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Pleading for the restoration of pure New Testament Christianity

Vol. 5

No. 6



Foreign Support

More than a hundred years ago missionaries came into India to preach and spread denominational Christianity. They found little interest among those of the higher castes of Hinduism. They turned then to the out-castes, the untouchables. But what could they ever accomplish by working with them if they were rejected by the rest of the people of India? As a solution, and to elevate these low classes of people so that they would eventually be accepted, they began to give them the material things that would help them to change their physical status. Therefore, as they preached Christianity to them, and converted them, they began to give them food, clothing, shelter, and jobs. They eventually established hospitals to care for their sick and schools to educate their children. As a result of all of this, "Christianity" began to take root and to spread. Gradually, these people began to better their lives and to find acceptance. Also, the upper castes began to change their attitudes when they saw what "Christianity" was doing for these people. Some of them became believers themselves.

Out of all of this came the general belief that missionaries came to help people physically, and that idea has come on down to this every day. It is not uncommon to hear people ask, "What do you have for us?" They mean that they expect some material help in return for their acceptance of Christ or for their willingness to change from one church to another. This does not necessarily mean that missionaries today are deliberately offering material things to make converts and neither does it mean always that the converts themselves are willing to accept a teaching on the basis of what they will get. It does mean, however, that some of this is going on by both missionaries and their converts either directly or indirectly.

With the denominational missionaries having practiced this type of thing all of these years, then when preachers of the church of Christ came, the same procedure was expected of them. They were looked to for all kinds of physical and material help. This included food, clothing, medical supplies, schools of different kinds, hostels, orphanages, and support for the local preachers. Some of the foreign brethren have indulged in this kind of thing and they are greatly appreciated, not because they brought the gospel but because of the material aids they have given. If this statement is challenged then let these brethren withdraw their foreign aid and then see what the local members think of them. Once such help is started it is almost impossible to ever withdraw it on the basis that the local people have reached the point where they will assume such responsibilities as caring for their own needy and supporting their own preachers. This means that it was a mistake to have ever begun such support to begin with.

If you will take a close look at the religious work in India you will find that most organizations and churches even to this day are still supported and subsidized by foreign aid and grants. You would think after a hundred years or more, and with believers in Christ in India numbering over twelve million, that the time would have come long ago that such foreign help would no longer have been necessary. True, twelve million people are not many, especially considering the fact that so many of those are indifferent and nominal in attitude, and con-

sidering also that number as compared with more than five hundred million unbelievers, but nevertheless, they still represent a large number of people and certainly they should be more than able to take care of their own needs. If they were people who had respect for themselves, and really believed in what they have accepted, they would be able to care for their own needs. But the problem goes back to the fact that people will not help themselves when there are others who will do everything for them.

Look at the hospitals, schools, orphanages, and the many other religious organizations through the country and then go and enquire about the financial arrangements for them and you will find that much of the support comes from foreign sources. Think of all the meetings, seminars, conventions, trips to other countries for international meetings, & then check to see where the money comes from for all of this. Again, you will find that in whole, or at least in major part, it comes from outside of India. Many of those who involve themselves are not interested in the religions, and do not have deep convictions concerning them, but participate in the activities purely for position, trips, and personal benefits since they do not have to pay for them. This is a shame to any people. Furthermore, this is dishonest.

Let a man come into India with money, and let him spread it around a little, and see what happens. The people begin to flock to him. He is in great demand. He can hire hundreds and thousands of preachers. He can support schools, orphanages, and hospitals. He can "convert" whole villages. It doesn't really matter much what he teaches, whether it is the truth or not, still he can have the following that he wants according to the amount of money he can put on it. He can also keep this following as long as the money lasts. But when the money ceases to flow, and he leaves, someone else can come with money and can as easily take over the same group. This is not something that is made up. There are people in India at this time very minute that have been baptized many times. When questioned why they were baptized they will tell you that they

were told that they would get some type of material help for doing so. Many people who have been baptized do not even know why they were baptized. There are those who claim to be Christians who do not even know who Christ is. Shame, shame, shame!

It is true that in case of disaster and emergency both foreigners and local believers should give of their material means to help those who are in desperate need as a result of famine, an epidemic of disease or any other kind of catastrophe. The idea in this case is to have mercy on such people and to try to help save them from complete destruction. But people are not to be helped when they can help themselves and in ordinary cases these local people who do need to be should be helped by the local congregation. Furthermore, missionaries can come and help plant the gospel here and there throughout the country through different methods, but once it is received and obeyed then the responsibility for spreading the gospel passes from the missionary to the local Christian. The missionary may stay on for awhile and help train the local Christian to grow and to prepare him to take the gospel to others, but it is not the obligation of the missionary to build a local meeting house or to give foreign support to the workers. Rather, the local people must care for their own needs. This will enable them to grow and develop and spread. If they are unable to afford their own meeting house then they don't need one yet. If they are unable to support their own preacher then they don't need to have a preacher on full time support. The foreigner should do nothing for them that they can do for themselves and he should not always do even some of the things that they cannot do. Rather, they must wait until they can do them. Then, and only then, can it be said that they are making progress.

