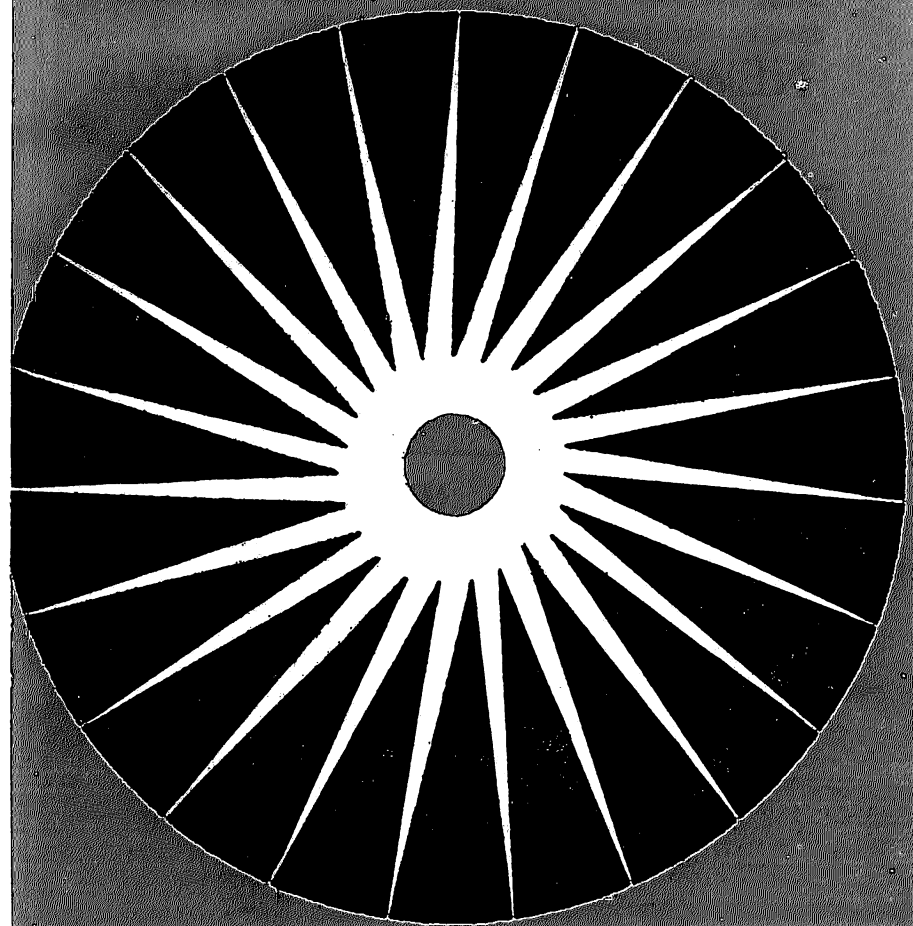


# the bible teacher



## YOUR INVITATION

Please attend our Services at :

E-10 Defence Colony (Ring Road)  
New Delhi-110024

Schedule of Services :

Sunday :	Bible Study	9 : 30	A.M.
	Morning Worship	... 10 : 00	A.M.
	Evening Service	... 6 : 00	P.M.
Wednesday :	Midweek Bible Study	... 6 : 00	P.M.

### FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Study the Bible at home—numerous courses for all—Brief—Simple—Scriptural—in English and Hindi.

## NEW DELHI BIBLE COLLEGE

Post Box No. 3815  
NEW DELHI-110049.

### उद्धार की योजना

रेडियो श्रीलंका से प्रसारित प्रवचनों का दूसरा भाग अब तैयार हो चुका है। “उद्धार की योजना” को मुफ्त प्राप्त करने के लिये आज ही २५ पैसे का डाक टिकट सत्य सुसमाचार कार्यालय को भेजिए। अपने पत्र में यह अवश्य लिखिए कि “यह डाक टिकट उद्धार की योजना या दूसरे भाग के लिये भेजा जा रहा है...”

### विशेष सूचना !

प्रत्येक मंगलवार तथा शुक्रवार  
को रात्री ८:४५ से ९:१५ तक सुनिये  
हमारा विशेष कार्यक्रम  
“सत्य सुसमाचार”

यह कार्यक्रम रेडियो श्रीलंका से २५ तथा  
४१ मीटर बैंड पर सुना जा सकता है।

# THE BIBLE TEACHER

Editor :

J. C. CHOATE

\*\*\*

Associate Editor :

SUNNY DAVID

\*\*\*

Published by Church of Christ, Box 3815  
New Delhi-110049

*Pleading for the restoration of pure New Testament Christianity*

---

Vol. 6

No. 11

---

## EDITORIAL



### Christianity On Trial

The enemies of Christ point to any and every bad thing that happens anywhere in the world and accuses Christianity as being responsible for it. This is especially true if "Christians" are involved in any way whatsoever.

For example, many will point back to the time of the crusades and blame Christianity for the militant wrongs of that period. There are those who argue that Christianity was responsible for the dark ages and all of the problems that grew out of the reformation and protestant movements.

Coming closer to our time, it is said that "Christianity" became so corrupt in Russia that it led to a revolution with the Communists coming to power. It is said that the first and second world wars were simply a matter of "Christian" countries for the most part fighting each other. Even today all are aware of the bitter struggle that goes on in North Ireland between the Catholics and the Protestants, and the question that is often asked is this: How can "Christians" do that to one another?

What we must realize though is the fact that the things mentioned, and many other things that might be called to our attention, has not and does not and will never represent Christianity. Christ is not the author of such, does not back it, and therefore does not accept it as representing his cause. Those who involve themselves in such actions are not the true followers of Christ. They may do such things in the Lord's name but they are not carrying out his will. If they were truly of the Lord then they would act far differently.

We must also realize that even though the western part of the world in particular may be said to be Christian that in reality it is far from being Christian. Also, a country may be said to be Christian because perhaps a good percentage of the people may claim to believe in Christ. In spite of that, the government of that country may choose to do things that are far from being Christian. But because a large percentage of the people there acknowledge Christ then whatever that country does, especially if it is something that is bad, then Christianity gets the blame for it. Christianity to the contrary is not responsible for the actions taken. Had Christianity been guiding the government and the country as a whole then another course would have been taken.

When we think about Catholicism and Protestantism we must realize that neither one scripturally represent Christ and his teaching. These are man-made religious groups and are in no way representative of pure New Testament Christianity. They may claim to be Christians, followers of Christ, supporters of Christianity, and so on, but actually they are far from being such. (Matthew 7: 21—23).

In considering what happened in Russia, and in other countries, you must understand that the so-called Christianity that was there was not the Christianity of the Bible. Rather, it was man-made religion in its most evil form. It became so vile and corrupt that there were those who wanted to rid themselves of it, and in doing so they swung to the other extreme and have therefore become a land of atheists. But because the people didn't know the difference in pure Chris-

tianity and man-made religion then they thought that the religion that controlled their country was Christianity, but it was not. Instead, pure Christianity would have delivered them from what they had and would have given them a much better life than they now have.

The problems today in North Ireland does not come from pure Christianity but rather from people following a corrupt form of Christianity. They are Catholic and Protestant religious groups nowhere mentioned in the Bible. They may be called Christians but they are far from being so. Christians would never conduct themselves in that manner.

We must realize, as already point out, that countries may be said to be Christian when really they are not. An individual may claim to be a Christian but his conduct may tell a different story. The Lord said that you may tell a tree by the kind of fruit it bears and the same is true with those who claim to follow him. (Matthew 7 :15—20; John 15 :1—8).

Christianity is the religion of following Christ. (Matthew 11:28—30; John 14:6). One or more may be said to be followers of Christ when they do what he teaches. (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16). What does Christ teach? He teaches love, peace, honesty, kindness, gentleness, patience, good moral living, unity of his followers, service to mankind, and that we worship and praise the God of heaven. (Matthew 5—7). Those who hate, murder, kill, steal, hurt others, are immoral, and do all of the bad, evil, and sinful things of the world are not his and do not represent him. (1 Corinthians 6:9,10; Galatians 5:19,20). We must understand also that the Lord condemns hypocrisy and that is where one or more pretend to follow him when actually they are his enemies. (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philipians 3:17—19).

