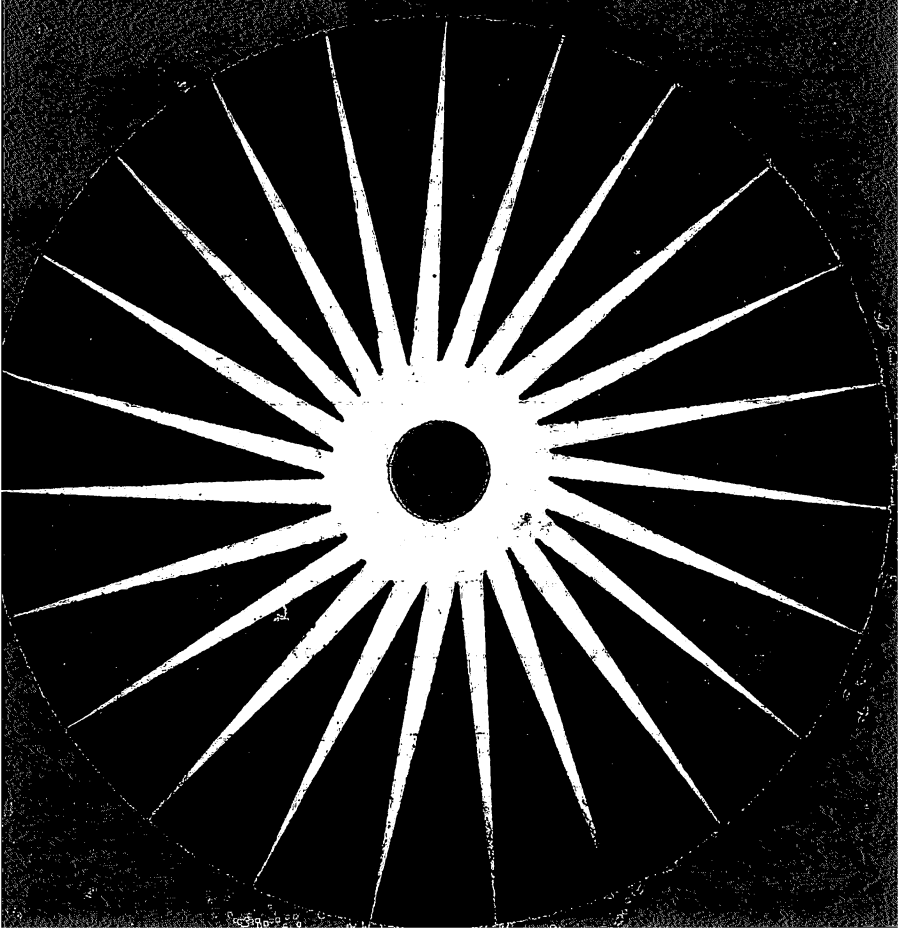


the bible teacher



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४१ मीटर बैंड पर सुना जा सकता है।

THE BIBLE TEACHER

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EDITORIAL

Casting Out Devils

In recent times we have heard a great deal about Satan worshippers on the one hand and about people casting out devils on the other. A best selling book has been written on exorcism and a popular motion picture has been produced from it. All of this has caused new questions to arise concerning the devil and his dealings with man. We know according to the Bible that the devil had the power to possess people in the days of Christ and the Apostles, and likewise they had the power to cast out evil spirits. But what about now? Does the devil have the power to possess people today? If so, can he be cast out? If so, who can cast him out?

Interestingly enough, the Bible puts forth no effort whatsoever to tell of Satan's origin, his power, and how he works. Neither does the scripture try to convince us of his existence. Instead, we must rely on statements made here and there about him. We are told that God made all things in heaven and earth and that means that he originally created the being who became Satan. In the beginning he was not evil, but by leading a revolt against the faithful angels he and his

associates were cast out of heaven. After the creation of man Satan lost no time in appearing to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. He came as a serpent and was successful in deceiving them and there by bringing sin into the world. His presence has been very much felt among men ever since.