We do not read in the New Testament where Paul went over the country building church buildings and hiring preachers. Neither do we read of him going to Rome or some other such place to raise funds to supply such needs. Rather, if Christians of the first century had these things, they provided them themselves.

The church in America went through a period that would be very similar to what the church here in India is experiencing now. As a matter of fact, the church there endured even more difficult times. But there was no one coming with money for preachers and buldings. There was no where to go to look for such help. Economically, the people were very poor and times were hard. But there were people who loved the Lord and the souls of men and as a result they went out and preached the gospel. They had no one to support them and so they had to make their living by teaching school, working as merchants or working at some manual type of labor. Then on Sundays, on holidays, and during the summer months they would go out to preach the gospel in homes, in school buildings, in halls, in denominational meeting houses, and in open air meetings. All they got out of it materially—if they got anything—was perhaps a chicken, a dozen of eggs, some vegetables from the garden, etc. They didn't get any money in most cases because few people had money. But they did this work in the interest of the Lord's cause and that was usually all they got out of it. Yes, that happened in America. You didn't know that, did you? And that wasn't that many years ago! But because of that dedication the church grew, and today it is able to take the gospel to the rest of the world.

If the Lord's cause ever amounts to anything in India, we are going to have to have men who love the Lord and the souls of men to the point that they will be Christians and will preach the gospel to others whether they get any support or not. For sure, they don't need any foreign support. This will not help them or others. But when they do the work on their own, some real progress is going to be made. The church of our Lord will never grow and make progress in India until all foreign support is taken away.

We are not against support for local preachers, but we are opposed to foreign support. We are for support only if it is given by local congregations. Then they will be in a position to know the man they want to support and they will be able to determine the amount of support he needs. Furthermore, he will be answerable to them and this will make a great difference in the kind of work he does.



**associate
editorial**

Did They Kill Jesus

The first part of the Bible, the Old Testament, points to Jesus. The second part of the Bible, the New Testament, reveals Jesus. Jesus, in fact, is the central figure and subject of the whole Bible. He was born in poverty; he lived a pure and humble life; he was a great teacher, and he did many wonderful things. There were people who loved him as their Lord. However, there were also many people who hated him. He did not live a long life; he was upon this earth for only about thirty-three years. But yet all the things and people of the world put together have never affected the lives of men upon earth as much, as the perfect life of the man, Jesus Christ. But why did he die so early? Was he sick? No, certainly not. Then was he killed accidentally? Again the answer is negative. Then how did he die? Let us see the circumstances in which Jesus died.

“And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified. Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.” (Matthew 26:1-4). “Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.” (Matthew 26:14-16).

“And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: For Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples...Then the

band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him. And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.....Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment; and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover. Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death: that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die. Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, what is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all. But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews? Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him

forth to you; that ye may know that I find no fault in him. Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin, And from thence forth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he him unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst." (John 18: 2, 12, 13 and 19: 1-18).

But the question is, Who was responsible for Jesus' killing? Was he hanged on the cross because Judas, one of his disciples, betrayed him to his enemies? Or was he nailed to the heavy cross because the strong mob led him for trial to the governor

Pilate? Or was he crucified because of the cowardice of Pilate? Or was he lifted up upon that cruel cross because the Jews, the chief priests, and others wanted to put him to death? Oh, yes, no doubt, all of them had a part in the crucifixion of Jesus, the Son of God. But, in fact, they were all secondary causes. None of them had actually any power to crucify Him, who had power to heal all kinds of sickness, and even to raise the dead.

Then what is the answer of our question? Let us see. After His death he was resurrected, or became alive again. He was seen alive by hundreds of people, just as they saw him die. After this event, his disciples began to preach his Good News. The first sermon, as recorded in the second chapter of the book of Acts, was preached by the Apostle Peter. There he spoke to thousands of Jews, he said, "Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."

Thus, the truth is, Jesus Christ was crucified by the will of God, by His determinate counsel and foreknowledge, and not by the treachery of Judas, neither because of the hatred of the Jews and the chief priests, and nor by the cowardice of Pilate or the cruelty of the Roman soldiers.



**continuing
christian
education**

(Bible Correspondence Extension Course for Home Study)

This is a special series of Bible Courses being carried by The Bible Teacher for all people. There will be no diploma or certificate issued since the lessons are being offered solely for the

benefit of those of our reading audience who want either to learn about Christianity or, as a Christian, to grow and develop in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. Please read and study the material carefully, along with your 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.

Does Man Have A Soul?

Here in India most of the emphasis has been placed on physical man. Through the years the bigger portion of religious work that has been done in the name of Christ has been in the interest of man's physical welfare. Especially is this true at this time when social work is so popular and when the majority look upon this approach with their personal approval. That means that the most important part of man, his soul, has been primarily over-looked and by-passed. The question arises if the average person is even aware of the fact that he has a soul. If so, you would never know it. Little effort is put forth to save it. Seldom, if ever, do you see tears shed because one is so convicted of his sins that he becomes aware of his lost condition and wants to obey God so he can be saved.

In this lesson we want to make a study of the soul of man because man indeed has a soul, believe it or not. We want to see what it is, where it came from, its function, its need, etc. The reason we are doing this is because you need to know that you have a soul, every person needs to know this. You need to know the worth or value of the soul if you are ever going to be moved to do something about it.

