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THE BIBLE TEACHER

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No. 9



EDITORIAL

You Can't Argue With God's Word

So many people want only the portion of God's word that suits their belief, practice, or situation. This leads them to accept part of it and reject the rest. They try to explain, argue, and reason it away. This is an abuse and misuse of holy writ.

We should want the truth and all the truth in a verse of scripture. We should not stop there, however, but go on to accept the truth in every other verse. We should want to know all of the Lord's will for us. We should want to obey the whole truth and teach it to others. Willful ignorance or rejection of any part of God's word will not help us or any one else. Partial truth is not enough.

There are those who teach that all one must do to be saved is to believe. Verses like John 3:16; 3:36; 5:24; Acts 16:31; etc., are used to support this. In view of what other verses teach, there might be some argument as to whether this is **all** that God requires, but there can be no argument about the necessity of belief or faith itself. We know that these verses definitely teach that one must believe, but these are not the only verses of scripture to be considered when it comes to the salvation of the soul. Perhaps those who use these verses to teach faith only have

isolated them. Maybe they have misunderstood and limited the meaning of faith.

Christ tells us that one must repent or perish. (Luke 13:3). Paul said that God commands all men every where to repent. (Acts 17:30). There are other verses that teach and emphasize the need of repentance. One might conclude that the most important thing that one must do to be saved is to repent of his sins. At the same time, one might argue that there is more to salvation than this. Regardless, there is one point on which there can be no argument and that is that God requires that one repent of his sins.

There are several verses that stress the necessity of baptism. (Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3,4). One verse even declares that baptism saves. (1 Peter 3:21). Does this mean that baptism only saves? Is not faith necessary? What about repentance? These questions may be brought up and discussed, but there can be no doubt about the necessity of baptism if one is going to accept all of the truth of God's will.

Peter told the people on the day of Pentecost that they should repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins. (Acts 2:38). Though nothing is said about faith, the question that was asked about salvation shows clearly that they believed. But regardless of what points are left out, the question is: What is stated? There can be no discussion on this point. All we can do is to accept it.

Whether we are dealing with the plan of salvation, or some other subject, we ought to approach our study with the attitude that we are going to accept all the truth in every verse and that we are going to accept every command in every statement. Obviously the Lord has not given all the truth in one verse or even in a number of verses. Neither has he given all the commands of the gospel in one verse. This means then that we cannot stop with one verse or two on any subject, but we must go on to read and study all of God's word and harmonize it. We must accept all the truth in any given verse and then go on to the next verse and so on. By so doing we will be able to

see all that the Lord requires of us. Only by believing and obeying the **whole** truth can we be saved. Surely there can be no argument with this. Certainly we should never find ourselves in a situation where we are forced to argue with God's word. Neither should we ever put ourselves in a position where we have to reject any truth in order to stay with some helief we have already accepted. If we do, we will lose every time.

ASSOCIATE EDITORIAL

"You Shouldn't Have Preached On What We Disagree!"

This was the statement made by a person who had invited us to speak in a meeting of young people. After the meeting was over, he thanked us for holding the meeting, but said, "You shouldn't have preached on what we disagree." Then he pointed out that we shouldn't have preached:

1. That baptism is essential for salvation. (Because it is only a sign).
2. That a child of God, a Christian, can so sin as to be lost. (Because it is impossible).
3. That in Christian worship services we should sing but that must be without playing of any kind of mechanical instrumental music. (In fact, right there, they were using some of them.)

No doubt, my brethren and I in the past have written a number of articles on the subject of baptism. However, it is a subject, though clearly explained in the New Testament, but highly misunderstood by most people who believe in Jesus Christ. Although baptism, in one way, is a sign which shows Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, it is meant to be much more than a sign. Actually speaking, nowhere does the New Testament clearly mention that "one is baptized for a sign", as it very clearly teaches that one is baptized to be saved

(Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21); for the remission or forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38); for washing away of sins (Acts 22:16).

On one occasion, the Apostle Paul said, "So many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death." (Romans 6:3). What is this? When a believer is baptized into Christ, this fact shows that he has died to his sins. Baptism into Christ implies death, for it is a baptism into the death of Christ. The believer in baptism becomes a partaker of the death of Christ. In verse 4 & 5 of Romans 6, Paul continues to say, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." The argument is, that a burial implies death. Baptism is a burial, in water. Therefore its subject had died. There has to be a planting together in the likeness of Christ's death, which is possible by baptism only, before one can be in the likeness of his resurrection. First, one must be buried with him by baptism (through immersion in water), before he can walk in the newness of life, that is, the Christian life. The very fact that a believer of Christ has died to his sins is shown by his baptism. To be baptized into Christ means to enter into a vital union with him, so to be found in him. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27).