The Bible speaks of Satan as Beelzebub, the devil, demon, serpent, the evil one, evil spirit, unclean spirit, and so on. He is a spirit and may even be spoken of in plurality. In Mark 5:1-13 we read where Jesus had an encounter with a man of the tombs and the evil spirit that dwelt in him. When Jesus asked this devil what his name was he replied, "My name is Legion : for we are many." James explained that faith without works was dead because even the devils believe and tremble. (James 2:19). We speak of the devil in referring to Satan, but he has many who are associated with him and for this reason we may speak of the devil or devils and still be correct.

It seems in the days of Christ and the apostles that God allowed the devil to have special powers and freedom. That is, God allowed him to enter people and to actually possess them or to control them. In such cases those that were possessed were helpless against the evil spirits. The devil dwelt in them, directed them, spoke through them, and tormented them. But what was the purpose of this? Evidently God allowed the devil this special power and freedom to possess man in order that Christ and the apostles might have the opportunity to cast Satan out, proving to all that God is more powerful than Satan. Also, it proved that God was working through Christ and the apostles and therefore that they were not imposters or false teachers. Thus, it would seem that Satan's special powers were limited to this period only, for these special purposes.

As we said, Satan had the power in those days to possess people. A good example of this is found in Mark 5:1-13. Another example of it is found in Matthew 9:32 in the case of the dumb man who had an evil spirit. Then we read of Jesus and the apostles going throughout the villages preaching

and shewing glad tidings. "And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils....." (Luke 8:2). When Philip went down to Samaria to preach the gospel, the record says, "And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame were healed." (Acts 8:6,7). You will note that not only did Christ and the apostles have power to cast out evil spirits, but also those who had received the laying on of hands measure of the Holy Spirit, such as Philip, could cast out spirits. There were many cases of demon possession in those times and the Lord and his disciples were able to cast them all out.

There have been various explanations offered to suggest^t that the devil himself never actually possessed anyone. Some have said that those who were thought to have devils in them rather were guided by sinful angels. This is not in keeping with specific statements made about them and their whereabouts. We read in Jude 6, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Peter wrote, "For...God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." (2 Peter 2:4). Others have thought that these demons were the spirits of the wicked dead, but you recall how the rich man wanted Abraham to send Lazarus back to the land of the living to warn his five brothers not to come to such a place. In response to this request Abraham reminded the rich man that they had Moses and the Prophets, since they were living under the law, and that if they would not listen to them neither would they listen to one though he were raised from the dead. He continued by saying, "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that

would come from thence." (Luke 16 : 26). Then there are those who have said that those who had evil spirits did not actually have evil spirits but rather they had some disease or else they were insane and therefore this sickness was responsible for their action. It would appear that some diseases were associated with evil spirits, but not always. If you go back and re-read all of the cases where there were those who had evil spirits you will note the Lord made a distinction between diseases and evil spirits. If they were the same, no such distinction would have been made. And so in spite of the various explanations given it would seem that none of them really answer the question : what possessed the people if there were no evil spirits ? To the contrary, all of the scriptures point to the fact that there indeed were evil spirits who possessed people of that day.

All were not possessed by demons but those that were, as we know, came in contact with those who were able to miraculously cast them out. There are a number of cases given, but let us observe the one in Matthew 12:22-30: "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb : and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David ? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation ; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand : And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself ; how shall then his kingdom stand ? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out ? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man ? And then he will spoil his house. He that is now with me is against me ; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Here we have the Lord being accused of casting out devils by the power of Satan

himself. In other words, Christ was said to be working for the devil. The Lord shows the inconsistency of this by asking the question, "Can Satan cast out Satan?" Obviously he can not or would not. Jesus goes on to show that a kingdom, even Satan's kingdom, divided against itself shall not stand.

