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# THE BIBLE TEACHER

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## EDITORIAL

### Changing The Truth Of God Into A Lie

The Apostle Paul wrote about a group of people who had changed the truth of God into a lie. He said that they had begun to worship and serve the creature more than the Creator. Because of this God gave them up unto vile affections. Isn't this a sad commentary on such people? They were with a real knowledge of God; though they knew Him, they glorified Him not as God. They became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. They thought themselves to be wise but became fools. (Romans 1:18-27). This is why God gave them up.

All of this kind of people are not gone. We still have many in the world today who are conducting themselves in the same manner. This may be hard to believe but it is true nevertheless. Such individuals find no difficulty at all in taking the word of God, and by turning it around or by changing it up a little, they make it teach the opposite to what the Lord intended. Thus they change the truth of God into a lie.

In spite of the fact that the scriptures teach that we cannot add to the Lord's word or subtract from it, and that we cannot substitute for it (Revelation 22:18, 19; Galatians 1:6-9), many

go on and do these things anyway. Even though we are not to personally interpret the scriptures to suit ourselves (2 Peter 1:20), it is commonly taught that we do have a right to our personal interpretation. Paul says that the scriptures completely furnish us unto every good work (2 Timothy 3:16, 17), but how many are able to go to God's word to support the things that they do and teach in the name of religion ?

How carelessly the majority of the people deal with God's word. They change it, abuse it, ignore it and go on to do what they want to do. Their authority is either a misapplication of the scriptures or the word of some man. It is as though you can begin to do anything that you want to do and then by twisting, turning, and misapplying the scriptures, any doctrine can supposedly be proven by the Bible. The fallacy of these doctrines is so obvious to those who know God's word, but it is not noticeable to those who are ignorant of it. This is where the danger lies.

The Bible tells us what to do to be saved. It says that one must hear the truth, believe it, repent of his sins, confess Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized for the remission of sins. (Romans 10:17; Mark 16:16; Acts 17:30; Matthew 10:32; Acts 2:38). Then man comes along and shuffles these up, rearranges, leaves off what he doesn't want, places his own explanation on them, and tells the world that this is what one must do to be saved. He ends up in having God's word oppose itself and thus teach the very opposite of what the Lord desired to communicate to man. This is very sad indeed.

The Lord's word plainly teaches that there is but one church (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:4), but you would never know this by talking to the average person. Men freely talk about one church or the other. If questioned about this they will tell you that one church is about as good as another. Who told them that ? The word of God did not. This must be something, then, that they have made up.

When it comes to the name of God's family, the head of the church, the day of worship itself, and hundreds of other

things, the truth on these subjects has been turned around and made to teach contrary to what was originally intended. Not only so, the error has been taught so long, and has been so widespread, that the error is generally accepted as truth while the truth is rejected as error.

It is so sad when you have to beg and plead with people to accept the truth, to compare what they teach with the Bible, to search the scriptures to see if these things be so or not, and still they are many times unwilling to do so. On the other hand, how many false teachers, denominational churches, etc., will encourage men to go to the Bible to see if what they teach is the truth, to follow the Bible only, and to do only what the scriptures say? You would think that the average person could see who has the truth and who does not, but whether it is the truth or not does not seem to enter the mind of the average person. They are willing to remain where they are because they have already accepted a doctrine and they are satisfied with it, right or wrong. Again, this is sad.

What people don't stop to think about is the fact that when the truth is abused or misused then it ceases to be the truth and this becomes error. In this case, it has no power to save but rather it will finally destroy those who so used it.

My friend, how are you using the word of God? Will you believe it as it is? Will you obey its teaching exactly as it is? Only in this way does it have power to save.