Colossians 1:14 affirms that **in Christ** we have redemption and forgiveness of our sins. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that **in Christ** a person is a new creature. 2 Timothy 2:10 teaches that salvation is **in Christ**. Therefore, one must be **in Christ** to obtain redemption and forgiveness of sins, and to be a new creature and to be saved. Now how does one get **in Christ**? The Apostle Paul gives the answer, "For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27).

The Apostle Peter did not hesitate when he told 3000 penitent believers, "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).

I wonder, why should we? It is true that all men may not agree with us when we teach "believe and be baptized to be saved", but we agree with Christ. (Mark 16:16).

2. The Bible is as clear on the subject that a child of God can so sin as to be lost eternally as on any other subject. In the first epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 9, and verse 7, the Apostle Paul said, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. He watched and kept it under control, for he knew that it was possible for him to be lost. And even though he preached to others it was still possible for him to be rejected, or to be refused the prize of the crown, unless he maintained himself a true follower of Christ. Again, writing to Christians in the same epistle, he says, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Why this warning if a Christian, a child of God, cannot fall? Again, the Bible, in Ephesians 2:8, teaches that man is saved by grace and so were the Galatians, to whom the epistle of Galatians was written. Writing to them in Galatians 5:4, Paul said, "...whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace.**" He said, ye are fallen from grace. Who are these "ye"? Of course, Christians. Christ himself, in Revelation 3:16, said to the church at Laodicia, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." If they weren't in Christ it was not possible for them to be spued out of Christ. Those who are in Christ, are new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17), Christians. Once, referring to the end of the world, Christ said, "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity. And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 13:41, 42). Now, who would be cast into the furnace of fire? Those who cause stumbling and do iniquity. From where would they be gathered? Out of

Christ's kingdom or the church. Who constitute his kingdom or the church? Christians, new creatures. Does it need more clarification?

In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25), it was a servant of the Lord himself, who was to be cast away, because of his wickedness and slothfulness, into the outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth! Can a servant of the Lord be lost? Yes, certainly. Also the parable of the vine and the branches (John 15), more emphatically teaches that a Christian can be lost or burned. We read in verses 5 and 6, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

Lastly, on this subject I want to point out what Apostle Peter said, when he wrote to Christians. Now, listen to him: "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." (2 Peter 2:20-22). What is this, Peter? He says, if one who has been converted, becomes a Christian, is enticed back again into his sins, and overcome, then his state is worse than before! Before, he was unconverted, a sinner, lost. He has added to his other sins, the sin of rejecting the way of righteousness.

Christ laid down a wonderful principle concerning our worship when he said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24). Therefore if our worship is to be acceptable unto God it must

be in spirit and in truth, that is, it must be with all sincerity, humility, understanding, and according to the teaching of God's word, since his word is truth. (John 17:17). God teaches us in His word that Christians must partake of the Lord's Supper upon the first day of the week, as they come together for worship. And so we do. We eat of the unleavened bread to remember Christ's crucified body, and drink of the fruit of the vine (grape juice) to remember the blood of Christ. Why unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine? Because God's word teaches us so. (Mark 14 and Luke 22). Likewise, God in His word commands us to sing. Ephesians 5:19 says, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Therefore, we are to sing and make melody in our hearts. Melody means music. RSV translation says, "...singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart," New English Bible explains, "Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord. It simply means that while we sing spiritual songs with our lips our heart must be tuned with God. Spiritual songs should be sung with spiritual music, which can only come from the heart. Therefore, our singing in Christian worship must not be accompanied with any instrumental mechanical music such as Organ, Piano, or Guitar, etcetra. The very command of the Lord that says, "sing and make music in your hearts" should be enough to eliminate any other kind of music.

No follower of Christ would dare to change unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine of the Lord's supper with cake and tea or with any other thing, even when the Lord did not say, specifically, "not to use them". Because the Lord has specifically commanded to use unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. Yet, they have changed the music to another kind of music which God has never commanded. The Lord says, "Make music with your heart", but they make music with organ, piano and other mechanical instruments. Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, of whom we read in Leviticus chapter 10, were punished by the Lord for this very kind of sin.

