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# THE BIBLE TEACHER

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## Hiring A Preacher

There is nothing wrong in hiring a preacher, provided it is done right, because the Bible says that a workman is worthy of his hire. (Luke 10:7). But it is sad to know that almost all of the preachers in India have been hired by foreigners, and this is not right.

In the first place, when a foreigner begins to hire preachers this practice draws the wrong kind of people to him. Words gets around, and numerous ones come pretending that they are interested in knowing the truth and in obeying it but their real aim is to eventually get a job. The same thing happens when a foreigner operates a Bible school. Those who attend think that surely upon completing their school work the foreigner will give them support. All of this results in many hirelings being put to work but that without conversion and without any real interest in furthering the cause of Christ. Should the time come that they lose their support then they can as easily go to some other religious group. These preachers

do not help the cause of Christ but rather they greatly hinder it.

Such a preacher is hired and sent out to work. He is usually given far too much support. At any other job, working for local people, he would work for much less without question. But once he is approached by a foreigner he expects, and usually gets, much more support. He works with those who do not respect him since they have not asked for him and they do not support him. He is often lazy unless he is accompanied by the foreigner, and cannot be trusted especially in matters that have to do with money. Sometimes he is given charge over other works and often he is hard on those who work under him and controls them with the threat of cutting off their pay, not to mention the fact that he may keep back part of each salary he handles.

A foreign supported preacher often listens to his friends. They tell him that he is working for a foreigner and that he should be drawing much more than he is getting. This leads him to gripe, complain, and to agitate for more salary. If he does not get it he pouts, is uncooperative, and is highly critical of his foreign brother. He resents the idea of having to answer for his time, doesn't like to carry out instructions because he imagines this to mean that he is being treated like a peon. And above all, he doesn't respect his foreign brother and reaches the point where he wants to compete with him. He resents the idea of working under him and having to answer for everything. It matters not how much salary he gets, the other things he asks for and gets, the privileges and the opportunities he has because of his relationship with this foreign brother, and the leniency that is shown him, still he is unhappy and may eventually force things to the point where he has to be dismissed. In such cases, almost every time the individual will quit the church.

In the second place, the local Christians are not happy with a foreign supported preacher. They may not respect him, are highly critical of him, and refuse to cooperate and work with him. They feel that this man is being forced on them.



They are often jealous of him because of the salary he gets, and because of his relationship with the foreigner and would like to take place of the preacher if possible. But if there is a problem that arises between the local preacher and the foreigner, the local people will naturally take the side of the preacher regardless of who is right or wrong. This is because he may promise them certain things for their support; and of course not many will be loyal to a foreigner while standing opposed to their own people.

Furthermore, as long as the local church is furnished with a preacher, the members will not give as they should and neither will they take the responsibility for their other needs they ought. People will not help themselves when others will provide for them. It is just that simple. This kind of an arrangement can continue indefinitely, though it is far from being in the best interest of the church.

Now this may sound like a very hard article, and for sure it is not a pretty picture, but we are trying to face some facts. You may not be familiar with some of these things and yet they are going on, believe me. This doesn't mean that all such preachers are dishonest and bad and that there are no sincere local Christians. However, I am saying that these things do happen and we might as well acknowledge the truth. Most people know that they happen. But what is the solution? Certainly not for a foreigner to come in and begin to hire people. Rather, the foreigner needs to preach and teach the gospel by word of mouth, Bible correspondence courses, tracts, books, radio, and so on, convert people and then teach and train them to carry on their own work. He may need some local assistance when it comes to office work, and handling other matters, but when it comes to hiring preachers, he should refrain from such. This will come in time as the church grows and local congregations can hire their own preachers.

Please keep in mind that a congregation of the Lord's people does not need a hired preacher until it is able to support him. Then the members can choose a man that they want, one

they can respect, and one that will respect them. They can decide on the amount of support he should have, based on what they are able to do, and they can see to it that he does the work that needs to be done. Also, the preacher will then be accountable to them and not to the foreigner. This will make a great difference in the kind of work that he does.

Many preachers would not want to work for a local congregation on the basis of what they could pay. They know that they would not get as much money, that more would be expected of them, and that they could not get by with a lot of things they do while working with a foreigner. This within it self should say something. But if the Lord's cause is ever to grow in India, the preachers must be hired and supported by local congregations. Then they can rightly feel that it is their work and not that of an outsider.

If a congregation is not able to hire a local preacher, then it needs to wait to have one until it can afford to do so. In the mean while, let the male members take turns in preaching and teaching God's word in the various assemblies and let all of the members do their part in visiting the sick, caring for the needy, doing personal work, etc. With the passing of time, the work will surely grow, provided all the members are sincere, dedicated, and doing their share of the work. Eventually such a congregation would be in position to hire a preacher, provided it still felt the need for one. But this should not be done with the idea of letting the preacher do all the work from then on. Rather, the members should continue to work and cooperate with the preacher so that more might be done.

Remember, there is a lot to think about when it comes to hiring a preacher. But whatever you do, don't let someone else do your work for you. Be thankful you can do it for yourself.



**associate  
editorial**

## A Perfect Sacrifice

The Old Testament, the law of Moses, is a type of the New Testament, the Law of Christ. Under the Old Testament, God required his people to offer special sacrifices as offerings for certain sins. For example, if any soul would sin through ignorance, God said, "then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for the sin offering. And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the Lord, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him." (Numbers 15 : 27, 28). Beside this, certain sacrifices were offered on different occasions, for certain purposes. For instance, there were sacrifices, which according to the Law, had to be made daily. (Exodus 29 : 38-46). Also there were sacrifices which were weekly (Number 28 : 9-10), monthly (Number 28 : 11-15), and yearly, (Leviticus 23).