#### *ASSOCIATE EDITORIAL*

## So What is the Difference !

Those of you who have been reading this magazine, "The Bible Teacher", or other literature which is made available by the help of many Christians, would have noticed that the church of Christ is not a denomination. Neither is it a Catholic church nor a protestant church, but it is **the** church of which the Bible speaks. However, there are people who think that all the

churches are one and the same and there is no difference. It might be true in the case of several denominational churches, in fact it is not; but the church of Jesus Christ is as different from all denominational churches as the day is from night. Now, what is the difference? Please consider the following:

The Bible emphatically speaks of one church. (Ephesians 4:4 and 1:22, 23; Colossians 1:18). It says that Christ himself is the builder of it (Matthew 16:18). He purchased **the** church with his own blood (Acts 20:28). Christ is the head and the Saviour of **the** church, he loved it and gave himself for it (Eph. 5:23-25). It is very very important to note that when all of this was done and written in the Bible, at that time there was not even a single denomination in existence, such as Catholic, Protestant, etcetra. And therefore it is very obvious that Jesus did not build any of them, neither did he shed his blood for them, and he is not head over them or Saviour of them. His church was established in Jerusalem around A.D. 33 (Acts 2). At the time of its beginning about 3000 people were added, by Christ himself, to **the** church. Again, please note that they did not join **the** church, as people today join different denominational churches, but they were ADDED to **the** church by the Lord. No, you cannot join the Lord's church, but the Lord adds to the church. But whom does he add to it? The Bible says, he adds the saved to it. (Acts 2:47).

Those three thousand people before they were added to the church were told to "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38). And then we are told that they were baptized (immersed in water) the same day (verse 41). Now, because they obeyed Christ's command (Luke 24:46-49; Mark 16:16), according to his promise, their sins were forgiven, and the Lord saved them. After this we are told that they were "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily **such** as should be saved." (Acts 2:47). The inference is that because the Lord added to the church

**daily such as should be saved**, therefore when we do the same as the 3000 people did we too will be saved and the Lord will add us to his church.

The members of the church of Christ are called Christians. We should remember that in the Bible we do not read of different kinds of Christians, but the Bible speaks only of Christians. The Bible, speaking of Christians in various places, says, they are disciples (Acts 6:1), believers (2 Corinthians 6:15) brethren (Acts 28:14), Saints (Romans 1:7), and Priests (1 Peter 2:9). But they were called and known as Christians (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16). Because this is the only name God intended to give to his people (Isaiah 56:5; and 62:2). This is the only name in which we can honour and glorify Christ. We cannot say Christian without saying Christ, which is the only name given by which we should be saved (Acts 4:12) This is a **name** which is above every name (Philippians 2:9).

We believe all the Bible. We believe that we should rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). We worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). As the Bible teaches, upon each first day of the week we partake of the Lord's supper, and give our contribution. (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Whatsoever we do, we do because the Bible tells us to do so. Whatsoever we do not do in the name of religion, it is because the Bible did not give us authority to do so. We speak only where the Bible speaks. (1 Peter 4:11). We believe that we should live faithfully to the Lord even unto death, and only then we will receive the crown of eternal life, which the Lord will give to his faithful servants. (Revelation 2:10). Finally, I exhort you, as a friend, to give heed unto these things, and if at any time you feel that we can be of assistance to you in ascertaining the Bible answer to any Bible questions you may have, please feel free to call upon us.

# We Believe Too

J. C. Choate

A few days ago we were studying with a young man concerning the plan of salvation. He was under the impression that faith only saves and had already picked out about twenty verses of scripture to support what he thought to be the truth. We assured him that we believed all of these verses and any others that he might compile on the subject. We explained again and again that we accept the fact that one must believe in order to be saved, that salvation is by faith, etc. At the same time we asked him if he would now accept those verses that teach that one must repent and be baptized in order to be saved. But he said that the verses that he had given did not mention baptism. We came back to show that neither did they mention repentance. He quickly responded by saying that repentance was understood. And the same with baptism, we said.

On Mark 16:16 he quickly beat the trail to the latter part of the verse where "baptism is not mentioned." Then we patiently told him that the first part tells what one must do to be saved and the last part tells one how to be lost.<sup>1</sup> If one wants to be lost then all he has to do is to refuse to believe, but more is required of those who want to be saved. Christ says that in this case one must believe and be baptized. Again belief, or faith, is there, so there is no problem on that, but the question is, can one be saved on the basis of faith only without going on to obey the Commands of the Lord? Certainly Mark 16:16 shows that there is more involved than faith only. Actually, if one really believes the Lord he will do what the Lord has said, and this includes repentance and baptism. Read also Acts 2:38.