There, the Lord had commanded them to offer a particular fire, but they instead offered another fire, and then the record says, "there went out fire from the Lord, devoured them, and they died before the Lord." (Verse 2).

When God, in Genesis 6:14, told Noah to build the ark with gopher wood, it was enough for him. It was not necessary for the Lord to tell him, not to use this wood or that wood. Likewise, when God told Abraham to offer up his son, it was enough. There was no necessity for Him to instruct Abraham not to offer his brother's son or his neighbour's son. Then why should it not be enough with us when God says, "Sing and make melody or music with your heart"?

It is also generally admitted by the scholars of ancient church history that the Christians in the first century never used mechanical instrumental music in their worship services. They all simply joined in singing. However, by the fourth century A.D. many errors had crept into the church, and with other changes, worship services began to be formal, special singers were appointed, and this soon led to singing by a choir. And by the fifth century mechanical instruments of music began to be introduced.

Many of the prominent leaders of various denominations such as, Adam Clarke and John Wesley (both Methodist), John Calvin (Presbyterian), Martin Luther (known as the founder of the Luthren church), C.H. Spurgeon (Baptist), and other famous scholars of the church of England, also agree that mechanical instrumental music, if used in Christian worship, is wrong and against the teaching of the word of God.

TRACTS AVAILABLE

We have a variety of tracts available. They are free for distribution upon request. Remember, however, that they cost money and you are therefore requested not to order more than you can use.

CAN YOU FURNISH SOME INFORMATION ?

Do you know of a congregation of the church of Christ that should be listed in our church directory ? If so, please send the address immediately. Print the address of the meeting place plainly.

PLEASE HELP US

We would be happy to have news concerning the church in your area, dates of meetings, Bible Schools, number of baptisms, etc. Also, scriptural articles by members of the church of Christ are welcome for consideration for publication in this magazine. Please do not borrow the writings of others but be sure that you have written those articles that you send in.

FILMSTRIP MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED

If you live in the Delhi area, we would be happy to arrange to show in your home a beautiful series of five filmstrips at your request. We would show one each week, and each session would cover a little more than one hour. Through this type of Bible study you will be able to see the truth presented, as well as to hear it. It can also be a time to gather in your neighbors and friends to share these things with you. Please contact us immediately if you would like to see these filmstrips. Write to Box 3815, New Delhi 49.

Bible Questions And Bible Answers

We have a set of questions from Hyderabad, A.P.

1. "According to the scriptures (Acts 18:18) Paul was already a Christian and then he took a vow. Why?"

Answer : A vow is simply a promise. Why Paul made the type of vow that he did, we do not know. He said on one occasion that he became all things to all men that he might gain some. (1 Corinthians 1:19-23). That is, he became like those around him, as far as possible, so that he might have some influence on them for good. At the time Paul took a vow the

law of Moses had been replaced by the law of Christ but nevertheless there was a transition period in which the people were gradually changing from one law to the other. For example, the Jewish Christians were still trying to hold on to parts of the law like circumcision, rejecting the Gentile, etc. Paul went as far with them as possible, but no further. He evidently took this vow and eventually fulfilled it in Jerusalem (Acts 21), along with others, so as to have the confidence of the Jews. He was not saying that the law of Moses was still binding, and neither was he compromising the truth. He, however, was getting in position to teach them concerning these matters. His statements and writings, as directed by the Holy Spirit, are recorded in the Bible for our benefit.

2. "In 2 Corinthians 12:7 Paul says that he had a 'Thorn in his flesh.' Why did he have it and what is the meaning of it?"

Answer : We do not know what the thorn was because the scriptures do not say. It is thought that it was Paul's failing eyesight, because of various references made to it. (Galatians 4:15). Whatever it was, it was simply an hindrance and Paul says that it was given to him so that he might not become proud and exalted above measure. He also goes on to say that he asked the Lord three times to remove it but He did not do so. Paul says the Lord's answer was : "My grace is sufficient for thee : for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

3. "1 Corinthians 5:6, 7 says that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. What is the meaning of 'leaven'?"

