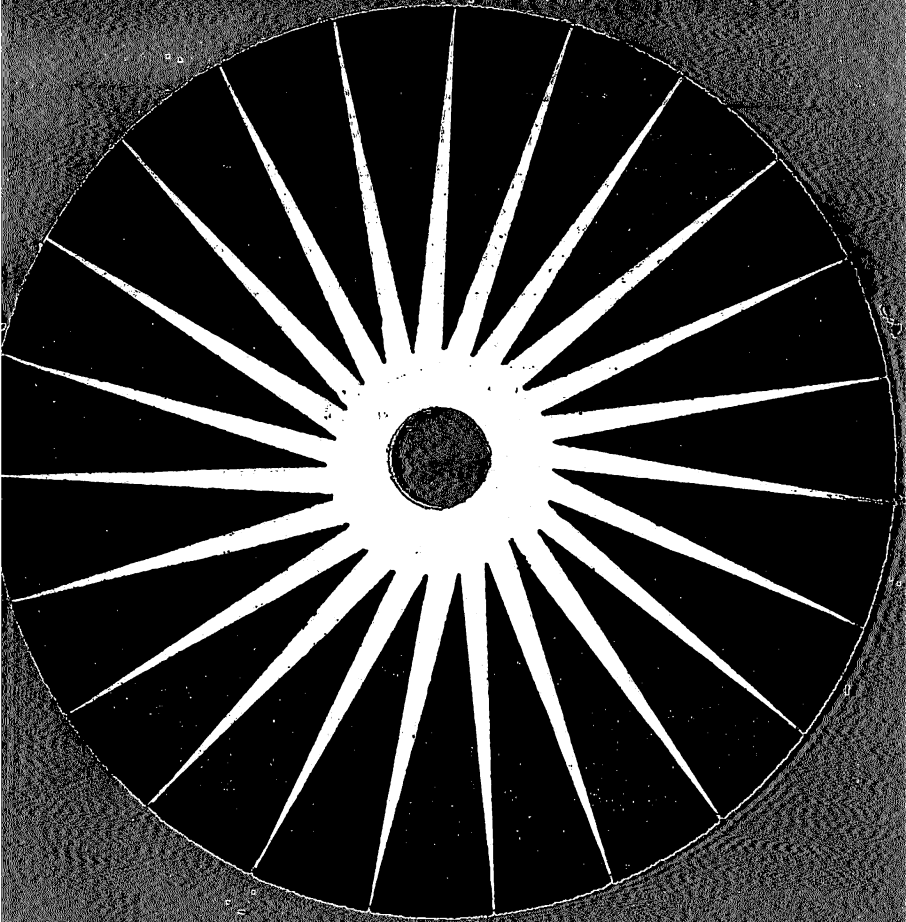


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# THE BIBLE TEACHER

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## EDITORIAL

### Why Go Back To The Bible ?

This past year while I was conducting some meetings in the Fiji Islands, I emphasized one night the need for us to go back to the Bible for the truth, the plan of salvation, the church, worship, and all that we say and do in the name of religion. An elderly denominational woman responded by saying, "But why go back to the Bible ? We have never left it." Now this lady thought that she had made a point but what she failed to realize was that even though the Bible had been brought to those islands many years before, and although many like her supposedly were following its teaching, the fact was, she had never been taught the true word of God and the very fact that she was a member of a religious group that she could not read about in the Bible was sufficient evidence of that.

My friends, sad to say, but the great majority of those in India who claim to believe the Bible do not believe it at all. They are not encouraged to believe it because they are not taught the pure word of God. Even when they read and study the Bible it is done to support the teachings of men.

How can one say that he is doing what the Bible teaches when he is doing and saying those things which are contrary

to God's will? He is a member of some religious group not to be found in the scriptures; he is wearing a name that the Lord has not authorized; many of the things that he believes and teaches are merely the teachings of men. Such an individual would no doubt say that these things do not matter, but if that be the case, then why claim to follow the Bible at all? Sure, they matter. One day we will be judged by the way we have dealt with the word of God. (John 12:48).

Because man has left the Bible then it is necessary to return to it. True, the majority have not said in so many words that they have left it, but they have done so in that they do not do the things that it teaches. If you are working for some one and he gives you some instructions on what to do and how to do it, but then you go on and do it the way you want to do it or you accept the advice of your friends on how to do it, have you really carried out his orders? You might reason that you have done the work but it may be entirely opposit to what you were asked to do. Do you think that he is going to be pleased with this? Have you shown respect for him and his instructions? Surely you can see that you must respect God and his word, and do what he says, if you expect him to be pleased with you. But to be sure we know his will, and that we do what he wants us to do, then we need to put down all of our former ideas, opinions, teachings, beliefs, and practices and go back to the Bible to see what God has said. Only when we are sure of what he teaches even if it is opposed to all that we believed and practiced before, should we act on it.

What we must realize is that in the Bible we are not dealing with man's word but with the word of God. It is God's last will and testament to men. It reveals Christ and the one way. It contains the truth. It recognizes Christ as having all authority. It is the seed that always produces the same fruit. It contains the pattern of God's will and when all follow it then all are one in Christ. It is the same rule for all.

