that these churches came out of the Catholic Church. That is why many of the teachings and practices of the Protestant groups had their beginning with the Catholic church instead of the Lord.

We plead with people everywhere not to be Protestants or Catholics but to be Christians only. We encourage everyone to go back to the Bible to do what it teaches. This will result in them being Christians and members of the Lord's church, the church you read about in the Bible. Why be a Catholic or Protestant, when you can be a Christian? However, if one is a Christian he cannot be a Catholic or Protestant. Choose which one you will be.

10. "I came to know that Jesus said that we should not kill even a small insect. But you, the Christian, are eating mutton, beef, and pork. Why? Is it not a sin?"

Answer : I know of no verse of scripture that says that Jesus said that we should not kill even an insect. Rather, we read: "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." (1 Timothy 4:4,5).

“And the Books Were Opened”

Paul S. Gray

God closed his revelation to man some 1900 years ago. Not one word has been added to it, subtracted from it, or rearranged in it in that number of centuries. Certainly God's revelation to man is closed. God has warned that man must not add to it, subtract from it, or misapply it in any way. And just as surely as anyone preaches anything different from that which the apostles preached the curse of God rests upon him according to Paul's statement in Galatians 1 : 8-9: "But though we, or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again. If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." We need to recognize the Bible as God's complete revelation to mankind. We need to read it, we need to study it, we need to rightly divide and correctly apply it ; and then we need to believe and obey it continuing faithfully therein.

One of these days the books are going to be opened upon that divine bar of judgment and every member of the human family is going to be judged by the things that are written in God's book. Beginning with Revelation 20 : 11 John, the Revelator, is telling us things that have been revealed unto him and things that are going to come to pass in the future. He wrote, "And I saw a great white throne and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away ; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God ; and the books were opened : and another book was opened which is the book of life : and the the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it ; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them : and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was

not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

By these and other passages of scripture we know that God is a book-keeper. There are several books kept in heaven which will be opened at the judgement. We surely need to be concerned about these things. First of all there is a book of remembrance. In Malachi 3 : 16 we read : "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." This is an Old Testament passage of scripture. Notice that God resurrected those people in times past who feared the Lord and often spoke to one another about the very things that God had said through these prophets. The Lord knew what they were doing and He knew their attitude and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them who feared the Lord and thought upon his name. So there is a book of remembrance.

There is also a record of our works as we have just noticed in Revelation 20 : 12, "And I saw the dead, small and great stand before God ; and the books were opened ; and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works." What works do we have ? Are they the works of God ? What have we done that God specifically commanded us to do ? Are we workers in the vineyard of the Lord ? (1 Cor. 3 : 8). "Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." That is a significant statement. In the very next verse he writes, "For we are laborers together with God : ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." Thus God keeps a record of our deeds and of our works and we need to be aware of this.

In Romans 2 : 6 Paul tells us that God "will render to every man according to his deeds," and continues to make it plain that since God is no respecter of persons we know what is in store for those who will not pay any attention to God's word

and thus make no attempt whatsoever to obey what He has commanded. The apostle Paul writes along this same line in 2 Corinthians 5 : 10: "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." This simply means that when we stand before the judge of all the earth that we are going to be judged according to the way we acted in this life. According to the very things we did while we live in this body of flesh upon this earth. These things, whether they are good or bad, are going to be right there in God's books and that is the very thing that is going to determine our eternal destiny.

We have another statement on record in Matthew 12 : 36 we need to be concerned about. Jesus said, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Then He added, "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemaed." Surely by these words we can see that we need to accomplish something, we need something to be rewarded for, and we need also to watch our words, idle words are not to be used. We are going to be judged by our words as well as by our wotks and we certainly need to watch the things we say as well as the things we do while we live in this life. Going back to Romans 2 : 15 we read, "Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another ;)." The inspired writer mentions our conscience and our thoughts, and he also mentions the work, and now notice verse 16, "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel." God upon that great day through Jesus Christ is going to judge the secrets of men. In other words when we stand before the judge of all the earth we are not going to be able to cover up a single thing. He is going to know everyting about us. He isn't going to have to ask a single question in order to find what we did or what we didn't do. He is going to know all

about us even the very thoughts and intents of the heart. Notice these words on record in Hebrews 4 : 12-13, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged Sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." That is the kind of judge before whom we are going to stand upon that great day, and keep in mind that we are going to be judged according to God's word and not according to our own theories or the theories of somebody else. We are going to be judged by the things written in God's word and we need to keep this in mind always.

