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# THE BIBLE TEACHER

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## EDITORIAL



### Anti-Church

In the Bible we read of those who were anti-Christ. (1 John 2:18, 22; 1 John 4:3; 2 John 7). These were people who denied that Christ was the Son of God, would not confess him, and opposed him. Such people still live today—here in India and throughout the world. They stand condemned already. (John 8:24). But even more amazing than this is the fact that there are many who mentally believe in Christ as the Son of God but reject his church and have therefore become anti-church in their thinking and actions.

When you go out to talk to denominational people about Christianity, all goes well until you bring up the subject of the church. Then they begin to withdraw themselves and to leave hints that they would prefer not to continue the discussion. The fact is, that even though all of these people are members of some church, they have heard so much about various churches and all of the divisions they represent that they have become anti-church. That is, they are bitter toward the idea of the church. They are tired of hearing about the different churches. They see all the hypocrisy of it. As a result, many

want to give up and quit Christianity all together. Others are not so prone to do that but they definitely are not interested in the church anymore.

There are two paradoxes about all of this that we need to notice. First, there is the paradox that concerns these denominational churches themselves. They say on the one hand that the church is not important, that one is as good as another, that you can go to heaven without being a member of them, yet they teach and encourage people to become members of them. This is very confusing to a lot of people. It is also a contradiction, not to mention the fact that it does not make sense. With this kind of teaching going on, no wonder people have lost confidence in what they consider to be Christianity. The second paradox concerns the members of these various churches. They oppose these churches, don't believe in them, are anti church, but also they are members of some church, feel that they should be attached to some such group, and at the same time would never think of leaving their church. They believe in denominationalism, want the freedom to be a part of these churches, to be accepted by all of them, but do not want the responsibility that goes along with being tied down to any particular one of them.

To talk to a person about the church usually results in driving that person away from you. To begin with, he is a member of a church and he concludes that you are trying to get him to leave his church to become a member of your church. In the next place, his understanding of the church is entirely different to yours. You are talking about the **church of the Bible** but even though he is a member of a **denomination** he is still thinking of his church as being the Lord's church. When he reads of the church in the Bible he applies that to his denomination. When his pastor reads verses of scripture about the church or refers to the church then those truths are applied to his church. Therefore, he doesn't see any need of leaving one church to become a member of another church when they both represent the Lord's church.

What this individual, as well as most other believers in

Christ, have failed to see, is the oneness and beauty of the Lord's church as set forth in the Bible. This church is not a denomination or a multitude of denominations. It is not man-made. Instead, it is the one and only church of the Lord. It is the spiritual body of Christ. It is made up of those who have obeyed the Lord, who are saved, and who wear the name of Christ. The church itself is not the saviour, but one must be in it to be saved. Those who are not in it are not saved. Neither can one become a member of it by joining a denomination. Christ built the church, died for it, and purchased it with his own blood. He is the saviour of it and its head. It is his bride and one day he is coming back for it.

Surely one cannot read and study the Bible sincerely with an open mind without coming to a knowledge of the truth concerning the church. Whatever the Bible teaches on it, whether it teaches the importance of it, or the unimportance of it, whether there be one or many, surely one can learn the facts of it if he will but study to learn and to know the facts. Then once one learns the truth on this subject, if he is honest with himself and wants to please God, all he can do is acknowledge that truth and accept it. The question then would not be whether there is a local congregation of the Lord's church or not, and if there is one, whether it is young or old, whether it is large or small, whether they have a meeting house or not, whether they have a preacher or not, etc., but the fact is that once one learns the truth then he is duty bound to accept that truth, provided he wants to be saved. How thankful one should be that he has finally learned the truth and therefore that he can accept it. Furthermore, whether anyone else accepts it, or even if one is left without his friends or even family members, the truth is what one should want and it is the truth that one should obey. How could anyone in his right mind learn the truth and allow anything, regardless of how little or big it might be, keep him from obeying that truth?

It is no wonder that so many are anti-church and do not want to talk about the church of the Bible or any other church. They have this attitude simply because they have never known the Lord's church, and consequently, denominationalism in the

form of man-made churches has never been able to satisfy them. But let me once more encourage you to go to your Bible and study this matter again. Make a fresh start. Put out of your mind, if you can, all of your previous knowledge and ideas about any kind of a church. Then begin to read and study with an open mind with the desire to know only what the Bible says about the church. If you will do this, then surely you will be able to see the church in an entirely different light than you have ever seen it before. The church will take on a new meaning. You will see the significance of it, the importance of it. You will also see that to accept Christ will be to accept and become a member of his church.

Will you try this? Do it for the sake of your soul. You are under no obligation to anyone but to yourself should you learn the truth, whatever that may be.



**associate  
editorial**

## Restoring The Real Image

OFTEN it is discussed, and even taught in many schools, that man had his origin with monkey or an ape, and that there is no one, such as God, who created man but he himself has developed to live through evolution from a single primitive cell. However, not a single person, who believes in this theory, has ever been able to explain the question, "From where did that single primitive cell come?" It is further believed that spiritually a man is no better than an animal. However, there is no way to prove this theory too, but there are several reasons which force us to reject this idea. Logically speaking, for instance, physical and spiritual abilities that are generally found in man are not present in animals. Man is a worshipful being, and his conscious tells him that he needs to worship. And the

fact that while God requires man to worship HIM and serve HIM, but he never expects such from animals, shows a great difference between man and animal. But what is man? Did he come into existence by himself, or was he created? Who created man, and how?