When we all read and study the Bible that we will all read and study the same truth and because of it we will all believe

the same thing. (Romans 10:17). When we do what it teaches, since it teaches all to do the same thing, then we will all obey the same commands (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38), all be saved alike, and we will all be added to the same church. (Acts 2:47). If we continue to follow the same book then we will all wear the same name (Act 4:12; Acts 11:26), all worship alike (John 4:24; Acts 20:7), all work together in harmony and fellowship (Act 2:42), all teach the same thing (Matthew 28:19,20), because we are all working to go the same place and that is to heaven. (John 14:6). Finally in the end, because we have all followed God's word then we can indeed all go to heaven where we will all dwell together for ever more. Now friends, this is why we need to go back to the Bible. How can we please God and expect to go to heaven when we die unless we do so ?

Why is man divided today religiously ? Why are there so many churches ? Why are there so many names ? Why are there so many ways to worship ? Why are there so many opposing religious views and teachings ? Simply because men have left the Bible and therefore they have departed from the truth. And the majority go along with all of these things because they are deceived, because they fail to read and study the Bible for themselves. They fail to think and to ask questions. They fail to act even when they learn the truth. They are weak and do not want to go against the majority. But this is a terrible mistake. We must take a stand for God and His word even if we have to stand alone. Otherwise we cannot be saved.

Do we think for one minute that God is pleased with all that is going on in the name of religion ? Do we imagine that God will put up with just anything ? Just think of all of the things that God is blamed for when really he is not guilty at all. Certainly he is not the author of all of the religious division and confusion that is in the world today. He is not responsible for most of things that are taught in the name of religion. Therefore, it is up to you and me, one and all, if we want so know the truth, in contrast to error, to

return to the Bible. There we can easily see the difference. And then we should be determined not to believe anything, to do anything, or to teach anything, unless we are sure that the Bible teaches it. Only then can we be sure and right.



**associate  
editorial**

## How shall we Escape?

Man is a sinner. But the Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, (Romans 1:16). In 1 Corinthian 15:1-4 Apostle Paul declares that the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. And in 2 Thesalónian 1:7-9 he warns those who would not obey the gospel. He said, "When the Lord Jesus Shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power. Thus one must obey the gospel or suffer the eternal destruction in hell. However, many ignore this fact and never seriously think of obeying the gospel. Let's see why don't many people obey the gospel.

Several do not obey the gospel because they have never been provided adequate information. In other words they are ignorant of the facts of the gospel. Ignorance has always played a great roll in leading people to do against God's will. Those who crucified Jesus, we read in Acts 3:17, they did so because of their ignorance. Paul said, in 1 Timothy 1:12,13 "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."

The Apostle said that I was an enemy of Christ because of ignorance and unbelief. Like ignorance, many today do not obey the gospel because they really don't believe in Jesus that he is the Son of God, that he is the Saviour. Millions of people today really don't believe that they will be eternally lost in hell if they do not obey the gospel. True, the gospel is God's power to save, but it only saves those who believe and obey the commands of the gospel. (Hebrews 5:8,9).

Many love sin, and they are afraid that if they will obey the gospel they would have to leave sin by repenting from their sins. They love darkness rather than light. (John 3:19). But the writer of the book of Hebrews 11:24-27, recall to our attention the example of Moses, that "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. Moses realised the value of his soul, and therefore he did not choose to enjoy the pleasure of sin which was for a season, he rather obeyed God. Oh, how we need to realise what Christ said in Matthew 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Still thousands of people do not obey the gospel of Christ because they love praises of men more than the praises of God. They are like the rulers of whom John said. "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praises of men more than the praise of God. (John 12:42,43). Today many are afraid to obey the gospel because if they become Christian, they fear that they will be cast out of their homes, their parents will no longer accept them in their homes, their friends and societies will resent them. But they fail to realise the fact that Jesus said. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I

also deny before my father which is in heaven." Again, they love praise of men more than the praise of God.

Then there are many people like Balaam, of whom we read in the Old Testament. (Numbers 22,23). He knew what the will of God is, but yet he wanted to have his own way. Thousands of people today do not obey the gospel simply because they have the attitude of Balaam. They know what the gospel is, they know that they must obey the gospel to be saved, by believing in Jesus, and repenting of their sins and by being baptized for the forgiveness of their sins, (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38), but yet they say, "Lord save me by faith only because I like to be saved by that way."

The writer of the scripture exclaims, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." Truly, those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ and thus neglect the great salvation offered by him, they cannot escape from the consequences of eternal punishment in outer darkness. Because one day the Lord is coming back to take vengeance on them "that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." (2Thessalonians 1:8,9).

You need to die to sin by turning away from your sins, you need to be buried with Jesus by baptism into his death, and then be raised to walk in the newness of life. (Romans 6:1-6).

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# Do You Love God?

**Dick Cupp**

Before you answer the question suggested in the title, read carefully 1 John 5:1-3, where the apostle tells us what the love of God is all about.

John begins by describing who is a child of God, or who is born of God. It's the one who truly believes that Jesus is the Christ, and acts accordingly. He **continues** to believe, as the Greek verb would have it. He has a faith, then, that is firmly fixed; he is one who lives in and by the understanding that Jesus is the Christ.

The apostle explains in verse two the kind of belief he's talking about. "Hereby we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do his commandments."

We know that faith without works is dead, being alone (James 2:20-26). But the faith John speaks of results in sonship to God. Therefore, he must be talking about a living faith; a faith that produces works of love and obedience. Paul makes the same distinction when he talks about saving faith in Galatians 3:26-27, where he says we're children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. But that faith must prompt us to be baptized into Christ in order to "put him on."

The next point that John makes is that if we are children of God, we must of necessity love other children of God. If we love the One who begat, we must love those who are begotten. Love of the brethren, then, is another indication of the love of God. You can't love God and hate your brethren at the same time. And we know that we love the children of God when we truly love God and keep His commandments. The love of God and the love of the brethren are inseparable! Each becomes a test of the other.