Christ not only cast out evil spirits but He commanded the apostles to do likewise. In giving the limited commission, he said unto them, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely ye have received, freely give." (Matthew 10 : 8). In giving the great commission, he said, "And these signs shall follow them that believe (and the context shows that he had reference to the Apostles); In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16 : 17,18). You will notice in these statements that the Lord made a distinction between casting out devils and healing the sick, cleansing people, and other miraculous deeds. Furthermore, although all accountable people were influenced by Satan, not all were possessed by him. This means that those who did have evil spirits in them were a small minority, and God gave his Son, the apostles, and those they laid their hands on, the power to cast them out.

— Not all could cast these demons out. We have an example of this in Acts 19 : 13-17 : "Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." Now this reminds me of denominational people today who claim to have the power to cast out devils. If devils did

possess people now as some did then, and one of these denominational people tried to cast them out, then no doubt they would say, "Christ I know, gospel preachers I know, but who in the world are you?" Then these spirits would no doubt turn on such people and run them off. As a matter of fact, if devils literally possessed people today and denominational people tried to cast them out, such people would be the first to be shocked if they got any response from the Spirits whatsoever, and they would probably run for their life.

The question now arises, does Satan possess people today? I think from what has already been said that it is clear that he does not. Of course many would say that he does. They can supposedly give examples of such. But it is easy to be deceived on such matters, especially when one does not clearly understand what the scriptures teach on the subject. For instance, I personally know of a case in which a young man had epilepsy and occasionally went into convulsions and fits and his parents thought he had an evil spirit in him. Naturally he did not. Another time there was a young girl who had a swollen stomach and she was in torment. The parents, relatives, and friends thought that she had an evil spirit but through medical treatment it was found that she was literally being eaten up by worms. Back in 1970 I was called to the home of a person I know in New Delhi and he told me that he was possessed by a devil and asked me to pray for him and to cast the the devil out. I had to explain what the Bible taught on the subject and on further being requested to pray I prayed that he might take medicine and food so that he might regain his strength and health. I also prayed that he might have the opportunity to read and study the truth on the matter so that he would not continue to be deceived on the subject. The devil was in him all right, not through possession against his will, but he himself was allowing the devil to come into his life and to influence him to go in the wrong direction.

Again, I have heard many stories in which devils were cast out of people, but on enquiring to find out who cast them out

I was always told that it was some denominational preacher. But I know that denominational preachers are false teachers and people who are in error. Therefore, my question would be the same one the Lord asked his critics when they accused him of casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub, "Can Satan cast out Satan?" Since he cannot, then I know that even if people were possessed today by demons that denominational preachers and such like could not cast them out. They are of Satan and Satan therefore would not be casting out Satan. But how do I know they are of Satan? Because they are denominational, they are in man-made churches, they represent division and false teaching, just as in the case of casting out Satan.

Today many people talk about the demon of alcohol, the demon of tobacco, the demon of disease, the demon of sin, and so on. In the Bible we would learn that these are the results of natural physical disorders or the tools of Satan to bring about sin, but that these cannot be classified as demons or evil spirits in the sense that the Bible talks about devils. You can see then that many people are ignorant of Satan and how he works. The misunderstanding and false teachings on these matters are even greater among those around the world who are backward, illiterate, and are generally ignorant. Being in darkness, religiously and secularly, and full of superstitions and fears it is easy for people to be misled on these matters.

Although the devil does not possess people today as he did in the days of Christ and the apostles, we don't want to leave impression that the evil does not enter people to use them to accomplish his purposes. We must understand though that there is a difference in demon possession, were Satan so controls one that he cannot help himself, and where the individual allows or even invites Satan to come into his thoughts, his actions, and his very life for evil. In the case of demon possession, the individual could not of and by himself rid himself of such an evil spirit, but only through a miraculous act could he be cast out. But an individual today not only can

permit Satan to enter his life but he can also expell him from his life on choosing to do so. This is the difference.

