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# THE BIBLE TEACHER

Editor,

**J. C. CHOATE**

Associate Editor,

**SUNNY DAVID**

Staff Writers :

**Vipul Rai, K. Matthew, F. David, Nehemiah Gootam,  
Jaikumar Gootam, P.R. Swamy.**

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## EDITORIAL

### The Nominal Christian

“Christianity” has been in India since the days of the Apostle Thomas, provided he came to this country as history says that he did. If he did come, and there is no proof to the contrary, that would certainly do away with the idea that Christianity is a western religion that has been recently imported. At any rate, Christianity in one form or another has been here for a long time. It now has a following of some twelve million or so. This is not very many in comparison to a population of almost six hundred million people. Neither is that very many when you consider the fact that Christianity teaches the importance of teaching others for the purpose of converting them to Christ. Had this been done through the years, then India today should rightly be a Christian nation, having had no need for missionaries all along. Indeed, it should have been sending missionaries out to all parts of the world.

Since there are so few people here who profess their faith in Christ, then there must be something wrong. What has really held Christianity back? Has it been because of other religions?

Has it been because of the lack of religious freedom? Perhaps it was something else. It is interesting to note the excuses that might be made, but actually the real reason for it seems to be that the majority of those who have been believers in Christ, right on up to this very day, have been nominal in their Christianity. That is, they have been Christians in belief only. They have professed their faith in Christ, but that is about all. Many have no doubt been like their religious neighbours and have been born physically into the "Christian community" and as a result they are "Christians." But they do not attend the worship meetings regularly. They seldom read and study their Bible even if they can read at all. They do not pray. As a matter of fact, there is little difference in them and most other people. If they show any outward sign of their faith it may be at Christmas and Easter.

Christianity therefore has ended up in being a mockery in this country. It just exists. It takes no real stand. It accepts and incorporates many of the same evils and practices that are going on all around it. There is little effort to expand its efforts, and practically no attempts are made to evangelise except by a few who come in from the outside. The church is satisfied to rely primarily on support given by others. For all practical purposes, such Christianity here is dead.

Because many members of the church have either come out of denominationalism, or have been influenced through the years by nominal "Christians", then they too are generally nominal. They are Christians and members of the church of Christ but that is about all. Very few find it important enough to attend the assemblies of the church. They can always come up with some good excuse for not attending, such as being very busy, company came, they were visiting somewhere, etc., and so on.

Nominal Christianity is condemned in the Bible. It is a state of indifference and lukewarmness. (Revelation 3:15,16). It is the state in which an individual is a Christian because it is convenient to be such. He is worthless to Christ and his church. In the end, he does more damage than good. Peter

said it would have been better for him never to have known the truth, (2 Peter 2:21). He also said concerning one who had not added the Christian graces: "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." (2 Peter 1:9).

To be a New Testament Christian, a genuine Christian, one who is alive and doing the will of God, one must be active and involved in the worship and work of the Lord. One must be giving, doing, serving, and sacrificing for Christ. He must be living for Christ and teaching and preaching the Lord's will by word of mouth and example. He cannot sit still, remain idle, and be lazy, but instead he must be dedicated and committed to the Lord and his cause and he must be industrious always in the Lord's vineyard.

The Bible definitely teaches that the Christian is what he is because of what he has accepted and how he lives. Being a sinner, he heard the gospel, believed it, repented of his sins, confessed Christ as the Son of God, and then was baptized to have his sins remitted or washed away. This acceptance of Christ, and this obedience to his teaching, changed him, saved him, and made him a member of the Lord's church. He is now a new man, a child of God, a Christian, and one who has hope. Through this process he has now taken upon himself the duties and responsibilities that go along with the religion of Christ. From this beginning point one carries with him these duties and responsibilities for the rest of his life.

As a Christian, one is to pray, study, and worship the Lord each first day of the week. He is to live a pure life, help the poor, and have love for all. He is to be honest, seeking always to do good, and ever showing the spirit of Christ in his life. He is to ever be growing and developing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. There is never a dull moment for him. He may have problems but he can overcome them through Christ. There may be times of unhappiness but never for long because the Christian is so blessed and has so much to live for and to look forward to.