To love God is to keep His commandments. But one of His commandments is to love one another! (John 13:34)

The meat of the passage is in verse three: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous."

By keeping His commandments, we exhibit and demonstrate our love for Him. If, on the other hand, we reject His commandments, that proves our lack of faith and love.

Think of a child, whose father tells him to eat his food because it's good for him. The child says "No!" Is that showing love? But another child says "I'm not sure I'll like it, but if you say it's good for me, and you want me to eat it, I'll eat it." That shows love ... and faith and trust.

Again the Greek verb for "keep" is in the present active subjunctive, which gives it the meaning "keep on keeping." And this is the acid test of our love for God: do we **persist** in keeping His commandments? Or do we keep a few, and then sit down and wait for reward? Do we obey some, and reject the rest? Do we sway back and forth, or do we keep on keeping His commandments to the best of our ability?

The wonderful thing about keeping the commandments of God is that they "are not grievous." We know that they are good for us. Our love for God lightens the load; it makes us want to please Him by keeping His commandments. And our love for His children makes us anxious to assist brethren who are struggling under heavy loads. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

If you really love God, let Him know about it!

## Did God Create Evil?

Wayne Jackson

Please explain the statement, "**I create evil**," (Isaiah 45:7)

This passage is commonly appealed to by unbelievers who attempt to involve the Bible in a moral difficulty. First of all, the verse can have no reference to moral evil (wickedness) for such is opposed to in the infinitely holy nature of God (Isa. 6:3). Jehovah is "a God of faithfulness and without iniquity," (Deut. 32:4). He is "not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness" (Psa. 5:4). Nor can it be supposed that this verse has to do with Jehovah's original creation for at the termina-

tion of the creation week, the Lord saw "everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good (Gen. 1:31). (Cf. I Tim. 4:4)

The context of Isaiah 45:7, along with several passages of similar import, reveal the truth of the matter. Jehovah, through the prophet Isaiah, prophetically announced to King Cyrus of Persia (200 years before the monarch's birth!) his intention of using this pagan king as an instrument of his holy will. Within Isaiah 45:1-7 is a majestic affirmation of the universal sovereignty of the Almighty God, indeed, there is none like him. (Vs. 5) He thus affirms: "I form light, and create darkness (i.e., control nature); I make peace, and create evil (control over nations) I am Jehovah that doeth all these things."

Notice how the word "evil" is here used in obvious contrast to "peace". Isaiah simply contends that Jehovah has the power to cause peaceful conditions to exist, or to bring about evil (destruction). Consider another verse. God warned Israel that if they made an alliance with Egypt, he would bring evil upon them (e.g., punishment). (Isa. 31:1,2). Again in describing the coming judgment upon ancient Babylon, the prophet declared: "Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know the dawning thereof: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it away: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou knoweth not." (Isa. 47:11). The evil which God sent was a desolation, due them because of their wickedness.

## "Don't Be Too Sure!"

**Jerry Shaw**

Paul, by inspiration, wrote, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12). Isn't it strange that we so often do the very things we have vowed we would never do, and so many times become guilty of sins we have vowed we would never commit, and so many

times become guilty of the sins we have condemned in the lives of others?

When Jesus foretold of the impending disaster of his death Peter said, **“I will lay down my life for thy sake.”** A little later on he vowed, **“Although all shall fail away and desert you, I will not.”** Even when the mob came to take Christ away it was Peter who lased out with his sword, and cut off the ear of Malchus. But during the mock trial of Jesus it was Peter who denied knowing the man. And at the scene of the crucifixion Peter stood far off in the distance! He had overestimated his own strength. His real problem was that he was trusting in Peter rather than God.

On another occasion (Acts 10:9-17) Peter was given a vision that proved to him that the Gentiles were in sight of God on the same level as the Jews. He himself said, **“God is no respecter of persons.”** But later Paul had to withstand him to the face because he made a distinction between Gentile and Jew (Galatians 2:11). This was not something to which Peter could plead ignorance: he knew better. No, doubt Peter had said to himself that this is something he would never do.

It was Paul who said, **“Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”** There is a reason for this. Our strength is almost always our weakness because that is where we first let our guard down. But we pay close attention to our weaknesses. It's like Paul said in **2 Cor. 12:10**, **“..... When I am weak, then am I strong.”** As long as we live in the flesh we will have trouble with the fleshly desires and drives. There is a constant war raging between the fleshly and the spiritual. We will all have problems like Paul had that he describes in Romans chapter 7. To paraphrase several of his statements would help us understand ourselves. **“I find that, the rule with me that, when I wish to do right, evil is always present.”** **“I do not always do the good I wish to do, and the evil which I do not want to do is what I often times do.”** **“The very things I hate are the things I am guilty of doing.** This is why he said

near the end of the chapter, "**O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?**" But, of course, no man, in the flesh is free from the battle with sin! No man, not even Paul, so long as he is in the flesh, is absolutely safe.

We must master our pride and over-confidence! We must maintain a close relation to, and trust in, God and Christ and the Holy Spirit, who can help us. We must try, ourselves, to overcome the temptations that confront us. We must remember not to lose all faith when we fail, because sooner or later we all will from time to time. We just must keep trying. May I say, though, this sermon is much easier preached than lived.

## Abundant Pardon

John Gipson

"**God.....will abundantly pardon**" (Isaiah 55 :7).