The question is not, do we believe? We do. Rather, the question is, will you obey? If you believe, you will.



# God's Plan For The Church

**Mark H. Nunley**

I see in the world today, even among religious people, a great misunderstanding of what the Lord taught about the church. So I want to set forth some of the Bible's teaching on the church.

There is a confusion over the names that should be applied to individual Christians as well as to the church. So let's examine the scriptural terms that are used to refer to individual Christian's first of all: (taken from the American Standard Version of the Scriptures).

Christians in Acts 11:26

Saints in Phil. 4:21

Disciples in Acts 16:1

Brethren in Col. 1:2

Believers in Acts 5:14

The way in Acts 9:2

Next, let's note the scriptural terms that refer to the church (which are more terms of description than they are names).

The church in II Thes. 1:1.

Kingdom of God in Matt. 13:24.

Kingdom of Heaven in Matt. 13.

The church of God in I Cor. 1:2.

Body of Christ in Eph. 1:22-23.

The churches of Christ in Rom. 16:16.

My church Matt. 16:18 (My=Jesus' church)

Church of the Lord in Acts 20:28.

Church of the firstborn in Heb. 12:23.

Church of the Saints in I Cor. 14:33.

I sincerely hope that all religious people will see the need to wear only the name of Christ, and only the terms used in the scriptures, and abandon the man-made titles that divide those who claim to follow Jesus Christ the only begotten son of God.

The Holy Scriptures also set forth the way that the church is to be organized and governed. The only head of the church

of the New Testament, is Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:18 "And He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church." The early church recognized no central headquarters, and they recognized no earthly head of the church.

Each individual congregation was independent and autonomous and were under the oversight of their individual group of elders (also called overseers, bishops, pastors, and presbyters in the New Testament), see Acts 14:23 and Titus 1:5-9. Preachers **did not** oversee the affairs of the congregations; it was the elders that had the oversight.

Preachers (also called evangelists and referred to as ministers in the New Testament) did not wear elevated titles such as: "reverend": or "father"; or "the pastor", in the New Testament, the word pastors refers to elders and not to preachers; and such other elevated titles because of Christ's command in Matt. 23:8-12. There was **no** clergy-laity concept in the church of the New Testament. All Christians stood equal in the sight of God and in each others sight even though their abilities differed, see Rom. 12:4-5.

The New Testament also sets forth the way that Christians are to worship:

**THE LORD'S SUPPER** (partaking of the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine): And it was observed each and every Lord's day, or every Sunday. See I Cor. 11:23-30 and Acts 20:7.

**The SINGING OF PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS TO PRAISE GOD.** See Eph. 5:19.

**PRAYING THROUGH OR IN THE NAME OF CHRIST TO THE FATHER (GOD).** See I Thes. 5:17 and Col. 3:17.

**GIVING OF OUR MEANS BACK TO THE LORD.** This was also done upon the Lord's day, and the early church **did not** tithe because it was a part of the law of Moses. See I Cor. 16:1-2 and II Cor. 9:7.

**PREACHING.** See Acts 20:7.

It also bothers me to see and hear of people worshipping just because it has become a habit or tradition. Worship should be

heart felt and a thing of joy and eager anticipation. Jesus told the woman at the well that true worship had to be done in spirit (our heart has to be in it, our attitude must be right) and in truth (it must be done in exactly the way that God authorized). Let us all determine to worship in the way that the Lord has taught us.

The New Testament also teaches us what we must do in order to become a Christian :

**WE MUST HEAR AND BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.** See Rom. 10:17 and John 3:16.

**WE MUST REPENT (OR TURN FROM) OUR SINS.** See Luke 13:3.

**WE MUST CONFESS THAT WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.** See Rom. 10:9-10 and Acts 8:37.

**AND WE MUST BE BAPTIZED (BURIED IN WATER) TO HAVE OUR SINS WASHED AWAY.** See Rom. 6:3-4 and Col. 2:12 and Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16.