**How can one ever think he can please the Lord as a nomi-**

nal Christian? What is wrong with people? Do they think the Lord is a fool? Do they think that he will put up with just any and every thing, that he will accept just any kind of treatment? Don't they realize that their service to God is the most important thing in all of this world? My brethren, wake up. Come to grips with this matter and make up your mind that you are going to return to the Lord and that from now on you are going to obey your Lord and that you are going to live and die as an active Christian. If you don't, don't expect anything out of the Lord, now or latter.



**associate  
editorial**

## There Is Power In Jesus' Things !

"And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and has spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse. When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up: and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth." (Mark 5:25-33).

The above cited event took place on the way when Jesus was going to raise the daughter of Jairus, a ruler of the syna-

gogue, who was dead. As he was passing, the hopelessly sick woman of our text, who had, no doubt, heard about the fame and power of Jesus and concerning the wonderful things which he did, wanted to come near to Jesus. However, seeing the multitude, she realized that it would not be possible, but she said, "If I may touch but his clothes. I shall be whole." Certainly, there was no power residing in the garment itself, it had no power when it was in the bazar, unsold. But the important thing that the women of the text realized was that it was the garment of Jesus. Another thing, that deserves our attention, and is of much importance, is that she realized that she needed to exhibit or to show her faith by touching the garment of Jesus. The act itself might seem foolish, but as Apostle Paul says, "Foolishness of God is wiser than man, and the weakness of God is stronger than man." (1 Corinthians 1:25). Therefore, if faith should save one it must be with works. (James 2:24). Or, as again Paul says "faith which worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6). Thus, faith must be exhibited by doing, even though the thing which is done may seem foolish to man.

For instance, when the children of Israel were dying in the wilderness because of their disobedience to God, and when they wanted to be saved, God told Moses to lift up a brazen serpent and by looking on it people would be saved. (Numbers 21). There was no wisdom in it, but yet it took place exactly as God had said. Again, when the Israelites wanted to take the city of Jericho, they had to march around it seven days. (Joshua 6). Was there any power in their marching around it? And again, Namaan, who had leprosy, was told to dip himself seven times in the river Jordan. Why? was there any power residing in the waters of Jordan? And yet again, the blind man in John chapter 9, had to have his eyes anointed with spittle and clay and then had to wash in the water. What power was there in the spittle, or clay, or water? Evidently, all would say, "No, there was no power in these things but the power was in God's commands". But yet God used the material things as means of testing people's faith.

However, the power is not manifested but by the things which belong to the Lord. Once again, I remind you, the woman of our text may have touched any other garment, even the garment of Herod or some other important man, but it would not be the garment of Jesus. The inference is, to be healed, it was necessary for her to contact the garment of the Lord. There are many other things which belong to the Lord, and therefore we must respect them, and must put them above all other things. Some of them are :

1. The Gospel of Christ. The Apostle Paul says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Gentile)." (Romans 1:16). There are many kinds of gospels being preached today. But, as the woman of our text, we must be determined to contact the gospel of Jesus Christ only, as revealed in the New Testament. (Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

2. The Baptism of Christ. Jesus taught that after one believes in him, he should be baptized to be saved, (Mark 16:16). The baptism of Jesus is not for children or infants, but for those who are old enough to distinguish between right and wrong and who can believe in Jesus Christ. More over, it is not sprinkling or pouring of water. The baptism of Jesus is burial or immersion in water and coming out of it. (Acts 8:35-39). Also, the baptism of Christ is not intended for just a mere sign or confession, but it is taken for the remission of sins (Act 2:38). Although, there is no power in the waters of baptism to take away one's sin, just as there was no healing power in the garment itself. Actually, there is no more power in the baptism of Jesus than it was in the garment of Jesus. But just as sure as the woman of the text had to touch the garment of Jesus to be healed, it is that Sure we must be baptized, with the baptism that Jesus Commanded, to be saved of our sins. It is a matter of exhibiting one's faith in Jesus, and not of argument and vain discussions.

3. The Name of Christ. The Bible says, there is no other name approved by God whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)



Because of this fact, Peter exhorted to a great multitude of believers to be baptized in the name of Christ. (Act 2:38). Philippians 2:9 says, it is a name which is above every name. During the time of Apostles, all followers of Christ were known only by this distinctive name "CHRIST-I-AN". (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16).