No, Satan cannot come into you and control your life unless you allow him to. It would be fearful indeed if the Bible taught that Satan could possess people today as he once did. In that case, how could we escape him and how could we rid ourselves of him? But we can be thankful that we can decide who will live in our lives, whether it be Christ or Satan. If we are wise, we will decide in favor of Christ. As long as he is in us and we are in him Satan cannot touch us.



*associate
editorial*

Yet Another Human Problem!

Human beings have always had problems in various ways, such as personal problems, family problems, social problems, and national problems. However, there is yet another problem that human beings are guilty of and that is **PREJUDICE**. The word Pre-Judice comes from the Latin phrase, Prae-judici-um, which means Pre-judgment.

The actual beginning of this problem can be traced back to the time of Cain and Abel, sons of Adam and Eve. Abel was murdered by his brother Cain because of his prejudice. He did not, in fact, try to find out why his brother's gift was acceptable to God and why his was rejected. But without giving any serious consideration to the matter, and instead of correcting his own fault, he went on in his own prejudice and killed his brother.

During the time of war nations build up prejudice against other nations, and against the people of the opposing country. For instance, during the last war of Pakistan with India many

Indian people were mercilessly beaten by their own Indian fellows in their own country because they might have been caught in some suspicious way and were thought to be Pakistanis. They did not try to learn the truth about the persons involved, neither did they take time to investigate, but they had already made their mind up and did according to their pre-judgment.

You talk to young people and soon you'll find that they have prejudice against old people. Likewise the older people have prejudice against the young people. Educated people are prejudiced against uneducated people and the illiterates are against the educated ones. Indians may be prejudiced against foreigners and foreigners may be prejudiced against Indians. There is colour prejudice, caste and race prejudice, culture prejudice, economic prejudice, religious prejudice, and so on.

As we go back to the time of Jesus, more than 1900 years ago, we find the Jews were very much prejudiced against the Samaritans. In fact, the strife between the two groups was as old as the Assyrian victory over the northern kingdom about 722 B.C. The Assyrians brought with them hundreds of people from Babylon to replace Israel's leading citizens who were deported. However, many of the proper and weaker classes had been left in the land and with them the heathen colonists mingled and intermarried. This made the Samaritans a mixed race. Later, when the Jews were rebuilding their temple and the Samaritans appealed to them to permit them to cooperate in its building, their offer was turned down. Now, this blunt refusal aggravated the old feeling of envy very much. And in the times of Jesus this enmity between Jews and Samaritans was at its peak and was such, we are told, that Jews travelling from Galilee to Jerusalem would cross over to the east side of Jordan and would travel a long distance to reach Jerusalem rather than to go through the country of the Samaritans.

Luke tells us in the ninth chapter of the book of Luke that once when Jesus took his journey to go to Jerusalem directly through Samaria, and he wanted to stay in a village of the

Samaritans, people were extremely astonished at this and would not even give him a place to stay over night in their village because he was born and lived among the Jews. Again, on another occasion, the Apostle John tells us, when being wearied Jesus came to a certain well and asked a Samaritan woman to give him water to drink, but instead of giving water the woman said, "How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria?" And the Apostle further explains by saying, "For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." (John 4:9). Prejudice between the Jews and Samaritans gave birth, as in all other cases, to enmity and bitterness, and it was so great by the time Jesus came into this world that they did not have any dealings between them.

Later, Jesus himself became the victim of prejudice. It caused him to suffer many things in various ways and finally he was murdered because of their prejudice. As we go through the New Testament we learn that they did not find any fault in him to condemn him. Pilate, the governor, to whom Jesus was taken to be tried begged and pleaded with those prejudiced people to give any reason as to why Jesus should be punished. But, in fact, they did not have any reason to give, except to shout, in their prejudice, "Crucify him, Crucify him." And Luke, in his record of Jesus' trial, tells us, "And he (Pilate) said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go." And speaking about the crowd he writes, "And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priest prevailed." (Luke 23:22-23). Thus, prejudice played a great role in the trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Human beings have always been prejudiced to a number of things. There are, however, several reasons as to why people become prejudiced against things. The main of which is that people pass on their judgment on things without investigating about them. Religiously speaking, there are thousands of people who are highly prejudiced on religious matters. They