Answer : Literal leaven is that ingredient that causes bread to rise or to expand. Those who bake bread are especially familiar with it. Paul shows that in the same way that a little leaven leavens the whole lump or whole amount, so a wicked man in the church can have an evil influence on all of the Christians. On other occasions he uses this illustration to show that the church can have an influence on the whole world for good.

Parables Of Jesus

Lesson No. 2

K. Matthew

We have already seen in the last issue what a parable is and how often it is used in the New Testament. One third of Jesus's recorded teachings are in parables. He used more parables than any other Bible character. We can see that there is life in his teaching because he taught one thing and did accordingly. Parables are recorded in the first three gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But the fourth gospel writer, John, did not record any parables in his writing. Some parables are recorded in all three gospels. These parables are called three-fold gospel parables.

In the fifteenth chapter of Luke, we can see the most interesting parable in the Bible. There Jesus is talking about a son who was lost. There was a certain man who had two sons. The youngest of them asked his father about his share which belonged to him. His father gave him his share. The son gathered all and went to a foreign country. He spent all his property with his friends. Finally he lost everything and he realized his situation. He remembered the old life with his father. He repented and returned to him. But his loving father was anxiously waiting for the lost son. He received him gladly. There was much joy.

This is just a story. But Jesus explained the love and mercy of our heavenly father who is waiting for the lost prodigal son like you and me. God is always ready to accept sinners. Looking into the parable there is a condition that the lost should realize his situation and return from his state. Only then will the loving father accept him.

In Psalms 34:18 we can see that the Lord is near unto them that are of a broken heart. This does not mean a heart with a lot of cares of the world and is mixed up, but a heart with godly sorrow, realizing that he did wrong, and has a willing

mind to change or turn back from the first state. Let us look again at the parable. The second son lived a very bad life. He saw darkness in his life. He really wanted a change in the first stage. In the first epistle of John, chapter 1, verse 7-9, we can see that "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanses from all sins." So dear reader, are you in the light? Maybe you are lost like the prodigal son. Realize your situation and turn back from that. Our loving heavenly father is ready to accept all those who come to him. Unless a prodigal turns back how will he accept him? Are you in the light? If you are not, you can have no fellowship with the brethren and with God.

"Win A Prize" Bible Quiz, No. 9

Quizmaster, Vipul Rai

GOD MEANS WHAT HE SAYS, just arrived from the printing press, will be awarded to all those who send in all correct answers. King James (Authorized) Version has been used. We appreciate your efforts very much. Try hard and you will find it easy. Follow the following instructions please :

1. Your answers must reach us within 15 days of your receiving this magazine. (We know when it will reach you !)
2. Give scripture references whenever asked for.
3. Keep a copy of your answers so that you may compare them with the given answers in the next issue. If you are absolutely sure you deserve an award, and do not receive one by the time you receive the next issue, then kindly write to us. We will investigate. Bear in mind, instructions 1 and 2.
4. Address your answers to **The Quizmaster, P. O. Box No. 3815, New Delhi 49.**

Now for the Quiz :

1. The chief priests never planned to put Lazarus to death. True or False. If false, give verse proving your answer.
2. Who said, "Dominion and fear are with him (God); he maketh peace in high places. Is there any number of his armies?" (Hint: Job)
3. A King commanded that a certain woman be brought before him "to show the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on." This woman "refused to come". Who was She? Give verse. (Hint: Read Ezra-Job)
4. To whom was this said: "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace?" Give verse. (Hint: Acts)
5. Who said, "I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified"? Give verse. (Hint: New Testament)

ANSWERS TO QUIZ, NO. 8

1. Yes, Exodus 8:13. 2. Son of consolation, Acts 4:36. 3. The body of Christ, Romans 7:4. 4. False, Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:12-16. 5 One another and pray one for another, James 5:16.

Jesus Satisfies All Of our Real Needs

Mark H. Nunley

In John 6:66-69 we find that many of Jesus' followers turned away from the Lord and stopped following Him. They became offended at the truth that Jesus taught, and they went their separate ways. Upon this, Jesus turned to the twelve apostles and asked them, "Will you also go away?" To which Peter replied, "Lord, to whom shall we go?" And he continued,

“You have the words of eternal life, and you are the divine Son of God.”

Peter realized that there is no one else to turn to for the needs that we have. Jesus the Christ (God’s annointed), is the divine Son of God, and He alone can satisfy and fulfill the needs that we have in life.