A person is not a Christian until he has completed all of these steps. But after a person completes these primary steps of obedience, he is forgiven of his sins and is added to the church, see Acts 2:41, 47.

We urge all men to obey the things that God has commanded in His word. You are always welcome at the worship services of the church of Christ. Rom. 16:16 "The churches of Christ salute you."

## From Whence Came Man ?

**Jess Willis**

This is the second of four articles on "evolution."

From where did man come ? From where did the earth and all things come ? Are you a descendant of an ape-like beast that existed millions of years ago ? We must face these questions. Many believe and teach them as fact. While in reality that

which may be termed as the "Darwinian theory", or organic evolution, is only a figment of the imagination. Many others look to the Bible and there they find what they believe to be the true answers to, "Where did man come from?" "Why is man here?" and "What is the destiny of man?"

The Darwinian theory is struggling for survival. Dr. T. N. Tohmisan, a nuclear physicist for the Atomic Energy Commission was quoted in the FRESNO BEE saying, "Scientists who go about teaching that evolution is a fact of life are great con men, and the story they are telling may be the greatest hoax ever. In explaining evolution we do not have one iota of fact. It is a tangled mish-mash of guessing games and figure juggling." The idea of spontaneous generation and the assumption that non-living things give rise to living material is in direct conflict with the law of biogenesis which states simply that "life comes from life." The first law of Thermodynamics states that while energy can be transformed the total amount always remains the same. This law is in direct opposition to the Darwinian theory. Evolution opposes the fundamentals of God, the Bible and Christianity. It is Godless. It robs God of creating and sustaining power. It opposes Christ and His death for salvation. It would destroy the inspiration of the Bible.

The Bible teaches that God created man and in proof that man did not evolve, God took a rib from Adam and made Eve. There is no way to harmonize the Bible teaching and the materialistic atheistic Darwinian theory. We pray that you will let the Bible lead you for it is the infallible safe guide.

## "Win A Prize" Bible Quiz, No. 3

**Vipul Rai, Quizmaster**

ALL THOSE WHO SEND IN ALL CORRECT ANSWERS WILL RECEIVE A BOOK ENTITLED, CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH. WRITE THE SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/S THAT PROVE YOUR ANSWERS NEXT TO YOUR ANSWERS, OTHERWISE NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN.

1. He "walked with God : and he was not ; for God took him." Of whom was this said ?
2. "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord ? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,..." To whom was this said ?
3. It is all right for us to add our own creed books and opinions to the word of God and give all equal importance. True or false.
4. The Church began in (a) Antioch (b) Rome (c) Washington (d) Delhi (e) Jerusalem (f) Bonn.
5. Congregations in the New Testament had (a) one elder and one deacon (b) a plurality of each (at least two of each).
6. The animal sacrifices in Old Testament times (a) paid completely for sins (b) atoned for sins until Christ could die and pay the price of sin (c) had no effect at all.
7. Christ "became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that" (a) are sincere (b) obey Him (c) fasted and prayed.
8. The main purpose of the Gospels is to (a) show how to live the Christian life (b) teach what man needs to do to be saved (c) prove that Christ is the Son of God and that we may have life through him.
9. On the day of judgment there will be many who called themselves Christians that will be lost. True or False.
10. What is sin defined as in the first epistle of John ?

#### ANSWERS TO QUIZ NO. 2

1. F (Genesis 4:25; 5:4). 2. F (Acts 2:47). 3. T (Acts 20:7). 4. T (Ephesians 1:22, 23; Colossians 1:18). 5. Purified your souls, obedience to the truth (1 Peter 1:22). 6. Buried, baptism (Romans 6:4). 7. Commandments (John 14:15). 8. Does (Matthew 7:21). 9. Yes. 10. Church of God (1 Timothy 3-5), Churches of God in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 2:14), Household of God (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3 :15), Kingdom of His dear Son (Colossians 1:13), Church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23), Churches of Christ (Romans 16:16), Body of Christ( 1 Corinthians 12:27), Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2).