think within themselves that they are heading toward heaven; on the basis of what they believe and practice, while in fact, they may be walking on a way which seemeth right unto them but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12). No, doubt such were the people of whom Christ spoke in Matthew Chapter 7. There they were so sure that they were going to heaven that they even questioned the Lord when He passed his judgment on them. Needless to say, they knew the will of the Lord inasmuch as it is revealed unto all people or else why should the Lord require of them to do His will? But, alas, they were too prejudiced with their own beliefs and doctrines that they did not even try to search and investigate whether they were truly doing what the Lord had said in His word.

But, my friend, what about you? Have you ever tried to investigate your religion? Have you ever seriously considered where you stand? Have you ever thought of investigating your faith, teachings, and doctrines that you are following? Yes, my friend, it is very easy to say, "I am alright." This is exactly what Paul and Cornelius had thought about themselves before becoming Christians. (Acts 22:26, 10). Remember, your prejudiced stand on religious matters may cause you one day to be lost eternally. You may be prejudiced against Christ, or against Christianity; others may be prejudiced against the church of Christ; yet others may be prejudiced against the Lord's command of baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16) or against some other things about which the New Testament teaches. But I encourage you to read your Bible, study, search, and investigate. It surely is a serious matter; it is a matter of life and death!

A Child Of The King

By John Wadley

"For ye are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:26. How thrilling it is to realize that we who are disciples of Jesus are children of the King of heaven and earth. Most people would be proud just to find some drop of royal blood in their genealogy from the ancient past. As Christians

we can be sons and daughters of the greatest monarch of all. God has no grand-children ! As children of the King we have many blessings bestowed upon us, but there are also many responsibilities that come with this honored position.

Royal Garments

Children of the King wear princely robes. It would be inappropriate for them to dress otherwise. "And it was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen, bright and pure : for the fine linen is the righteous attire of the saints." Rev. 19:8. We can hear the Father saying. "Bring forth quickly the best robe, and put it on him ; and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet." Luke. 15:22. With the privilege of royal garments comes the responsibility to keep them undefiled if we would walk with Christ. Rev. 3:4.

A Royal Name

The King's children wear the family name, **Christian**, proudly. Acts 11:26. It is an honorable name, Jas. 2:7. We never be ashamed of that name, no matter what comes our way. Peter writes, "If a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed ; but let him glorify God in this name." I Pet. 4:16.

Royal Palace

As children of the King, we are privileged to live in the King's house. The house of God is the church of the living God, I Tim. 3:15. The child born to a man lives in the father's house and eats at his table, unless something is wrong; perhaps death, infidelity, quarreling. The same is true in the church. The difference is, if the child is not residing in the father's house and eating regularly at his table, the fault is in us, not in the father. Christ appointed for us a kingdom that we might eat and drink at his table in his kingdom. Lk. 22:29-30. Every faithful child of the King will be at the father's table each Lord's day to break the bread and commune with the father. Act 20:7.

Royal Conduct

Being children of the King, we must conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of our royal estate. We must walk worthily of

the calling wherewith we are called, with lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering...giving diligence to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Eph. 4:1-3. All must be blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Phil. 2:14-16. We should be examples of good works, uncorruptness and gravity. Tit. 2:7-8. Whatsoever we do must be in the glory of God. I Cor. 10:31.

Family Pride

The King's children should be proud of the royal heritage. Heads should always be held high. Never should we be ashamed of our relationship to the great King. Paul was never ashamed of his position, neither should we be. II Tim. 1:12. Let us always be thankful for such a privileged position in life. Col. 1:12-14.