The word soul has reference to the inner man, the spirit of man, that which is in the image of God and will live on forever and ever. The Bible tells us that God created physical man, but that was not all. He likewise created the inner man, that

is, he made man a living spirit, a soul. This inner man was created in God's image. According to John 4:24 God is a Spirit, and when the scriptures say that God created man in his image it means that he created man with a similar spiritual likeness. We read, "And God said, Let us make man in our 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 1:26,27). Again, we read, "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).

You will also note that when the Genesis record speaks of the creation of the various animals, fowls, and sea life, it is never stated that He created them with spirits or with souls. Neither does he say that he created them in his own image. Therefore none of these living things have souls and when they die they are gone forever. That is why they may be killed and used for food. But it is a different story with man. Regarding him God not only created him physically but also created man spiritually in his own image. This means that God created man to resemble him. But in what way? Surely not necessarily in a physical sense because God does not have an earthly form. Therefore, we must conclude that since God is spirit, he also made man a spirit. Further, the scriptures say that God breathed into man the breath of life and he became a living soul. Man is therefore a dual being. He is both physical and spiritual. Solomon talked about what happens to man when he dies and he spoke of man as being a dual being. when he said, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

The scriptures tell us that the soul will live on after death. Christ said, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28). Because the soul will live on and because it is possible for it to be eternally lost, it is necessary to save the soul and to prepare it for life after the physical body dies. For this reason the Heb-

few writer exhorts the Lord's people, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition: but of them that believe to the saving of the soul." (Hebrews 10:35-39). James writes, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." (James 5:20).

Continuing, we are told that those who are over us, the elders of the church, watch on behalf of our souls. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account; that they may do it with joy, and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:15). Again, James says, "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your soul." (James 1:21). Peter declares, "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:9). Going on, he says, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1 Peter 1:22,23).

After the gospel was preached on the Day of Pentecost, and the people wanted to know what to do to be saved, they were told, and the record says, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41).

As can be seen from the foregoing verses, the soul is the most important part of man. Christ said, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own

soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). Because of this Jesus came into this world to die for the sins of man that the soul might be saved. Man was lost and without hope because his soul was stained with sin. With Jesus, however, things were changed. He offered himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. This doesn't mean that all will be saved; but it does mean that those who will believe in Jesus and obey his teachings can be saved.

The teachings of Jesus is directed toward the soul of man with the idea of saving him from sin. As man applies that teaching he will be helped and benefitted physically as well as spiritually, but the main goal is to save his soul. Man can be helped and blessed physically all of his life but if he loses his soul then he has lost all. On the other hand, regardless of the physical suffering that he may have to go through, if he can save his soul then he has gained the greatest prize of all, eternal life with his Lord.

The gospel, the church, the Christian life, the hereafter are all significant only as they have to do with the soul. Peter says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9). Again, he said, "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Peter 4:16-18).

When one realizes he has a soul, and he recognizes what it means to be lost: and what it can mean to him to be saved, then this will effect his every thought and action. On the other hand, if there is no such knowledge, and even if there is; if one is careless and indifferent about his soul and is always reasoning that there is yet time to prepare the soul to meet God, then one is not only very unwise but there is a good possibility that he will finally lose his soul.

Are you aware of the fact, dear friend, that you have a soul? If not, you need to know that you definitely have one. If you are aware of this fact, how do you picture the soul? How important is it? Is it more important to you than everything else? Do you realize that it needs to be saved? Are you concerned about it? Have you ever wept or shown any emotion whatsoever over your soul? Are you willing to obey Jesus that you might be saved? Are you willing to be faithful to him that you might be eternally saved? Do you realize that one day you will die and then you will have to answer to God concerning the condition of your soul?

What is the state of your soul today? Is it prepared to meet God? Now is the time to prepare. After this life there will be no further opportunity.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

1. On what is most emphasis placed here in India?
2. Why is social work so popular?
3. What has been over-looked?
4. Does man have a soul?
5. Define soul.
6. How was man created?
7. What is the difference in man and other living things?
8. Explain what happens to man when he dies.
9. Does the soul live after this life?
10. Why does the soul need to be saved? How can it be saved?
11. Toward what is the teaching of Jesus directed?
12. In what way is the gospel, the church, etc., significant?
13. How will one be effected, when he is aware of his soul and the needs of it?



**bible
quiz**

“Win a Prize” Bible Quiz, No. 18

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

INSTRUCTIONS :

1. Your answers must reach us within 15 days of your receiving the gazinemail.

2. Do not tear out the quiz from your magazine. Neither should you send us the magazine back. Use separate paper.
3. Keep a copy of your answers to enable you to compare them with the given answers in the next issue.
4. All entries must enclose 20p. in postage which will cover the postage required to send you your award. This will not be refundable even if your answers are incorrect, as the postage you have forfeited will help other correspondence.
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. 18 :

1. In the early church, what couple sold their property, and kept back part of the proceeds ?
2. Of whom was it said: "God made coats of skin, and clothed them"? In other words, who were the "them"?
3. Who was told to "take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt"? Give the verse.
4. Who said: "Five time received I forty stripes"? Give referenee.
5. Finish this text: "If ye love me——"