In Matthew 25 we have a parable of ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. I would say that those classified as being foolish did about 90 or 95 percent of what they were expected to do in order to be in a state of readiness when the bridegroom came ; but they neglected to have sufficient oil with them to keep their lamps burning and thus when the bridegroom came they were not ready. They asked to borrow some from the other virgins, but they said, "Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves." I am sure they hastened just as fast as they could go to a place to buy oil, but when they returned the bridegroom had come. Those who were ready entered in and the door was shut and all the howling at the door did not cause it to be opened again. This parable points out the fact that we need to be ready, completely so, waiting for the coming of the bridegroom, who is the Son of God, who is going to put in a second appearance one of these days. We need, certainly, to be aware that we must be ready when He comes, because when He comes we will not have an opportunity to make ready by doing one single thing.

It seems that nearly everyone understands that if we do that which God has said "THOU SHALT NOT" that it is sinful

and wrong; but it seems that multitudes of people do not understand that when God tells us to do something and we neglect to do it that we have sinned. But notice what James wrote in James 4 : 17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Thus we can see that whether we neglect to obey God by not doing what He has commanded we have sinned ; even as we have sinned in doing what He has said we should not. Therefore we had better be learning what God would have us do in this life and we had better do these things to the very limit of our ability. This is the only time that we have to make ready for that second coming of Jesus Christ, God's Son, who will be our judge on that great day.

As John the revelator described the judgment scene in Revelation 20, he wrote, "And the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life." Now what books were opened upon this divine bar of judgment? Who would say that the creeds, disciplines, manuals, etc. written by men and a few women are going to be on that divine bar of judgment? Who would say one man made book is going to be there ? The judgement scene described here is a divine judge on a divine bar of judgment and the books opened were divine books. God's book, the BIBLE. The Bible is the book of Books. It is one volume composed of sixty-six books and divided into two grand divisions, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Upon this great day these books are going to be opened. But notice also that John mentioned another book that was opened and he tells us what that book is. He says, "Which is the book of life". Notice that John emphasizes the fact that "the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Then he added, "And whosoever was not found in the book of the was cast into the lake of fire." Is your name in that book of life? Surely this is something we should all be greatly concerned about. Therefore the question needs to be asked and we need to be absolutely sure that we get the right answer : "Is my name in that book of life?" In order to be sure of the answer to this question we need also to ask: "How does one get his name in that book of life?"

Nearly everyone understands at least in part the necessity of faith if one is to be saved. In Hebrews 11 : 6 we read, "But without faith it is impossible to please him ; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." In John 8 : 24 Jesus said, "For if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." And again in John 14 : 1 He said, "Let not your heart be troubled : ye believe in God, believe also in me." But just believing or having faith is not all of it as some people would have us believe. There isn't a passage of scripture anywhere that teaches salvation by "faith only" or salvation "by faith plus nothing and minus nothing". Acts 17 : 30 would refute that theory and declare it false. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at ; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Even though God does not desire that any should perish, we shall except we repent. Read 2 Peter 3 : 9.

Again we hear Jesus say in Matthew 10:32, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Then He adds, "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." These things just mentioned people generally accept. Even those who teach salvation by "faith only" will generally admit that one must repent in order to be saved. They will also admit that one should confess Christ. Some go so far as to say all one needs do is confess Christ and pray the sinners prayer. But let's notice another statement from the Lord.