Blessings and Wealth

Sons and daughters of the King enjoy the blessings and wealth of the Sovereign. "For all things are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephus, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours....." 1 Cor. 3:21-22. Although he showers us with every good and perfect gift of a material nature, the great gifts are spiritual ones! Forgiveness of our trespasses, Eph. 1:7; Freedom from guilt, shame and condemnation, Rom. 8:1; The privilege to talk with the King in prayer, knowing he will hear and answer our petitions, John 14:13. "How much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him." Matt. 7:7-11.

Heirs of the King

The children of God are heirs of the royal estate, joint heirs with Christ, Rom. 8:16-17. We will inherit the home, the authority, the wealth, the respect of the King. "He that overcometh, I will give to him to sit down with me in my throne..." Rev. 3:21.

Royal Birth

Only those born into the royal family can be children of

the King. "Except one be born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:3-5. We are begotten again...through the word of God. I Pet. 1:23. Scripture amply shows that one is born into God's royal family when with faith and repentance he is baptized in the name of Jesus for remission of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38.

Do you want to be a child of the King ?

Why Should God Be Served

Wayne Jackson

We are living in times when it is becoming increasingly fashionable to be anti-religious. People are raising the question: Is religion really valid ? If there is a God, just why should I serve him ? One young atheistic college student recently said: "The so-called God of the Bible must be on a super-ego trip if he expects men to worship only him." Are there valid reasons for committing one's life to Jehovah ? Tragically, far too few Christians are able to give an inquiring world satisfactory answers to this urgent query.

WHO IS GOD ? God is the supreme Spirit of the universe. (Jn. 4:24, 1 Tim. 6:15,16). He is eternal (Psa. 90:2), all powerful (Gen. 17:1), and infinitely wise (Rom. 11:33-35). Jehovah is holy (Isa. 6:3), righteous and just (Psa. 89:14), rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4), and loving (1 Jn. 4:8). Thus, on the basis of his nature, our God is "worthy to be praised" (Psa. 18:3). This is one of the great lessons of the book of Job. Satan charged that God is not worthy of man's praise separate from the physical blessings he bestows. Accordingly, as a test case, Job of Uz was greatly afflicted. He was deprived of prosperity, health and friendship. Yet through all of this, he continued to serve his Creator.

REASONS FOR SERVING GOD—First of all, it needs to be made clear that Jehovah does not covet our service from selfish motives. God, being infinite in all his attributes, is not

personally enhanced by human worship. Contrary to the facts, it is commonly held that the more we worship God, the greater he is glorified, and thus, as stated above, the Lord urges men to serve him because of a "super-ego." How wonderfully the Scriptures refute this ignorant charge. Just prior to his death, Jesus prayed: "And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." (Jn. 17 : 5). Had Jehovah's glory been INCREASING by virtue of human service cross the centuries, Christ would hardly have prayed to simply share again the glory which was characteristic of them prior to creation! Because God is love (I Jn. 4 : 8), and he longs for man's ultimate happiness, he urges the human race to truly serve him. This is what man was designed to do. (See Isaiah 43 : 7 and Ecc. 12 : 13). And no person will ever know genuine contentment apart from obedience to Almighty God.

Secondly, God is worthy of our service because he is the Creator and we are his Creatures. Spiritually, we are created in God's own image (Gen. 1 : 26); physically, we are descended from Adam and Eve. Thus, the Psalmist humbles us by emphasizing that it is God "that hath made us, and not we ourselves" (Psa. 100 : 3). It is in order to escape the natural responsibility necessitated by the creature-Creator relationship that men have resorted to the absurd theory of evolution. God, as the Potter, has a "right over the clay" (Rom. 9 : 21), and all of the foolish denials of men to the contrary will not change that fact!

Thirdly, men ought to submit to God because of the condition they are in. All responsible persons are sinners. (1 Jn. 1 : 10; Rom. 3 : 23). No, we were not born evil, but in our youth (Gen. 8 : 21) we yield to the weakness of the flesh and thus, relatively early in life we "go astray" from God (Psa. 58 : 3). The corruptness of mankind appears to have become increasingly vile. (2 Tim. 3 : 13). As we surrender ourselves to the habitual commission of sin, we become slaves thereto (Jn. 8 : 34), and thus, it ought to be very obvious that if we are to escape this miserable servitude, it will be by virtue of

our contact with the Holy God who is able to free us from sin (Rom. 6 : 17, 18) that we might become "partaker of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1 : 4).