Jesus never met a man he wouldn't save. Look through the gospel records and see for yourself. You will never find him saying, "I wish I could help you, but there's nothing I can do." You will never hear him say, "Your case is too difficult for me." He doesn't leave any inkling of unwillingness or inability. He died for "the sins of the world"—all of them. He shed his blood "for remission of sins"—all sins. No wonder he was such an attraction for guilty men. No wonder "then drew near unto Him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him."

Let lost men "seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near." Why? "For he will abundantly pardon." Have no lingering doubts about God's pardon. It is abundant! Those who have fled to Christ for refuge have not been disappointed—nor will you be.

That's not to minimize the sins we commit. How many they seem: Sins of **thought**—rebellious, proud, blasphemous.

cruel, false, unholy, and infinitum; sins of **word**—I would have to repeat the list ; sins of **deed**—ranging from theft to murder. But cease your counting. There is no way to tally so many sins. They are as countless as the drops of dew which fall in the autumn morning, as numberless as the sands of the seashore.

“God.....will abundantly pardon.” Ho refreshing it is to return to this theme. He will **really** pardon. Have you that have been pardoned ever asked, “Is it really true? Can it be? Am I really forgiven?” Yes, it is true! God doesn’t **pretend** to forgive ; he **forgives**. Your sins no longer exist. They have been removed as far as the east is from the west. They are gone forever. Those sins have been covered in a deluge of grace. The poet was right when he said :

See here an endless ocean flows,  
 Of never-failing grace,  
 Behold a dying Saviour’s veins,  
 The sacred flood increase.  
 It rises high and drowns the hills,  
 Has neither shore nor bound,  
 Now, if we search to find our sins,  
 Our sins can ne’er be found.

## What Is The Church Of Christ?

The church of Christ is a group of men and women who have been converted to Christ. That conversion began with a complete change of heart from the love and practice of sin to submission to the law of God. This change of heart and purpose was brought about by the Holy Spirit operating through the one means the Bible tells about, “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6 : 17).

Those in the churches of Christ were led to believe in Christ by the preaching of the gospel of Christ, for “faith

cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10 : 17). Without this faith, men and women cannot approach God for salvation, for "without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11 : 6).

This faith leads to a sorrow for sin, a regret that is sincere and unfeigned, and this godly sorrow works repentance (II Cor. 7:10). Without genuine repentance, we cannot be saved, for Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay, Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

The church of Christ gladly confesses that it believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God, and before one is scripturally baptized he makes that confession (Acts 8:36-38). This confession is in order to salvation (Romans 10:10).

The church of Christ is composed of men and women who have been baptized into Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3). Baptism is for the remission of sins, we are plainly told in Acts 2:38, and it is in this act that one becomes a member of that one body over which Jesus is head and of which he is the Saviour (1 Cor. 12:13 ; Eph. 5:23).

The church of Christ today assembles on the first day of the week to break bread just as it did in New Testament days. "Upon the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them" (Acts 20:7). This is done in tender remembrance of his death for us (1 Cor. 11:24,25), and thus we show forth the Lord's death until he comes.

Upon the first day of the week we contribute, "lay by in store" of our money according to our prosperity for carrying the "word of truth" to the world, and for caring for the poor and needy.

The public worship of the church of Christ consists of congregational singing of gospel hymns, preaching the gospel, praying, the Lord's Supper and contributing in sacrifice to the Lord.

The church of Christ bears her own burdens, and does not

ask people who are not members of the church to pay her obligations, or to support the church. That obligation rests upon the members only.

When you visit in the church of Christ services, you have no obligation whatever except to respectfully hear the word of God.

You will find worship after the New Testament pattern, simple and sincere. Churches of Christ recognize no creed but Christ, have no discipline or rules but the inspired word of God. Members wear no name but the divinely given name, "Christian." And you will find that you have the very greatest welcome to all the services, too.

## Speaking In Tongues

by

**BASIL OVERTON**

**Uses of the word**

The word **tongue** is used in the Bible to refer to an organ in the human body. (Lamentations 4:4; Ezekiel 3:26; Mark 7:35; Luke 1:64.)

**Tongue** is used in the Bible many times to refer to what is done with the tongue. Here is an illustration: "He that hath a froward heart findeth no good; and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief." (Proverbs 17:20.) Obviously "perverse tongue" in this passage refers to the wrong kind of speaking; or wrong use of one's tongue.

Many times **tongue** is used in the Bible to refer to a language or dialect (Daniel 1: 4; Acts 1:19; 2:8.)

### **Speaking In Tongues When The Apostles Lived**

The apostles of Christ and some who lived when they did were endowed by the Lord to speak in tongues or languages which they had not studied. Sometimes this is referred to in the King James Version as speaking in an **unknown** tongue. (1 Corinthians 14:13, 14.) The word **unknown** in such passages in the King James Version is italicized which



means it has no corresponding word in the Greek text of the New Testament. The translators supplied the word **unknown** to emphasize that some spoke in languages that were **unknown** to them; languages they had not studied. To do so was a miracle.

### **Granted Two Ways**

The miracle or spiritual gift of speaking in tongues was granted two ways. These were: (1) baptism of the Holy Spirit as in Acts chapters two and ten, and (2) the apostles laying their hands on others as in Acts 19:6.

### **Accompanied By Other Miracles**

When our Lord Jesus promised that some would "speak with new tongues" he also said they would cast out devils, handle serpents, and heal the sick. He also said they would not be hurt by drinking any deadly thing. (Mark 16:17, 18.) Those who claim to speak in tongues are inconsistent if they do not also claim to perform the other miracles mentioned with speaking in tongues in the New Testament.