## Bible Questions and Bible answers

These following questions have come from the Manipur area. Thank you so much and I trust you will find the answers helpful.

1. Mark 16:15, 16, read with Matthew 28:19.

In the course of our preaching one believes and wants to be baptized. Further question arises that the believer has two wives...Can I baptize him or is he barred from baptism because of his having two wives or is it necessary for him to divorce his second wife to qualify for his baptism in view of the fact that one is to have only one wife/husband.

The Bible teaches that one can have only one scriptural wife or husband. By scriptural it is meant that the individual must be free to marry some one who is likewise able to marry. Once the marriage has taken place, and as long as he is married to this party, he cannot marry again. That means that if one has two wives that one cannot be baptized until he repents and to repent he must put away the second wife since the first one is his scriptural wife. Read Matthew 19:9; Romans 7:1-3; Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3,

2. Matthew 19:9; 5:31, 32.

A Christian can divorce his wife according to these passages for fornication/adultery. If so whether he/she is free to marry another person (Christian) in contradiction of 1 Corinthians 7:11.

Yes, the innocent party can divorce his/her companion where he/she has committed fornication/adultery and can marry again provided he/she marries one who is scripturally able to marry. This does not conflict with 1 Corinthians 7:11 since Paul is dealing with a situation where Christians were married to unbelievers and he was telling them that if they should separate that they should not marry again in this case. They were living in a time in which the gospel was preached, for example, to a couple who were not Christians. Then perhaps one became a Christian and other did not. As a result of this, a separation might take place but no fornication/adultery was involved. So neither party would have a right to re-marry.

3. 1 Corinthians 7:12, 13. Can a Christian (un-married) marry a non-Christian ?

As pointed out in question two, Paul is dealing with people who have obeyed the Lord after they had married. Therefore, one might be a Christian and the other an unbeliever. So this is a different situation from that having to do with the question : Can a Christian marry a non-Christian ? It would seem from a study of the scripture that such is opposed. Paul said that the Christian should not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. (2 Corinthians 6:14). This is said to have to do with business, and other such relationships, but it would not exclude the marriage relationship either.

Christians should marry only Christians. If a Christian is considering marriage with a party that is not a Christian then he/she should teach and convert that individual to Christ before marriage. If this is not done there will be many problems afterward and perhaps the Christian himself/herself will be lost because of it. Sometimes the Christian is able to convert his/her non-Christian companion but many others fail to do this. It is better to take the safe course.

Please send all of your Bible questions to, The Bible Teacher. We'll get to them as soon as possible. Thank you.

## What The Scriptures Say On Mary, The Mother Of Jesus, Having Other Children

**Reggie Gnanasundaram**

1. Mat. 1:25 "And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son : and he called his name Jesus."

The words 'know her not' is a Hebrew form for conjugal intercourse. The language of this verse does not imply the perpetual virginity of Mary (Johnsons Comm.)

Today's English version of the Bible translates this same verse as follows :

"But he (Joseph) had no sexual relations with her (Mary) before she gave birth to her son (Jesus)"

2. Luke 2 : 7—"And she brought forth her firstborn children." This implies that Mary had other children.

Luke 2: 22-23 "And when the days of her purification according to the Law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

Compare the above verse with Ex. 13: 1-2.

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast : it is mine."

It will therefore be observed that from the time the law was given to the Israelites the same word 'firstborn, was used and consequently meant the first child born.

3. John 2: 12 "After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples; and they continued there not many days."

The phrase 'his brethren' occurs 9 times in the Gospels, and once in Acts. The natural interpretation is always that they were his brothers, Sons of Mary. In Mat. 13:55 and Mark 6:3 (quoted below) mention his sisters. Had it not been for the dogma that Mary remained a virgin, a dogma that has no foundation in the Scriptures, it would never have been doubted that these 'brethren' and 'sisters' were Mary's children. (Johnsons Comm.)

Mat. 13: 55-56 "Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?"

"And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?"

Mark 6: 3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and are not his sisters here with us? and they were offended at him."

Mark 15: 40 "There were also women looking afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary, the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;"

Mark 15: 47 "And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid."