4. The church of Christ. Christ established HIS church; only one. (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2). He loved it and gave himself for it. (Ephesians 5:25). He shed his blood for it. (Act 20:28). It is called by his name only. (Romans 16:16). Now, if one church is as good as another, then one garment should be as good as another. And all would agree, had the woman of our text argued that one garment was as good as another, & it does not matter as to whose garment was touched, she would be healed, she would have remained in her sickness all her life. But she did not argue that way, she was confident that if she was to be healed then it would only be by contacting the garment of Christ, and not by touching any other's clothes. Are you a member of the church of Christ, of which you can read in your Bible? if not, then you are touching the invalid garment of some one. You need to be corrected. Again remember, there is power in Jesus, things.



## Continuing Christian Education

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and study the material carefully, along with Bible, and then take a separate piece of paper and write the answers to the questions and mail them to The Bible Teacher for grading. Your graded lessons will be returned to you so you may know how you are progressing in your studies. If you really want to study the Bible so that you may know God's will for you then here is your opportunity.

## Repentance

One of the greatest needs of our time is for people everywhere to repent. This is a word that means to turn, to change, to go in another direction. It means a change of heart, and a change of life in the sense in which we are using it. Jesus gave a parable that helps us to see what repentance is. He said, "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons: and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to-day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not; but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir; and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you. That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not; but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him." (Matthew 21:28-32).

Some define repentance to mean that one is sorry for what he has done, but this is not enough. For example, one may be sorry for a crime that he committed, because he got caught, but he would have no such sorrow had he gotten away unpunished for what he did. Godly sorrow that is from the heart is what produces genuine repentance. Paul writes, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Going further, we are talking about repenting of one's sins, or turning away from them. This means that one must quit doing

that which is bad and wrong. For one to say that he has repented of something that is bad or wrong but to continue to do it simply means that he has not repented. In speaking to those who had repented, Paul wrote the Ephesian Christians: "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness, Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the things which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:24-32), Now this is what repentance is all about.

There were those who brought up cases in which people had died violent deaths and it was assumed that this was God's punishment upon them for their sin. Christ explained to them that they had not perished as a direct result of their sins, but he said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3). The same would be true to this day. There are all kinds of accidents, natural disorders, etc., that bring destruction and death to hundreds and thousands. Although those who suffered and lost their lives in such cases were sinners, it does not follow that God was directly punishing them for were doing this, then what would he do to the rest of us? their Sir If he Nevertheless, whether we live or die, and under whatever circumstances, if we fail to repent or turn away from our sins, then this will eventually bring about our eternal destruction.

Just here we need to realize that when Jesus asks us to

repent he is asking us to give up and to quit any and every bad thing that may be in our lives. At the same time remember the Lord has never asked us to repent and turn away from any good thing, but only that which is bad and destructive.

The command to repent is directed toward the individual who is guilty of sin and wrong doing. This does not include infants or little children. They may be guilty at times of bad things but it is not with full comprehension of what they are doing. The law of the land does not hold children guilty of crimes and therefore does not punish them for such. They may be put in a correction home so they can get proper care and training, but they are not directly punished. Spiritually, also, the command to repent is directed towards those who are old enough to know right from wrong and those who are old enough to hear the gospel, to believe it, to repent of their sins. This includes all responsible beings. Paul said to the people on Mars Hill, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent. (Acts 17:30).

After Peter and the apostles had preached the first gospel sermon on the day of Pentecost, with faith being produced in the hearts of many of those present, the people finally cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, 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 2:37,38). Some of these people had taken part in the Lord's crucifixion. Therefore it was necessary for them to have a change of heart about Christ. It was now necessary for them not only to believe in him, but to commit themselves to him. They were now to follow Christ, serve him, and teach others that he was indeed the Son of God and the saviour of the world. They could not obey God without doing this.

When saul repented he quit persecuting the church, and upon obeying the Lord he began to preach Christ as resurrected Lord. (Acts 9). When the jailor repented he washed the stripes of Paul and Silas, men that he had formerly held in pri-

son after they had been beaten. (Acts 16,19-40). Christ said of such people, "I say unto you, the likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." (Luke 15:7). Again he said, "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10).

Not only does the sinner need to repent, but there are times when Christians likewise need to do the same. Since it is possible for a Christian to make mistakes and even to fail from his relationship with Christ, then in such cases he also needs to repent, and must repent if he is to be saved eternally. A good example of this is the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. The record says, "And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat; and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive

again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry." (Luke 15:11-24).