The New Testament teaches that speaking in tongues and all the other miracles were limited to the time of the revelation and the confirmation of the New Covenant. (Mark 16:20). This writer denies that anyone now speaks in tongues or performs any other miracles! This view is supported by the teaching of the New Testament.

### **Sign To Unbelievers**

There were those in the church at Corinth who could speak in tongues by the power of the Holy Spirit. In teaching the church there with respect to their misunderstanding of this miracle or spiritual gift, Paul told them that tongues were for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not. (1 Corinthians 14:22.)

Those who claim they can speak in tongues which they have not studied are inconsistent unless they use their alleged gift to convince unbelievers that what they do is of God.

There are a few in the church of the Lord who have been saying they do not claim to be able to speak in tongues, but that they would not say others could not.

This writer does not claim to be able to speak in tongues, and he denies that others can do so! To those who claim they have the gift of tongues, this writer is an unbeliever. They should use their tongue speaking "as a sign to them that believe not" and try to convince me to be a believer! I challenge any one of them to demonstrate that he can speak in a language he has never studied! I will be glad to arrange such a test for anyone who may want to try it!

### **Tongues Were Languages**

The miraculous tongue speaking of the New Testament was speaking actual languages. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles utterance and they spoke with other tongues. (Acts 2:4.) When the people heard them they inquired "And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? ... we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God." (Acts 2:8, 11.) Obviously, these meant by tongues the languages they spoke.

The tongues referred to so much in 1 Corinthians Chapter 14 were also real languages for Paul illustrated what he meant by tongues by quoting from Isaiah 28: 11, 12 where Isaiah referred to the languages of people. (1 Corinthians 14:21.) **Tongues** in 1 Corinthians 14 were not senseless jargon, or silly gibberish, or balderdash! **Tongues** in that chapter and elsewhere in the New Testament were actual languages of people!

### **Tongue Speaking Did Not Assure Spirituality**

Modern "tongue speakers" argue that the church needs speaking in tongues so it can be more spiritual. This is not a sensible or scriptural claim. The Corinthian church had an abundance of tongue speaking and other spiritual gifts but that church was not spiritual, but it was instead carnal. (1 Corinthians 3: 1-3.)

### **Tongues Were To Cease**

When Paul wrote the 1 Corinthian Letter the church in Corinth was plagued with much strife and division. They were even fussing over their spiritual gifts like speaking in

tongues. Paul taught them a more excellent way which is the way of love . (1 Corinthians 12:1-13; 13:1-13).

Paul explained that soon the spiritual gifts of special knowledge, prophecy and speaking in tongues would cease when "that which is perfect is come." (1 Corinthians 13:8-10.)

Paul said that spiritual gifts were "that which is in part." With the spiritual gifts of knowledge, prophecy and tongues God revealed gradually his will as given in the New Testament.

"That which is perfect" is of the same kind as "that which is in part." "That which is in part" obviously referred to the gradual giving of the will of God in the new covenant. Therefore, "that which is perfect" refers to the completed revelation of God's will. Paul explained the difference in having "that which is in part" (the gradual giving of God's will) and "that which is perfect" (the completed revelation of God's will). He illustrated this difference by saying, "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." (1 Corinthians 13: 12.) "Through a glass darkly" is more literally translated "in a mirror obscurely."

While God's revelation was being gradually made one could not see himself clearly. But when that revelation was completed one could look into that "perfect law of liberty (James 1:25), the complete revelation of God's will, or "that which is perfect" and see himself clearly. One can thus know as he is known.

As surely as Gods' will was completely revealed as contained in New Testament, so spiritual gifts like speaking in tongues ceased when that revelation was completed. History of the era immediately following the apostolic era confirms this.

# AND THE END DIDN'T COME

**Mark H. Nunley**

Down through the history of "Christianity" there have been those groups who have claimed the right and power to be special interpreters of Bible prophecy for the rest of us. Among their many functions, they have set out time and time again to tell us when Jesus would come again and this life on earth would end. And although these different groups differ in various ways, they are the same in at least one point: **THEIR PREDICTIONS ARE ALWAYS WRONG!**

One of these groups that is very well known today has given the following dates for the end: 1914, 1915, 1918, 1925, **AND OCTOBER 1975.** Other groups in the past have listed these dates: October 22, 1844, 1846, autumn of 1874, etc. **BUT THE END.....DIDN'T COME.**

These date-setters are consistently wrong. But what do they do when they are proven to be wrong? They deny that they ever taught such a thing. For almost a decade the Jehovah's Witnesses have been teaching that the end would come in October of 1975, but since they were proven wrong they now are attempting to reword what they had said and to deny that they had been teaching what they have. This they have done down through their history.

And it is difficult to convince their people of these things because The Watchtower Society conveniently buys up and destroys their old books which show their past mistakes and change the wording in their reprints so that their mistakes are covered up. If you have further interest in this subject, send to Ted line, Southwest Church of Christ, 3849 W. Encanto Blvd, Phoenix, Arizona 85009 to receive a copy of his book, "Questions for Jehovah's Witnesses". A single copy is one dollar in price. Bro. Cline has written a very fine little book on this subject. In the back there is a list of other books on this subject.

Let's listen to what the Word of God says about those who claim to speak from God and are found to be mistaken and

## MEANING

In order to understand exactly what is meant by the act of confession one may turn to a New Testament example in Matthew 16:

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias, and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

Matt. 16:13-16

The type of confession noted here is a simple statement of faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. This statement has been denied for nearly 2,000 years in various forms, from the Jew who claimed he was not the Messiah, to the present day modernist who somehow concludes that Christ was only a “good guy” on a par with the so-called prophets of many of today’s world religions. For one to make the confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God is to declare total allegiance to Him as the Messiah and to recognize His authority in one’s life and to accept a submission to His commands.