The only source which answers these questions reasonably and rightly is the book of which the eternal God is the author. Yes, I mean the Bible. As we open this book, it begins with these words, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth .....And God said, Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." (Genesis 1: 1, 26 and 27). And yet again, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Genesis 2:7).

Thus, the truth is that God made man. He formed man of the dust of the ground. This is, in fact, in perfect harmony with modern chemical analysis which detects at least fourteen elements in the human body identical with the dust—such as oxygen, hydrogen, silicon, magnesium, sodium, phosphorus, carbon, etc. But a more recent discovery by scientists declares that there is scarcely an element in the human body which is not identical to the dust. But when God made or formed man's body of the dust, at that point man was incomplete, made of the earth and therefore material. But the scripture informs us that God "Breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." This is the fact that God had in mind when he said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." And again the scriptures inform us that "God is a Spirit" (John 4.24). Therefore, God's plan was to make man a spiritual being. And accordingly when he breathed the breath of life, or spirit, in a material being, he, man, became a living soul. So, man was created by God in His image and after His likeness.

Creator, God, had intended for man that spiritually he should live eternally with Him and enjoy all blessings in Him. And so man lived in the presence of God and was happy.

Loving God, as Father, told man what is good for him and what he should do. He also told him what is harmful for him, and what he should not do. Not only this, but he also warned man of the penalty or consequences that he would have to bear if he chose to do what God had forbidden him to do. But, it happened. The scriptures inform us that man was entangled with temptation and was drawn away of his lust, and was enticed, and the lust conceived in him and he sinned. In fact, he did the very same thing that God had warned him not to do. And death, separation from God, was the penalty that he had to bear as God had plainly told man before. (Genesis 2:16,17).

The real image or likeness of God after which man was actually made was now covered with the stains of sin. Now it was not pure and clean as God gave it to man. Sin separated man from God. Just as darkness and light cannot live together, so sin and God who is holy cannot have fellowship together. Man as a spiritual being was dead in his trespasses and sins.

The scriptures again tell us that all people likewise have sinned. The real image, soul, of every man and woman is lost under the covering of sin. (Romans 3:23; James 1:14, 15). However, God does not wish that any person should remain lost in sin. But he has intended that all people, everywhere, should repent, or turn away from their sins and obey him, (Acts 2:38, 39), thusly, be reconciled once again with him, through Jesus Christ, His Son. Not only this, but God through His Word, the Bible, exhorts and assures us in these words, "Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isaiah 58: 1,2).

It is just like an old picture which had been painted on the wall of a building. But after several years had passed the dust of the world had covered it completely. Once some workers were tearing down the building, and as they tore down the walls, they scraped some dirt from the wall and found the beautiful painting, and when they had removed the dirt from the painting they came to know that it was, in fact a masterpiece.



How similar is the story of every man and woman, the masterpiece of God's creation, whom God had made in His own holy image, and after his own spiritual likeness. But then the sin of the world began to cover it, and consequently the real image of man was covered under sin. But then God, in His love, sent His Son, Jesus Christ, so that he should scrape the dirt of sin from every soul, and restore man to the very real image in which he was formed.

This, in fact, is the message of the Bible. Christ came down from heaven. God revealed His love and grace through him. He being pure and sinless offered himself as a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, it is through him that our real image, in which man was actually made by God, may be restored, or we can be reconciled with God.



Who will go to Haryana? This State was carved out of the Punjab as recently as 1966 and presently has a population of over ten million people. Most of these are Hindus but other religions are also represented. Hindi is spoken in various dialects and Punjabi is the second major language spoken. Only 27 percent of the people can read and write.

Haryana is a very dry State, having no major river of its own. Until recently it was mostly desert. During the last few years it has made tremendous gains with the green revolution and today is fast becoming India's granary with the help of its irrigation system. Being adjacent to Delhi, it has an automatic outlet for its consumer products. All of its 6,669 villages have been electrified, the first State in the country to accomplish such a goal.

For the time being Haryana is using Chandigarh as its capital, but eventually a new one will be built. Various districts

include Ambala, Gurgaon, Hissar, Jind, Karnal, Mahendragarh, and Rohtak.

As far as we know there are no New Testament Christians in this State. For some time we have had a number of Bible Correspondence Students there and we have sent our monthly magazine to various ones, along with tracts and other such materials, but the church needs to be established there. Who will go to these people, live with them, and preach the gospel to them? They need the gospel; they need Christianity. If you are prepared to go, can go, and will go, surely the Lord will bless your efforts.



One of our readers from New Delhi has sent some remarks concerning a recent editorial, "The Eating of Meats." He says, "It is not agreed to say that animals do not have souls and neither they have the reasoning power. No doubt, we could see that animals cannot think in the manner as human beings, but it is not correct to say that animals do not have souls. By reading the chapter one can understand the viewpoint of the author and one cannot be convinced in all aspects. I could take this statement as presumed by the author. It is not proved in it. To some extent instances are seen of finding reasoning power in animals also whereas the author has denied in the chapter. For a simple example, a dog starts barking in the street when it sees any stranger passing the way which proves the dog has recognized the new-comer in the area. Further, he has compared the vegetables (which also have life as has been proved by many scientists of international repute) with the animals, and has come to the conclusion that there is no harm to taking animal's meats such as to taking the vegetables for food by the human beings. In this example, I have to point out that vegetables cannot be compared with animals because

animals have been seen with more acts of movement and work which are equal to human beings' action. This is also not a very good justification."