There is very little pure Christianity in the world today. (Matthew 7:13,14); Most of what we see is man-made, denominational, sectarian, adulterated, and of Satan. It is responsible for many evils and it gives the Lord and his religion a bad name. We must remember though that this does not

represent him. If you want to learn about pure religion then you go to the book that will tell you the truth about it and that is the Bible. Then you compare the actions of those who claim to be Christians with what it says and if they match then you know they are Christian. If they do not then you know that those who claim to be Christians are not Christians. It is just that simple. Don't blame Christianity for something that it is not responsible for. If you do then you are either ignorant or you are dishonest. Christianity is what the world needs—not a diluted form of it but a full measure. True Christians can change the world and make it into a paradise on earth. It can begin with you. And even if the rest of the world never accepts it, you can be a Christian and enjoy all of the fruits and blessings that God can give you. Let the world know through you that Christianity is alive and well.



*associate  
editorial*

## God's Wonderful Plan

ALMOST two thousand years ago Jesus was born in a little town of Judah called Bethlehem, located five miles south of Jerusalem. His coming was the fulfillment of various prophecies that God had made concerning him through his servants, such as, Moses and Isaiah. (Deuteronomy 18:15; Isaiah 7:14). The purpose of his coming is beautifully described by John, in John 3:16 he said, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

The law had declared, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." And "For all have sinned, and come short (fall) of the glory of God." (Romans 3:10,23). And again, we read, "...without shedding of blood is no remission."

(Hebrews 9:22 ; Leviticus 17:11). Then the writer of the book of Hebrews, in Hebrews 10:4, made this declaration: "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." Thus, when it was necessary for the blood to be shed for the remission of sin, there was no man or beast present, however, upon this earth who would be offered as a perfect sacrifice for the sins of men. It was because of this urgency that God sent His only begotten Son to die at the cross and thus by shedding his own blood he made man's salvation possible.

While God has done his part, that is, making possible for man to be saved from sin. Man, however, must do His part to obtain salvation through Christ. Of course, we cannot earn salvation by our works because it is given by the grace of God. (Ephesians 2:8,9). But we should obtain salvation by obedience to Christ's commands. Just as Christ obtained our salvation by submission and obedience to God, the Bible, in Hebrews 5:8,9, exhorts us to do the same by submission and obedience to Christ: "Though he were a Son, yet learend, he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation **unto all them that obey him.**" Therefore to obtain salvation :

Man must believe in Christ, (John 8:24). Must confess Christ by his mouth, that is, own him as the Lord and the Master. (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9,10). Must repent or turn away from his sins. (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38). And must be baptized, that is, buried in water, for the remission of sins or to be saved from sins. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16).

All who thus obey the Lord by believing in him, by confessing him as the Son of God, by repenting of their sins, and by being baptized for the forgiveness of sins, the Lord **adds** them into his church (Acts 2:47), which is the body, made up of all the saved people. One day the Lord is coming back again so that he might take his church with him. He said, before he was received up in heaven, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3). Is he Coming for you ?

# Our Loyalty To Christ

Mike Sinapiades

A life of dedicated loyalty to Christ and His Righteous Cause is one of life's highest privileges. Through such we are to realize blessings untold, and at the same time live with the realization of the assurance of our salvation. Understandably, our finite mind is not capable of comprehending the magnitude of the purpose of the establishment of the church of Christ. Yet Heaven's greatest blessings and the sublimest of spiritual promises are conferred on those who are stirred by the Spirit of God to a life of devoted and exact obedience of the Father's will as revealed in the New Testament.

Once our blessed Redeemer stated: "**If any man come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me**" (Matt. 16 : 24). Our Master was speaking here of loyalty and obedience to him. And rest assured, that "if thou bear thy cross, it will soon bear thee." He is not a burdensome and tyrannical task Master, but rather One who cherishes and corrects those whom He loves and is loved by (Heb. 12 : 6).

Many are mistaken and short change the concept of loyalty with purely **mechanical** acts of worship. It is sheer folly when we try to exchange six days of righteous living for the pious professions we made on the day called Sunday. True loyalty to Christ expects the daily transformation of our bodies in our most dilligent efforts for the likeness of Christ. It is our **soma-ta**, the Greek word for bodies, which our Lord is after and not our lives which may in this case be a more broader yet indirect aspect of our entity. During the Old Testament dispensation the bodies of animals were first slain and then were offered as a sacrifice. But a slain or dead thing has neither the ability of nor the capacity for obedience and loyalty. This side of the cross, the One to whom the sacrifice is offered, requires living sacrifices on daily basis, and such which are charaterized by loyalty to His Divine Will. This loyalty is not taskwork, but love-work ; not servitude, but sonship. Christ deserves our love, obedience and our loyalty.



# A Creed That Needs No Revision

**John Wadley**

Several major denominations have revised, even rewritten their creeds in recent years. Others groups are considering the same. The most notable of these projects has involved the revision of the historic **Westminster Confession of Faith** of the Presbyterian Church. The original document being thoroughly Calvinistic and conservative, has grown distasteful to the modern leaders of that church. We who are New Testament Christians should thank God that we have a creed that needs no revision. It is just as relevant and truthful today as it was when issued by the Holy apostles and prophets in the first century. Of course, I speak of the New Covenant of Jesus Christ, which is the final and complete revelation from God to man, and the only rule of faith and practice for the church of Christ.

## **Our Creed Can Never Be Revised**

I. Our creed was written by an all-wise God. He only, was able to produce a document that would be suited for every man in every generation. Since its author is God, no man, nor group of men is qualified to lift the pen to change a single point of its teaching. No spiritual question can arise that this heavenly document does not speak to. Hear Paul : "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness : that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely, unto every good work." II Tim. 3 : 16-17. It was not the genius of the scripture writers that made our creed so excellent. Rather, David said, "The Spirit of Jehovah spake by me, and his word was upon my tongue." II Sam. 23 : 2.

II. Our creed was "once for all delivered unto the saints," Jude 3. That is, it was final and complete. Mormons, Adventists and others believe in a continuing revelation, but true followers of Jesus accept their New Testament as God's last word to man, that will stand unto Judgment Day. Some might argue that this leaves us disadvantaged, but the writers of our creed were guided into "**all the truth**" by the Holy

Spirit of God, John 16 : 13. If we have in their writings all of the truth, what else could be given us by some so-called modernday "revelation?"

III. Our creed was sealed and dedicated by the blood of Jesus. When the Saviour instituted the Communion Supper, "he took a cup, and gave thanks, and gave to them saying, Drink ye all of it : for this is my blood of the covenant.....", Matt. 26 : 27. He likely alludes to that time in the past when Moses sprinkled the book of the law with the blood of calves and goats, water, scarlet wool and hyssop saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded to you-ward." Heb. 9 : 19-20. So Jesus' blood, which flowed from his wounds on Calvary, sealed our creed. Can this be said of any other religious document in Christendom, however ancient or honored? No one would dare make such a claim for their creed, discipline or manual.

IV. Our creed will stand forever. After giving his great prophecy of judgment of Jerusalem, the Lord sealed it with this solemn declaration : "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24 : 35. Not only is this true of that one prophecy, but of every word Jesus said and commissioned his apostles to write. Such a creed stands no revision.

V. Our creed is truth. It is totally truthful, i.e., it admits of no error or shortcoming. Also, it is the sum total of spiritual truth. Jesus in his prayer to the Father said, "Thy word is truth," John 17 : 17. It is true because it honors God and the Son as they should be honored. It gives a true picture of man ; made in the image of God, but a convicted sinner, Rom. 3.23. It gives us true way of salvation through faithful obedience to Christ, Gal. 3 : 26-27. All the creeds of men make it a special point of emphasis to deny baptism its proper role in salvation. Our creed says, "baptism doth also now save us," I Pet. 3 : 21. The world must learn that only truth can make us free, John 8 : 32.