ANSWERS TO QUIZ No. 17:

1. Solomon, Ecclesiastes 11:1. 2. Eutychus, Acts 20:9.
3. We must repent **and** be baptized to be saved and to receive the Holy Spirit. 4. Jesus teaches that we must believe and be baptized to be saved. Peter teaches that we must repent and be baptized to be saved. Both harmonize, teaching us that we must believe and repent and be baptized in order to be saved. Romans 10:9-10 shows that confession with the mouth is also essential to salvation. Also read Acts 22:16; Romans 10:17; John 3:16. All together they show that we must first hear the gospel, believe it, repent of our sins, confess that Jesus is the Son of God and be baptized to have our sins washed away. Then only are we saved. We must do all this to be

saved of our past sins. Then we must live a **faithful** Christian life to be saved eternally. 5. Baptism (or immersion) in water is the **final** step one must take to have forgiveness of one's past sins—only then is one saved—only then does one have the remission of sins and one receives the gift of the Holy Ghost—and is a Christian—**not before**. 1 Peter 3:21.

Note—This is the last Quiz that will be appearing in the Bible Teacher, at least for the time being. We have had these for one and a half years now and I have enjoyed making and grading them thoroughly. I hope these have challenged you to **use** your Bible and to **search** the Scriptures. I have to stop these now as I soon may be leaving Delhi for further studies. Keep up your interest in God's Word. May God bless you.

Your Quizmaster,
Vipul Rai.

Special Quiz Prize

We have sent a copy of "Why I am a member of the church of Christ" by Leroy Brownlow, to Mr. R. Samuel Dorairaj, as a special prize for winning the most number of quizzes. Our heartiest Congratulations.

Quizmaster.

Winners of Bible Quizzes

Winners of Quizzes 1—3 appeared in Bible Teacher vol.4:No.7
4—6 appeared in vol. 4. No. 11

Winners of Quizzes

No. 7: Award—"Back to the Bible"

B. Vijaya Kumar David, Yesaiah R. Veldurthi, R. Isaiah, R.D.K.B. Isaiah, Lawrence Raj, T.K. George, R. Paul, K.F. Gill, L.C. Ratnasami, R. Samuel Dorairaj, Mrs. K. Vijayamma Singh, N. Victor, R. Edwin, D. Elisha, A. Stella, Helen. Anthony A. Colaco, Miss Gnanaselvam David, Lianchinthang, G. James Balasundaram. P.B. Nathaniel, Zenzathang Guite, John K.G., T.J. Isaac, E. Balachandran.

No. 8: Award—"First Principles"

L.A. Amrutharaj, Anthony A. Colaco, G. Kamkhawthawng, Bodhu Prakasam, G. Ananda Raw, P. Paul Joseph, L.C. Ratnasami, E. Balachandran N. Rathna Swamy, P. Deva-raj Manickam.

No. 9: Award—"God means what he says"

Miss Aleyamma Abraham, Joseph Kunden, P. Satish K. Rao, G. Asaph, Miss Mariamma P. Abraham, L. A. Amrutharaj, John J. Simon Singh, Anthony, A. Colaco, L.C. Ratnasami, B. Vijaya Kumar David, Titus Mathew, James Nakami, P.K. Chintapalli, K. Luke Prasada Rao, Miss Jebarani Wilson, K. Ashok Vardhan, A.D. Devaram, J.S. Raju, R.D.K.B. Isaiah, R. Samuel Dorairaj, A.B. Rao, R. Paul, E. Balachandran, I. Iqbal Siddiqui, Lianchinthang, Jaswant Singh, V. Ravi Kumar.

No. 10: Award—"Now that I am a Christian"

R. Paul, R. Samuel Dorairaj, James Nakami, G. Ananda Raw, A. Stellagi Helen, T. Jalam, L.A. Amrutharaj, Bodhu Prakasam. P.V. Timothy, E. Balachandran.

No. 11: Award—"The Never-failing Scriptures"

G. Arumugam, C A. Titus, R S. Dorairaj, D.E. Samuels, Thangchinkhup Guite, Miss P. Stephen, B. Prakasam, A. Stellagi Helen, A.D. Devavaram, M. John Wilson, Vernon Douglas, Miss Shanthi Josam, G. Kamkhawthawng, A.A. Colaco, B.V. Kumar David, Zenzathang Guite, P.B. Nathaniel, James Nakami, G. Paul, Miss Jebarani Wilson, V. Raju, P. Rajasekharan.

No. 12: Award—"Christ and his Church"

L.C. Ratnasami, G.H. Bodha, R.S. Dorairaj, P.B. Nathaniel, A.J. Benjamin, D. Elisha, R. Paul, A.V. Duraisamy, D. Samuelraj, R.D. K.B. Isaiah, K.A. Vardhan, Miss P. Stephen, A.A. Colaco, P.D. Manickam, M. John Wilson, M. Thyagarajan, D. Palmer, Douglas, C.A. Titus, Vincente Correia Afonso, G. Kamkhawthawng, Lianchinthang, L.P. Andrews, P. Rajasekharan, Chinkholian Guite, E. Balachandran,

No. 13: Award—"How to study the Bible"

C.A. Titus, Miss Sarah Hithawachani, Miss P. Stephen, R.D.K.B. Isaiah, V. Zagariah, D. Palmer, Vernon Douglas, A.A. Colaco, Mrs. V.A. Joseph, L.A. Amrutharaj, Max D'Costa, N. Victor, D. Elisha, I.V.R. Kumar, D.E. Samuels, P.B. Daniels, B. Prakasam, G.G. Kint, P.B. Nathaniel Lianchinthang.