**ANSWER:** We appreciate this reader's letter and the fact that he says that he is not offering these remarks just to be critical. In response I want to be as kind as I can be but I do not see that he has made a point at all in favor of animals having a soul. It is admitted that they have life, that they are active, that they can recognize people whether friend or stranger, and also that they can respond up to a point to teaching and training. However, an animal cannot be taught to use the thought process. Animals cannot think and reason. They basically do what they do by instinct. That is, their actions are not necessarily the way of doing things, but they act as they do because they have built-in instinct that motivates them. Therefore, we would have to conclude that animals and human beings are in entirely different categories and because of this we deal with them differently and the law of the land deals with them differently.

Humans do not basically consider it wrong to kill an animal and surely the law around the world would not imprison a man for killing an animal, intentionally or by accident, under ordinary circumstances. But should one human being kill another human being anywhere in the world then the guilty party has to answer to the law. We are saying, then, that man is of a higher order. He has a mind and intelligence. He has the ability to think, reason, and to use logic. He is a being responsible for his thoughts and his actions. This is because he has been created in the image of God, and therefore has a spirit, a soul, that will live on after this physical life is over.

We can kill an animal but we cannot kill a man. We may eat animal meat but we cannot eat human flesh. An animal cannot think, reason, and develop mentally as a man, but man has used his intelligence to accomplish fantastic achievements. An animal has only a body but man has a body, and a soul within that body. When an animal dies that is the end of it but when man dies physically the soul continues to live on and

that same soul will live on forever. An animal is not accountable for its actions, but a man is both accountable to man and to his maker, the God of heaven.

As to plant life, my point was that if so much emphasis is going to be put on **animal** life, with the argument that because of the life that is in them an individual should abstain from the eating of meats, then one would have to do the same with plants because they also have life in them. It may represent a different form of life, but it is life just the same. But those who refuse to eat meat go right on and eat vegetables, killing the life that was within them in order to prepare them to eat. The sad part about all of this is that such people have become confused about all kinds of life. If left as God intended, i.e., that animal life, sea life, fowls of the air, and plant life were all placed here for man's use, then there is no problem. But when man confuses this and begins to place undue stress on the value of animal life or some other type of the lower forms of life, then man begins to get things out of balance and therefore problems begin to result. Let's return to God's way. This is the only logical way of doing things.



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**Quiz No. 16 :**

1. In which book of the Bible do you read about the three men in the fiery furnace?
2. Joshua and Caleb were brothers. Yes or No?
3. Who was called "the disciple whom Jesus loved"? Give the reference.
4. In which prophetic book are these words; "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse...and prove me...if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing...?"
5. Pilate was a king, a governor, or a procurator of Judea. Which? Give the verse.

**Answers to Quiz. No 15 :**

1. Rebekah, Genesis 24:61-67. 2. Abram, Genesis 11:26.
3. Mary, John 20:11-18.
4. Pool of Bethesda, John 5:2. 5. Ecclesiastes 12:1.



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## God Hath Spoken

The Hebrew writer tells us: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds". (Hebrews 1:1,2). From this text we are affirming that God exists and that he has spoken. He has created all things and has made man in his image. (Genesis 1:26,27). He has spoken to man in the past at different times and in different ways. At first he spoke to the patriarchs or fathers directly and they in turn conveyed God's message to their families. Some of the fathers were Adam, Noah, Abraham and many others. Later he spoke to the prophets like Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, and so on, through the Law of Moses. But these last days, that is, since the death of Christ upon the cross, God speaks to man through Christ as revealed in the New Testament. At the transfiguration, God said concerning Christ, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." (Matthew 17:5). In this particular setting we have Moses present to represent the Law, Elias to represent the prophets, and then Christ. Peter wanted to honor the three equally, by building a tabernacle for each of them, but God bypassed Moses and the law and Elias and the prophets and made it plain that now he speaks through Christ. As to our relationship to him, God said, "Hear ye Him."

Are we to understand that God does not speak to us today through the Old Testament scriptures? That is correct. That does not mean that that portion of scripture is not the word of God because Peter said that holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Peter 1:21), but it does mean that it was directed to those who lived before the death of Christs

and therefore God does not speak to us today through this law. In other words, it has been fulfilled (Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:44), nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14), and is no longer binding. (Hebrews 9:16, 17; 10:9,10). John wrote, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17).

This being so, then we cannot go back to the thief on the cross and use him as an example of how one can be saved today. Neither can we go on back into the Old Testament scriptures and find verses to justify the sabbath, the practice of tithing, or the use of mechanical music for our own present day. Paul says concerning the use of the Old Testament scriptures, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4). Then in 2 Corinthians 3, and many other scriptures that could be given, we can see clearly that the old law has been replaced by the new law and that if we therefore have accepted the law of Christ only to return to the old law then we are fallen from grace. (Galatians 5:4).

All of this is to say that although God has spoken in the past that does not mean that it is directed to us. Rather to know what God has said to us then we must look to Christ the word (John 1:1-5), as it is revealed through the written word as recorded in the pages of the New Testament. Concerning this, we read, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and believing ye might have life through his name." (John 21:30, 31). In relation to Christ and his word and the importance of it. Christ says, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." (John 12:48).