If everyone realized what they need in life, they would come to desire these four things:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) Forgiveness of sins. | (3) Understanding. |
| (2) Strength. | (4) Love. |

And Jesus is the source from which we may find these things, so let us take a closer look at what is before us.

(1) JESUS SATISFIES OUR NEED FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS.

In Rom. 3:23 we learn that all have sinned, therefore, we are all burdened with the guilt of sin. Because of our guiltiness before God, we stand condemned and are on the road to Hell. But Jesus Christ has made the way of salvation possible for us if we will accept Him as our Savior by humble submission to His commandments.

As Eph. 2:12-14 tells us, “THAT YE WERE AT THAT TIME SEPARATE FROM CHRIST, ALIENATED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISREAL, AND STRANGERS FROM THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE, HAVING NO HOPE, AND WITHOUT GOD IN THE WORLD. BUT NOW IN CHRIST JESUS YE THAT ONCE WERE FAR OFF ARE MADE NIGH IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, FOR HE IS OUR PEACE.....”

In Matt. 11:28-30 we find, “COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF ME FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS.”

And Gal. 3:26-27 tells us, "FOR YE ARE ALL SONS OF GOD, THROUGH FAITH, IN CHRIST JESUS. FOR AS MANY OF YOU AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST DID PUT ON CHRIST."

Truly, if we want to have our sins forgiven, we must obey the Lord Jesus Christ so that His shed blood can wash our sins away!

(2) JESUS SATISFIES OUR NEED FOR STRENGTH.

In all that Jesus did in this earthly life, He was not guilty of sin. He resisted every form of temptation that Satan hurled at Him. Jesus completely overcame the powers of sin. And now He gives us the help, the strength, that we need to face the temptations and afflictions of life. Jesus lived a human life as we must live our lives; therefore, he understands the problems, the pain, the sickness, and all other anxieties that we face for He faced them too. So Jesus can and does help those that will turn to Him.

In Heb. 4:14-16 we read, "HAVING A GREAT HIGH PRIEST, WHO HATH PASSED THROUGH THE HEAVENS JESUS THE SON OF GOD, LET US HOLD FAST OUR CONFESSION. FOR WE HAVE NOT A PREST THAT CANNOT BE TOUCHED WITH THE FEELING OF OUR INFIRMITIES: BUT ONE THAT HATH BEEN IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED LIKE AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN. LET US THEREFORE DRAW NEAR WITH BOLDNESS UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY, AND MAY FIND A GRACE TO HELP US IN THE TIME OF NEED."

(3) JESUS SATISFIES OUR NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING.

Jesus helps us understand that our purpose is to do will of God. In John 6:38 we read, "FOR I AM COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO MINE OWN WILL BUT THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME." And in Matt. 6:10 Jesus says, "THY WILL BE DONE (referring to God's will)

AS IN HEAVEN, SO ON EARTH." Just as Jesus carried on the will of God on this earth, so our purpose in life is to carry out the things that God commands us to do.

Jesus also helps us to understand what is important in life. In Luke 12:15 Jesus says, **"TAKE HEED, AND KEEP YOURSELVES FROM ALL COVETOUSNESS: FOR A MAN'S LIFE CONSISTETH NOT IN THE ABUNDANCE OF THINGS WHICH HE POSSESSETH."** The physical and the material are not the most important things in life. The spiritual, doing service for the Lord, are the things that are truly important in this life for they will allow us to receive eternal life when this earthly life is over.

And Jesus gives us understanding in so many other areas of life.

(4) JESUS SATISFIES OUR NEED FOR LOVE.

In John 3:16 we read, **"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (Jesus), THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH ON HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."**

In Jeremiah 31:3 we read, **"JEHOVAH APPEARED OF OLD UNTO ME, SAYING, YEA, I HAVE LOVED THEE WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE: THEREFORE WITH LOVING KINDNESS HAVE I DRAWN THEE."**

Heb. 13:5 tells us, **"BE YE FREE FROM THE LOVE OF MONEY: CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS AS YE HAVE: FOR HIMSELF HATH SAID, I WILL IN NO WISE FAIL THEE, NEITHER WILL I IN ANY WISE FORSAKE THEE"**

And in I Cor. 13:8 we read, **"LOVE NEVER FAILETH..."**

God Almighty and Jesus Christ His Son loved us, loved mankind, enough to make the way of salvation possible. Now out of love they offer that salvation to anyone that will believe in and obey them. Everyone needs to feel that they are loved, and we need for love to be expressed to us. Jesus Christ is the highest example of love being shown to mankind!