Rest in future issue.



QUESTION: A member of the church from Tirupati, East Godavari District, A.P., writes: "My request is to know what these are from the book of Proverbs, Chapter 30:1. There are three things that are never satisfied.' 30:15; 2. 'There be three things which are too wonderful to me.' 30:18; 3. 'For three things the earth is disquieted' 30:21; 4. 'There be three things which go well.' 30:29".

ANSWER: I am sorry that this brother has been having difficulty in understanding what Solomon is talking about, but the writer not only speaks of the things that never satisfy, etc., but then he proceeds to list them. It seems rather clear to me and I don't really understand what the problem might be. But let us read the whole text and see if the writer doesn't explain himself quite well. He says, "...There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough...There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid...For three things the earth is disquieted and for four which it cannot bear: For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat; For an odious

woman when she is married; and a handmaid that is heir to her mistress...There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going: A lion, which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any; a greyhound; a he goat also; and a king, against whom there is no rising up." (Proverbs 30:15,16, 18,19, 21-23,29-31). In these verses Solomon is simply listing some facts of nature and life, and from these he draws appropriate lessons. He also speaks of things which seem to amaze him and that he does not understand. I trust that these remarks will be helpful to the one who wrote about these things.

QUESTION: Another reader writes from Ahmedabad. He says: "In Acts 13:12 we read, 'the deputy believed.' In Acts 18:24-28 we read about Apollos and how he simply heard and believed. The Bible doesn't say that they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Were they then among the saved?"

ANSWER: In regard to the deputy who believed, this could mean two things. It could mean that he merely believed in the sense of mentally accepting the things that Paul preached. But in all probability he believed in the sense that he obeyed the Lord, and that would have included baptism. (Mark 16:16) All of the acts of obedience don't have to be mentioned, necessarily. The fact that he believed included his obedience to the Lord in the waters of baptism in the name of the Lord or by his authority. Nothing is said either about repentance, but if he genuinely believed we know that he repented. As for Apollos if you will read on through the first part of Acts 19 you will find that after he left Ephesus he went to Corinth and in the meantime Paul came to Ephesus and found a group there that had been baptized only according to John's baptism. After Paul therefore had taught them the truth concerning Christ, the record says that they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now the question is, why would these men need to be baptized in the name of the Lord if Apollos did not need to be since he likewise had known only the baptism of John? That is just the point; he must have been baptized also. When did this happen? When Aquila and Priscilla took him

aside and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. After that you find them sending letters of recommendation to brethren in Achaia to receive him and when he went into that area he mightily convinced the Jews publicly by the scriptures that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Later, in 1 Corinthians 1 we find some of the disciples there claiming to have been baptized by Apollos. Surely he would not have been baptizing people in the name of Christ if he had not been baptized in that name also. And finally, the scriptures do not give two different ways of being saved, one saying to believe only and the other saying that one must believe and be baptized to be saved. What Christ taught in Mark 16:16 applied all the way through the scriptures, and it still applies today.

QUESTION : "In Genesis 5:24; 2 Kings 2:11,12, and Acts 8:39 we read about the disappearances of Enoch, Elijah and Philip respectively. What type of death would this be called ?

ANSWER : Enoch did not die because God took him. Neither did Elijah die, but he was also taken up into heaven. Of course Philip did not die nor was he taken to heaven. He was simply led away or went on to other places as Acts 8:40 suggests. We know that in the cases of Enoch and Elijah, flesh and blood cannot go to heaven, so the physical body must have been changed to become the spiritual body for the soul to dwell in for eternity with God.

QUESTION : "Please tell something about the deaths of all the apostles including Paul."

ANSWER : In the scriptures we know only of Judas who hanged himself and of the Apostle James, who was killed by Herod, as recorded in Acts 12. As for the deaths of the other Apostles, we must depend on secular history for information. We are told that all of them, except for John who died a natural death, were martyred for their faith in Christ. They died in this manner: Matthew was slain with a sword in Ethiopia, James, son of Zebedee, was beheaded at Jerusalem, Philip was hanged against a pillar at Hieropolis, Bartholomew was flayed alive at Albahapolis in Armenia which is now a part of Russia, Andrew was martyred on a cross at Patre in Archaia

which is present day Greece, Thomas was killed with a lance at Coromanded in India, Thaddeus was shot to death with arrows, Simon Zelotes was crucified in Persia or Iran, Peter was curcified head downward, Matthias was stoned and then beheaded, and Paul was beheaded at Rome.



Who will go to Goa ? The capital of this former Portuguese colony is Panaji. It is a Union Territory of less than one million people. A slow moving society is to be found in this tourist paradise of tropical splendor. It has beautiful beaches, numerous rivers, timbered hills, and coconut groves. The cities are clean and most people own their own homes. Poverty, such as is found in the rest of India, is not to be found there.