But that was not all, the Old Testament says, again on the tenth day of each Seventh month all of their sins were remembered again, and an atonement was made first for priest, then for all the people. (Leviticus 16 : 11-15). However, still even these sacrifices, offered on the day of atonement, were not sufficient to take away their sins. For in Leviticus 16 : 20-22, we read, "And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat. And Aaron shall lay both of his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness : And the

goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited : and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness."

Later, the writer of the book of Hebrews, in the New Testament, wrote, "For the law having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered ? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." (Hebrews 10 : 1-4).

Thus, the New Testament teaches that the law was weak and it had no power to take away sins. All the sacrifices that were made under it, were the shadow of good things which were to come in future. It should be noted, under the old law the sacrifices were made continually and repeatedly, which were the proof of the fact that it was impossible for the blood of the animals to take away the sins of the people permanently. For a debt that is fully paid does not need to be paid again, and a disease that is fully cured does not need medicine again.

The significance, therefore, of all the thousands of animal sacrifices under the old testament was that in like manner one day Christ would come and bear upon him all the sins of the world and would offer himself as a perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people. They were the continual reminder to the people that a perfect sacrifice would be made in future. Just like Aaron the priest laid all the iniquities of the people on the goat and sent him away in the wilderness, so that he should alone bear all the iniquities of all people, in like manner God laid all the iniquities of all the people of the world on Jesus Christ, His Son, and left him there hanged upon the cross between heaven and earth ! Just like the goat, Jesus was left alone; even God forsook him. Jesus cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me." No doubt, then the scape goat of the Old Testament was a shadow of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Prophet Isaiah exclaimed, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6).

Friends, whoever you may be we all must be thankful to Jesus Christ who did not leave us to offer sacrifices for our sins, but he himself became our sacrifice. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5). Are you weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with the load of sins? Jesus invites you, "Come unto me, all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). Why don't you believe in him as your sin offering, and do what he says that your sins may be forgiven? (Mark 16:16).



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# The Work of The Holy Spirit

One of the most misunderstood and controversial subjects of our time is the Holy Spirit and his work in the lives of people today. Out of all of this have come the Pentecostal doctrines and teachings which have added more and more confusion to the whole thing. In addition to this, many members of the church are equally confused and because of a lack of teaching may find themselves accepting and promoting error on the mission of the Holy Spirit.

Our chief purpose in this study will be an attempt to put the Holy Spirit and his work in their proper perspective as set forth in the Bible. So far most people have a tendency to want to push the Holy Spirit into the background and out of sight while others go to the other extreme and over emphasize the Holy Spirit to the point that the other members of the Godhead become almost insignificant and minor. Both positions are wrong and the teaching of such extremes does great harm. All of us will be much better off once we learn the place of the Spirit in our lives and allow him to do the work that God intended.

Let's stop now and ask, Who is the Holy Spirit? We need to get acquainted with him if we are to understand him and his relationship with us. To begin with, let us realize that he is not some ghost-like spirit that works mysteriously with us and in ways that we cannot explain. He does not come upon us and take control of our lives & cause us to act in a strange way and to speak in a tongue that no one knows. This may be the work of a spirit, but not the **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit himself is a person with a definite identity and work. He is not merely God or Christ, although he is like them and is a part of the Godhead. He is deity, that is, supernatural.

The Holy Spirit is often spoken of as the third person in the Godhead. He was with God and Christ in the beginning. (Genesis 1:1, 2). Christ commanded the apostles to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19, 20). Those who obey the Lord are given the gift of the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit himself. (Acts 2:38). Paul tells us that there is but one Spirit. (Ephesians 4:4).

To really understand the Holy Spirit and how he works in our lives today, we need to go back to the days of Christ and the Apostles and consider the measures of the Holy Spirit. In so doing we must recognize that the purpose of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in those of New Testament times and his purpose in us are two entirely different things. To argue that because Christ, the apostles, performed miracles, spoke in other tongues, etc., that we should be able to do the same today, is a misunderstanding of the mission of the Holy Spirit, and this is where the whole problem lies.

First, let us begin with Christ because the record says that the Holy Spirit was given to him without measure. (John 3:34). The term measure denotes a limit on the power being given. When it says that the Spirit was given to him without measure then it means that no limitations were placed upon the power of the Spirit as he worked with Christ. Later we are going to see that the Apostles and others received the Spirit too but they received limited measures. It was not that they did not receive the Spirit, but he worked in them & through them in a limited way. That is, he did not exert all of his power through them.

Second, the Apostles received the baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist had said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Matthew 3 : 11, 12). Please note that Christ himself would administer the baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit. Later we read where Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, but the promise was made to them only, not to people in general, and certainly not to people of our day. When Christ was giving final instructions to the Apostles before his return to the Father, he said, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Luke 24 :49). Please note that Christ was speaking

here specifically to the Apostles and he said that he would send the promise upon them and that they should tarry in Jerusalem until they received it. Now if that is not restricting that gift to a select number, then what would you call it? But that is not all. He also said to the Apostles, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26) "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning." (John 15:26, 27). "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." (John 16:13). These and other verses make it clear that the Holy Spirit was to be sent by God and Christ upon the Apostles, those that had been with him from the beginning, and that the Spirit would call to their remembrance all things Christ had taught them, would guide them into all truth, and show them things to come. This promise was not made to all people of that time and neither was it made to us today.