VI. Our creed is universal. It is suitable for all men in every society. There is but one faith, Eph. 4:5. Jesus charged his apostles to preach his gospel to every creature in all the

world, Mk. 16 : 15. The needs of the aborigine in Australia and the sophisticated Bostonian are all fully met in the will of Jesus. With all the progress of technology, the needs of man are still the same as when the scriptures were written.

VII. Our creed alone is mutually acceptable to every believer. Members of any denomination on earth can and will accept the scriptures as a standard of authority. But this cannot be said about any other creed ever written.

VIII. Our creed would bring the "ecumenical unity" men are seeking for, if they would lay aside all others and follow this creed exclusively. We know that this was the prayer of Jesus, John 17 : 20-21. The great mystery is why religious men have failed to see this. Or have they refused to accept it, preferring their own schemes and plans? Can you visualize a great gathering of religious leaders from the many different denominations. The agenda calls for a forum to find an acceptable basis for unity. The Methodist would rise and suggest that his **Discipline** would surely be a fine basis for a united stance. But immediately the Baptist would object. Would not his **Manual** be better? Besides, there are points in the Methodist creed that are at variance with the scripture. On and on it would go, for no sectarian will give up his creed for the creed of another sect. All feel that theirs is best. But could not a Christian stand and plead with all to accept his creed, the New Testament of Jesus? Who could object to it? Upon what grounds would he object? Already it is held in honour by all representatives. Why have men not recognized and followed this simple, workable course? Ashly Johnson presents a fine illustration of this lesson in his book, **The Great Controversy**.

IX. Our creed is a living message. It never grows obsolete, Heb. 4 : 12 says, "The word of God is living and active ....." Any book that man writes is dated, It will soon be outdated. Not our creed. If any of today's intelligencia thinks that scriptures be out of touch with modern man, then let him write a better book that does as fine a job in meeting our needs.

This creed is the sole standard by which we will be judged, John 12 : 48. It is God's message of salvation to lost men, Jas. 1 : 4. To reject the creed of Christ is to reject the author and the Father that sent him, John 13 : 20.

Do we truly appreciate our creed which needs no revision? Are we telling the world of its virtues and blessings?

---

\* We do not speak of a revision as from 17th Century English to 20th Century English, but rather to remaking the teaching of the creed.

## “Easter”

**B. F. Donegan**

Most Bible scholars agree that the word “easter” which appears in the King James version (Acts 12 : 4) is a mis-translation of the Greek word “pascha.” This word “pascha” occurs twenty-nine times in the Greek Testament and all standard Greek Lexicons translate it “passover.”

To the average Bible reader with practically no knowledge of the Greek language and the King James version of the scriptures, the preceding lines mean very little. He might emphatically say, but “Easter” is in my Bible! And if he had reference to the word “Easter” only, and not to the observance of a special day set aside by our religious neighbours each year as the anniversary date of our Lord’s resurrection, he would be stating the truth.

A knowledge, of the Greek language is to be appreciated but not necessary in proving the falsity of our denominational friends theory about Easter.

A little common sense reasoning and a reading of the first four verses of (Acts 12), should be sufficient to show that this theory of Easter as the anniversary date of our Lord’s resurrection is false.

(1) The anniversary of any event would have to come on the same day of the same month each year. The day as observed by our friends seldom falls on the same day of the same month each year, and many times not even in the same month.

(2) We read in Acts 12 : 1-4 that Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of the unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quarters of soldiers to keep him ;

intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people." Notice, it was the church that was being persecuted by Herod to please the Jews. Now doesn't it stand to reason that if this Easter as mentioned here was something that Christians were observing, it would have pleased the Jews to have Peter killed then ?

(3) We know from the reading of this text that Easter observing was in connection with the days of unleavened bread, and also that it was the Jews that were doing the observing.

Shortly before our Lord's ascension to heaven, he told the apostles to go and teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit : Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you (Mat. 28 : 19,20). We are told that the early Christians continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and did not observe "Easter." It is evident that Christ taught nothing to the apostles about observing it.

We are told in the scriptures that the disciples came together "upon the first day of the week to break bread" (Acts 20 : 7). So far as the inspired record is concerned, they observed no other day. Neither did they esteem the first day of one week in the year above another. Since they met "upon the first day of the week" to break bread and "continued steadfastly" in this practice, we must conclude that they met upon every first day of the week. For man to esteem the first day of one week in the year above all others, designate it as "Easter," and observe it in celebration of the resurrection, is to set the law of God aside, act without the approval and authority of heaven, and bring the curse of God upon him. Paul said to the Galatians, "Ye observe days, months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain" (Gal. 4 : 10,11). Again, "Why as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not ; taste not ; handle not ; which are to perish with using ; ) after the commandments and doctrines of men ?" (Col. 2 : 20-22).

Since Easter was not observed by the early Christians, the apostles never indorsed it, Christ taught them nothing concerning it, let us not be guilty of going beyond the doctrine of Christ (2 Jno. 9). And be found worshipping our Lord in vain after the doctrines and commandments of men (Matt. 15 : 9 ).

## The Faith of John 3:16

BASIL OVERTON

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." When gospel preachers insist that all alien sinners must be baptized in water to have their sins washed away by the blood of Christ, some object and say: "Well, what about John 3:16?" As if to say that John 3:16 contradicts Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, and other passages which affirm that baptism is essential to salvation.

One cannot learn the meaning of scripture by arraying one passage against another. Some insist that baptism is not essential to salvation because it is not mentioned in John 3:16. But by the same reasoning one could conclude that it is not necessary to repent of sins, because repentance is not mentioned in John 3:16 either.

John 3:16 is a summation of the scheme of redemption. The clause, "that he gave his only begotten Son" does not refer to just one act, but is a summation of all that God and Christ have done for the lost. "That he gave" embraces every act, every deed, every privation of the man of sorrows who was acquainted with grief. The clause, "that whosoever believeth in him" is a summation of all that man must do in order to get in the place where God will save him by his grace and the blood of his Son. This clause also sums up all that God requires of a man in living the Christian life.

The people on the day of Pentecost (1) heard the gospel, (2) believed it, (3) repented of their sins, (4) were baptized for

the remission of their sins, (5) were thus added to the Lord's church (not a denomination), and (6) continued steadfastly in the teaching of the apostles, etc. (Acts 2:42.) After all of this they are referred to as "they that believed." Truly, believers will be saved, but what kind? The obedient kind is the only kind. Dear reader what kind are you? Have you obeyed the gospel? The Lord Jesus will take vengeance on them that do not obey his gospel. (2 Thess. 1:8.)

The believers mentioned in Acts 2:44 were baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38, 41.) When they did this the Lord added them to his church. (Act 2:41,47.) Therefore to believe in the Lord as taught in John 3:16 is to obey the gospel. If this is not true, the Bible contradicts itself, and is not, therefore worth the paper on which it is written.

Furthermore, when one believes in the Lord as taught in John 3:16 he becomes a member of the church which Jesus established on the Pentecost following his resurrection. One cannot be saved as taught in John 3:16 without becoming a member of the church that Jesus built. (Matt. 16: 18.) The record of the New Testament shows that the same thing that saved a person made him a member of the Lord's family, his church.

Forget about denominations, reader, and concentrate on the New Testament and Christ and his church you can read about therein. Nobody can become a member of a denomination by following the teaching of John 3: 16, or any other passage in the Bible. This may sound like "narrow-mindedness" to some, but it is true just the same. God help all to see this truth!

This writer challenges anyone to produce one passage in the Bible that instructs anyone to belong to a denomination. The passage cannot be produced. The church that Jesus built is not a denomination, and no part of one. Religious division is condemned in the Bible just as murder, adultery, and all other sins. (1 Cor. 1: 10; 2-3; John 17: 20-23; Gal. 5: 20.) Such expressions as "the church of your choice" are out of har-

mony with the truth expressed in John 3:16 and all the rest of Christ's word.