Most Goans are Catholic but with many people flowing in from other parts of India then the Hindu population has grown considerably in recent years.

Back in 1971 I visited Panaji and placed some classified ads in The Navhind Times for Bible Correspondence Students. As a result of this we enrolled a number of people and have continued since that time to work with them and to send The Bible Teacher.

In 1973 and again this year Bro. Dean Crutchfield visited Panaji and placed teaching ads in The Navhind Times and encouraged all who wanted to take a Bible Correspondence course to write to New Delhi Bible College for lessons. We have also been told that a few months ago Bro. Crutchfield and others baptized a number in different parts of Goa. We do not have the full story on this.

We would to see some dedicated Christian go to Goa to work among these Bible Students and also among any who may have already obeyed the Lord. Who will go ? Perhaps you can go ? We pray you can.

“A Letter to the Household of Faith”

K Matthew

Dear brotherhood, I would like to share a few minutes with you through these printed words in your hand. I am really very happy that we are in the household of faith. The Christian life is strange to many, hard for some who are new in the faith and a blessing to those who are in the right place. The Christian life is not an easy task as many suppose. There is a cross for each one in the family to carry everyday cheerfully.

Let us turn to Philippians 4:4 and read: “Rejoice in the Lord; again I say rejoice.” The writer of this passage, the apostle Paul was not staying in an air conditioned house, eating high class food, travelling in pleasure. But he was in prison, with both hands chained, without good food or sleep. Although suffering such a difficulty he encouraged his fellowmen, “Rejoice in the Lord.” Really, Christain joy was in him, even though his cross was very hard.

You may have financial problems, family trials, a friend's mockery, and you may even be in prison for the blessed name of our Lord Jesus Christ. But are you really rejoicing in the Lord? Or are you a middle path traveller? What ever may be the problems of the world, still there is a great channel for joy and peace. That joy is our hope, eternal life. The apostle Paul knew about his hope, the eternal peace with the Lord, the crown which was waiting for him. When we are facing various troubles and temptations think about that great hope, carry your cross, and follow the footprints of our master and saviour.

If you are a part of the household, and have these various problems, we urge you, don't turn back from your steps. See the great hope, the crown before you. Then these problems are very few and powerless. Our saviour experienced all of these problems before us. Even he died upon the cross for the unrighteous like you and me. Then why can't all of us face these small problems? Let us encourage each other and our beloved ones in their corner. The harvest is very great, but the labourers are very few. If we are not marching forward, who will go? Our commander is before us and we must follow him into the battle. Be a good soldier for the master wherever you are.

What is Right with the Church of Christ ?

Clem Thurman, co-editor Gospel Minutes

Why is the church of Christ worth your time and trouble to investigate ? Why are so many of your friends members of it ? To look at the positive side, "What is right with the church of Christ ?" I would like to try to answer these questions.

Builder and Head Is Jesus

When Peter had confessed, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16), Jesus replied with the promise, "Upon this rock I will build My church." That is the reason it is called the church of Christ: IT IS HIS. Man did not plan the church nor design it. The psalmist said, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." (Psa. 127:1). And Jesus gave the same truth in Matt. 15:13, "Every plant which My heavenly Father planteth not shall be rooted up." But the church of Christ was eternally purposed by Him: "Might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to His eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Christ is builder of His church, and I just could not be at ease in any built by man.

Before He ascended back to the Father, Jesus declared, "All power hath been given unto Me, both in heaven and on earth," (Matt. 28:18). Not only is Christ the builder of the church, He is the head of it. Paul wrote in Col. 1:18, "He is the head of the body, the church, Who is the head over all things to the church, which is His body." Notice that the body of Christ is the church of Christ. And to show the relationship of Christ and His church, God uses the example of husbands, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it...for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the

church." (Eph. 5:23-32). Christ is the builder, head and husband of His church. That is what is right with the church of Christ.

Only Authority Is The Bible

As creatures made in God's image, we must recognize the authority of His who is "Lord of heaven and earth." So the church of Christ is not governed by a "board of directors." It is not ruled by a council of elected representatives. The only "rule" accepted is the Bible: the Word of God. Paul wrote that the inspired Scriptures are able to "make the man of God perfect," (2 Tim. 3:17). And Peter said, "His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness." (2 Pet. 1:3). Thus, no one has the right to require of you what is not written in God's Word. Nor does anyone have the right to "relieve" you of any requirements in the Holy Book. In the church that Jesus built, His Word is the only authority. And that is right.

Plea Is Undenominational

A few hours before His death, Jesus prayed for you and me, Jno. 17:20-21 "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; that they all may be one; as Thou Father art in me, and I in Thee, that they may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." The church of Christ is committed to that prayer, with all of its demands and implications. We seek a unity of all believers in Christ: a unity based not on the compromises of man, but upon the authority of God.

When the apostle Paul found division among believers in Corinth, he wrote, "Let there be no division among you," (1 Cor. 1:10). Then, three verses later. "Is Christ divided?" That teaching is still there! And we must obey it! We dare not divide Christ! That is why our plea is undenominational. The entire system of denominationalism is based on division. But Christ prayed for unity, God (through Paul) commanded unity, and the church of Christ today strives for the same unity.