Keeping the foregoing thoughts in mind, you can understand the following verses: "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they<sup>9</sup> shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and



confirming the word with signs following. Amen." (Mark 16:14-20). Now you can easily see that the Lord here is dealing with the Apostles and the pronouns "they" refer specifically to the Apostles. When he therefore speaks of the signs and miracles that would follow them that believe, he was referring to the Apostles who would do these things as a result of their belief in him, but he was not referring to those in general who believe and are baptized. Later, the Apostles were able to do these things that he listed, but the purpose of them was to confirm the word or to prove that they were speaking the word of God.

In Acts 1 : 8 Christ again promised to send the Spirit upon the Apostles : "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you : and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8). After the Lord's return to heaven, the Apostles gathered and Matthias was chosen to take the place of Judas, and then going into Acts 2, the record says, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:1-4). Now who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Go back to the end of Acts 1 and read who the subjects are : not the one hundred and twenty, but the Apostles, the ones to whom the promise was given. Read on down to verse fourteen and see who stands up to preach : Peter and the eleven, the twelve apostles. Read on down to verse forty three, after about three thousand had obeyed the Lord, and it says, "And fear came upon every soul : and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles." So there can be little doubt here as to who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Besides the Apostles we have only one other case of Holy Spirit baptism in the scriptures and this was in the case of

Cornelius and His household who became the first Gentile converts. The Apostles were Jews and to show that the Gentiles were not excluded from the salvation of the gospel, the first Gentile converts likewise received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, proving that God is no respecter of persons. When Peter spoke of it he had to look all the way back to the day of Pentecost to find another case of Holy Spirit baptism. Read Acts 10 and 11.

Third, there was the measure of the Spirit that was given by the laying on of the Apostles' hands. Since the Apostles could not be every where and do all the work that needed to be done, then in Acts 6 we hear the Apostles asking the brethren to choose seven from among them full of the Holy Ghost, (And notice that they already had the Holy Spirit, Acts 2 : 38, but not the power to work miracles), so that they might lay their hands on them to enable them likewise to have miraculous power. Later we read of one of them, Philip, going down to Samaria to preach the gospel. The record says that he performed miracles and many believed and were baptized. This is the first instance of anyone working miracles besides the Apostles. But Philip could not pass on the power of the Holy Spirit that the Apostles had given to him. Therefore, Peter and John were sent for and they came down and laid their hands on some of the new Christians. They did not lay their hands on everyone, however, for Simon the sorcerer is a case in point. (Read Acts 8:1-24). Now, as you read through the New Testament and of the various miracles that were performed, including speaking in tongues or other languages, and other such things, these things were always done either by the Apostles or by those on whom they laid their hands.

Fourth, and final, we read about the ordinary measure of the Holy Spirit, the non-miraculous measure. This is the measure that all Christians receive, and this is the measure that is in force today. This is the measure that Peter spoke of in Acts 2 : 38, when he said, "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." But if

there are no miraculous powers connected with this gift then how do we know that we have the Holy Spirit? In the first place, all of those who obey the pure gospel of Christ, and are therefore members of the church, are promised the Holy Spirit. We may know that we have the Holy Spirit because God's word says that those who obey his teaching will receive the Holy Spirit. But how does he dwell in us? Just as God and Christ dwell in us. What is the purpose of his dwelling in us? Paul says that he bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, that the Spirit helpeth our infirmities, "For we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8:16, 26). Paul also admonishes us that if we live in the Spirit we are to walk by the Spirit and thus to bear the fruits of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:25, 22).

During the times of the Apostles the New Testament had not yet been given in written form. Therefore, with the birth of the church, the Lord's people needed special guidance. She was like a babe, an infant, and needed miracles to direct her, and to guide her until the New Testament could be given in written form. That is why Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13 that the time would come when tongues, and other miraculous things would cease. Thus when the Apostles died, and those on whom they laid their hands, died, the miraculous age ended because by this time the New Testament, the perfect law of liberty, had been given in written form (James 1:22, 25), and from that time down to this man has not had to depend on childish things such as miracles but has been able to go to the New Testament itself to know God's will and to be guided by it. (John 20:30, 31; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 4:11).

The New Testament was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and it completely furnishes man to every good work (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). When man therefore goes to it to read, study it, and to obey its teaching, then he is being guided and directed by the Holy Spirit, but not separate and apart from the word. Why then would any one want to push aside the word of God and all of its teaching and rely on his feelings and his claims concerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

Such a person is blind, deceived, and lost. In such a case he is being guided by the evil spirit, not the Spirit of God.

In light of what the Bible says, how could anyone today claim to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit? How could anyone claim to be able to perform miracles, speak in tongues, etc.? Such people are not only ignorant of the scriptures but make a mockery of God and his power. There are people of all religions who claim miraculous powers, but we know that such claims are false, and the same is true among believers in Christ who make such claims. This is not to say that God does not live and that his people are powerless. To the contrary, he does live and his people have the power of the Spirit within them. As a matter of fact, God's people are the only ones who do have power—not miraculous power, although they could have that if God wanted them to have it and if it served any purpose—but the power of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit is definitely living in them and working through them.

Please don't be deceived. You don't have to go around all the time saying "Praise the Lord," "Thank you Jesus," "Hallelujah," etc., to prove that you have the Spirit living in you. If you have truly obeyed God, you have the Spirit. (Acts 2:38). Study your Bible, believe what it teaches, and trust the Lord to do what he said he would do. If you will then you should not have any trouble in understanding the Holy Spirit and his work in your life for today.

### QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

1. What is one of the most controversial subjects of our time? Why?
2. Who is the Holy Spirit?
3. What is meant by measures of the Holy Spirit?
4. How many are mentioned in the Scriptures? List them.
5. In what sense did Christ receive the Spirit? Read John 3:34
6. What measure of the Holy Spirit did the Apostles receive? Who promised it? Who administered it?
7. Was the baptism of the Holy Spirit promised to all?
8. To whom was given the power to perform miracles, speak in tongues etc.?