## Commands

In Matthew 10 the account records Jesus talking to His disciples about the problems they will face when they go out to declare His message. However, He tells them of the love God has for them and how He watches over His creation. He then tells them:

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 10:32

The scripture stands as evidence of a command on confession, as a blessing for obedience and as a punishment for disobedience. Please notice:

1) In Jesus’ statement is His command to comply.

wrong : Deut. 18:20-22:

“But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”

Even Charless T. Russel (founder of this sect) back in 1907 admitted that if their dates should prove to be false, What a blow that would be! One of the strings of our harp' would be quite broken!”

What has Jasus said about the date of His return? Matt. 24:36 “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

Have you been deceived? Allow yourself to be deceived no longer. Come into the light of God's Word!

## The Sound Of Confession

When a person thinks of confession in religion the most immediate thought that comes to mind is usually the act of confessing a sin or group of sins to a priest or high church leader. This probably comes about because of the fact that this is practiced in one of the major religions of the twentieth century. This, however, is not what is meant in this study by the act of confession in religion. Nor is it a mourner's bench type of profession of what God has done for the speaker. Confession as it is noted in the first century is neither of these. It stands as another of the confusing aspects of religion in the twentieth century, and yet it is one of the most simple of acts.

2) The promise that He will confess a knowledge before Jehovah of the disciple who confesses Him before men is the evidence of the great blessing derived from obeying this command. Seldom does anyone go into a strange place that he is not very pleased and usually benefited by someone coming up to him that knows him and introducing him around. This is such an accepted practice that it is even strongly adhered to as a new speaker is almost always "introduced" to his audience the first time. The greatest "introduction" that will ever take place will be for Jesus to "confess" or "introduce as one of His disciples" the Christian who stands before the throne of heaven.

3) In-as-much as Jesus will confess a knowledge before Jehovah of the disciple who confesses Him, the opposite would be true in the case of the person who will not make that confession of Jesus before men. Jesus will not confess a knowledge of him before His Father in Heaven.

The Apostle Paul also mentions this type of confession when he writes to the church at Philippi. His words are very definite and will leave little doubt as to the necessity of a confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and King.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus : Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men : And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name : That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth ; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Phil. 2 : 5-11

The apostle is here presenting the story of the great sacrifice. Jesus, even though He was on an equal footing with Jehovah, was willing to give this up in order to make Himself

human and to make the great sacrifice on behalf of man. Jehovah has now given Him a name that is far above every other name. Man is to subject himself before Jesus and everyone is to confess with the tongue that Jesus is the Lord. By doing this the Father is glorified. The reader can have little doubt of the necessity of making an actual confession with the tongue that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

### **Blessing**

As with every other case of obedience to Bible commands there is a definite blessing for obedience to the command. God just does not call on man to do anything that does not have merit in it for those who obey the command.

The church at Rome stood a long distance from the heart of the early church and its beginning in the first century. However, Rome was the capital of the empire and the Christians who lived there found themselves at the very hub of government. The strength of their discipleship and the faith on which they stood would have its sure reward for them and for anyone else who would make the good confession of faith in Jesus Christ.

In chapter 10 of this letter to the Romans Paul begins by emphasizing that the Jews have a very sincere zeal to serve God but that this zeal is without the knowledge of what God really wants them to do. He tells his readers that the Jews have set up their own patterns in an attempt to please God but in so doing they have not patterned themselves after the law God gave. He then discusses the righteousness that comes from God and asks the question concerning it :

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart : that is, the word of faith, which we preach ; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness ; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Romans 10 : 8-10



This open confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and King begins the life of service on the part of a disciple. It takes place as faith in Jesus Christ leads one to change direction in his life. He turns in a new direction. He declares his new allegiance to his new Lord—Jesus. This new faith, coupled with a change of life and an outward confession, has a person headed in the right direction and that direction is to salvation.

John later records a very short statement on confession but one that is very simple and plain on the subject :

“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath in us. God is love: and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

I John 4 : 15-16

No greater link can be established than for one to realize the link that is described here. No Vanderbilt, Rockefeller, or Morgan can offer more riches than can come with dwelling in God, nor can a more beneficial love ever be manifested than the one God has for His people.

### **Punishment**

In every blessing for obedience there is the punishment or loss that will be visited upon these who fail to obey the command.

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 10 : 32-33

No greater pain will ever be realized this side of the torments of hell than to hear the Son of God say, “I never knew you : depart from me.....” Any yet Matt. 7 : 32 vividly describes the fact that many will hear these words directed to them. Also, because many have failed to confess Jesus before men, He promises to them, “him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”

“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him ; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue : for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

John 12 : 42-43

To gain the praise of men and to lose the praise of God will stand as the greatest eternal loss ever realized by man. John tells his readers that many of the chief rulers did not take a stand and declare their faith in Jesus Christ because they would rather have stood “tall” in the eyes of their fellow men than in the eyes of God. Hence, they gained the praise of men while losing the praise of God.