In Mark 16 : 15-16 after Jesus had been raised from the dead and just before He ascended into heaven to be seated at God's right hand, He 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." This is not something too difficult for the average person to believe or at least to understand. No accountable person will misunderstand anything stated so simply as this. Many religious teachers do not believe this. They won't teach

this even though it is exactly what Jesus said and is just as essential to salvation as these other things which we have noted. Notice again that Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." He did not say he that believes is saved and should be baptized. He says plainly that salvation comes after both believing and being baptized. Yet many religious teachers say you are saved the very moment you believe and that because you have been saved you should be baptized for one cause or another. Still there isn't an example on record in the word of God of one who had been saved, ever being baptized, and there isn't a commandment in all the word of the Lord for a saved person to be baptized. Baptism pertains to the person who is not saved in order that he may be saved. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

On Pentecost day of Acts 2 Peter was preaching about Christ who had been crucified a few days before. He made reference to David's prophecy in Psalm 16 and declared that Christ had been raised from the dead, ascended into heaven, and that God had made Him both Lord and Christ. The record says, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter answered their question by saying, "Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2 : 37-38. Here would have been a fine place for Peter to have said, there is nothing more for you to do, your faith has saved you, go in peace. But he did not. He told them as believers to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins or in order that their sins might be forgiven. Now read Acts 22 : 16 and 1 Peter 3 : 21 and you will see again that baptism is essential to salvation and must be obeyed along with whatever else the Lord has commanded if our names are to be in that book of life. If you haven't obeyed these things you have no reason to believe that your name is in that book. And if your name is not in that book of life when you stand before that judge of all the earth you shall be cast into that lake of fire.

One other thing you need to be concerned about even after you know that you have obeyed everything the Lord has commanded in order to have your name in the book. You need to be concerned about keeping your name there because it is

possible for it to be blotted out. Notice the Lord's statement to some Christians at Sardis according to Revelation 3 : 4-5, "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." By this you can see that some names can or will be blotted out. When those who meet the Lord's conditions to become Christians and then refuse to conduct themselves as Christians according to these verses the Lord blots out their names, and their fate may be even worse than those who never knew the Lord's will nor obeyed the same, 2 Peter 2 : 20-22. This doesn't sound like "once in grace, always in grace", does it ?

The Bible, Your Only Authority

Jess Willis

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 16:25). "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).

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. The gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ". (Gal. 1:8, 11, 12).

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." (Romans 1:16). However, Jesus also said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my word, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last days." (John 12:48).

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments. for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Please, beloved friends, go back to the Bible to worship in accordance with the commands of Christ and to live moral lives as guided by the Bible.

अक्सर लोग कहते हैं . . .

लेखक-एफ० डेविड

अक्सर लोग कहते हैं कि मसीही धर्म, यूरोप के देशों अथवा अंग्रेजों द्वारा भारत देश में आया, किन्तु यह बात असत्य है। मसीही धर्म यूरोप के देशों या अंग्रेजों द्वारा भारत में नहीं आया। मसीही धर्म के संस्थापक अर्थात् यीशु मसीह का जन्म यूरोप में नहीं हुआ था बल्कि बेटलहम में हुआ था जो कि एशिया में है। भारत में मसीही धर्म का सबसे पहले प्रचार करने वाला भी एक एशियाई व्यक्ति था जिसका नाम थोमा था। अतः यह कतई गलत है कि मसीही धर्म यूरोप के देशों या अंग्रेजों द्वारा भारत में लाया हुआ धर्म है। मसीही धर्म किसी विशेष जाति, देश या मनुष्यों के लिए नहीं है किन्तु सारे जगत के लिए है। यीशु मसीह ने पवित्र शास्त्र बाइबल में स्वयं कहा "मैं जगत की ज्योति हूँ।" (यूहन्ना ८:१२) यीशु मसीह ने सारे जगत के लिए अपने प्राण की आहुति दी (यूहन्ना ३:१६); ताकि लोग अपने पापों से मन फिराकर, तथा उसकी आज्ञा को मानकर उद्धार पा सकें (मरकुस १६:१६)। यीशु मसीह ने यह नहीं कहा कि मैं यूरोप, एशिया या अंग्रेजों की ज्योति हूँ। आज संसार के लगभग सभी देशों में मसीही पाये जाते हैं क्या वे मसीही होने के नाते अंग्रेज हैं? कदापि नहीं। बाइबल का एक लेखक, प्रेरित पौलूस कहता है "अब न कोई यहूदी रहा और न यूनानी; न कोई दास, न स्वतन्त्र; न कोई नर न नारी; क्योंकि तुम सब मसीह यीशु में एक हो (गलतियों ३:२८)।