9. Who was actually baptised with the Holy Spirit and who performed miracles ?
10. Apart from the Apostles being baptized by Holy Spirit, what other case of Holy Spirit baptism do we read about ? Why was it given in this case ?
11. Explain the third measure of the Holy Spirit ? To whom was it given ? Why ? Give some examples of it.
12. Define the gift of the Holy Spirit. Who receives it ? Does it carry any miraculous power with it ?
13. Why were miracles needed in the time of the Apostles ?
14. When did the miraculous age end ? If it did not end, what would be the purpose of its continuation ?
15. How are we guided today ?

## Why Didn't You Come Before Now?

Various missionaries in different parts of the world have been asked many times, "If you have the truth why is it that you have not come earlier ?" Some find this a difficult question to answer. We, too, have been asked this same question many times here in India. But in our case there are at least three things that we can answer. **In the first place**, according to secular history the apostle Thomas came here back in the first century to preach the gospel and was later killed by some of the local people. This means that the gospel was preached here almost two thousand years ago and to this day there is a church here that claims to be the direct result of the work that Thomas did. To compare that church, however, with the church as revealed in the New Testament one would find little resemblance between the two. Evidently, sometime after the Lord's church was established here it drifted into error. It didn't have to do so, but it did. This means, then, that the gospel came to India long before it came to America. **In the second place**, since the gospel was brought to India when it was, & since our country of America was not even discovered

until 1492 then we could ask India, "Why did you not preserve the gospel and bring it to us?" **And third**, with the gospel having been preached in India when it was, and with the people no doubt having the scriptures many years before our country came into existence, then it would follow that we should be asking the people of India, "Why didn't you bring the gospel to us?"

America is a young country, compared to most other countries. That being true, and since Christianity and the Bible existed hundreds of years before our country was ever born, then it was the duty of those who had the gospel to bring it to us. The sad thing about all of this is the fact that by that time the church was very weak and was overshadowed by the Catholic church, which was the apostate form of the Lord's church and they controlled the distribution of the Bible. Even with the rise of Protestantism and the spread of the Bible, the best that denominationalists could do was to bring the divisive error they believed in.

With the passing of time and with denominationalism not as well established then as now, many of the religious leaders of the 17 and 1800's began to question their religious teachings and practices. As they did so they returned to the word of God to get a clearer understanding of it and this led many of them to break away from the various man-made groups and set out to be just Christians and members of the Lord's church. This was not an easy thing to do because they found a great deal of opposition to their idea. In spite of this, a restoration movement took place. The plea was to return to the Bible to speak where it speaks and to be silent where it is silent, to be Christians only and members of the church that is found in the Bible, to wear Bible names and to do Bible things in Bible ways. This appeal resulted in thousands and thousands leaving their denominations to be just Christians. Churches of Christ sprang up all over the country. Now in the mid 1900's the churches of Christ are busy taking the gospel to the rest of the world. Even though no one brought it to us, and even though they could have done so had they themselves been following the Bible through the years, we are now taking the truth to them.

Here in India and around the world people ask why we didn't come earlier. But I ask, "Why was it necessary for us to come?" They have had the truth at their finger tips all of these years in the form of the Bible. Had they only read and studied it, believed and obeyed it, they could have been Christians and members of the Lord's church long ago. We do not have a lock and key on the Bible. It is available to all and open to all.

So when someone asks me why we have not come before now, I would ask, "Why were not you the ones bringing the gospel to me?" They have the same Bible I have, equal mentality to mine, and they could have done the same thing that I did. Why did they not? But when at last a people have the truth then it is their duty to accept it for themselves and to take it to others. Even though we did not come as truth bearers many years ago that doesn't mean that what we bring today is any less the truth. One should be thankful that we have come to point out the truth—and then he should gladly accept that truth.



A set of questions has been sent to us from Jamnagar.

**QUESTION :** "Is Judaism the oldest religion in the world? Who is the founder of this religion? What is the theme of this religion?"

**ANSWER :** The oldest form of religion in the world is that which has been in honour of the true and living God since the time of creation. All religions, whether of God or not, have grown out of that first one. Twenty-five hundred years after the creation, the law of Moses was given by God to govern the Jews. This law continued in force until the death of Christ, but even though the religion of Judaism scripturally

ceased, to be replaced by the law of Christ, still the Jews have continued with the old law in one form or another on down to this time. Of course it should be understood that we don't mean that all Jews have continued faithful to that law. Many have become atheists, infidels, or unbelievers. Others have become Christians. A religion, however, is not right or wrong because of its age but according to whether it represents God today. Every evidence in the scriptures confirms that the true religion today is the religion of Christianity, not Protestant Christianity or Catholic Christianity but true Christianity as it is revealed in the New Testament.

QUESTION : "Which religion existed in India prior to the arrival of westerners ?"

ANSWER : Animism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and most other religions were here. Actually, the people of the West did not bring Christianity to India, but Asians did that. Also, Asians brought Christianity to the West. If you know very much about Christianity surely you realize that Christianity did not begin in the West but in the East ; yet it is the religion intended for the whole world, and that is why you will find it all over the world today.

QUESTION : "Give more light on Mohammedism."

ANSWER : Islam speaks for itself. Jesus Christ said that by their fruits ye shall know them. Compare the fruit of Christianity with the fruit of Islam and see which one is superior to the other. That should give you all the light you need.

QUESTION : "Give more light on Hinduism."