Gal. 1: 19 "But other of the Apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother."

Acts 1: 14 "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

Luke 24: 10 "It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these unto the apostles."

4. Mark 3: 31-35 "There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them saying who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."

In this passage we find our Lord describing the closeness of the relationship he would have with those who do his Father's will. He compares this close relationship to that with his own brother, sister and mother.



5. It is claimed by those who teach that Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Jesus that the brothers and sisters of Jesus referred to in the Scriptures were his cousins. This is not in harmony with what the Scriptures teach on this subject as we find that when the Bible refers to a cousin the word 'cousin' is used, as will be seen from the following :

Luke 1 : 36 "And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren."

6. We might finally ask ourselves the question :

How did we know that Mary had other children ?

Answer : The Scriptures quoted above plainly indicate that Jesus had brothers and sisters.

We might also ask the question :

How did we know that Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Jesus ?

Answer : Because a doctrine, that Mary continued as a virgin, was taught by mere men centuries after the death of the Apostles.

7. When we seek to find a Bible answer to a Bible question we must at all times keep in mind that the Bible and the Bible alone is the sole and conclusive authority.

A. The Bible is a revelation of God. In other words God speaks to man through his word and this necessarily means that God's word is to be understood by man.

- a. We are commanded to understand the Lord's word.

Eph. 5 : 17 "Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

- b. We are told that we can understand the Lord's word.

Eph. 3 : 3-5 "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words; Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ,) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the spirit."

**B. We learn from the Bible :**

- a. 2 Tim. 3: 16-17 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof for correction, for instruction in righteousness : that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."
- b. The apostle Paul warned in Gal. 1:8

"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."

**C. The Scriptures plainly command us :**

- a. To speak where the Bible speaks—1 Pet. 4:11.
- b. Not to interpret the Scriptures—2 Pet. 1:20
- c. Not to add to or take away from God's word—Deut. 4:2, Pro. 30:6, Rev. 22:18-19.
- d. Not to follow the traditions of men—Col. 2:8,
- e. Not to obey the doctrines of men—Mark 7:7-9 13.

**THEREFORE IF WE ALL :**

- a. Speak where the Bible speaks,
- b. Do not interpret privately the Scriptures.
- c. Do not add to or take away from God's word.
- d. Do not follow after the traditions of men.
- e. Do not follow the teachings of men whoever they may be.

and accept the Lord's word and the Lord's word alone just as he gave it to man,

**THERE WILL BE PERFECT HARMONY AND UNITY  
AMONG ALL BELIEVERS OF OUR LORD AND  
SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST.**

# बपतिस्मा और उसका उद्देश्य

लेखक : सनी भाई

बपतिस्मा शब्द का उल्लेख नए नियम में कई स्थानों पर हुआ है। वास्तव में बपतिस्मा हमारी हिन्दी भाषा का शब्द नहीं है, किन्तु यह शब्द यूनानी भाषा के बैपटिजो शब्द से लिया गया है। इस बात पर ध्यान दें कि नया नियम सर्व प्रथम यूनानी भाषा में लिखा गया था। बैपटिजो शब्द का अर्थ है "गाड़ना अथवा डुबोना"। क्योंकि बपतिस्मा बाइबल की एक शिक्षा है इसलिये इसका वास्तविक अर्थ जानने के लिये यह आवश्यक है कि हम बाइबल में से देखें।

नए नियम की पहली चार पुस्तकें, अर्थात् मत्ती, मरकुस, लूका, व यूहन्ना, प्रभु यीशु के अदभुत जन्म व कार्यों के विषय में बताती हैं। आगे पढ़ने से पता चलता है कि किस तरह से उसके शत्रुओं ने उसे पकड़कर, पहले ही से ठहराई हुई परमेश्वर की मनसा अनुसार, क्रूस पर चढ़ा कर मार डाला। परन्तु परमेश्वर की पूर्व योजना अनुसार, और जिस प्रकार से यीशु ने लोगों से पहले कहा था, वह तीसरे दिन मृतकों में से जी उठा। परमेश्वर के वचन, बाइबल में उसके बारे में यूं लिखा है : "और पुत्र होने पर भी, उसने दुःख उठा उठाकर आज्ञा माननी सीखी। और सिद्ध बनकर, अपने सब आज्ञा माननेवालों के लिये सदा काल के उद्धार का कारण हो गया" (इब्रानियों ५:८, ९)।