Referring to the scripture itself, Paul writes, "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".(2 Timothy 3:16,17). Peter says, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us unto glory and virtue." (2 Peter 1:4). Then James says, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:25). God has therefore spoken through Jesus and that has been recorded in the pages of the book we call the New Testament. It is revealed here alone and so important is it that we are warned that we are not to add to it, subtract from it, or substitute for it in any way.(Revelation 22:18,19; Galatians 1:6-9).

As we can see, God has given us a perfect law and its value is revealed in the words of Paul, when he said, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). Christ says that God's word is truth (John 17:17) and that the truth makes free. (John 8:32). James says that we are to be doers of the word and not hearers only. (James 1:22).

God has chosen to speak through a written law as revealed through Christ and recorded by inspired men. In doing so he has revealed unto man everything that he wants man to know. He has told him about the creation, the history of man, the coming of Christ and his sacrifice for the sins of the world, and then he has gone on to tell how the church was established, what to do to be saved, how to worship, how to live the Christian life, and where man will spend eternity. It is wonderful that we have such a book and that we do not have to wonder and guess about God's will for us. We also may compare that which we hear with God's word to see if it is the truth or not. In this way we may always know the truth on any matter that pertains to life and godliness.

Many people today, however, are confused concerning the way God reveals his will to man. In spite of all that has been said, and the clearness of it, there are still those who believe that in addition to the scriptures God speaks through signs, miracles, wonders, dreams, and through direct communication to man. For instance, there are those who speak of seeing a



vision, or of the Lord appearing to them in person to deliver some significance, but to those who know what God has said then they know that such cannot be.

Let's take a look at some situations in New Testament times to see what happened when the Lord or an angel appeared. Of course we must understand that this was in the time of miracles and at a time when the church was in a state of infancy and just because these things happened at that time that does not mean that they are happening today. Actually, at that time they didn't have the New Testament in its completed form and such appearances and means of communication were necessary at times for a specific purpose but even then at no time did they ever reveal God's word but served more in the capacity of getting the preacher and the sinner together. First, look at Acts 8:26-39, & there you have the angel of the Lord speaking to Philip the evangelist and instructing him to go to a certain place to find the man of Ethiopia riding along in a chariot. He did so, was invited to ride, taught this man the truth, and baptized him. The question that comes up though is, why didn't the angel go to this man and teach him the truth?

Continuing, in Acts 9 we have the story of how the Lord appeared unto Saul. When Saul wanted to know what to do the Lord told him to go into the city and there it would be told him what he should do. Next, we have the Lord appearing to Ananias in a vision to ask him to go to one called Saul of Tarsus. Ananias didn't want to go to begin with because he had heard of all that Saul had done against the church but the Lord assured him that he was a chosen vessel unto him. Ananias went and baptized him. (Acts 22:16). But why didn't the Lord do all of this? Next we have Cornelius having a vision and seeing an angel of the Lord coming to him and asking him to send for Simon Peter. Then we have Peter falling into a trance and the Spirit of the Lord speaking to him concerning the men who had come from Cornelius to get him and the Spirit asked him to go doubting nothing. He went and taught Cornelius and his household the truth, and they obeyed the Lord, thus becoming the first Gentile converts (Acts 10,11). But why didn't the Spirit teach Cornelius and his household the

truth without going through all of this effort of getting Cornelius and Peter together so that Peter could teach him the truth? We shall see.

The apostle Paul warned, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed for him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 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." (Galatians 1:6-9). Did you notice what Paul said? He said that the one true pure gospel had already been preached to them. Therefore if he, or even if an angel from heaven, should come and preach a different gospel to them, then they stood condemned.

If you will notice you will find that all who claim that the Lord or some heavenly being has spoken directly to them separate and apart from the written word that the supposed message given to them is different to what the Bible teaches. Could we assume for a minute that God would say one thing in his word and then give a conflicting message in another manner to the same individual? Could we assume that God would speak to the majority through his written word but then choose certain individuals to give special messages to? Surely not. The fact is, when one begins to tell you that God is speaking directly to him then you can mark it down that he is either mentally unbalanced or else he is deceived and therefore is not speaking the truth. If we want to be sure of what God has said then we must go to his word rather than to wait on a direct message from him. If he has something yet to say to us then we cannot say the Bible is the final will and testament of the Lord and we can not be sure if it really represents all the truth. However, the word of God is final and complete. That is why Jesus said to go into all the world and preach this gospel to every creature and to teach all nations this truth. (Mark 16:15, 16; Matthew 28:19,20).

The key to all of this is found in Paul's statement when he said concerning the gospel: "But we have this treasure in ear-

then vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." (2 Corinthians 4:7). That is why the Lord used Philip, Ananias, Peter, etc., in preaching the gospel because he has chosen man to deliver his message to other men.

In conclusion, remember that God has always spoken and today is no exception. He speaks through Christ and Christ speaks to us through the written word. There is no other way to know God's will. Will you hear him? That is why he has spoken.