The church of the Bible is God's family; God is displeased with division in it. You can know you are a member of the church of Christ the same way you can know Christ is your Saviour? You can know Christ is your saviour by what the Bible says about his being your saviour. You can know you are in Christ's church by what the Bible says as to how one gets into the Lord's church.

Some preachers affirm that an alien sinner is saved "at" the point of faith, or "at" the very moment he has faith in Christ. These preachers usually quote such passages as John 3:16 to try to prove their doctrine. But John 3: 16 does not teach that an alien is saved "at faith" instead, it teaches that he is saved "by faith," and there is a big difference between "at faith," and "by faith."

One is saved by faith when his faith leads him to do what God commands him to do to be saved. For, faith without works is dead, and it is as dead as a body is dead without a spirit in it, and that is mighty dead! ( James 2:14-26.) Some think they have been saved and will go to heaven on faith that is as a corpse!

One is saved by faith, but he is not saved by faith without repenting of his sins. (Acts 17:30.) And he is not saved by faith without being baptized into Christ where the blood of Christ saves. (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3; Eph. 1:7).

## The Divinity Of Jesus

Mark H. Nunley

A lot of people now a days are claiming that Jesus was a great teacher, philosopher, and man that He gave some of the greatest moral teachings and regulations for the relationships between people that have ever been given, but they are also saying that they do not believe that He was the Son of God, that He was in any sense Divine, that He was born of



a virgin, that He really worked miracles. They see Jesus as a great man in history along with many other great men, but they do not see Him as the only begotten Son of the Almighty God.

This view has even gained a foothold in the religious world among some who claim to be "Christians." Let's notice the words from a church bulletin of May 14, 1969, "Although the.....do not deny such doctrines as the virgin birth, or the pre-existence, sinlessness, and deity of Jesus Christ, they do not make these doctrines creedal requirements for membership in the ..... church." So you can be a member of that church without believing that Jesus is the Divine, Son of God. This indeed is tragic!

Even among many of the prominent, well-known "theologians" of the denominational world, a big percentage of them also deny the miraculous, sinless, divine, perfect side of Jesus Christ. This is clear from their teachings and books.

### BUT CAN WE BELIEVE IN THE JESUS OF THE BIBLE AND NOT BELIEVE IN HIS DIVINITY ?

And the answer is NO !!!!! Either Jesus Christ is the Divine Son of God that He claimed to be, or He is the biggest liar that ever set foot on the face of the earth! Let's notice what Jesus claims about Himself in the Bible, and what the Bible claims:

- (1) Jesus claimed to be the Son of God..... John 3:16-18. And other passages in the Bible affirm Him.....Matt. 14:33, Matt. 27:43, Luke 1:35, John 1:34, etc.
- (2) Jesus claimed all authority from God in heaven and earth..... Matt. 28:18, Col. 1:18, Phil. 2:5-11, etc.
- (3) The Bible claims the miraculous conception of Mary (while she was a virgin) by the Holy Spirit..... Matt. 1:18-25, Luke. 1:26-35.
- (4) Jesus claims authority from God to be the judge of all mankind ..... John 5:19-29, Matt. 25:31-46, etc.

- (5) Jesus claimed the ability to work miracles.....Matt. 11:1-6, etc.
- (6) The Bible claims that Jesus was sinless upon the earth ..... Heb. 4:14-16, etc.
- (7) The Bible claims that Jesus was eternal with God and that Jesus played a part in the creation..... John 1:1-5.
- (8) The Bible claims that Jesus is the ONLY one with Divine authority to speak forth the revelation of truth from God..... Heb. 1:1-2. (That is, all truth that we know in this day and age from God has come through Jesus Christ.)

And we could go on and on, but these get the point across. Jesus claimed all of these things Himself and the Bible claims these things about Jesus. So we must either accept both the idea of Jesus being the Son of God Almighty and the truthfulness of the Bible together, or we must reject both. You can not believe in the Jesus of the Bible without believing in His Divinity, the miracles He did, His miraculous conception and virgin birth, etc., etc., etc.

Either Jesus is the Christ (annointed one of God), the Son of the Living God, in fact that He is God Himself (that is a member of the God—Head), and that He therefore deserves and has the right to demand our obedience; OR, He is the biggest liar, fraud, and swindler that ever lived and we should therefore reject Him altogether:

But I “know Him Whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to guard that which I have committed unto Him against that day.” How about you?

# Who Changed the Sabbath ?

By Bill Flatt

Did the Roman Catholic Church change the Sabbath to Sunday ? The answer is NO.

## NAILED TO THE CROSS

The Sabbath or Saturday is not kept by Christians because the law of which it was a part was nailed to the Cross. In the Christian era we are under Christ and not Moses (Mark 9 : 2-9) ; we are under a New Covenant (Hebrews 8 : 6), the new and living way (Hebrews 10 : 20). Jesus abolished the law which contained the Sabbath when He died on the Cross (Ephesians 2 : 14-16). "Having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us : and he hath taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross ; having despoiled the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day or a new moon or a sabbath day : which are a shadow of the things to come ; but the body is Christ's." (Colossians 2 : 14-17.) Notice verse 17 says that no one is to condemn us for not keeping the Sabbath. Why ? Verse 14 tells us. The law of which the Sabbath was a part, was nailed to the Cross.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS PART OF LAW OF MOSES

Some honest people say that the Ten Commandments were not a part of the law of Moses, that they were given before time of Moses. This is not true. Listen to Moses : "Jehovah our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. Jehovah made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day" (Deuteronomy 5 : 2,3).

The word "Sabbath" is found 60 times in the Greek New Testament. Religious people who believe in keeping the Sabbath, admit that it means the Sabbath in 59 out of 60 cases, but deny that it means the Sabbath in Colossians 2 : 16. This is unsound scholarship. *Sabbaton* is the exact spelling of the

Greek word used in Colossians 2 : 16. Precisely the same spelling is used by inspiration in Matthew 28 : 1 where it says, "Now late on the sabbath day, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre." And in Luke 4 : 16, where it says that Jesus entered into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. Jesus lived under the law of Moses but He abolished it when He died. Is the "Sabbath" Saturday in Matthew 28 : 1 and in Luke 4 : 16 ? It certainly is, and this proves that the Sabbath is also Saturday in Colossians 2 : 16. So, do not judge us for not keeping Saturday it was abolished at Calvary.

The "ministration of death" which included the Ten Commandments, was abolished (2 Corinthians 3 : 7-11). That was "written and engraved on stone" was the Ten Commandments. And, this section of Scripture shows that they were abolished.

Romans 7 : 4 says, "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also were made dead to the law through the body of Christ ; that ye should be joined to another, even to him who was raised from the dead, that we might bring forth fruit unto God." Then verse 7 says, What shall we say then ? Is the law sin ? God forbid. Howbeit, I had not known sin, except through the law : for I had known coveting, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Notice what it says. We are made dead to the law, the law which contained the commandment "Thou shalt not covet." Of course, this is one of the Ten Commandments. This clearly shows that we are not under the Ten Commandments.

The Sabbath became an abomination unto God (Isaiah 1 : 13 ; Hosea 2 : 11). The law had to be changed when Jesus became High Priest, for the priesthood changed (Hebrews 7 : 12). Jesus could change the law, for He is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2 : 23-28). He took it away ; we are no longer under the law, but under grace (Romans 6 : 14 ; John 1 : 17).

The phrase "the law" included the whole law ; civil (Acts 23 : 3), ceremonial (Luke 2 : 27), and moral (Matthew 22 : 36,

37), Jesus and the Apostles did not bind the Sabbath upon the church! However, nine of the Ten Commandments are enjoined in the New Testament (Acts 14 : 15 ; James 5 : 12 ; Ephesians 6 : 1 ; Timothy 5 : 8 ; Romans 13 : 9). We therefore keep these nine commandments, not because they were a part of the Ten Commandments, but because they are taught by Christ and His Apostles. They became a part of the Law of Christ Jesus.