Fourthly, men ought to serve God for the sheer pleasure of it. The devil has sown a deceitful tale when he suggests that the Christian life is all pain and woe. It is true, of course, that there are trials in living for Christ (2 Tim. 3 : 12), but there are rewards, to be claimed here and now, that are rich indeed. Our Saviour promised : "Blessed are the meek ; for they shall inherit the earth." (Mt. 5 : 5). And Paul spoke of the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding," (Phil. 4 : 7), of which the world knows nothing. Oh, to be certain there is some pleasure in sin, but such pleasure is only "for a season." (Heb. 11 : 25). In the final analysis, the "way of the transgressor is hard." (Prov. 13 : 15).

Fifthly, it pays to obey God because all accounts are not settled in this life. The inspired writer of Psalms was deeply perplexed when he observed "the prosperity of the wicked" (Psa. 73 : 3), even to the point of wondering if perhaps his religion was in vain (vs. 13). But he went into the "sanctuary of God" (the source of real truth as opposed to human wisdom) and the "latter end" of the wicked was revealed to him (vs. 17). Why can't men see that there is an eternity ahead through which their immortal spirits will live ? Jesus raised the question : "For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul ?" (Mt. 16 : 26) The Lord here drives home the point that if one had a deed to this entire earth (how vastly rich!), and yet lost his SOUL, he would profit absolutely nothing. Think about it. It DOES pay to serve God ; and dreadful will the consequences be for those who do not !

**QUESTION :**

A letter comes from W.G. Dt., Andhra Pradesh :

“Sir, I have to say many thanks for your kindness for I have received two important books from you. We are in discussion about ‘the place of a woman in the church, In your book called, ‘Bible Solutions to Human Problems’, which I like, woman is singing. Why is a woman not allowed to speak like man in a congregation? You have mentioned about baptism, smoking, drinking, fortune telling, bribery, and so on, which are very common among our Christians in most of our denominations. May God bless your work and may he fill you with the Holy Spirit so that you may work well. Thanking you. Yours in the Lord.”

ANSWER :

Thank you very much for your letter and we are more than pleased that you like the books that we have sent to you. Our prayer is that you will continue to read and study these matters in view of what the Bible teaches.

There are several things that I would like to comment on but first of all we will consider your main question, and that is, “Why is a woman not allowed to speak like man in a congregation?” The reason for this is very simple : The Bible prohibits such. If you will go back and read through the New Testament you will note that the Lord gave man the responsibility of publicly preaching and teaching his word. The Apostles were men. The seven that were chosen to assist the Apostles were men. (Acts 6). Elders and Deacons were men. (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1). Why was this? Evidently God had a reason for this.

When we look closer at man and woman’s relationship, we

recall that man was created first and then woman. Man had a role and woman had a role. One could not do without the other, but neither could one assume the role of the other. They were distinct and different but equally important. We are told God is head of Christ, that Christ is the head of man, and that man is the head of woman. (1 Corinthians 11 : 3). Therefore in marriage and home life man is to be the head. He is to give leadership to his family. As long as God's order is respected then things go well but when it is pushed aside then there are problems. The same is true in the church.

When it comes to spiritual matters, man is to take the lead. While God knew of the importance of leadership in the church and its work, at the same time he did not wish to put man and woman in a position where they would be competing with each other. Therefore because of man's natural makeup and ability, and his role in relation to woman, wife, and family, then he gave him the responsibility of giving leadership to the church and its work.

On the other hand, woman is physically weak; needs some one who is stronger to give her help, strength, and guidance. She is told to be in subjection to her husband (1 Peter 3 : 1) and in religious matters she is to remain silent. Paul wrote, "Let your women keep silence in the churches : for it is not permitted unto them to speak ; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home : for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." (1 Corinthians 14 : 34,35). Again, he said, "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." (1 Timothy 2 : 11-15).