### Questions For Study

1. Explain Hebrews 1:1,2.
2. How has God spoken to man in the past ?
3. Does God speak today ? Through whom? How ?
4. Is the Old Testament law binding today?
5. Can we go to the thief on the cross as an example of what to do to be saved? If not, why not?
6. By what will we be judged in the last day?
7. Are the scriptures complete ?
8. How important is God's word?
9. Does God reveal his word to man in any other way from the written word?
10. Give some examples from the New Testament that show how the Lord sent messengers directly to man or appeared himself. What was the purpose of this?
11. Did any of these ever tell man what to do to be saved?
12. Discuss the meaning of Galatians 1:7-9.
13. In what has God placed his message today ?

## Freedom of Worship

**Jaikumar Gootam**

A few days back I went to a shop to buy myself a pair of shoes. First, I went through the shoes that were displayed on the racks. I chose the patterns I liked, then compared the price tags and bought a pair that suited my pocket. But if I make a purchase for my wife, I have to see what she likes. The same principle is applicable when we worship God. We cannot please him by doing what we think is right but we must do what He wants us to do.

There is an account of two young people bringing offerings to God in Genesis, Chapter 4, Verses 1-7. They are Cain and Abel. Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd. Cain might have worked hard, toiled in the sun, cleared thorns and thistles, grown fruit and corn and brought an offering unto God out of his produce. On the other hand, Abel might have sat in the cool shade of a tree or by the side of a brook and tended his sheep. He offered the firstlings of his flock to God. But God respected Abel and his offering and rejected Cain's offering. Is God a respecter of persons? But Peter says in Acts 10:34 that "God is no respecter of persons." Then there must be something wrong with Cain. God said to Cain, "If thou doest well, shall thou not be accepted?" (Genesis 4:7). So it is clear that Cain lacked something that God desired of him.

In Hebrews 11:4 we see that "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." So Abel had the faith which Cain lacked. In Romans 10:17 Paul says that "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." From this it is evident that Abel heard what God desired of him and "Offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice." Cain used his own wisdom and offered the fruit of his land. So God does not leave us the choice as to how we can worship him.

There are many people in the world today who know God, yet get lost because of this. That is why Jesus asks, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). So it is evident that it is not just enough to call Jesus Lord, but we have to do what he says. So we are not free to worship him as we please. We have to know what God wants us to do from His written word and do the same.

## Love Is The Answer

**Jess Willis**

A thousand years before Jesus became the Saviour, David said, "There is none that doeth good, no not one" (Psalms 14:3). Seven hundred years before Christ, Isaiah said, "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God" (Isa. 59:2). And Paul tells us that the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). Since all have sinned and the wages for sin is death,

how can we live with contentment in this life and expect to have an eternity of joy and bliss with God throughout eternity? The answer is, "Love." This love must be in four directions.

1. God loves man. He "Is not desiring that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son ..." (John 3:16).

2. Christ loves man. He loved man so much that he willingly lay down his life to die on the cross in order to offer man a pardon for their sins. He said, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself..." (John 10:18)

3. Man must love his fellow man. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us and his love is perfected in us" (1 John 4: 11-12).

4. Man must love that which is divine. Jesus said, "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:37). Jesus also said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words" (John 14:23).

God, Christ, and the Holy Ghost have already shown great love for man. Is man (self) showing love by obedience to God?

Can you give us your forwarding address if you should die tonight ?

## What About Having Workers Under Us?

India is famous for having so many preachers, many of whom serve as "in-charges" and "key men." These "in-charges" and "key men" may have several preachers working under them. That is, they are responsible for them, pay them and so on. Or perhaps I should say that the preachers under them are responsible to those that they serve under.

These "in-charges" and "key men" have powerful positions. They can hire and fire as they choose. They handle the money and can keep back part of it for themselves if they so desire. They can force their worker to do what they want them to do

because they hold their money over their heads and can threaten to cut them off if they do not follow orders. Those who work under them pay respect to them outwardly but inwardly they despise them.

These "in-charges" usually get their funds from some foreign source. They have been entrusted with the money to see that each worker is paid. As far as the work itself is concerned, they do very little. They only dictate what others are to do and then take credit for it. They have little respect for those who work under them.

I have heard these men talk and brag about having so many men working under them. I have had letters from them saying that they need more money for more workers. I have told these people, and I am saying the same here, that they are serving in the unscriptural capacity of a bishop.

We do not need to be serving under another preacher and we do not need to have preachers under us. In doing this we only exalt men or allow them to exalt us. Rather, we are to serve together under the leadership of the local church. When this is practiced many of our problems will be automatically removed.

## According To The News

In a report on April 27, 1974, about 10,000 children were married in the Marwar area of Rajasthan, April 25, on the occasion of the Akha Teej. Most of the bridegrooms and brides were less than five years old and were sleeping in the laps of their parents during the marriage ceremonies at night. The paper notes the fact that this was in violation of the Sharda Act.

Now what would five year old children know about marriage? Furthermore, how is it possible for fathers and mothers to make such decisions for their children at such ages? This is but a mockery of marriage and is certainly a great injustice to the children themselves. No wonder there is a law that forbids such, but since there are those who are disregarding it, what will the law do with the offenders? If the law fails

to take action, is there any need for a regulation that would forbid this practice?

The Bible teaches that from the beginning a man was to leave his father and his mother and to cleave unto his wife and that they were to be one flesh. (Genesis 2:24). Here are some other statements about husbands and wives that should be heeded: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it...So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." (Ephesians 5:22-25; 28-33).