### LAW SERVED ITS PURPOSE

The law served its purpose in bringing man to Christ. But now that Christ has come, we cannot still be under the law (Galatians 3 : 16-29).

### SABBATH GIVEN ONLY TO ISRAEL

The Sabbath was not given to Christians, but to Israel (Exodus 31 : 13). Neither was it given to those who lived before the time of Moses (Deuteronomy 5 : 2-4). It was a sign between God and the "Jews." It was given as a memorial of God's deliverance of those who were slaves in Egypt (Deuteronomy 5 : 15).

### EARLY CHRISTIANS WORSHIPED ON SUNDAY

Early Christians worshiped on the first day of the week or Sunday. Acts 20 : 7 says : "And upon the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul discoursed with them, intending to depart on the morrow and prolonged his speech until midnight." "Break bread" in this passage is worship. Notice 1 Corinthians 10 : 16 : "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ?"

"The first day of the week" of Acts 20 : 7 is Sunday. The Greek phrase cannot be correctly translated "Sabbath." For example, the same Greek phrase is translated "the first day of the week" in Matthew 28 : 1 and in Mark 16 : 1, 2, where we read, "And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that

they might come and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun was risen." The Sabbath was past when the first day of the week came.

Christian gave of their means on Sunday (1 Corinthians 16 : 1, 2). Jesus was raised from the dead on Sunday (Mark 16 : 1-6). The church was fully established on Pentecost which was Sunday (Acts 2). The first day of the week is the Lord's Day and should not be referred to as the Sabbath (Revelation 1 : 10).

The Roman Catholic Church could not have changed the Sabbath to Sunday in 364 A.D. Note those facts from primary source materials written before 364 A.D.

108 A.D.—"If then they who walked in ancient customs came to a new hope, no longer living for the Sabbath, but for the Lord's Day, on which also our life sprang up through him and his death....." (Ignatius, *Magnesians*, IX : 1.)

125 A.D.—"On the Lord's Day.....come together, break bread....." *The Didache*, XIV : 1)

150 A.D.—"Incense is a vain abomination unto me, and your new moons and Sabbaths I cannot endure. He has therefore abolished these things." *Epistle of Barnabas*, II.)

200 A.D.—"We solemnize the day after Saturday in contradiction to those who call this day their Sabbath." (*Apology*, XVI.) "We neither accord with the Jews in their peculiarities in regard to food, nor in their sacred days." (*Apology*, XXI.) "The old law is demonstrated as having been consummated at its specified times (at the cross) ; so also the observance of the Sabbath is demonstrated to have been temporary." (*Answer to the Jews*, IV.) These statements were made by Tertulian.

In light of these facts, it is absurd to claim that the bishop of Rome changed the Sabbath to Sunday in 364 A.D. Church Councils recognized Sunday as the day of special meaning to the Christian, but they did not establish these meanings ; they

did not change Saturday to Sunday. Jesus abolished the Sabbath when He died. There is a great difference in recognizing a practice already in existence and originating a practice. For example, the Council of Carthage in 397 A.D. stated that our 27 books of the New Testament were inspired ; but, notice, this council did not originate that inspiration. The inspiration of the New Testament is not dependent upon their declaration. The Holy Spirit inspired these 27 books in the first century when they were written (2 Peter 1 : 21). Inspiration is not dependent upon Church Councils ; and neither is the abolition of the Sabbath and the institution of the first day of the week. In these two instances, Church Councils merely recognized the facts, facts established from on high in the first century.

Since the Apostles and the first converts to Christianity were Jews and were raised to keep the Sabbath, the fact that they did not keep it can only be explained by saying that this change from Saturday to Sunday was made by divine authority.

God abolished the Sabbath when Jesus Christ died, and Sunday was divinely instituted as the day of special significance to Christians from the very beginning of Christianity.

## जवाब क्यों नहीं

सनी डेविड

पिछले २१ दिसम्बर को जब मैं एक दुकान में गया तो अचानक मेरी दृष्टि वहाँ पर पड़े एक समाचार-पत्र पर पड़ी जिसमें यह लेख छपा था, "ईसा मसीह भारत आए थे"। इस लेख के लेखक हैं आचार्य रजनीश तथा यह २१ दिसम्बर १९७५ के समाचार पत्र "हिन्दुस्तान" में प्रकाशित हुआ था। समय की कमी होने के कारण मैं उस स्थान पर ठहरकर इस लेख को उस समय पूरा तो नहीं पढ़ सका था, परन्तु इस निश्चय के साथ, कि इसे प्राप्त करके फिर पढ़ूँगा, मैं वहाँ से चल पड़ा। कुछ प्रयत्न करने के बाद यह लेख मुझे "हिन्दुस्तान" के कार्यालय से प्राप्त हुआ।

आचार्य रजनीश का यह लेख पूर्ण रूप से मन-गढ़न्त बातों, परम्पराओं व बालकों के से किस्से-कहानियों पर आधारित है। वास्तव में इस लेख का,

विशेष उद्देश्य केवल यही है कि किसी तरह से यीशु मसीह की क्रूस पर मृत्यु उसके पुनरुत्थान, तथा स्वर्ग-आरोहण को अप्रमाणित किया जाय। और इसी प्रयत्न में लेखक ने अनेकों ऐसी अशुद्धियाँ की हैं जो उसकी अज्ञानता को स्पष्टता से दर्शाती हैं। जैसे की उन्होंने कहा, कि यीशु सात वर्ष की आयु में एक त्यौहार के दिन एक मन्दिर में आए, जबकि बाइबल बताती है कि उस समय उनकी आयु बारह वर्ष की थी। न तो बाइबल व न ही इतिहास श्री रजनीश की इस बात की पुष्टि करते हैं।

बाइबल सफ़ाई से बताती है कि यीशु मसीह यरूशलेम से २०० मील की दूरी से अधिक कभी कहीं नहीं गए। बाइबल तथा यीशु से सम्बन्धित इतिहास कहीं भी इस प्रकार का संकेत तक नहीं करते कि वे कभी कश्मीर आए। श्री रजनीश के कथनानुसार, “वे कश्मीर में एक बौद्ध मठ में रहे, यद्यपि इन सब सालों का कोई लेखा-जोखा नहीं है तथापि इन सब के “रिकॉर्ड” हैं।” परन्तु बात तो यह है कि यदि लेखा-जोखा नहीं है तो ‘रिकॉर्ड’ कैसे हो सकता है? क्योंकि लेखे-जोखे को ही अंग्रेज़ी भाषा में रिकॉर्ड कहते हैं। हाँ, यह हो सकता है कि कश्मीर में कुछ इस प्रकार की कहानियाँ व परम्पराएं प्रचलित हों (जैसे कि आपने कहा है), परन्तु कहानियों व परम्पराओं तथा सत्य में बहुत बड़ा अन्तर है। यदि बाइबल और यीशु से सम्बन्धित इतिहास इस बात की पृष्टि नहीं करते तो ये केवल कहानियाँ और परम्पराएं ही हैं, तथा और कुछ नहीं।

बाइबल हमें बताती है—कि यीशु का जन्म कहां हुआ, वे कहाँ रहे, कहां पाले-पोसे गए, कहां बड़े हुए, कहां और कब क्रूस पर चढ़ाए गए, उनकी मृत्यु के बाद उनकी देह का क्या हुआ, तथा उसके बाद वे कहां गए।