### **The Story Lesson**

A man from the East African nation of Ethiopia was traveling down a road in a deserted region, as one beings reading in the 8th chapter of the book of Acts. He is in a high government position as the treasurer of his nation and he has been up to the city of Jerusalem to worship and is on his way back home. Unknown to him the Spirit of God talks to the evangelist Philip and tells him to begin traveling down this same road that the eunuch from Ethiopia is on. They meet and Philip finds the man reading from the prophecy of Isaiah concerning the Messiah. Philip asks the man if he understands what he is reading. He returns a question to Philip, “How can I, except some man should guide me?” He requests that Philip join him. The preacher does so and a first century religious discussion begins. The eunuch asks Philip who the prophet is speaking about and Philip takes the same scripture that the eunuch questions for the basis of the lesson on Jesus Christ.

As they travel along the road they came to some water. The eunuch sees it and asks Philip, “Here is water what stands in my way of being baptized?” “Nothing,” Philip says, “If you believe.” The eunuch then says, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

The chariot is stopped immediately after this confession, and Philip and the eunuch both go down into the water and

Philip baptizes the eunuch from Ethiopia into Jesus Christ.

The example of this man from Ethiopia is an example for every man of every generation all through time. Upon learning of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and upon making a decision to follow Him this man asked if any thing else must be done before his baptism. Philip indicated that if he had faith then there was nothing in his way. The Ethiopian made that final step before baptism by declaring with his mouth his faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

## क्रूस की कथा

बड़ी ही प्रसन्नता का अनुभव करते हुए हम आपको यह विशेष सूचना दे रहे हैं कि "सत्य सुसमाचार" रेडियो प्रवचन के तीसरे भाग का प्रकाशन अब पूरा हो चुका है। "क्रूस की कथा" प्रचारक सनी डेविड के १५ प्रभावशाली प्रवचनों की नई रचना है। इसे प्राप्त करने के लिये केवल २५ पैसे का डाक टिकट हमें भेजिए।

नोट:—आपसे विशेष आग्रह किया जाता है कि डाक टिकट भेजते हुए उस पुस्तक का नाम अवश्य लिखें जिसे प्राप्त करने के लिये आप टिकट भेजते हैं। अब तक छपकर तैयार होने वाली ३ पुस्तकें इस प्रकार है। "सत्य सुसमाचार" (पहला भाग) "उद्धार की योजना" (दूसरा भाग) "क्रूस की कथा" (तीसरा भाग)।

सत्य सुसमाचार

पोस्ट बॉक्स-३८१५,

नई दिल्ली-११००४६

## एक मसीही कौन हैं !

अनेकों लोग अपने आप को मसीही कहते हैं। परन्तु वे जो ऐसा कहते हैं उन में से सब वास्तव में मसीही नहीं हैं। यह सुनकर आप कदाचित् चकित हों परन्तु यह बिल्कुल सच है।

१. कोई भी व्यक्ति जिसका जन्म एक ऐसे घराने में हुआ हो जिस में माता-पिता अपने आपको मसीही कहते हों, केवल इसी के फल स्वरूप एक मसीही नहीं बन जाता। मैं जानता हूँ कि संसार के अनेकों धर्मों में यह माना जाता है कि शारीरिक रूप से किसी एक परिवार में जन्म ले लेने से ही एक व्यक्ति बौद्ध, हिन्दू, अथवा एक मुसलमान इत्यादि बन जाता है। इसी के साथ मैं यह भी स्वीकार करता हूँ कि कैथलिक धर्म में भी कदाचित् ऐसा ही समझा जाता है। किन्तु नए नियम के अनुसार सच्ची मसीहियत के विषय में यह बात सच नहीं है। एक मसीही परिवार में जन्म ले लेने से कोई भी व्यक्ति मसीही नहीं बन जाता। कोई भी व्यक्ति अपने आप को वास्तव में केवल तभी एक मसीही कह सकता है यदि वह एक विश्वासी है और मसीह की आज्ञाओं पर चलता है और जिस ने इस तरह से नए जन्म के द्वारा परमेश्वर के परिवार में प्रवेश किया है (यूहन्ना ३ : ३—५)।

२. कोई भी व्यक्ति केवल इसके फलस्वरूप एक मसीही नहीं बन जाता यदि उसके ऊपर बचपन में कुछ जल छिड़का गया हो। सर्व प्रथम, बपतिस्मे का अभिप्राय पानी छिड़कने से नहीं है परन्तु बपतिस्मे का अर्थ है पानी के भीतर गाड़े जाना। (कुलुस्सियों २ : १२; रोमियों ६ : ३, ४; प्रेरितों ८ : ३५—३६)। दूसरी ओर, वह व्यक्ति जिसका बपतिस्मा होता है, उसका बपतिस्मा इस उद्देश्य से होना चाहिए कि उस ने सत्य को सुना है (रोमियों १० : १०), और उसने विश्वास किया है (रोमियों १० : १०), और उसने अपने पापों से मन फिराया है (लूका १३ : ३) और उसने अपने मुँह से यह अंगीकार किया है कि यीशु मसीह परमेश्वर का पुत्र है (मत्ती १० : ३२)। इन में से कोई भी कार्य, उस व्यक्ति के अतिरिक्त जो बपतिस्मा लेता है, कोई अन्य व्यक्ति

नहीं कर सकता और तीसरे स्थान पर, छोटे बालक अपने कार्यों के लिये परमेश्वर के निकट जिम्मेदार नहीं है (मत्ती १८ : १—३) इस कारण बचपन में या किसी समय पानी के छिड़के जाने से कोई कभी एक मसीही नहीं बन सकता। मनुष्य एक मसीही केवल तभी बनता है जब वह अपने आपको मसीह की आज्ञाओं को मानने के लिये दे देता है, परन्तु जल छिड़कने की शिक्षा मनुष्य की ओर से है।