Now those who respect the Lord's teachings on marriage will be blessed but those who disregard them will suffer the consequences. When child marriages are practiced, divorce and remarriage are common, immoralities are accepted, and customs and traditions of marriage are contrary to God's law. Those who involve themselves in such are hurt personally and the society in general is weakened. No wonder there are problems when this kind of thing is going on.

God made man and woman and he knows what is best for them. Wouldn't it therefore be better to abide by his teaching on laws that pertain to marriage?

## “Ye Are the Salt of the Earth”

### K. Matthew

Jesus was the master teacher. He taught by parables and examples. He taught and did everything according to God's will. Today we can see that many newspapers are full of the teachings of great men. They will teach others but they will not do what they teach. But when the teacher fails to do, somebody will ask him, “What is this?” He will reply, “This is only for my students.” In my view he is not a teacher; the teacher should do what he teaches. A father who is smoking very often can not advise his son, “Do not smoke.” The Sermon on the mount was very famous in ancient days as well as today. Many practical lessons are overflowing. Somebody said, “If all will follow the sermon on the mount, the jails would be closed.” They are very plain and practical lessons. In the fifth chapter of Matthew, verse 13, Christ said, “Ye are the salt of the earth.”

Salt is white and represents purity. “Ye are the salt of the earth” means you should be pure in life. If you are pure in life you cannot be of this world but you are separated for a special purpose. Today so-called Christians are away from purity, corrupted by the world, seeking the things of the world. Works of the world will corrupt a man, the unbridled tongue will corrupt a man, and bad friends can corrupt a man. So we should be aware of these things in all aspects of life. As a chosen person, a Christian should know his friends, his words. Try to be more pure in all possible ways.

The salt has its taste. We experience the taste is good, makes food more delicious. Without salt we cannot eat. Likewise there should be a taste in our Christian life, like salt is giving more taste to food, we should be more meaningful to the world. Christianity has failed in many ways because of a tasteless Christian life. There is murmuring and enmity among the brethren. We can not help the world unless we see our sad picture. Let us give place in our hearts to think over the above things. Am I a tasteless Christian? Find the answer personally.



If your answer is affirmative, find what is lacking in you, and for the cause of our master and saviour Jesus Christ.

The salt melts when it is joined with water. A Christian should have a melting heart when others are in need, in difficulties. If you say, come, warm and go peacefully, this is not the attitude of a Christian, a follower of Christ. Jesus himself shared others difficulties. A Christian should have a melting heart, sharing with others in joy and in trouble.

Do we have all these qualities? Are you fulfilling the word, "Ye are the salt of the earth?"

## The New Name

Mark H. Nunley

We find these two prophecies in the Old Test. : Isaiah 56:5 "Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off." And Isa. 62:2 "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name."

Back at the time in history when the Jews were God's chosen people, we find that God told them that His people some day would wear a new name. In these prophecies we learn that **God** would give the new name. We learn that it would be a better name than one that has ever been worn before. We are told **when** the new name would be given: after the Gentiles (any person not a Jew) had the Gospel of Christ made available to them. We learn **where** this new name would be given: in the house of God which is the church, I Tim. 3:15. And we learn how long this new name would last.

This new name would be a very worthy and good name for we find this question being asked in James 2:7, "Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by which ye are called?" So what is the new name that the prophet Isaiah wrote of? It is the name, Christian. The idea in wearing the name Christian

is that we are trying to be Christ-Like, to resemble Him; we are wearing the name of Jesus. And this is why we are admonished in 1 Pet. 2:21 that we should follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

In the Bible we find the new name, Christian, being used only three times. And in these cases we can draw some very important lessons to point out just exactly what it means to be a Christian. So let's look at the three cases where the name Christian is used.

The first is in Acts 11:26. "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they (Paul and Barnabas) assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." This occurred shortly after the first Gentile was converted just as Isaiah had prophesied. And we find Paul and Barnabas present in Antioch preaching the Gospel for a year in this city when the Lord God gave the new name, Christian, to His people. What is the lesson that we can draw from this account? The part that Paul plays tells us that there must be a change in our life if we are to be a Christian.

Paul had been a devout persecutor of the disciples of Christ. But when Paul was converted, we find him devoting his fullest efforts to teaching the Gospel of Christ. This same kind of turn about in our life must take place if we are to be a Christian. That which is evil and sinful must be put behind us, and we must diligently do the work that God expects of us.

The second mention of the name is in Acts 26:28. "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." On this occasion Paul was a prisoner standing before King Agrippa. But Paul spent more time preaching the Gospel to Agrippa than he spent in his own defense. And the things that Paul said almost persuaded Agrippa to be a Christian. What is the lesson, that we can draw? Paul was trying to get Agrippa to choose Jesus as the Master of His life and to surrender everything to Jesus. And so must we if we are to be saved eternally, we must exalt Jesus as the King,

Ruler, Master, Lord, etc., of our life and give ourselves and everything we have to Him and His service.

The third mention of the name is in 1 Pet. 4:16. "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name." Christians down through time have been called upon to suffer because they serve Jesus and stand up for the truth. But Peter tells us that we do not need to be ashamed of suffering for Christ, but that we should glorify God by proudly wearing the name Christian and living worthy of it. What is the lesson we can draw here? This passage tells us what being a Christian is all about. Our purpose for being a Christian is to glorify God. By the kind of life that we live every day of our lives, we can bring glory and honour to God by obeying His commandments.