उनका जन्म यरूशलेम में यहूदिया के बेतलहम में हुआ, नासरत नाम के एक छोटे से गाँव में उनका पालन-पोषण हुआ, यही कारण है कि वे नासरी कहलाते थे, “कश्मीरी” नहीं! बारह वर्ष की आयु में वे यरूशलेम को गए और फिर नासरत में आकर रहे (पढ़िए लूका २:४१-५१)। और फिर लूका २:५२ में बाइबल बताती है, “और यीशु बुद्धि और डील-डौल में और परमेश्वर और मनुष्यों के अनुग्रह में बढ़ता गया”। इसका अर्थ यह हुआ कि यीशु नासरत में रहे, वहीं वे बड़े हुए, तथा बढ़ते गए। अब इसकी क्या आवश्यकता थी कि बाइबल में उनके प्रत्येक वर्ष का लेखा-जोखा लिखा जाता? क्या बाइबल एक इतिहास की पुस्तक है? बाइबल परमेश्वर का वचन है, बाइबल में परमेश्वर ने मनुष्य को केवल उन्हीं बातों



को बताया है जो मनुष्य के लाम की हैं तथा जिनका मानना मनुष्य के लिये आवश्यक है ।

सो जब नासरत में रहते हुए यीशु की आयु ३० वर्ष की हुई तो वे यूहन्ना नाम के एक व्यक्ति के पास आए और उस से उन्होंने बपतिस्मा लिया । इस घटना का वर्णन बाइबल में मत्ती की पुस्तक के ३ अध्याय के १६ तथा १७ पदों में यू हुआ है, “और यीशु बपतिस्मा लेकर तुरन्त पानी में से ऊपर आया, और देखो, उसके लिये आकाश खुल गया और उसने परमेश्वर के आत्मा को कबूतर की नाई उतरते और अपने ऊपर आते देखा । और देखो, यह आकाशवाणी हुई कि यह मेरा प्रिय पुत्र है, जिस से मैं अत्यन्त प्रसन्न हूँ ।”

और इस घटना के बाद, बाइबल बताती है, यीशु ने अपना कार्य करना आरम्भ किया । उन्होंने शिक्षा दी, प्रचार किया, अनेकों आश्चर्यकर्म किये, नाना प्रकार की बीमारियों इत्यादि में जकड़े हुए लोगों को चंगा किया । लिखा है, कि इन सब के कारण उनका यश शीघ्रता से सारे यरूशलेम तथा आस-पास के सब देशों में फैल गया । और यही कारण था कि उस समय के यहूदी धार्मिक अग्रगण्य इत्यादि उनके प्रति डाह तथा ईर्ष्या से भर उठे, और उन्हें मृत्यु दण्ड दिलवाने की योजनाएं बनाने लगे ।

श्री रजनीश ने निकोलस नेटोविच तथा उनकी पुस्तक का उल्लेख करके लिखा है कि “लद्दाख से ईसा ऊँचे पर्वतों के दरों से गुजर कर बर्फीले रास्तों को पार करते हुए कश्मीर से पहल-गाम पहुंचे । वह इस गाँव पहलगाम में लम्बे समय तक अपनी भेड़ बकरियों की देख-भाल करते रहे । ऐसा उल्लेख मिलता है कि यह गाँव उसके बाद ही पहलगाम के नाम से पुकारा गया । “पहल” का कश्मीरी भाषा में अर्थ है गड़रिया और “गाम” का अर्थ है गाँव ।” अहा, ! कितना अच्छा होता यदि ‘पहल’ का अर्थ ईसा होता क्योंकि तब लेखक को अपनी बात प्रमाणित करने के लिये अच्छी सामग्री मिल जाती ! संसार में अनेकों ऐसे स्थान हैं जो इसी प्रकार के नामों इत्यादि से कहलाते हैं, जैसे लोहारों का गाँव, कस्साईयों का गाँव, सोनारों का गाँव इत्यादि, क्योंकि इस प्रकार के धन्धा करने-वाले लोग वहाँ रहते हैं । दूसरी ओर, यदि यीशु के बारे में यह कहा जाता कि वे बड़ई का काम करते थे तो कुछ उचित होता, क्योंकि जिस परिवार में वे रहे उनका धन्धा यही था । तथा इस पर भी ध्यान दें कि निकोलस नेटोविच का यह वाक्य, “कि लद्दाख से ईसा ऊँचे पर्वतों के दरों से गुजर कर बर्फीले रास्तों को पार करते हुए कश्मीर से पहलगाम पहुंचे” कितना अधिक बनावटी सा लगता है ! इसी तरह से इसमुक्कम नामक स्थान को भी यीशु मसीह से जोड़ने का प्रयत्न किया गया है । परन्तु यह नाम, अर्थात् ईसा, यहोशू, जस्तुस (ये सब एक ही नाम हैं),

यहूदी तथा यूनानी इत्यादि लोगों में बहुत प्रचलित था। अनेकों अन्य-लोग भी इस नाम से कहलाते थे। तथा यह भी हो सकता है कि यीशु मसीह के स्मरण में उस सराय को "इसमुक्कम" का नाम दे दिया गया हो, परन्तु इसका अर्थ यह नहीं हो जाता कि यीशु या ईसा उस सराय (विश्रामग्रह) में कभी अवश्य ही ठहरे हों, जैसे कि दिल्ली का अशोका होटल ! क्या यह आवश्यक है कि सम्राट अशोक कभी इस होटल में अवश्य ही ठहरा हो और तभी इसका नाम "अशोका होटल" पड़ा ?

इसके बाद श्री रजनीश यूहन्ना १९ अध्याय का उल्लेख करके कहते हैं कि यीशु क्रूस पर नहीं मरे। परन्तु फिर, थोड़ा सा आगे चलकर (गलती से) वे यह कह बैठे कि रोमी सिपाही (आचार्य जी, एक और अशुद्धि सुधारिए—वे सिपाही रोमी थे, यहूदी नहीं) यीशु को क्रूस पर जीवित देखकर उन्हें मालां मारते हैं, और फिर, उनके कथनानुसार, "भाला मारकर देखते रहे कि वे मर गए या नहीं। जब उन्होंने देखा कि वे मर गये तो उन्होंने ईसा के "मृत" शरीर को क्रूस से उतार दिया और उनके अनुयायियों को दे दिया। ईसा की मृत देह को परम्परा के अनुसार तीन दिन एक गुफा में रखा गया और जब तीसरे दिन गुफा देखी गई तो वह खाली मिली।" यूं तो इस घटना का काफ़ी तोड़-मरोड़कर अनुचित रूप से वर्णन किया गया है, परन्तु मुझे इस बात से प्रसन्नता है कि यहां कम-से-कम इतना स्वीकार किया गया है कि कब्र में रखे जाने से पूर्व मसीह की मृत्यु हो चुकी थी। यहां मैं यूहन्ना १९ अध्याय में से ३१ से ३४ पदों का उल्लेख कर दूँ तो अच्छा होगा, लिखा है, "और इसलिये कि वह तैयारी का दिन था, यहूदियों ने पीलातुस से बिनती की कि उनकी टांगें तोड़ दी जाएं (यीशु मसीह तथा उसके साथ क्रूसों पर चढ़ाए गए दो अन्य व्यक्तियों की) और वे उतारे जाएं ताकि सब्त् के दिन वे क्रूसों पर न रहें, क्योंकि वह सब्त् का दिन बड़ा दिन था। सो सिपाहियों ने आकर पहिले की टांगें तोड़ीं तब दूसरे की भी, जो उसके साथ क्रूसों पर चढ़ाए गए थे। परन्तु जब यीशु के पास आकर देखा कि वह मर चुका है, तो उसकी टांगें न तोड़ीं। परन्तु सिपाहियों में से एक ने बरछे से उसका पंजर भेदा और उसमें से तुरन्त लोहू और पानी निकला।"

सब से पहले तो इस पर ध्यान दें कि भाला या बरछा इसलिये नहीं मारा गया कि वे जीवित थे परन्तु इसलिये क्योंकि वे मर चुके थे। और तब उनके शरीर से लोहू तथा पानी बह निकला। श्री रजनीश का कहना है कि यह असम्भव है कि उस समय यीशु के शरीर से लोहू निकलता क्योंकि वे मर चुके थे। परन्तु यह लिखने से पूर्व यह अच्छा होता यदि वे इस पर विचार कर लेते कि यीशु की मृत्यु किस प्रकार से हुई; तथा किसी