जी उठने के बाद वह बहुतेरे लोगों को दिखाई दिया। और जब परमेश्वर पिता के पास वापस जाने का उसका समय निकट आया तो वह अपने चेलों से एक निश्चित स्थान पर मिला, तब, "यीशु ने उनके पास आकर कहा, कि स्वर्ग और पृथ्वी का सारा अधिकार मुझे दिया गया है। इसलिये तुम जाकर सब जातियों के लोगों को चेला बनाओ और उन्हें पिता, और पुत्र, और पवित्रात्मा के नाम से बपतिस्मा दो।" (मत्ती २८:१८, १९)। यहाँ हम देखते हैं कि यीशु मसीह ने कहा कि बपतिस्मा सब लोगों के लिये है व यह पिता (परमेश्वर), पुत्र (यीशु मसीह), और पवित्रात्मा के नाम से दिया जाना चाहिए। अब, मरकुस १६ अध्याय के १५ व १६ पदों को पढ़ने से पता चलता है कि वह अपने चेलों को दिखाई दिया, "और उसने उनसे कहा, तुम सारे

जगत् में जाकर सारी सृष्टि के लोगों को सुसमाचार प्रचार करो। जो विवेकास करे और अपतिसमा से उसी का उद्धार होगा।" क्या यह समझ में आता कठिन है ?

अब प्रिंटींग के काम के २ अध्याय को पढ़ते हुए हम देखते हैं कि यीशु मसीह के बेटों ने सुसमाचार का प्रचार लोगों को सबसे पहले यरूशलेम में सुनाया। ऐसा करने की आज्ञा प्रभु यीशु ने अपने बेटों को पहले से दी थी। (पहिले बूक २४:४६-४९; प्रिंटींग १:४)। हम देखते हैं कि पतरस और अन्य बेटों ने यीशु के सुसमाचार को एक बहुत बड़े जन-समूह को सुनाया। और उन्हें बताया कि लोगों को मसीह की आवश्यकता है क्योंकि उसके बिना वे अपने पापों में मरे हुए हैं। उन्होंने उनकी पापी स्थिति से उन्हें अभाव कराया। लिखा है, "तब सुननेवालों के हृदय खिन्न हुए, और वे पतरस और शेष प्रिंटींग से पूछने लगे, कि हे माईया, हम क्या करें ? पतरस ने उनसे कहा, मन फिर आओ, और तुम में से हर एक अपने-अपने पापों की क्षमा के लिये यीशु मसीह के नाम से अपतिसमा से, जो तुम पवित्र आत्मा का दान पाओगे।" ध्यान दें कि उसने उनसे कहा कि हर एक अपने-अपने पापों की क्षमा के लिये अपतिसमा से। तब, पापों की क्षमा प्राप्त करने के लिये अपतिसमा लेना बहुत आवश्यक है। इस विषय में पवित्रशास्त्र के कुछ अन्य पदों पर ध्यान दें :

१. अपतिसमा का अर्थ "गाड़ जाना" है। "क्या तुम नहीं जानते, कि हम जिन्दगी में मसीह यीशु का अपतिसमा लिया, जो उसकी मृत्यु का अपतिसमा लिया ? सी उस मृत्यु का अपतिसमा पाने से हम उसके साथ गाड़ें गए, ताकि जैसे मसीह पिता की महिमा के द्वारा मरे हुए थे उसी से से लियाया गया, वैसे ही हम भी मरे हुए जीवन की सी बात बोलें।" (रोमियों ६:३-४)। "और उसी के साथ अपतिसमा में गाड़ें गए, और उसी में परमेश्वर की शक्ति पर विश्वास करके, जिसने उसको मरे हुए थे से लियाया, उसके साथ जी भी उठे।" (कुरिन्थियों २:१२)।