ANSWER : The same is true with Hinduism as with Islam when it comes to the fruit that it produces. Look at those who represent Hinduism. Can you see difference in the two ? Have you ever noticed that the countries today that are leaders in the world are those who have basically accepted the principles of Christianity through the years ? Others are recipients of those blessings through others. There must be some reason for this.

QUESTION : "Which is the best suitable religion in the world ?"



**ANSWER :** Christianity has done more for the world than any other religion in the history of mankind. If all countries of the world today would accept pure Christianity then the world would be transformed into virtual paradise. This doesn't mean that there would no longer be any problems and troubles but it does mean that man would be set free from many of those things that bind him and he would be enabled to make the kind of progress that he has never made before.

## **“The Lord Is My Shepherd”**

**K. Matthew**

Who is a shepherd? Here in the 23rd Psalm we have an experienced shepherd speaking by the name of David. David was very well known through out the Old Testament. He was the root of the coming Messiah, Christ our Lord. He explained that “the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” (Psalms 1 : 1ff). What do shepherds do? They watch over the sheep and protect them. They have a great responsibility to watch over the sheep. They love the sheep and the flock obey them. These sheeps follow wherever the shepherd leads them. He knows all the needs of the flock. He leads them into green pastures and beside still water. The sheep depend on the Shepherd.

David fully depended on the Lord, He says that “the Lord is my shepherd”, in full confidence and complete faith. He experienced that the Lord was able to guide him and lead him in his life, keeping him from dangers. This is a very good example for our present day life. Different people are trusting and depending on various things. Some are depending on others. They feel that they are their everything. Others depend on money. All these things cannot give any assurance. Even your parents, friends, and money will forsake you. But if you are depending on the Lord, or he is your shepherd, you shall not want. This is a time to examine your life, and what you are trusting. On money, worldly possessions, friends, these cannot give you satisfaction. Only the Lord can.

If he is your shepherd he will guide you throughout your life and life yet to come. But there is a test to see if you are on the Lord's side or not. If he is your shepherd you will obey him. How can you obey the Lord? You will obey the word, which is from God through various people or in one word, the Bible. All things are very clear to your understanding. The Bible is the only authority. You cannot follow some man-made creed, but the word of God only. The Shepherd, our Lord, is always willing to talk to you through the pages of the Bible. Don't you want to listen to him? If you will hear him, you will not follow a man-made group, or creed, but to follow him only means to do what the Bible says. Now you know who your shepherd is and the wise will choose the Lord as their shepherd because he is leading the flock to an eternal happiness of bliss. Follow and obey him today. If you are interested to know more about him, please write to the address given on the cover page.



Who will go to Madhya Pradesh? This is the largest State in India, located in the very heart of the country, with a population of forty-two million people. There are 70,000 villages with a third of the people being Adivasis and Harijans. This means that there are many tribal people to work with, people who have not accepted any formal religion. The State however, is predominately Hindu.

Thirty per cent of the State is covered by forests. It has from 30 to 60 inches of rainfall annually. It has some of the world's largest deposits of iron ore, diamonds, copper, coal and bauxite. In addition to all of the other assets of this State, it is larger in size than England, Germany or Japan.

The capital is Bhopal and some of its other cities include Gwalior, Jabalpur, Indore, Ujjain, Sagar, and Bilaspur.

Madhya Pradesh is as much in need of help as any other state is. One or more Christians therefore need to take it upon themselves to go there to preach the gospel. Who will go? Will you go?

# Who Is On The Lord's Side?

Mark H. Nunley

In Exodus 32 : 26 we read, "Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Whoever is for the Lord, come to me. And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him." Moses asked this question when he came down off of Mt. Sinai and found Israel naked, dancing, worshipping a golden calf, etc. And this is a question that we must be concerned about. Who is really on the Lord's side? So let us think about what it means today to be on the Lord's side :

**BEING ON THE LORD'S SIDE MEANS THAT WE ARE RENOUNCING ALL SIN IN OUR LIFE**—Ungodliness in the life of one trying to serve God is just as much out of place as finding righteousness in the life of Satan. When we are trying to be a Christian, certain things are just out of the question. All sin and error and ungodliness must be put away from us. As Heb. 10:26 tells us "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins." Jesus made the one and only effective sacrifice for sins in dying on the cross. And there is no forgiveness, to be found if we do not obey Jesus. When we sin, we must turn back to the Lord on His terms, for in no other way can we be forgiven.

**BEING ON THE LORD'S SIDE MEANS THAT WE WILL OBEY ALL OF GOD'S COMMANDMENTS**—James 2:10 says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." To disobey only one of God's commandments makes us guilty of disobeying the whole thing. So we must obey God as faithfully as we can. In Matt. 19 : 16-21 we find a young man coming to Jesus and asking what he had to do to have eternal life. And Jesus said, "Keep the commandments." And then the Lord goes on to say that in this Gospel age that means following and obeying Jesus.

Concerning these 2 points, we need to think about grace before we go on. Not a one of us can perfectly keep all sin out of our life. Not a one of us can perfectly obey all of

God's commandments. It is when our heart and intentions and motives are proper, and we're doing the best that we can, that we shall be saved by God's grace, even though we do not deserve to be saved. See Eph. 2 : 8-9.

**BEING ON THE LORD'S SIDE MEANS THAT WE MUST LIVE WORTHY OF OUR PROFESSION OF BEING A CHRISTIAN**—Heb. 10 : 23 says, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering ; (for He is faithful that promised)." When a person becomes a Christian, they must first believe that Jesus is the Son of God, then they must repent of their sins (decide to turn from them), then they must confess or profess their faith in Jesus as God's Son, and then they must be baptized in order to have their sins washed away by the blood of Christ. And as a Christian, we must live every day worthy of the confession of Christ that we made. Every day of our life must be lived worthy of our claim of being a Christian.