विद्वान् डॉक्टर से भी परामर्श कर लेते। फिर, यीशु के मृत शरीर को सिपाहियों ने नहीं परन्तु उनके अनुयायियों ने क्रूस पर से उतारा था, तथा यीशु की देह को किसी परम्परा के अनुसार तीन दिन के लिये कब्र में नहीं रखा गया था—परन्तु क्योंकि वे मर चुके थे इसलिये उन्हें कब्र में दफना दिया गया था, जैसा कि वहाँ अन्य मुर्दों के साथ किया जाता था।

परन्तु इसके बाद यीशु का क्या हुआ ? क्या वे कब्र में ही दफन रहे ? श्री रजनीश के कथनानुसार, “और जब तीसरे दिन गुफा देखी गई तो वह खाली मिली। ईसा अदृश्य हो गए, लेकिन उनको फिर देखा गया। कम से कम आठ व्यक्तियों ने ईसा को उनके नए शरीर में देखा। इसके बाद ईसा फिर अदृश्य हो गए और फिर किसी के द्वारा नहीं देखे गए। आखिर ईसा कहाँ गए ? ईसाइयत के पास इस बात का फिर जवाब नहीं है।” फिर वही अशुद्धि। वास्तव में सबसे बड़ा और स्पष्ट जवाब तो बाइबल में इसी बात का मिलता है। बाइबल बताती है कि मृत्यु के बाद तीसरे दिन यीशु अपने पूर्व कहे अनुसार जीवित हो उठे।

फिर, चालीस दिन तक वे लोगों को दिखाई देते रहे, वे सैकड़ों लोगों को दिखाई दिए। और फिर चालीस दिन के बाद वे स्वर्ग पर उठा लिये गए। इस आश्चर्यपूर्ण तथा महिमान्वित विवरण को देखने के लिये पढ़िए बाइबल में से : मत्ती २८, तथा मरकुस १६, तथा लूका २४, और यूहन्ना २० अध्याय। इसके अतिरिक्त, बाइबल में प्रेरितों के काम की पुस्तक के पहिले अध्याय में हम यूँ पढ़ते हैं। “और उसने दुःख उठाने के बाद बहुत से पक्के प्रमाणों से अपने आप को उन्हें जीवित दिखाया, और चालीस दिन तक वह उन्हें दिखाई देता रहा : और परमेश्वर के राज्य की बातें करता रहा। और उनसे मिलकर उन्हें आज्ञा दी, कि यरूशलेम को न छोड़ो, परन्तु पिता की उस प्रतिज्ञा के पूरा होने की बात जोहते रहो, जिसकी चर्चा तुम मुझसे सुन चुके हो...परन्तु जब पवित्र आत्मा तुम पर आएगा तब तुम सामर्थ्य पाओगे; और यरूशलेम और सारे यहूदिया और सामरिया में, और पृथ्वी के छोर तक मेरे गवाह होंगे। यह कहकर वह उनके देखते-देखते ऊपर उठा लिया गया; और बादल ने उसे उनकी आंखों से छिपा लिया। और उसके जाते समय जब वे आकाश की ओर ताक रहे थे, तो देखो, दो पुरुष श्वेत वस्त्र पहिने हुए उनके पास आ खड़े हुए। और कहने लगे, हे गलीली पुरुषो, तुम क्यों खड़े स्वर्ग की ओर देख रहे हो ? यही यीशु, जो तुम्हारे पास से स्वर्ग पर उठा लिया गया है, जिस रीति से तुमने उसे स्वर्ग को जाते देखा है उसी रीति से वह फिर आएगा।”

सो, जी उठने के बाद यीशु का क्या हुआ ? वे चालीस दिन बाद स्वर्ग

पर उठा लिये गए। परन्तु श्री रजनीश का कहना है कि वे कश्मीर आ गए। और पता नहीं कहां से वे यूसा आसफ़ नामक एक व्यक्ति को बीच में खींच लाए और उसका उदाहरण दे देकर व्यर्थ में यह प्रमाणित करने का प्रयत्न किया कि यीशु ही यूसा आसफ़ नाम से ११२ वर्ष की आयु तक कश्मीर में रहे। लेकिन एक बात मेरी समझ में बिल्कुल नहीं आई और वह यह कि जबकि श्री रजनीश बाइबल में लिखी इन बातों को स्वीकार करते हैं, कि यीशु का जन्म हुआ, वे क्रूस पर चढ़ाए गए, उनकी पसली में भाला मारा गया, वे क्रूस पर से उतारे गए, तथा एक गुफ़ा में रखे गए, और तीसरे दिन वह गुफ़ा या कब्र खाली मिली, तो उन्हें यह स्वीकार करने में क्या भिन्नक व कठिनाई है कि यीशु क्रूस पर मरे और जी उठने के बाद वे स्वर्ग में वापस उठा लिए गए? क्या वही बाइबल ये बातें भी नहीं बताती? आश्चर्य! आश्चर्य! वास्तव में, श्री रजनीश का केवल एक ही उद्देश्य है कि वे किसी तरह से यीशु मसीह का मुद्दों में से जी उठना तथा उनके स्वर्ग में ऊपर उठा लिये जाने की घटना को अप्रमाणित करें। यही कारण है कि वे कहते हैं कि क्रूस पर चढ़ाए जाने से पूर्व यीशु ने किसी ऐसे योग की गहरी प्रक्रिया का उपयोग किया था जिसके कारण वे क्रूस पर मरे हुए प्रतीत हुए परन्तु वास्तव में वे जीवित थे।

उनके दोनों ओर दो डाकू अलग-अलग क्रूसों पर चढ़ाए गए थे। यहूदी लोगों का मान रखने के लिये तथा उनके एक पवित्र दिवस के कारण रोमी अधिकारियों ने उन डाकूओं को शीघ्र मार डालने के दृष्टिकोण से उनकी हड्डियां तोड़ डालने की आज्ञा दी थी। परन्तु यीशु की हड्डियां इसलिये नहीं तोड़ी गईं क्योंकि उन्होंने जांच कर देखा कि वे पहिले ही मर चुके थे। वे सिपाही किसी झूठी बात को प्रमाणित करने का प्रयत्न नहीं कर रहे थे। वे किसी की तरफ़दारी नहीं कर रहे थे। श्री रजनीश तथा इसी प्रकार के अन्य व्यक्ति इस घटना के सैकड़ों वर्ष बाद किस तरह से इस विषय में कुछ फैसला करने के योग्य ठहर सकते हैं? यीशु की देह के बारे में ठीक परिणाम निकालकर उचित रूप से घोषणा करने के योग्य वास्तव में कौन लोग हो सकते थे, उन्नीसवीं या बीसवीं शताब्दि के पूर्वद्वेषी आलोचक या कैसर के वे वफ़ादार सिपाही जिन्होंने यीशु की देह को स्वयं जांचकर देखा था? उन सिपाहियों ने घोषित किया था कि यीशु मर चुके हैं। निःसंदेह यह फैसला करना उनके लिये एक बड़ी जिम्मेदारी का काम था। रोमी सिपाही अपने कर्तव्य को लापरवाही से नहीं निभाते थे।

निकुदेमुस, यूसुफ़ तथा वे स्त्रियां निश्चित रूप से जानती थीं कि यीशु वास्तव में मर चुके हैं। क्या वे उसकी देह के बारे में जिस से वे अत्यन्त प्रेम करते थे इतने लापरवाह हो सकते थे? ये लोग जिन्होंने अपने प्यारे प्रभु को

कब्र में दफनाया था। प्रत्यक्ष रूप में पूर्ण निश्चित थे कि वे मर चुके हैं। सो यीशु के शत्रुओं तथा मित्रों दोनों ने ही इस बात की गवाही दी थी कि वे मर चुके हैं।

अब तनिक विचार करें जिस स्थिति में यीशु को कब्र में गाड़ा गया था ! वे लगभग ४० घण्टे तक पूर्ण रूप से मुहरबन्द कब्र के भीतर रहे। कब्र अनेकों सुगन्धित मसालों इत्यादि से परिपूर्ण होकर गन्ध से महक रही थी। यीशु की मारी-कूटी, लोहू रहित देह उसमें पड़ी थी। अब ऐसी स्थिति में कौन बच सकता है ?