In Acts 8 we have the story of Simon the sorcerer. Philip had preached the gospel to the Samaritans and many of them believed and were baptized. The record says. "Then Simon himself believed and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done." (Acts 8:13). After Peter and John had come down from Jerusalem to lay their hands on some of the local Christians, the record says, "And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him. Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter. for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me." (Acts 8:18-24).

Even as faithful Christians we are subject to mistake and errors. We may neglect things that we need to do and do things that we should not do. Therefore, we must repent of any and every bad thing in our lives and continually try to better our lives. The Bible says that we are not to allow sin to reign in our bodies. (Romans 6:12). Again we are exhorted to present our bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord. (Romans 12:1,2).

Have you repented of your sins? Have you removed from your thinking, from your speech, from your actions that which is hurting you and destroying you? Are you daily striving to live a pure and godly life? Jesus wants you to. If you have not repented then you need to do so right now. If you will repent and be baptized you can have the remission of your

sins, (Acts 2:38), Remember, you can't obey God and keep your sins, and in the end sin that is not repented of will cause you to be eternally lost.

### QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

1. What is one of the greatest needs of our time?
2. Define repentance.
3. Mention some of the false conceptions of repentance.
4. What must replace sin when one repents?
5. Why did the Lord say that one must repent or perish?
6. Are we ever required to give up any good thing in order to repent?
7. To whom is repentance directed?
8. What does repentance have to do with one's salvation?
9. Give some examples of repentance.
10. Does the Christian ever need to repent?
11. Tell the story of the prodigal son.
12. Why was it necessary for Simon the sorcerer to repent even after he believed and was baptized?
13. Are Christians subject to mistakes and errors?
14. Can one obey God without repentance?
15. Is it possible to obey God without repentance?



Who will go to Himachal Pradesh? At first thought, the idea of encouraging someone to go to this State is almost like encouraging one to go on a holiday. But even though it is a mountainous State, a tourist paradise, still it is a land of rugged people and hard work.

Simla, one of India's major hill stations, is the capital and approximately three and a half million people living there. Some of its districts include Bilaspur, Chamba, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kulu, Lahul and Spiti, Mandi, and Simla.

Like most of the other States, this one also is predominantly Hindu, but most of the people are meat eaters. Ninety three per cent of the people depend on agriculture for their living. Many dialects are spoken, over thirty per cent of the people are literate, and 90 per cent of the population own land. The winters are long and hard.

Education has done more than anything else to help the people advance. Also, the increase in motorable roads has helped to open up the State and it is believed that eventually Himachal Pradesh will be another Kashmir for tourism.

Their two greatest problems are power and irrigation. Out of 13,000 villages, only 4000 have been electrified. They also have a shortage of specially trained people such as teachers, doctors and engineers.

Who will go to this State to preach the gospel of Christ? Bible correspondence courses have been going in, as well as this magazine and other literature, but these are not enough. Someone needs to go there to live with the people, work with them, preach to them, and thus plant the cause of Christ. Although we cannot send you and we know of no one who can, perhaps you can and will go anyway. If you can, we pray you will.

## The Difficulty In Converting Those With Religious Employment

Sometimes brethren will go out to preach and teach God's word and in doing so they may come in contact with those in religious employment. These individuals are usually nurses, doctors, and various staff members of a "Christian" hospital. Others are preachers, teachers, and directors, etc., of various denominational churches, schools, and projects. At the beginning, these individuals are very friendly and express a great deal of interest in what is being taught. But when they discover that these visiting brethren are not denominational and that



they are preaching truth from the Bible that will challenge their own religious beliefs and will challenge them to leave their present churches and likewise their jobs, then they begin to withdraw, are less friendly, and in the end completely reject that which they have been taught. This greatly disturbs the visiting brethren and they wonder what is wrong. They ask themselves if perhaps they have the wrong attitude, or if they should change their approach.

None of this, however, puzzles me. The problem is as plain as day. It is the fact that all of these people have jobs with religious bodies and organizations. Therefore someone comes in teaching things in general that they can accept and at the same time remain where they are then that is fine. But when something is taught that would require them to leave their jobs then even if it is the truth, they must reject it and they must also reject the ones teaching it, that they may keep their jobs, or as students to keep their scholarships. Such people are not always honest and sincere since they will put their salaries before everything else.