So we ask you the question: **DO YOU WEAR THE NEW NAME? ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?** To be a Christian, you must; believe that Jesus is the only begotten son of God (Jn 3:16); repent of your sins (turn from them, Acts 17:30) confess your faith in Jesus as the son of God (Rom. 10:9-10); and be baptized (buried in water and raised to walk in newness of life) into Christ to wash your sins away (Acts 22:16 and Rom. 6:3-4).

If you are not a Christian, won't you put on the new name today? Won't you be baptized into Christ now? Contact the church of Christ that is nearest you.

## The Eunuch's Conversion

**Mark H. Nunley**

Read Acts 8:26-40. Here we find a record of a man becoming a Christian in the middle of a wilderness. The Lord told Phillip to meet a man riding in a chariot so that Phillip could teach the man in the chariot (an Ethiopian eunuch) the things that God wanted him to know. So Phillip went down to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza and found the eunuch reading from the book of Isaiah, the prophet of God. Phillip asked the man if he understood what he was reading, but the eunuch said, "How can I unless someone explains it to me."

So Phillip began at the same passage of scripture and preached Jesus to this man. Then as they went on their way, they came to a source of water. And the eunuch said, "What hinders me from being baptized?" And Phillip said, "You can be baptized if you believe with all of your heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." And the eunuch said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So both the eunuch and Phillip went down into the water, and Phillip baptized the eunuch. When they came up out of the water, the eunuch went on his way rejoicing.

There are several noteworthy observations that we can make about this account, so let's look at 7 of them :

(1) Jesus Christ and His Gospel was preached to this man.

God Almighty, the Creator of the universe, sent Philip the preacher to tell the eunuch what God wanted him to know and obey. Therefore, Phillip preached Jesus Christ from the Scriptures to this man. No other prophet, no other savior, no other person, was preached or presented as the one to whom we can turn for the salvation from our sins than to Jesus Christ. No other book, no other writing, was referred to for religious authority than to the Bible.

(2) The eunuch was converted by the preaching of the Gospel of Christ, not by the direct operation of either the Lord or the Holy Spirit.

In Act 8:26, 29 we find that God sent the preacher to tell this man what to do. God did not speak directly to the sinner to convert him in some mysterious manner. As Rom. 1:16 and Rom. 10:17 tell us: the preaching of the Gospel of Christ produces faith in the hearts of people and converts them. This is the way that the God of heaven works to convert sinners, instead of operating on them in some mysterious way.

(3) The eunuch confessed his faith in Jesus as God's Son before he was baptized.

See Acts 8:37 and Matt. 10:32-33. And in Matt. 16:13-19 we find that the whole system of life that Jesus taught is based upon the solid rock of truth that Jesus is the divine Son of God which all of His believers must confess:

(4) The eunuch washed his sins away by being baptized.

See Acts 8:38 and I Pet. 3:21 and Gal. 3:26-27 and Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16.

(5) The eunuch was baptized immediately upon hearing the Gospel preached.

As soon as he had heard enough of the Gospel preached to believe in Jesus as God's Son, he was ready to obey the Lord's commandment to be baptized. In all of the New Testament examples of conversion, we find that: no one ever ate a bite drank a drop, or slept a wink until after they were baptized. When they heard the Gospel, they wanted to obey it right away.

(6) The eunuch's baptism was a burial in water in the name of the Father (God), the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit.

How do we know that he was baptized in this way? Because that is the way that the Lord Jesus requires that a man be baptized, and that is what Christ's true evangelists teach and practice. See Rom. 6:3-5 and Col. 2:12 and Matt. 28:18-20. In fact, the word baptism means "immersion" and "to dip". So we know that the eunuch was buried in water, for this is the ONLY way that the Lord authorizes.

(7) The eunuch went on his way rejoicing.

Why did the eunuch go on his way rejoicing? Because he had been baptized into Christ, Gal. 3:26-27. Because he had been added to the church, Acts 2:47. Because he now possessed the truth, John 8:31-32. Because he now had the hope of eternal salvation, John 14:1-3. And because his sins had been washed away by the blood of Christ, Acts 22:16.

These 7 observations are very important for our understanding. Now we ask you the question: Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? If so, you need to repent of your sins Acts 17:30. You need to confess your faith in Jesus, Rom. 10:10. And you need to be baptized into Christ to wash your sins away, Gal. 3:26-27 and Acts 22:16.

The offer of pardon from the Lord will do you no good unless you accept it from Him by being obedient to His commandments.