We make no claim of superior knowledge of insight. We do not claim that we are perfect as individuals. But we do believe that we have a perfect Savior, that He gave us a perfect guide, and that He built a perfect church for all of us: it is man that makes things imperfect. This is why I am a member of the church of Christ. And that is why I think you should investigate the church of Christ.

Why Be Baptized?

Jess Willis

Just to know that it is the Lord's desire should be reason enough. However, it is more than a desire, it is a command that was set forth by both Christ and His inspired apostles. Christ commanded it, saying, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19). The apostle Peter's record states, "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:48).

According to the Scriptures there is a very important reason for the command to be baptized; it is one of the commands of Christ that brings a person into the saved condition where there is remission of sins. Three of the many Scriptures that prove the importance of baptism, are as follows: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16), "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), and "Why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

In obedience to Christ, how can one be baptized Scripturally if he has not repented? How can he repent if he has not come to love Christ? Why will he love Christ if he has not believed? And how can he believe in him whom he has not heard? So, each of these factors are very important in coming into the condition where sins are forgiven.

Beloved friends, please let us all go back to the Bible, learn the commands, and obey them that we may all glorify God in the spirit of unity and the bond of peace. May God bless you in this effort.

छुटकारा

लेखक :—सनी भाई

एक बार अरब देश का एक व्योपारी अपने ऊंट पर सवार होकर जा रहा था। मार्ग में जब रात हो गई तो व्योपारी ने मार्ग में ही रात व्यतीत करने के निश्चय से अपना तम्बु खड़ा कर लिया। उस ने ऊंट को बाहर तम्बु के पास बांध दिया तथा स्वयं तम्बु के अन्दर जाकर सो गया। कुछ समय बाद ऊंट ने व्योपारी को जगाया और कहा, “मुझे बाहर बहुत ठंड लग रही है, यदि आपकी आज्ञा हो तो क्या मैं अपना सिर तम्बु के भीतर कर सकता हूँ?” व्योपारी ने कहा, ठीक है, तुम ऐसा कर सकते हो। व्योपारी फिर सो गया। परन्तु कुछ ही समय पश्चात्, ऊंट ने फिर से व्योपारी को जगाया, इस समय वह अपना एक अगला पैर भीतर रखना चाहता था। व्योपारी ने उसे इसकी भी आज्ञा दे दी। परन्तु अभी वह ठीक से सो भी नहीं पाया था कि ऊंट ने फिर से उसे तीसरी बार जगाया, तथा इस बार वह अपना दूसरा अगला पैर भी भीतर रखना चाहता था। व्योपारी ने उत्तर दिया, रख लो। और फिर रात अभी ठीक से बीत भी नहीं पाई थी कि ऐसे ही करते-करते, धीरे-धीरे पूरा ऊंट ही तम्बु के अन्दर आ गया। अब तो व्योपारी को बहुत बुरा लगा, वह ऊंट के अन्दर आने का विरोध करने लगा। परन्तु ऊंट ने उससे कहा, “यदि आपको यहां अच्छा नहीं लगता, तो आप बाहर जा सकते हैं।”

मित्रो, इस छोटी सी कहानी से हमें बहुत बड़ी शिक्षा मिलती है। वह व्योपारी कोई भी व्यक्ति हो सकता है। तथा वह ऊंट पाप का प्रतिरूप है। कोई भी पाप या बुरी आदत मनुष्य के अन्दर धीरे-धीरे प्रवेश करती है, और फिर कुछ ही समय पश्चात् वह व्यक्ति उस पाप अर्थात् बुरी आदत का दास बन जाता है। उदाहरण के रूप से, यदि आज कोई व्यक्ति बहुत सिगरेट या शराब पीता है, या किसी अन्य नशीली वस्तु का उपयोग बहुतायत से करता है, तो इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि वह आरम्भ से ही ऐसा करता आ रहा है। परन्तु, पहले-पहले, उसने कदाचित् आधी सिगरेट या थोड़ी सी शराब से आरम्भ किया होगा। और हो सकता है कि उसका पीना उसने किसी मित्र के

कहने में आकर या किसी अन्य परिस्थिति में किया होगा। परन्तु अब वह इन नाशक वस्तुओं का दास बन चुका है। अब यदि वह इन आदतों को छोड़ना भी चाहे तो छोड़ नहीं सकता। आपने कई बार लोगों को कहते सुना होगा, “अब तो मेरी आदत बहुत पुरानी हो चुकी है, यह मुझ से छूट नहीं सकती” दूसरे शब्दों में, वह कहना चाहते हैं कि वे अब अपनी बुरी आदत के दास बन चुके हैं।