I have been working in this part of the world for many years and I have found that there are only two types of people that will leave their religious jobs. First, there are those who will leave if you have a similar job to offer them. This would not indicate though that they have been converted to the truth but only that they have decided to change jobs and surely this should never be the basis for a change. Second, if there are those who are really convinced of the truth that they have heard, and they are honest and sincere with themselves and with God, then they will change. This is the way it should be, but I am sorry to say that very few will do this. To most people a job is more important than God, truth, soul, or anything else.

Considering the foregoing statements, it is not surprising that brethren dealing with people with religious jobs get such poor results. As a matter of fact, it is almost a waste of time to bother with them. It would be better to work with those who have not sold their souls.

If you are reading this, and you are working for a religious group, let me ask you; Are you working for this organization because you really believe it represents the truth or because it is a living for you? If you really believe in what you are doing, then if you are taught the truth, you will accept the truth because it is truth. If you are working at this job because it brings you a salary each month then no amount of truth could ever change you.

My friend, if you are only a hireling then I have no time for you and I certainly don't have a job for you. I would say that in such a case you are getting everything out of your religion that you will ever get, and that is a salary. How sad it is to know that you are lost and that even if you are ever taught the truth you will be content to remain lost in order to guarantee the continuation of your salary. If you could ever learn what is important in life then you would put the truth of God before everything else in this world even if you had to starve to do it. I am praying for the day that there will be some of this kind of people to be found in India and when that day comes it will be a great day indeed. There, no doubt, are some already and I would very much like to have the honor to meet them. We need many more.

## Christ's sentence Upon the Lost

Mark H. Nunley

In Matt. 25:41 we find this sentence from the lips of Jesus that shall be delivered to the lost on the day of judgement, "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." In many places the Bible speaks of the second coming of Jesus Christ and about the day of judgement that shall take place at that time. We have many warnings to cause us to prepare ourselves for that time so that we will not be among the lost. And so we must be interested in this vital question: what must I do to be among the saved?

For the sake of clarity, we can summarize the Lord's plan

of salvation into 6 steps : **FIRST**—We must hear the Gospel of Christ for the Word of God is the seed of the Kingdom that will produce faith within us in the Lord, His Word, and His ways (Rom. 10:17 and Luke 8:11). **SECONDLY**--we must believe with all of our heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that faith must be based upon the teachings of the Bible (John 3:16 and John 1:12). **THIRDLY**--we must repent of every sin that we have committed (turn away from sin; Lk. 13:3 and Acts 17:30.31). **FOURTHLY**--we must be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit for the purpose of: getting into Christ, being added to the church, and having our sins washed away by Christ's blood (Matt. 28:18-20 and Gal.3:26-27, & Acts 2:4, 47 and Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16). Upon completing these 5 steps we know that we are Christians and that our past sins have been washed away by Christ's blood because that is the promise that God has given to us. Then **SIXTHLY**--As a Christian we must walk in the ways and patterns and commandments of God as they come to us through the New Testament if we want to continue to enjoy the promise of heaven because the Bible teaches that a Christian can be lost (Lk. 9:62 and Heb. 2:1 and Rev. 3:14-18 and II pet. 2:20-22 and Rom. 11:21-22 and Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23 and II Tim. 4:10). So if we refuse to obey God to become a Christian, or, if we fall away from the Lord and do not serve Him faithfully, here is Christ's sentence :

**DEPART FROM ME.** This tells us that those that are lost will be banished from the presence of God and that they will be eternally separated from Christ. In Isaiah 59:2 we read, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." What a terrible thought: To be separated from and forsaken by God:

**YE CURSED.** The reason that the lost are cursed is that the guilt of their sin is upon them. And the weight and guilt of our sin is a terribly heavy burden. Think of what it would be like to find ourselves cast into hell knowing that our sins,

our own free will, has sent us there. We'll not be able to walk the streets of gold and to enjoy the beauty and peace and rest that heaven holds for God's faithful.

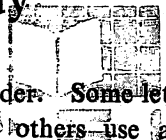
**INTO EVERLASTING FIRE.** Think of what it means to live in a lake of fire and brimstone for ever and ever with no end of escape to the pain and suffering. Some people would like to rationalize that God would not really prepare such a place of punishment. But shall we believe men or shall we believe what God says. In II Thes. 1:7-9 we find these words concerning this matter, "And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power."

**PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS.** The Lord did not prepare hell for men and women. It was prepared for the devil and his angels. And it is not the Lord's desires that anyone should go to this place of torment. That is why the Lord God made the way of salvation possible through Jesus Christ. But when we reject the means of salvation, we send ourselves into hell. Jesus said in John 12:48, "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." when we reject Christ and His Gospel: we reject our only means of salvation, and we therefore condemn ourselves.

"I hope and pray that you will not be among the lost on the day of judgement. But if you are to be among the saved, you must faithfully obey the Lord in His WAY not in man's way. We urge you then to worship God with the CHURCH OF CHRIST where the Bible is taught, respected and accepted as the only religious authority, so that you might learn more of God's ways and worship and serve Him acceptably.

# Entering The Body

Jess Willis



The title may suggest many things to the reader. Some let drugs enter their body by "popping pills" and others use a needle and some suck on a "joint." You may consider that the age for the highest accident rate is 21 to 23 and while thinking of all bodies that are taken to the morgue because of accidents you could remember that 75% of all accidents are caused by drinking drivers. One does not have to think too deeply to realize that too many that are 21 to 23 years of age are letting too much alcohol enter their bodies before they drive.

Now, lets change our thinking from individual human body to that sublime body of Christ that consists of every Christian. Christ does have a body today and it is made up by every saved person. He died on the cross and "purchased it with his own blood" (Acts, 20:28). "Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). Since Christ loved the church which is his body so much that he gave himself for it buying it with his own blood how can we say, 'Christ yes, the church no.' We plead for all who love Jesus to obey Him and enter His body the church. Paul said it like this, "He (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church" (Col. 1:18) and "Christ is the head of the church and he is the saviour of the body" (Eph. 5:23). Therefore, His body and His church are one and the same thing. Also, if you want Christ to be your head and saviour then you must enter and be a part of His body, the church.

How does one enter the blood-bought body of Christ? After one has heard the message of God (Lk.8:18), believed that Jesus is the Christ (John 3:18), repented of his sins (Lk. 13:5), and confessed Jesus before men (Rom. 10:9-10) he is ready to born anew into the body of Christ by baptism for the forgiveness of his sins (Jn. 3:5; Gal 3:26-27; Acts 2:38).



## “Win A Prize! Bible Quiz, No. 17

Send in all correct answers with references, whenever asked for, and win a book that will be of immense value to you.

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1. Your answers must reach us within 15 days of your receiving the magazine.
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5. Use King James Version (Authorized) Bible.
6. Follow the above instructions carefully and send your answers to the Quizmaster, P. O. Box 3815, New Delhi-110049.

### QUIZ No. 17:

1. Who said: “Cast thy bread on the waters”?
2. Who was the first man recorded as falling asleep in church? Give the reference.
3. What does Acts 2:38 mean?
4. How does Acts 2:38 harmonise with Mark 16:16? Use more references if you need to. Blend these verses together and show what one must do to be saved.
5. Do you now know the purpose of baptism?

### ANSWERS TO QUIZ No. 16:

1. Daniel 3:8-30. 2. No. 3. John, John 19:26. 4. Malachi 3:10. 5. Governor Matthew 27:2.



**QUESTION:** A reader in New Delhi writes: "Dear Rev. Choate, I wish to thank you for The Bible Teacher which you post me regularly. I must admit that I have been spiritually warmed by the contents of this noble tract although a few of your declarations were not in consonance with my views. But when I went through the Bible Teacher (Vol. 5, No. 1), I was surprised to find an evasive statement concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. On page 6 of the book, in the second paragraph, it is written:

**'...But above all, he is the Son of God. Jesus is the Son of God, in the sense he was conceived by a virgin named Mary by the power of God and Holy Spirit, and not by the will of man.'**

Well, I must say that the above statement is not correct. Jesus is not the Son of God because of his immaculate birth of Mary but because he came of God the Almighty, as He is God of God, begotten and not created. He is Son of God co-eternal with God, the Father; He is the 'beloved' Son of the Father, one of whose attributes is LOVE and without the beloved, love cannot be complete. The word of God is full of reference about our Lord Christ even from the beginning. I would request that such subjects be dealt with seriously as we are living in an age which is overwhelmed with the guiles of the Devil and non-believers are apt to misrepresent our faith to the detriment of the propagation of the true gospel. I am sorry for having pointed out the incident; kindly excuse me."