अक्सर यह भी देखा गया है कि जब कोई हिन्दु, मुस्लिम या किसी अन्य धर्म को छोड़कर मसीही बन जाता है तो वह अपना नाम बदलने को कहता है। जब कोई व्यक्ति मसीही (Christian) बन जाता है तो उसके लिए केवल मसीही नाम ही काफी है। अधिकतर लोगों का विचार है कि केवल अंग्रेजी नाम अपने ऊपर रखने से ही वे मसीही होंगे। ऐसा नहीं है।

मान लीजिये मेरे पास एक बन्दर हो। उस बन्दर को मैं एक बढ़िया सा सूट पहना देता हूँ। सूट के साथ गले में एक टाई भी बाँध देता हूँ। खाना खाने के समय वह मेरे साथ कुर्सी पर बैठ कर खाना खाता है। और एक विशेष बात यह है कि उसका नाम मैं मिस्टर जॉन स्नो रख देता हूँ। क्या यह बन्दर

हमसे पत्रव्यवहार करें।

इन बातों के विषय में और जानकारी प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं तो आज ही यह भी कुछ बातें जिनके विषय में मैंने आपकी सलाहें बताईं। यदि आप

बतिसमा ल (मद्रकस १६:१६)।

अधीकार (रोमियों १०:६-१०, मती १०:३२) तथा यहाँ मसीह के नाम में परबलाप करें (प्रती १०:३०, तथा २:३८), प्रभु यीशु के नाम का मसीह पर लिखास करें (यूहेना ८:२४, दबानिया १४:६), अपने अपराधों से मसीही बनने अथवा उद्धार पाने के लिए सबसे पहले आवश्यक है कि यीशु अर्थात् उसके वचन में से देखना चाहिए कि उसका वचन क्या कहता है। (मत्त १४:३)। "अतः मनुष्य को परमेश्वर से सहयोग लेनी चाहिए। देखना, न किसी आदमी पर क्योंकि उसमें उद्धार करने की भी शक्ति नहीं। का वचन (बाइबल) इसके विषय में क्या कहता है "तुम प्रधानों पर मर्यादा न कि कोई मनुष्य उसे बताये कि वह कैसे उद्धार पा सकता है। देखें परमेश्वर मनुष्य सहयोग के लिए परमेश्वर के पास न जाकर मनुष्य के पास जाता है। की और फिर, इसका अध्ययन करें और परमेश्वर से सहयोग ले। अक्सर यदि कोई वास्तव में मसीही बनना चाहता है तो वह पूर्ण रूप से बाइबल

बनता है, कैथोलिक या प्रोटेस्टेंट नहीं।

आज्ञाओं की मानकर यीशु मसीह के पीछे ही लेता है तो वह केवल मसीही करते हैं। परन्तु यह सत्य है। जब कोई बाइबल में बताई गई मसीही बनने की २६:२६:२८, तथा १ पतरस ४:१६)। कई बार लोग यह समझकर बड़ा अन्ध-मा भ्रम में पड़ते हैं (प्रती ११: बताते हैं कि न हम कैथोलिक हैं, न प्रोटेस्टेंट। हम तो केवल मसीही हैं। कि आप कौन से मसीही हैं? कैथोलिक, प्रोटेस्टेंट या कोई और। हम उन्हें हैं जो हैं। परन्तु शीघ्र ही वे एक और प्रश्न हमारे सामने रख देते हैं वह यह अक्सर लोग हमसे प्रश्न करते हैं कि क्या आप मसीही हैं? हम उत्तर देते

मसीही नहीं।

नहीं है। परमेश्वर चाहता है कि हम केवल सच्चे मसीही हों। केवल नाम के परमेश्वर और यीशु मसीह के सम्मुख हमारे सामाजिक नामों का कोई महत्व आवश्यक नहीं है। मैं एक आवश्यक बात यहाँ बता देना चाहता हूँ कि मसीही नहीं बन गया। मसीही बनने के परबलाप नाम का परिवर्तन करना कि कोई मसीही नहीं बन सकता। बल्कि, जिसका नाम मैंने जैन रखी कि परिवर्तन बन गया। नहीं। नाम में परिवर्तन करने से या अंग्रेजी नाम रखने

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