**BEING ON THE LORD'S SIDE MEANS THAT WE MUST SET APART OUR TALENTS TO JESUS AND HIS SERVICE**—Read Matt. 25 : 14-30. In this passage we learn that the Lord has entrusted to our care everything that we have and that they really belong unto Him. We are therefore expected to use our time, money, energy, abilities, etc. in the Lord's service.

These 4 points tell us basically what it means to be on the Lord's side. Now let us notice 3 reasons why we should be, and stay on the Lord's side :

**BEING ON THE LORD'S SIDE IS THE HAPPY SIDE OF LIFE**—In Prov. 3 : 13 we find, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." And then in the writings of Solomon we learn that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord. And David tells us that the knowledge of God's law gives understanding. So the one that knows and obeys and puts to use in their lives the ways of God (which we learn from the New Testament), is the one that is truly happy in life.

**BEING ON THE LORD'S SIDE IS THE HONORABLE WAY OF LIFE**—In John 12 : 26 we read, "If any man serve Me (Jesus), let him follow Me ; and where I am there shall also

My servant be ; if any man serve Me, him will My Father (God) honour." There isn't any honour in lying, stealing, cheating, committing adultery, cursing, drinking, gossiping, etc. The honour is to be found in honesty, sincerety, humbleness, fairness, and living the kind of upright Christian life that God expects of us.

**BEING ON THE LORD'S SIDE IS THE SAFEST SIDE—** Either we are on Satan's side, or we are on God's side. These are the only 2 possibilities in life. The Bible tells us that the lake of fire and brimstone has been prepared for Satan and his angels, And the Bible tells us that God's followers shall go to heaven. So which is the safest side to be on ? The answer is obvious. Jesus Christ triumphed over Satan in rising from the grave, and in the judgement Jesus shall send Satan and his followers into hell. Let us follow the safe course of serving God. So just as the Sons of Levi gathered themselves together around Moses because they wanted to be on the Lord's side, may we also realize the need to be on the Lord's side in life !

## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Jess Willis**

"What must I do to be saved ?" is a Bible question. It is too important to trust in the hands of the greatest men of our days. It deserve an honest answer from the Bible. Each individual should study the following and all Scriptures in their own Bible very prayerfully.

1. **HEAR AND LEARN...**"Every one that hath heard... and learned cometh to me "(John 6 : 45 ; See Jn. 5 : 39).
2. **BELIEVE ON CHRIST...**"For except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sin"(John 8 : 24).
3. **REPENT OR PERISH...**"For except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"(Luke 13 : 5 ; See Acts 17 : 30).
4. **CONFESS CHRIST...**"Every one therefore, who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father, who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).
5. **BAPTIZED...**"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16 : 16 ; See Gal. 3 : 27 : Rom. 6 : 3, 4).
6. **BE FAITHFUL...**"But he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

Each quotation above was stated by our Lord Jesus who came to seek and save the lost, who laid down His life to be crucified, who was raised from the grave, and was given all authority. Beloved, you can trust Christ to lead you in the way of salvation. Men can make mistakes. We may overlook something that Christ has taught. You may find more things than those listed above, but since they came from Christ, we must agree that He wants us to do all of them. Please let Christ lead you to heaven.

## Social Work

Much of the religious work done here in India is what is called social work. There are schools, hospitals, clinics, orphanages, relief programmes, work among lepers, family planning, rural uplift schemes, and all kinds of projects going on. All of these are concerned primarily with man's physical well being. Practically no emphasis whatsoever is being placed upon his soul. It is as though man has no soul but that our only concern should be to help keep the stomach full.

What people do not seem to realize is that the stomach can be kept full for fifty years, but that won't save his soul. Furthermore, it matters not how well man has survived in this present world, if he dies without his soul being saved then he has lost everything. It would be better to have starved to death with a saved soul than to have died as a rich man with a lost soul. The present day emphasis is upon the wrong part of man.

We of the church of Christ are interested in the souls of men. This doesn't mean that we have no concern for man's physical needs, but those needs are secondary and should not become the church's purpose for existence. Our chief aim is to take the gospel to every soul and to give man the opportunity to save his soul through obeying God.

What a lot of people overlook is the fact that when the gospel is preached and it is believed and obeyed, as a man applies the principles of Christ to his life, that he will become a

प्रेम करते हैं और तुझसे ही सबन्ध रखते हैं। परन्तु तेरी प्रधानता को दिखाने तथा तेरे नाम का आदर करने के बदले यदि हम किसी और नाम से कहलाये जायें, जो तेरी ओर से नहीं है, तो तू बुरा तो नहीं मानेगा ?” नये नियम की कलीसिया मसीह की दुर्दिन कहलाती है : परमेश्वर की कलीसिया (१ तिमथियुस ३:५, १ कुरिन्थियों १:२), परमेश्वर का घर (१ तिमथियुस ३:१५), जीवते परमेश्वर की कलीसिया (१ तिमथियुस ३:१५), पहिलोठे की कलीसिया (इब्रानियों १२:२३), मसीह की देह (१ कुरिन्थियों १२:२७), यीशु मसीह की कलीसिया (रोमियों १६:१६) अथवा साधारणतः कलीसिया (प्रेरितो ६:३१)। एक ही देह है (इफिसियों १:२२-२३)। अतः केवल एक ही कलीसिया है।