**ANSWER:** Although this letter has to do with an article written by the Associate Editor, Bro. Sunny David, since it is directed to me I will answer it.

We appreciate having this letter from our friend even though

he did not agree with the article that he wrote about. We don't expect everyone to agree with all that we say and we welcome questions and comments. This helps us to help you, the reader.

First of all, I would like to remind this gentleman that I do not wear the title of reverend. As Peter said, when Cornelius bowed before him, "Stand up; I myself also am a man." (Acts 10:26). The word reverend is used only once in the scriptures, and is descriptive of God, not of man. (Psalm 111:9).

I have gone back and re-read Bro. David's statement several times and I am unable to find in it, or in the context, any indication whatsoever that some unscriptural idea is being expressed. To the contrary, he shows emphatically that Jesus surely is the Christ the Son of God and that even though he was born into this world that it was through a miraculous birth, which is only an additional proof of his divinity. Furthermore, I don't see how the Devil, non-believers, or anyone else who opposes God and his Son could find any comfort in what has been said. I fail to see how the statement could be misleading. Therefore, I want to re-affirm it instead of correcting it.

The reader might have concluded that the author was saying that Jesus did not exist before his birth, but that is not the case. Jesus has existed from the beginning. He was with God when all things were created. (Genesis 1:1,26,27). As a matter of fact, the scriptures say that by him all things were created and without him nothing was created. (Colossians 1:16; John 1:1-3). On the other hand, the writer was saying that Jesus was called the son of man because he was born of the flesh but he was called the Son of God because God was his Father.

If our friend would like to further clarify his position we would be happy to hear from him. We do not want to misrepresent him or anyone else but rather we believe the truth and want to teach the truth only.

## The Lord Of Heaven And Earth

### K. Matthew

The word Jehovah is very holy and pronounced reverently by the Israelites. Many people today claim that all the work is come out of nothing. But the Bible, the word of God, says that Jehovah God created every thing. Even science itself proves the Bible is not just a story but is based on facts. Who is God and how did he come into existence? These are some normal questions for many people. First of all, we should know what sort of things come out of nothing. All things are made by some kind of design. Suppose you need a house. What will you do? You will design it in your mind, collect all materials needed, and build it. Finally, the house in your mind comes



out. You cannot have a house without a designer. This is very plain, even to a child. It is easy to understand that there is a designer behind all things: nature, sun, moon, man, animal, and all other things. All things are created by the God of heaven and working according to his pattern.

God controls all things. He is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), and omnipresent (present everywhere). You cannot hide anything from him. All things are naked before him. Usually when we are not doing the right thing we don't want anybody to know about it. But the Lord of heaven sees and knows all things. He is powerful. If we read the history of the Israelites we know how God guided them for such a long time. We know too how he destroyed their enemies. Man is nothing before the presence of God.

God shows no partiality. He is not a respecter of persons. Today human nature is mingled with corruption. We are reading every day in the news how there is no justice because man himself cannot find it. So he is doing injustice to his fellowmen; and so on. But think about God's love, He even gave His only begotten Son to die for the unrighteous like you and me.

We need to think more seriously about these things. This powerful God has appointed a day and on that day this just God will judge each one according to his deeds. So what should we do now? Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and life." It is very clear that there is no other way but Christ. He is now near to you. Listen to his words which are written in the Book, the Bible, and obey his blessed commandments. Then we can stand before the righteous judge our Lord.

## खून की कीमत

लेखक—एफ० डेविड

क्या खून कोई विशेष वस्तु है? जी हाँ, खून एक विशेष वस्तु है। बिना खून के जीवन नहीं है। परमेश्वर ने पुराने नियम में लोगों को बताया कि खून में शरीर का प्राण रहता है। (लैव्यव्यवस्था १७ : ११)। इस बात से कोई भी इन्कार नहीं करेगा कि खून में जीवन है। यह कतई सत्य है कि खून के बिना जीवन नहीं है। पुराने नियम में लोग अपने पापों की क्षमा के लिए परमेश्वर के सम्मुख पशुओं की बलियाँ किया करते थे अर्थात् परमेश्वर की दृष्टि में भी खून बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण वस्तु थी।