३. केवल इसलिये कि यदि कोई कहे कि मैं विश्वास करता हूँ कि यीशु मसीह परमेश्वर का पुत्र है, इसका अर्थ यह नहीं हो जाता कि वह वास्तव में एक मसीही है। जब कि एक मसीही बनने के लिये यह आवश्यक है कि मनुष्य यह विश्वास करे कि यीशु मसीह परमेश्वर का पुत्र है परन्तु मसीही बनने के लिये यही पर्याप्त नहीं है। और यदि ऐसा हो सकता है तो दुष्टात्मा भी मसीही हो सकते हैं क्योंकि पवित्रशास्त्र कहता है कि दुष्टात्मा भी विश्वास रखते और थरथराते हैं। (याकूब २ : १९)। परन्तु एक मसीही बनने के लिये केवल यही आवश्यक नहीं है कि मनुष्य मसीह में विश्वास करे कि वह परमेश्वर का पुत्र है किन्तु उसका विश्वास इतना दृढ़ होना चाहिए कि वह उसकी प्रत्येक शिक्षा को मानने के लिये तैयार हो (इब्रानियों ५ : ८, ९; १ पतरस ३ : २१) और अन्त तक उसका एक दृढ़ विश्वासी होकर रहे। (प्रकाशित-वाक्य २ : १०)।

४. यदि कोई व्यक्ति किसी साम्प्रदायिक कलीसिया का एक सदस्य है तो इसका अभिप्राय यह नहीं हो जाता कि वह वास्तव में एक मसीही है। संसार में अनेकों कलीसियाएं हैं और इस कारण अनेकों लोग अपने आपको मसीही कहते हैं क्योंकि वे उन साम्प्रदायिक कलीसियाओं के सदस्य हैं। परन्तु वे सब धोखे में हैं। मसीही केवल तभी बनते हैं जब लोग मसीह यीशु का अनुसरण करने लगते हैं। मसीह का अनुसरण करने के फलस्वरूप कोई भी व्यक्ति कभी भी किसी साम्प्रदायिक कलीसिया का सदस्य नहीं बन सकता। केवल बाइबल की ही शिक्षानुसार लोग केवल मसीही ही बनेंगे। (प्रेरितों ११ : २६)। पवित्रशास्त्र हमें कभी विभाजित नहीं करेगा परन्तु मसीह में हम सबको एक करेगा। (१ कुरिन्थियों १ : १०)। इस कारण यदि कोई किसी मनुष्य की बनाई हुई एक कलीसिया का सदस्य है तो इसका अर्थ यह है कि वह वास्तव में एक मसीही नहीं है। ऐसा व्यक्ति अपने हित के प्रति अनेकों बातें कह सकता है वा अनेकों तर्क कर सकता है परन्तु वास्तविकता

यही है कि वह बाइबल के अनुसार एक सच्चा मसीही नहीं है। क्योंकि यदि वह एक मसीही होता तो वह कभी भी एक साम्प्रदायिक कलीसिया में नहीं होता, परन्तु प्रभु की कलीसिया का एक सदस्य होता और केवल एक मसीही ही होता। (प्रेरितों २ : ४७; १ पतरस ४ : १६)। बाइबल का अध्ययन करिए तथा स्वयं देखिए।

५. यदि कोई अपने आप को एक मसीही कहे तो केवल कहने ही से वह एक मसीही नहीं बन जाता। इस संसार में अपने लिये कोई कुछ भी कह सकता है परन्तु जब तक अपने विषय में वह कोई विशेष प्रमाण न दे तो वह झूठा तथा धोखेबाज प्रमाणित हो सकता है। तौमी हर एक वह व्यक्ति जो अपने आप को एक मसीही कहता है अकसर अन्य लोगों द्वारा एक मसीही व्यक्ति के रूप में केवल इसीलिये स्वीकार कर लिया जाता है क्योंकि वह स्वयं को एक मसीही बताता है। परन्तु यह अनुचित है। जब तक कोई व्यक्ति परमेश्वर के वचन तथा अपने जीवन के द्वारा यह प्रमाणित नहीं कर देता कि वह एक मसीही है तो वास्तव में वह एक मसीही नहीं हो सकता चाहे वह कितना भी क्यों न कहे (मत्ती ७ : २१—२३)।

मैं आप से निवेदन करता हूँ कि आप स्वयं अपनी स्थिति पर विचार करें। क्या आप एक मसीही हैं? क्या आप बाइबल की शिक्षा अनुसार एक मसीही हैं? क्या आप इसका प्रमाण दे सकते हैं? क्या आपने प्रभु की आज्ञाओं को माना है? क्या आप उसके प्रति पूर्ण रूप से विश्वासी हैं? और यदि नहीं तो आप एक मसीही बनने के लिये प्रभु यीशु में विश्वास कीजिए, अपने पापों से मन फिराइए, यीशु मसीह को परमेश्वर का पुत्र मानकर अंगीकार कीजिए तथा अपने पापों की क्षमा के लिए बपतिस्मा लीजिए। (मरकुस १६ : १५, १६, प्रेरितों २ : ३८)। मसीह आपका उद्धार करेगा, आपको अपनी कलीसिया में मिलाएगा, और तब आप केवल एक मसीही ही होंगे। (प्रेरितों २ : ४७; प्रेरितों ११ : २६)। परिणामस्वरूप यदि आप अन्त तक उसके प्रति एक विश्वासी बने रहेंगे तब आपको अनन्त जीवन मिलेगा। (रोमियों ६ : २३; यूहन्ना १४ : १—३)।

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