क्रूस पर चढ़ाए जाने से पहिले यीशु पर घोर अत्याचार किया गया था, उन्हें कोड़ों से पीटा गया था, उनके सिर पर कांटों का एक मुकुट गूँथकर रखा गया था। फिर उन्हें मोटी-मोटी कीलों से जड़कर क्रूस पर लटकाया गया था। छः घण्टे तक वे इसी प्रकार से लटके रहे, अन्त में उनकी पसली में रोमी सिपाहियों ने भाला मारा था। क्या वे जीवित थे !

यीशु के जी उठने के बाद उनके प्रेरित पूर्ण रूप से उत्साहित होकर उनके जी उठने का प्रचार निर्भयता से करने लगे। क्यों ? यदि यीशु वास्तव में नहीं मरे थे तथा वे वास्तव में परमेश्वर की सामर्थ्य से नहीं जी उठे थे, और इसके विपरीत यदि वे कब्र से निकाले गए थे तो उनके प्रेरितों को वास्तव में उनकी सेवा टहल इत्यादि में लगना चाहिए था, क्योंकि उस समय वे अवश्य ही शारीरिक दृष्टिकोण से बहुत दुर्बल व रोगी होंगे। एक मारा-कूटा हुआ बीमार मनुष्य उन प्रेरितों के हृदयों में इतना बड़ा विश्वास, जैसा कि उनका था, कैसे उत्पन्न कर सकता था ? यदि सम्भवतः कोई मनुष्य यह कल्पना भी करले कि यीशु इतने दुर्बल तथा रोगी स्थिति में होते हुए भी उस बड़े पत्थर को जो उनकी कब्र के द्वार पर रखा हुआ था हटा सकते थे, तथा पहरा देनेवाले शक्तिशाली रोमी सिपाहियों के होते हुए भी वहाँ से निकल सकते थे, परन्तु तौभी इस बात की कल्पना कौन कर सकता है कि इस प्रकार का बीमार, ज़रूमी तथा दुर्बल मनुष्य लोगों के मनो में इस प्रकार के महान् व शक्तिशाली विश्वास तथा निश्चय को उत्पन्न कर दे जैसा कि उसके प्रेरितों के पास था ? यीशु के लगभग सभी प्रेरितों ने पहिली शताब्दि में अपने प्राणों को केवल इसी एक बात के कारण खोया कि वे उसके जी उठने का प्रचार निर्भय होकर करते थे। क्या कोई मनुष्य किसी बात को भूठ जानते हुए भी उस बात को सच स्वीकार करदाने के लिये अपने प्राण प्रसन्नता से उस भूठ के कारण दे देगा ? कदापि नहीं।

फिर यदि यीशु वास्तव में जी नहीं उठे, परन्तु तौभी उनके प्रेरितों ने उनके जी उठने का प्रचार संसार भर में किया। तो यहूदी लोग चुप कैसे

रहे ? वे इस बात को गलत सिद्ध कर सकते थे, और ऐसा करने की सबसे अच्छी विधि यही होती कि वे स्वयं यीशु को पकड़कर लोगों के सामने प्रस्तुत कर सकते थे, और इस तरह से प्रमाणित कर सकते थे कि वास्तव में वे जी नहीं उठे। यहूदी लोगों ने पूरा प्रयत्न किया कि वे किसी तरह से यीशु के मृतकों में से जी उठने तथा स्वर्ग पर उठा लिये जाने के प्रचार को रोकवा दें, और ऐसा करने का सबसे बढ़िया उपाय यही था।

यदि यीशु मृतकों में से जी नहीं उठे तो यह कैसे सम्भव हो सकता था कि वे उन सब कामों को इतनी शीघ्रता से कर लेते जो उन्होंने किए ? निःसंदेह उनकी दशा बड़ी ही शोकजनक होगी। कैसे वे इम्माउस नाम के गांव तक पैदल चलकर जा सकते थे, और कैसे वे उन दो जनों के साथ-साथ बिना किसी कठिनाई के चल सकते थे ? (लूका २४)। निःसंदेह, उनके पैर क्रूस पर कीलों से छेदे गए थे, तथा उनका शरीर निर्बल था और बुरी तरह से जख्मी था, यदि वे वास्तव में मरे नहीं थे। क्या कोई ऐसी कल्पना कर सकता है कि एक ऐसा मनुष्य जिसके हाथ व पैर कीलों से छेदे गए हों, जिसके सिर पर उन काटों के कारण अनेकों जख्म हों जो उसके सिर पर एक मुकुट के रूप में गूथ कर रखे गए हों, जिसके शरीर से कौड़ो की मार के घाव लोह टपका रहे हों, और जिसका पंजर बरछे से भेदा गया हो व फल-स्वरूप उसके जीवन का लोह निकल चुका हो, तीसरे दिन इतना शक्तिशाली हो सकता है, बिना कुछ खाए पिए, कि अपनी कब्र के मुंह पर रखे एक इतने बड़े पत्थर को जिसे कई लोगों ने मिलकर उस कब्र के द्वार पर रखा हो, हटा दे ? यदि यीशु ने बेहोशी की हालत में यह सब असम्भव कार्य भी कर लिये तो वे उन सिपाहियों की दृष्टि से कैसे बच सकते थे जिनके सामने से होकर उन्हें निकलना आवश्यक था ? वे सिपाही उस कब्र के द्वार पर इसलिये बिठाए गए थे ताकि वे इस बात का ध्यान रखें कि कहीं उसके चले आकर उसे कब्र में से निकाल न ले जाएं और लोगों से कहें कि वह जी उठा है।

सो, इन सब बातों को ध्यान में रखकर कौन मनुष्य यीशु मसीह के मृतकों में से जी उठने और उनके स्वर्गारोहण से इन्कार कर सकता है ? स्वयं परमेश्वर ने यीशु मसीह में होकर अपने आपको संसार पर प्रगट किया। यदि आप एक ऐसे परमेश्वर में विश्वास करते हैं जो इन सब कार्यों को करने की सामर्थ्य नहीं रखता, तो आपका परमेश्वर सामर्थ्यरहित और एक मनुष्य मात्र से कुछ भी बढ़कर नहीं है।

**नोट :** यह लेख वास्तव में समाचार-पत्र "हिन्दुस्तान" में प्रकाशित होने के लिये लिखा गया था। परन्तु समाचार-पत्र के सम्पादक ने इस कार्य को करने में जब अपनी असमर्थता व्यक्त की, तो हमने इसका प्रकाशन इस पत्रिका में करना उचित समझा।

## FORM IV

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Place of publication   | NEW DELHI   |
| 2 Periodicity of its publication   | Monthly   |
| 3 Printer's Name<br>(Whether citizen of India?)<br>Address   | Pioneer Fine Art Press<br>(INDIAN)<br>Gali Shahtara, Ajmeri<br>Gate, Delhi-110006 |
| 4 Publisher's Name<br>(Whether citizen of India ?)<br>Address  | SUNNY DAVID,<br>(INDIAN)<br>C-22, N. D. S. E-II<br>New Delhi-110049               |
| 5 Editor's Name<br>(Whether citizen of India ?<br>(If foreigner, state the country<br>of origin )<br>Address                                 | J. C. CHOATE<br><br>AMERICA<br><br>E-10, Defence Colony<br>New Delhi-110024       |
| 6 Name and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or share holders-holding more than one per cent of the total capital. | As Above  |

I, SUNNY DAVID, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sunny David  
*Signature of Publisher*

**Postal Regn. No. D (S) - 188**

**To:**

---

---

---

---

---

*From*

**The Bible Teacher**

**Post Box No. 3815**

**New Delhi-110049**

**Regd. No. 26921/71**