परमेश्वर तथा खून में बहुत गहरा सम्बन्ध है। जिस प्रकार से पुराने नियम में खून का बहुत महत्व था उसी प्रकार से नये नियम में भी खून का बहुत महत्व रहा है। जब संसार में पाप बहुत अधिक बढ़ गया तो परमेश्वर ने अपने पुत्र यीशु मसीह को चुना ताकि वह मारा जाये तथा पापियों को उनके

पापों से छुटकारा देने के लिए अपना खून बहाए। यीशु मसीह की मृत्यु तथा खून में यह विशेषता थी कि उसमें पापों की क्षमा करने की शक्ति थी। यीशु मसीह का लोह हमें सब पापों से शुद्ध करता है तथा पापों की क्षमा देता है (१-यूहन्ना १:७, प्रकाशितवाक्य १:५)। उसका खून बड़ा कीमती था क्योंकि उसमें पापों की क्षमा की शक्ति थी। अनेक लोग इस बात पर विश्वास नहीं करते कि यीशु का लोह पापों की क्षमा के लिए ही बहाया गया था। परन्तु पवित्र बाइबल इस बात का प्रमाण है कि यीशु मसीह का लोह निश्चय ही पापों की क्षमा के लिए बहाया गया था। इब्रानियों की पत्री का लेखक लिखता है "क्योंकि जब बकरों और बैलों का लोह और कलोर की राख अपवित्र लोगों पर छिड़के जाने से शरीर की शुद्धता के लिये पवित्र करती है। तो मसीह का लोह जिस ने अपने आप को सनातन आत्मा के द्वारा परमेश्वर के साम्हने निर्दोष चढ़ाया, तुम्हारे विवेक को मरे हुए कामों से क्यों न शुद्ध करेगा, ताकि तुम जीवते परमेश्वर की सेवा करो (इब्रानियों ६: १३, १४)। प्रभु यीशु ने अपने आपको दे दिया तथा कलवरी के क्रूस पर अपना खून बहाया। यीशु मसीह ने मेरे तथा आपके लिए अपना खून बहाया। परन्तु कितनी ही अच्छी बात है कि यीशु मसीह के लोह के द्वारा हमें पापों से क्षमा मिल सकती है। (इफिसियों १:७)। उसका खून आपके और मेरे लिए बहुत ही महत्व रखता है। उसके लोह के द्वारा हम धर्मी ठहरते हैं (रोमियों ५:९)। सचमुच यीशु मसीह का लोह बहुत ही कीमती था।

प्रिय मित्र, क्या आप उस निर्दोष के खून की कीमत चुका सकते हैं? आपके सम्मुख यह एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। ज़रा अच्छी तरह से सोचिए। मित्र, आप उसके खून की कीमत का बदला, चान्दी सोने अथवा पैसे से नहीं चुका सकते। पतरस लिखता है "क्योंकि तुम जानते हो, कि तुम्हारा निकम्मा चालचलन जो बापदादों से चला आता है उस से तुम्हारा छुटकारा चान्दी सोने अर्थात् नाशमान वस्तुओं के द्वारा नहीं हुआ। पर निर्दोष और निष्कलंक मेम्ने अर्थात् मसीह के बहुमूल्य लोह के द्वारा हुआ। हाँ, आप उसके खून की कीमत चुका सकते हैं। परन्तु इसके लिए आपको बाइबल की ओर आना होगा। तथा कुछ शर्तें पूरी करनी होंगी जो अतिआवश्यक हैं। जैसे यीशु के वचन को सुनना (रोमियों १०:१०), उसके वचन पर विश्वास करना (८: २४), पापों से पश्चात्ताप करना (लूका २४:४७), यीशु का अंगीकार (रोमियों १०: १०) तथा यीशु मसीह के नाम में बपतिस्मा लेना (मरकुस १६: १६)। इन शर्तों को पूरा करने पर यीशु मसीह आपको अपनी कलीसिया में मिलाएगा जिसे उसने अपने खून से खरीदा है (प्रेरितो २:४७ तथा २०:२८)। इन शर्तों को पूरा करने पर आप उसकी उपासना करें (यूहन्ना ४:२४) और जीवन के अन्त तक उसके प्रति विश्वासी बने रहें, तब आपको जीवन का मुकुट मिलेगा (प्रकाशितवाक्य २: १०)।



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