Everything that is really important in life, all of our real needs (these four plus all others), all that we really desire in life if we look at things in their proper perspective, are supplied and furnished by Jesus. Let's determine to live for Him so that we may receive our needs. All of the Lord's promises for salvation, help, etc. are conditional. If we love Him and serve Him, we will receive these things of Him. If we reject Him, Jesus will turn His back upon us !

ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, AND ONE BAPTISM

Jess. Willis

According to the teachings of God there is "One Lord, one faith, one baptism (Eph. 4:5). There are no more faiths than there are Gods. There are the same number of baptisms as there are Lords. The Bible recognizes that there is just one. The word of God does not indicate that one faith is as good as another. It does make a difference what one believes for Jesus said, "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). Without the proper faith one may be lost, without hope, and without God (cf. John 3:18).

I beseech all who love God and who trust in Christ as being the Saviour, "Let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same things (Phil. 3:16). There is one rule in which we can be united, it is the scripture. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Man has a need for one Lord, one God, and one Holy Spirit. Also of like nature, man has a need for only one body, one faith, and one baptism. We need knowledge, love, and unity, not prejudice, anamosity, and division.

GOOD NEWS

Harvey M. Starling

The penalty for sin is spiritual death (Rom. 6:23; 5:12). Man in his sins is separated from God (Isa. 59:1-2). He is lost, undone, without hope and dead spiritually (Eph. 2:1). He cannot save himself.

This is the spiritual condition of all men as "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," (Rom. 3:23). Sin and its consequences are universal. Men of all tongues and nations are guilty of sin and stand in condemnation.

Sin Destroys

Sin is the great tragedy of our time, the poison of all people, the curse of our country, the leprosy of our lives, the sickness of our society, the cancer of our souls, the horror on every human being, the disease of our spirit, and the malignancy of man's mind.

Nothing we can do of ourselves will save us. None among us can forgive or pay the penalty of our sins (Titus 3:5; Rom. 3:10). Human philosophy, man's wisdom, nor our social standing can heal our sin-sick souls (Jer. 10:23). Our cry is for help and salvation! But to whom shall we go?

The answer is Jesus. Sin demands death. This is the eternal law of God. The justice of God demands penalty for the breaking of law; but the love and mercy of God has brought salvation through Jesus (Heb. 2:9).

Jesus Paid The Price

How can this be? Jesus without sin, was sacrificed in my place. He "are our sins in his own body on the tree," (1 Pet. 2:4). "For He hath made him to be sin for us", (II Cor. 5:21). His soul was "an offering for sin," (Isa. 53:10). The death of the righteous one was the penalty for our sins (Isa. 53:11). The price was paid!

There is no way but Jesus (John 14:6). To reject Jesus is to pay the price of your sins yourself. Who can do that?

We must turn to Jesus. Our faith and trust must be in Him. Of ourselves we are nothing. Through Jesus we are "more than conquerors" (Rom. 8:37). We are not left in doubt and anxiety. We are "loosed from our sins in his own blood," (Rev. 1:5)

Will you accept this good news? Will you believe in him and be saved? (John 3:16). Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...." (Mk. 16:16) "...Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins..." (Acts 2:38).

Believe And Obey

What glorious news! "Whosoever" will believe in Jesus with all of his heart and submit in obedience to him as Lord has the forgiveness of his sins (Heb. 5:8:9). We are added to the blood bought church of Jesus with the assurance that his blood will continue to cleanse us from all iniquity as we walk with him. (1 John 1:7).

Do not delay your salvation. Do not trust in yourself. Do not trust in what you do, but trust and believe in Jesus who is your offering for sin. To trust in Jesus is to believe and obey him. There is no other way.

क्या आप वहाँ थे ?