# जीवन और मृत्यु

लेखक—एफ० डेविड

जीवन और मृत्यु दो ऐसे शब्द हैं जो अपने में खुशी तथा शोक रखते हैं। किसी को जीवन मिलने का अर्थ है खुशी तथा मृत्यु मिलने का अर्थ हुआ शोक। किसी को यदि जीवन दान मिले तो बड़ी खुशी होती है, यदि किसी की मृत्यु हो जाए तो बड़ा ही दुख होता है। अधिकांश लोग मृत्यु शब्द से बहुत ही घृणा करते हैं। हम इस संसार में जीवित हैं, क्योंकि हमारे पास जीवन है। अर्थात् शारीरिक रूप में हम जीवित हैं। परन्तु यह भी सत्य है कि एक न एक दिन इस शारीरिक जीवन ने भी समाप्त हो जाना है। परन्तु क्या कभी आपने सोचा है कि इस संसार में अधिकतर लोग जीवित होते हुए भी मरे हुए हैं। शायद आप सोचें कि जीवित होते हुए भी मरे होने का क्या अभिप्राय है। पवित्र बाइबल के अनुसार जीवित होते हुए भी मरे होने का अभिप्राय है अपने पापों में मरे होना है। पाप क्या है? पवित्र बाइबल कहती कि परमेश्वर की आज्ञा का उल्लंघन करना ही पाप है। तथा पाप करने का परिणाम है, नरक की मृत्यु। परन्तु क्या कोई ऐसा साधन है जिसके द्वारा इस नरक की मृत्यु से बचा जा सके। हां, एक ऐसा साधन है जिसके द्वारा नरक की मृत्यु से बचा जा सकता है। यह साधन है प्रभु यीशु मसीह। यीशु ने कहा, “पुनरुत्थान और जीवन मैं ही हूँ जो कोई मुझ पर विश्वास करता है वह यदि मर भी जाए तौभी जिएगा। (यूहन्ना ११:२५)। फिर यूहन्ना १४:६ में यीशु मसीह कहता है “मार्ग और सच्चाई और जीवन मैं ही हूँ; बिना मेरे द्वारा कोई पिता के पास नहीं पहुंच सकता। इसका अभिप्राय यह हुआ कि जो प्रभु यीशु पर विश्वास करता है; चाहे वह शारीरिक रूप से मर भी जाए, परन्तु आत्मिक रूप में वह जीवित रहेगा। प्रभु यीशु ही अनन्त जीवन का दाता है। वह ही हमें नरक की मृत्यु से बचा सकता है। यदि कोई अनन्त जीवन चाहता है तो उसे प्रभु यीशु को स्वीकार करना होगा। प्रेरित पौलूस अपनी एक पत्नी में लिखते हुये कहता है कि यीशु मसीह ही हमारा जीवन है (कुलुस्सियो ३:४)।

मृत्यु क्या है? बाइबल के अनुसार, पाप की मजदूरी मृत्यु है (रोमियो ६:२३)। तथा जो आत्मा पाप करेगी वह मर जाएगी (यहेजकेल १८:४)। क्योंकि परमेश्वर कहता है कि सभों के प्राण तो मेरे हैं... (यहेजकेल १८:४)। बाइबल के इस पद से हमें ज्ञात होता है कि जीवन और मृत्यु दोनों प्रभु के हैं। अर्थात् वह जीवन भी दे सकता है तथा मृत्यु भी।

संसार में अधिकतर लोग हैं जो यीशु मसीह को स्वीकार किये बिना मर जाते हैं। अतः वह अनन्त जीवन के अधिकारी हुये बिना मर जाते हैं तथा इसका परिणाम यह होगा कि वे नरक की मृत्यु के योग्य होंगे। यूहन्ना लिखता है, “जो प्रभु में मरते हैं, वे अब से धन्य हैं, (प्रकाशितवाक्य १४:१३)। प्रभु यीशु में मरना क्या ही धन्य है परन्तु प्रभु यीशु के बिना मरना कितना बड़ा स्राप है अर्थात् नरक की मृत्यु।

मित्र ! आज मैं आप से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप जीवन चाहते हैं या मृत्यु? वास्तव में आप जीवन चाहेंगे। यदि आप जीवन चाहते हैं तो प्रभु यीशु पर विश्वास करिये तथा उसकी आज्ञाओं को मानिये। प्रभु यीशु ने कहा कि यदि कोई व्यक्ति मेरे वचन पर चलेगा, तो वह अनन्तकाल तक मृत्यु को न देखेगा, (यूहन्ना ८:५१)। प्रभु यीशु ने मृत्यु को नाश कर दिया तथा जीवन और अमरता-को सुसमाचार के द्वारा प्रकाशमान कर दिया (२ तिमथियस १:१०)। यदि आप प्रभु यीशु पर विश्वास करें तथा उसकी



# church directory

Church of Christ  
508/32 Balda Road  
Lucknow (U.P.)

Church of Christ  
Box 6543  
Cumbala Hill  
Bombay-26

Church of Christ  
Pathanapuram P. O.  
Quilon (DT.)  
Kerala State

Church of Christ  
Churachandpur  
Manipur

Church of Christ  
GNT Road  
Pozhal, Madras-600066

Church of Christ  
953 Kalasiguda, Bolarum  
Secunderabad 500010, A.P.  
Hyderabad

Church of Christ  
H. No. 1-9-312/5/2  
Vidyanagar  
Hyderabad 500044, A.P.

Church of Christ  
88 Gadwal House  
Nampally  
Hyderabad 500001, A.P.

Church of Christ  
Amararati Road  
Arundelpet (P.O.)  
Guntur 2, A.P.

Church of Christ  
37 M.S.O. Colony  
Bansawadi Road  
Bangalore-33

Church of Christ  
1/1, Bishop's Lane,  
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Nongrim Hills  
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Kurnool-2 (A.P.)

Church of Christ  
Pool Bagh Road  
Vizianagaram-2.

Church of Christ  
Vattapadam  
Palankara -P. O.  
Nilambur  
Kerala State

Church of Christ  
G. Kondur (P.O.)  
Via Kondapalli  
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