२. अपतिसमा का अभिप्राय पानी में गाड़ जाना से है। "तब फिलिप्पस खोजने के लिये, देख यहाँ जल है, अब मुझे अपतिसमा लेने में क्या रोक है। सुसमाचार सुनाया। मगर मैं बताने-बताने से किसी जल की जगह पहुँचे, तब ने अपना मुँह खोला, और इसी शास्त्र से आरम्भ करके उसे यीशु का ने अपना मुँह खोला, और इसी शास्त्र से अपतिसमा लेने से है।" (तब फिलिप्पस)

और उसकी आशाओं का पालन कर; क्योंकि मर्मण्य का मर्मण्य कर्तव्य यही  
, सब कुछ सीना गया; अन्त की बात यह है कि परमेश्वर का मय मान

## एक महत्त्वपूर्ण विचार

होती उत्तम माना है।  
लेना चाहिए (मार्कस १६:१६; इब्रानियों ५:८-९)। केवल प्रभु का मार्ग  
आगीकार करना चाहिए (मती १०:३२), और प्रभु की आशाओंसार बपतिस्मा  
अपने पापों से मन फिराना चाहिए (प्रितो १७:३०), मसीह में विश्वास का  
उद्धार पाने के लिये: प्रभु पर विश्वास करना चाहिए (इब्रानियों ११:६),  
है, परन्तु केवल बपतिस्मा से ही उद्धार नहीं होता। बाइबल कहती है कि  
अब, अन्त में, यह याद रहे कि बपतिस्मा उद्धार पाने के लिये आवश्यक  
(गलतियों ३:२७)।

में बपतिस्मा लिया है उन्होंने मसीह की पहचान लिया है।"  
५. बपतिस्मा मसीह में मिलता है। "और तू म में से जिनको ने मसीह  
जान।" (प्रितो २२:१६)।

करता है? उठ, बपतिस्मा ले, और उसका नाम लेकर अपने पापों को धो  
४. बपतिस्मा पापों को धोने के लिये लिया जाता है। "अब क्यों देर  
के वश में हो जाने का अर्थ है।" (१ पतरस ३:२१)।

शरीर के मूल को दूर करने का अर्थ नहीं है, परन्तु शीघ्र विवेक से परमेश्वर  
बपतिस्मा, यीशु मसीह के जी उठने के द्वारा, अब तैम्हें बचाना है; (उससे  
३. बपतिस्मा बचाना है। "और उसी पानी का दृष्टान्त भी, अर्थात्  
(प्रितो ८:३५-३६)।

ने उसे फिर न देखे और बड़े आनन्द करता हुआ अपने मार्ग बचा गया।"  
निकलकर ऊपर आए, तो प्रभु का आत्मा फिलिपस को उठा ले गया, सो खोजे  
जल में उतर पड़े, और उसने उसे बपतिस्मा दिया। जब वे जल में से  
तब उसने रथ खड़ा करने की आशा दी और फिलिपस और खोजा दोनों  
उसने उतर दिया में विश्वास करता हूँ कि यीशु मसीह परमेश्वर का पुत्र है।  
फिलिपस ने कहा, यदि तू सारे मन से विश्वास करता है तो हो सकता है:

## मसीह की कलीसिया

उपासना सभाओं में आने के लिये आपको निमन्त्रण देती है।  
कलीसिया हर एक रविवार (इतवार) को निम्नलिखित स्थानों पर  
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ई १०/बी, डीफेन्स कालोनी  
(रिंग रोड)  
नई दिल्ली।

समय [ बाइबल अध्ययन ९ बजे  
उपासना का समय १० बजे सुबह

हर एक बुधवार की शाम को ७.०० (सात) बजे बाइबल अध्ययन  
के लिये भी इसी स्थान पर आईए।

### तथा

हर एक रविवार (इतवार) की शाम को ६.०० (छः) बजे उपासन  
इस पते पर होती है :

१/४६ निरन्कारी कालोनी  
(किन्गजवे कैम्प)  
दिल्ली।

× × × ×

## अपने ही घर में बाइबल का अध्ययन करें

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