यीशु मसीह ने एक ही कलीसिया बनाई (मत्ती १६:१८)। वह स्वयं ही इसका संस्थापक है। कलीसिया का आरम्भ येरूशलेम में हुआ (यशायाह २:२, ३; लूका २४:४७-४९; प्रेरितो १:८; २:३८-४७)। यह लगभग ३३ ई० सन में बनाई गई। यीशु मसीह ने अपने प्राण देकर अपने लहु से इसे खरीदा है (प्रेरितो २०:२८) वह कलीसिया का उद्धारकर्ता है (इफिसियों ५:२३)। यीशु ने कहा कि वह अपनी कलीसिया बनाएगा (मत्ती १६:१८) अतः कलीसिया उससे सम्बन्ध रखती है, और कलीसिया को उसका नाम अपने ऊपर रखकर, उसकी प्रधानता तथा आदर दिखाना चाहिए, किसी और का नहीं।

नये नियम में लोगों ने उद्धार पाने के लिए यीशु मसीह पर विश्वास किया अपने पापों से पश्चात्ताप किया यीशु मसीह का अंगीकार किया कि वह परमेश्वर का पुत्र है तथा अपने पापों की क्षमा के लिए बपतिस्मा लिया (प्रेरितो १६:३१; २:३८; ८:३७; मरकुस १६:१६; प्रेरितो २६:१६; रोमियों ६:३-४)। तब प्रभु ने उन्हें अपनी कलीसिया में मिला लिया (प्रेरितो २:४७)। इसलिए कलीसिया उद्धार पाये हुआ से मिलकर बनी हुई है।

यदि आपने परमेश्वर की उद्धार की योजना को मान लिया है तो आपको प्रभु अपनी कलीसिया में मिलाएगा, किसी मनुष्य की बनाई हुई कलीसिया में नहीं, तथा आप उसका नाम अपने ऊपर रखेंगे, “मसीही” (प्रेरितो ११:३६)। किसी मनुष्य का नाम नहीं। किसी और की बनाई हुई कलीसिया के बदले, क्यों नहीं यीशु मसीह की कलीसिया के सदस्य बनते ? यीशु मसीह एक दिन वापस आ रहा है ताकि अपनी कलीसिया को अपने साथ स्वर्ग में ले जाए। क्या आप उनमें से एक होंगे ?

(अनुवादक—एफ डेविड)

विषय में सुना है जहां आपका धन सम्पूर्णतः सुरक्षित हो तथा जहां चोर भी सेंध नहीं लगाते ? क्या आपने कभी ऐसे बैंक के विषय में सुना है जो आपकी चिन्ता करता हो, यहां तक कि आपकी मृत्यु के पश्चात् भी । क्या आप जानते हैं कि एक ऐसा बैंक स्थित है, जिसके गुम्बज भयानक से भयानक बमों को भी चितावनी देते हैं, तथा जो सदाकाल तक बने रहने का दावा करते हैं, चाहे इस जगत का अन्त भी हो जाए । इस बैंक की अधिकार प्राप्ति कहीं भी हो सकती है, यहां तक कि आपके घर में भी । अब मुझे पूर्णरूप से ज्ञात हो गया है कि आप मुझे पागल सोचेंगे । ती भी आगे क्यों नहीं पढ़ते । आप इससे दुखी नहीं होंगे ।

“अपने लिए पृथ्वी पर धन इकट्ठा न करो; जहां कीड़ा और काई बिगाड़ते हैं, और जहां चोर सेंध लगाते और चुराते हैं । परन्तु अपने लिए स्वर्ग में धन इकट्ठा करो, जहां न तो कीड़ा और न काई बिगाड़ते हैं, और जहां चोर न सेंध लगाते और न चुराते हैं । क्योंकि जहां तेरा धन है वहां तेरा मन भी लगा रहेगा ।” अब आप जान गये होंगे कि यह कौनसा बैंक है । यह है स्वर्ग । यह प्रमाण मत्ती के छटे अध्याय में से है, जो कि परमेश्वर के वचन बाइबल का एक भाग है । आप शायद कहें यह तो सब बहुत ही विचित्र है, परन्तु मैं अपना पैसा वहां कैसे जमा करूं ? इसके लिए मैं आपको बाइबल में से उत्तर दूंगा । इसका स्वयं ही स्पष्टीकरण है । इसके लिए कोई फार्म नहीं भरने, कोई पास बुक नहीं चाहिए अथवा कोई और उपचार नहीं करना । इससे पहले कि आप इस बैंक में पैसा जमा करायें, आपको कुछ निश्चित शर्तें पूरी करनी होंगी, तथा कुछ बातें हैं जिनको समझना आवश्यक है ।

सबसे पहले आपको विश्वास करना है कि ऐसा बैंक वर्तमान है । इसके पश्चात् आप किसी ऐसे बैंक में पैसा जमा कराने नहीं जा रहे जिसके अस्तित्व के विषय में आप पक्के न हों । आपको एक ऐसे बैंक पर विश्वास करने की आवश्यकता है जिसे आप देख नहीं सकते । अगली बात जो आपको करनी है, वह यह है कि इसके अधिकारी यीशु की ओर जाना है तथा जो वह कहता है उसे करना है । जब तक आप ऐसा नहीं करेंगे तो आपका पैसा शायद सुरक्षित न रहे । शायद यह किसी अनुचित बैंक में न चला जाए । आप अवश्य यह चाहेंगे कि आपका पैसा सदा के लिए सुरक्षित रहे । अतः आपको यीशु मसीह की सब आज्ञाओं को पूरा करना होगा । एक बार ऐसा करने पर आप अनन्त-काल के बंधन में मिला दिये जाएंगे । आपका जमा-खाता (बैंक-एंकाउंट) अब खुल गया तथा प्रतिदिन की मजदूरी करने का प्रतिफल अपने आप वहां एकत्र होने लगा । इसमें लाभ होने की जो दर है वह बड़ी शानदार है । यह हमारी