लेखक—एफ० डेविड

कहाँ? जहाँ उन रोमी सिपाहियों और यहूदी लोगों ने प्रभु यीशु को क्रूस की मृत्यु दी। उस निरापराधी को क्रूस पर कीलों से जड़ दिया था। जहाँ एक रोमी सिपाही ने उसकी पसली में भाला मारा तथा तुरन्त लोहू और पानी एक साथ बहने लगा था। जहाँ उसका बुरी तरह ठट्ठा व अपमान किया गया था। उसके मुँह पर थूका गया, घूँसे मारे गए तथा थप्पड़ भी मारे गए।

क्या आप वहाँ थे जब सूरज ने भी अपनी रोशनी देनी बन्द कर दी थी? उस शहर में तमाम अन्धेरा छा गया था। एक मन्दिर का परदा अपने आप ऊपर से नीचे तक फट गया था। धरती डोल गई थी, चट्टानें तड़क गई थीं और कब्रें खुल गईं, थीं। यह सब उस समय की याद दिलाता है जब प्रभु यीशु मसीह को क्रूस की मृत्यु दी जा रही थी।

क्या आप वहाँ थे जब उसकी लोथ को एक सील बन्द कब्र में रखकर सिपाहियों का पहरा लगा दिया गया था? परन्तु तीसरे दिन अपने वायदे के अनुसार वह मृत्यु पर विजय पाकर जी उठा तथा अपने शिष्यों तथा अनेकों को दिखाई दिया।

आप और मैं वहाँ नहीं थे। परन्तु यह सब बातें हमें परमेश्वर के वचन में मिलती हैं। अर्थात् बाइबल में। क्योंकि परमेश्वर का वचन सत्य है अतः यह सब बातें भी सत्य हैं। इन सब सत्य घटनाओं के विषय में जब मैं कभी सोचता हूँ तो मैं कांप जाता हूँ। शायद आप भी ऐसा ही अनुभव करें। क्योंकि यह सब बातें एक निष्पापी व्यक्ति के साथ हुईं।

अब प्रश्न यह उठता है कि यह सब क्यों हुआ? क्यों प्रभु यीशु को इतनी यातनाएँ तथा क्रूस की मृत्यु सहनी पड़ी? इसका उत्तर यह है कि परमेश्वर ने प्रभु यीशु को इस लिए ही चुना था ताकि उसके मारे जाने से पापियों को उनके पापों से छुटकारा मिल सके, परन्तु यह आवश्यक है कि प्रत्येक व्यक्ति पापों से छुटकारा प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रभु यीशु में विश्वास करे तथा उसकी आज्ञाओं को माने।

कोई शायद यह कहे कि वह तो परमेश्वर का पुत्र था, अतः वह इन सब यातनाओं को सरलता से सहन कर सकता था। यह बात नहीं है। वह भी हमारी तरह ही मनुष्य था। वह भी दुःख को अनुभव करता था। जब उसके सामने यह सब मुसीबतें आने वाली थीं, तथा उसको मालूम था कि उसे कुछ ही क्षणों में क्रूस की मृत्यु दी जाएगी। तो उसने परमेश्वर अपने पिता से प्रार्थना की, कि हे परमेश्वर यदि तेरी इच्छा हो तो यह सब मुसीबतें मेरे सामने से टल जाएं। यदि वह परमेश्वर का पुत्र होने की हैसियत से यह सब सहन कर सकता था तो उसने परमेश्वर से इस प्रकार की प्रार्थना क्यों की? परन्तु विशेष बात यह है कि उसने परमेश्वर अर्थात् अपने पिता की इच्छा पूरी की।

मित्र ! क्या आपने परमेश्वर की इच्छा पूरी की है? परमेश्वर की इच्छा है कि आप पाप न करें तथा पाप से अपने को बचायें। आपने इस लेख के आरम्भ में देखा था कि कितनी बड़ी मुसीबतें यीशु मसीह को सहनी पड़ीं। इन सब यातनाओं को सहने का कारण था पापियों को उनके पापों से छुटकारा दिलाना।

यीशु मसीह पापियों के लिए ही इस संसार में आया था न कि धर्मियों के लिए। यीशु ने स्वयं कहा, कि भले चंगों को वैध की आवश्यकता नहीं परन्तु वे जो रोगी हैं उन्हें वैध की आवश्यकता होती है। यीशु मसीह ही एक ऐसा वैध है जो पापों से ग्रस्त रोगी को बचा सकता है। यीशु मसीह ही पापियों का उद्धारकर्ता है तथा उद्धार का स्रोत है। क्या आप पाप से छुटकारा पाना चाहते हैं? यदि हाँ तो परमेश्वर की इच्छा पूरी कीजिए यीशु मसीह पर विश्वास लावें तथा उसकी आज्ञाओं को मानियें।

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