अमरीका के एक विश्व विद्यालय के एक डॉक्टर का कहना है, कि बहुतायत से सिगरेट पीनेवाले व्यक्ति को प्रत्येक सिगरेट के लिये अपने जीवन के लगभग चौतीस मिनटों का बलिदान करना पड़ता है, तथा बीस सिगरेटों का प्रत्येक पैकट उसके जीवन में से साढ़े ग्यारह घंटों को कम कर देता है। इसके अतिरिक्त एक अन्य प्रसिद्ध डॉक्टर के कथन अनुसार, फेफड़ों का कैंसर अधिकतर सिगरेट पीने वाले लोगों में पाया जाता है। इसी तरह से, शराब का उपयोग करनेवाले लोग भी अपने शरीर को हानि पहुंचाते हैं। पिछले कुछ ही सालों में, भारत के ही कई भागों में, शराब पीने के कारण सैंकड़ों लोगों की मृत्यु हो गई। उन लोगों ने केवल अपने आप को ही हानि नहीं पहुंचाई, परन्तु उनकी मृत्यु से सैंकड़ों घर बरबाद हो गए, बहुतेरे बच्चे यतीम हो गए, उनमें से कुछ की पत्नियां व बच्चे कदाचित् आज भी ख मांग रहे होंगे। और यही नहीं, परन्तु हमारे देश ने इन व्यक्तियों में कुछ बढ़िया कारीगर इत्यादि भी खोए होंगे। सड़कों पर होने वाली अधिकांश भयंकर दुर्घटनाएं भी शराब पीकर गाड़ी चलाने वालों के कारण ही होती हैं। निःसंदेह, प्रत्येक पाप में थोड़ी देर का एक मजा या स्वाद होता है, परन्तु प्रत्येक पाप का फल हानिदायक तथा नाशक होता है।

पाप से मेरा अभिप्राय केवल सिगरेट या शराब पीना ही नहीं है, परन्तु, व्यभिचार, गन्दे काम, लुचपन, मूर्ति पूजा, टोना, बैर, ईर्ष्या, क्रोध, विरोध, फूट, विधर्म, डाह, मतवालापन, लीलाक्रीड़ा, और ऐसे ही अन्य सभी काम भी पाप की श्रेणी में आते हैं। कोई भी पाप करने से पहले यह कभी नहीं सोचता, कि वह उस पाप का दास बन जाएगा, जिस प्रकार से एक मछली जो शिकारी के कांटे में मांस के टुकड़े को लगा देखकर लालच करती है, और उसे खाने की इच्छा से आगे बढ़ती है, तथा वह यह बिलकुल भी नहीं सोचती कि वह उस कांटे में फंस जाएगी। परन्तु, उसे पता भी नहीं चलता कि वह कब फंस जाती है। ऐसे ही प्रत्येक व्यक्ति पाप के लालच में फंसकर उसका

दास बन जाता है। पवित्र बाइबल कहती है, “प्रत्येक व्यक्ति अपनी ही अभिलाषा से खिंचकर, और फंसकर परीक्षा में पड़ता है। फिर अभिलाषा गर्भवती होकर पाप को जनती है और पाप जब बढ़ जाता है तो मृत्यु को उत्पन्न करता है।” (याकूब १:१४-१५)।

इसी तरह से, पाप से मेरा अभिप्राय यह भी नहीं है कि प्रत्येक पाप अवश्य ही बाहरी रूप से किया जाए। अर्थात् किसी की हत्या कर देना, या व्यभिचार करना ही पाप नहीं है। परन्तु, ऐसे-ऐसे कामों को करने के विचार तक को मन में लाना पाप है क्योंकि जिस तरह से वृक्ष लगाने से पहले बीज की आवश्यकता होती है वैसे ही कोई भी काम करने से पहले मन में उसके विषय में विचार पहले आता है। और जैसे एक पेड़ अपने फल से पहचाना जाता है, वैसे ही हर एक व्यक्ति के चरित्र का निश्चय उसके मन से किया जा सकता है। “क्योंकि जो मन में भरा है वहीं मुँह पर आता है”, और प्रभु यीशु ने फिर कहा, “क्योंकि कुचिन्ता, हत्या, परस्त्रीगमन, व्यभिचार, चोरी, झूठी गवाही, और निन्दा मन ही से निकलती है।” (मत्ती १२:३४ तथा १५:१९)।

परन्तु अब तक चाहे आपने कितने भी पाप क्यों न किए हों, और चाहे आप कोई भी क्यों न हों, यदि आप पाप के दास्तव से छुटकारा प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं तो परमेश्वर के प्रेम तथा अनुग्रह के द्वारा पाप की कड़ी कैद से मुक्त हो सकते हैं। सुनिए, पवित्र बाइबल कहती है, “परन्तु परमेश्वर हम पर अपने प्रेम की भलाई इस रीति से प्रगट करता है, कि जब हम पापी ही थे तभी मसीह हमारे लिये मरा।” (रोमियों ५:८)। परमेश्वर ने अपने प्रेम और अनुग्रह को अपने पुत्र, यीशु मसीह के द्वारा प्रगट किया। जिसे उसने इस संसार में भेजा। यीशु मसीह ने, संसार के सब लोगों के पापों के प्रायश्चित्त के निमित्त अपने आपको बलीदान कर दिया। “क्योंकि परमेश्वर ने जगत से ऐसा प्रेम रखा कि उसने अपना एकलौता पुत्र दे दिया, ताकि जो कोई उस पर विश्वास करे, वह नाशन हो, परन्तु अनन्त जीवन पाए।” (यूहन्ना ३:१६) मित्रो, परमेश्वर का वचन आज आपको यह शुभ-संदेश देता है। क्या आप इसे स्वीकार करेंगे ?



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