कल्पना से बाहर है। यीशु मसीह की आज्ञाएं मानने के पश्चात् आपको उसका अहसान मानकर सदा के लिए उसकी सेवा करनी है, क्योंकि आप यह समझते हैं कि उसने आपके लिए क्या किया है। उसके लिए कार्य करने से आप प्रतिदिन धनी होते जाएंगे। आप केवल अपने जीवनकाल में ही उसकी सेवा कर सकते हैं परन्तु यीशु अपने अनन्त प्रेम के द्वारा आपको अनन्त जीवन देता है। आपको जीवन का मुकुट मिलेगा तब आप सदा काल के लिए यीशु मसीह के साथ उसके राज्य में रहेंगे। फिर आप दूसरी बार कभी नहीं मरेंगे, इसके विषय में जरा सोचिये। मैंने यीशु मसीह के प्रेम का बहुत ही अनुभव प्राप्त किया है तथा यह विश्वास करता हूं कि जो वह कहता है उसे करेगा। उसने मुझे कभी निराश नहीं किया। आप इससे अच्छा स्वामी (मालिक) नहीं पा सकते। क्यों नहीं मेरे साथ तथा और दूसरे मसीहीयों के साथ मिल जाते। आइये उसके लिए एक साथ मिलकर कार्य करें। वह मेरी सब आवश्यकताओं की चिन्ता रखता है। वह आपकी भी चिन्ता रखेगा। मुझे कभी भी कमी नहीं हुई एक बार भी नहीं। ये ही उपाय है जिसके द्वारा आप धनी बन सकते हैं—हाँ, वास्तव में धनी।

बाइबल का अध्ययन करिये तथा स्वर्ग में जाने का मार्ग मालूम करें, जहां आप अनन्तकाल का धन पा सकते हैं।

(अनुवादक—एफ० डेविड)

## यीशु की दुल्हन

लेखक—विपुल राय

श्री पौल, सूजी से बहुत ही प्रेम करते थे तथा उन्होंने सूजी से विवाह कर लिया। विवाह के उपरान्त सूजी ने अपने पति से कहा “पौल तुम जानते हो कि मैं तुमसे कितना प्रेम करती हूँ, और इसी लिए मेरा तुमसे सबन्ध है, परन्तु क्या तुम मुझे श्रीमति पौल के बदले श्रीमति विलियम कहने में बुरा तो नहीं मानोगे ?”

आप शायद कहें कितनी विचित्र बात है। परन्तु क्या आप जानते हैं कि यह बात पूर्ण संसार में की जाती है? यीशु मसीह ने अपनी कलीसिया से इतना प्रेम किया कि उसने अपने प्राण भी इसके लिए दे दिए। यीशु की कलीसिया उसकी दुल्हन है (इफिसियों ५:२३) क्योंकि वह उससे सम्बन्ध रखती है। यीशु मसीह कलीसिया का सिर है (कुलुस्सियों १:१८)। तभी आज अपने को मसीही कहने वाले यीशु मसीह से कह रहे हैं “प्रभु तू जानता है कि हम तुम्हसे

better person, that he will be a cleaner person, that he will be an honest person, that he will work harder and accomplish more. This will make it possible for him to have greater respect from those living around him, he will be able to get a better job, he will be able to make a better salary, and this will enable him to have a better house, to eat better food, to wear better clothes, and to give his children a better education, and so on.

Social work is fine but it must be kept in its proper place. Anyone can do social work whether he is a Christian or not, but not all can and will preach the gospel. Therefore let's get back to the job that the Lord has sent us out to do and that is to preach the gospel to every creature. When we do that the social reforms will naturally follow. Try God's plan and see.

## क्या आप धनी होना चाहते हैं ?

लेखक—विपुल राय

वास्तव में आप चाहेंगे। प्रत्येक चाहता है, और मैं भी चाहता हूँ। बहुतेरे लोग ऐसे हैं जो धनी होने के रहस्य को जान चुके हैं तथा दिन प्रतिदिन धनी होते जा रहे हैं। मैंने इस रहस्य की खोज लगभग दो वर्ष पहले की थी। चाहे इस पर विश्वास करें या न करें, इस रहस्य तथा हर्ष को मैं आप के साथ भी बांटना चाहता हूँ। आप शायद चकित हों, परन्तु मैं आप का बैंक में पैसा बढ़ाने में रुचि रखता हूँ।

जितना भी अभी तक लिखा गया, उसको पढ़कर शायद आप सोचें कि मैं पागल हो गया हूँ। क्या कभी किसी ने सुना है कि कोई व्यक्ति किसी अन्य व्यक्ति के बैंक का पैसा बढ़ाने में रुचि रखता हो। मैं जानता हूँ कि आप क्या सोच रहे हैं। परन्तु कृपया आगे पढ़िए—

शायद आपका पैसा किसर्ब बैंक, स्टेट बैंक आफ इन्डिया अथवा पंजाब नैशनल बैंक में हो। मैं आपको प्रकृति दिलाता चाहता हूँ कि चाहे मैं कुछ कर भी सकूँ तभी मैं इनमें से किसी को भी छूने नहीं जा रहा। मेरे दिमाग में एक बहुत ही भिन्न प्रकार का बैंक है। शायद पहले आपने कभी इसका नाम भी न सुना हो क्योंकि इसका नाम किसी भी ऐसे बैंक का नाम याद नहीं दिलाता जैसे बैंक अभी हमसे देखे थे। क्या कभी आपने किसी ऐसे बैंक के



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