So the scripture says that the woman is to remain silent. That means that in public meetings of men and women she cannot lead the singing, lead in prayer, preach and teach, or

do other things that would put her in a position of usurping authority over the man. She should not want to do such things in the presence of men and neither should they allow her to do this. If she does so then it is both ashamed to her and also to the men because God's order has been rejected. This is not to belittle woman or to say that she is not important. Rather, it is to recognize that God has given her a position and a work to do and when she limits herself to that then she is in her place. The very same thing is equally true with man.

What then can woman do? She can be a Christian, a Christian wife, a Christian mother, taking care of her family, giving teaching and training to her children, and involving herself in good works. As a Christian she can attend worship, participate in the singing, prayers, study, and so on. However, remember that she can sing without being the song leader, she can pray without leading the prayer, she can study without being the teacher or preacher, and likewise with all of the worship. She can teach the ladies, teach children, do personal work, and do all kinds of other good works. As we noted earlier, Paul said, "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." (1 Timothy 2:15). There is no greater honor that can come to a woman than that of bearing children and they can do no greater work than that of moulding, influencing, training and bringing their children up in the way they should go. Peter wrote, "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed

Abraham, calling him Lord : whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life ; that your prayers be not hindered." (1 Peter 3 : 1-7).

Therefore, don't think for a minute that because a woman is not allowed of God to publicly preach or to assume the role of the man in other ways that there is nothing for her to do. There is plenty for her to do and if she will do that then she will be kept busy for the Lord and will be able to accomplish great things for him. The great need today is not for woman to compete for man's job but to do the work that only the woman can do.

Perhaps that should answer your question about the role of the woman in the church but if you have other questions on the subject then we would be happy to hear from you.

You speak of Christians in the various denominations. In the scriptures there is no mention of denominationalism as we know it today. The question arises therefore if it is possible for Christians to be found in such organizations. Would it not be better for us to return to the Bible, learn of the Lord's church, do that which would make us members of it, and therefore for us to be one in Christ ? This is our plea to all people today.

In referring to the Holy Spirit, he is with me and in me as I follow his instructions in doing the Lord's will. - His work today is to strengthen us in Christ, not to perform miracles as He did in the first century when the word was being written and confirmed. So he does not enable me to do miraculous deeds. I mention this because most people think that the Holy Spirit dwells in one and works in one separate and apart from the word and this is not true.

Again, thank you for your letter, your comments, and your questions.

Errors of Jehovah's Witnesses

Robert L. Willis

This article is needful because some (Jehovah's Witnesses) teach and contend that man is *wholly mortal* and does not possess an ever-living soul. We choose to present this material because we believe the Bible clearly teaches that man does have or possess an everliving soul or spirit.

A few years ago, one of their leaders, B. M. Cole, signed and affirmed the following proposition: "The Scriptures teach that man is wholly mortal, that soul or spirit dies at death, and remains in an unconscious state until resurrected." (Handbook on Materialism, Roy J. Hearn, P. 1.) Note that "soul" and "spirit" are recognized in this proposition as being the same.

What Some Have Said About Man And His Soul or Spirit

"The beast has body and breath, and man has no more." (Let God Be True, Rutherford, PP. 59-60.) Ecclesiastes 3.16-20, is often used to support this contention. Read verse 21 to refute the error.

"Was man made with a thing called a "soul" which was separate and distinct from the body? And could this soul exist apart from the body and also go into other bodies. that say of a cow or an insect or of a spiritual angel?... God did not breathe into him an immaterial, invisible soul that could exist independently of the body and leave it and go somewhere else. A living soul was what man became and not what man had inside him. A living man has soul, that is to say, he has life or existence as a human soul, but he does not have an intelligent, separate something inside him which can abandon his body for a new existence elsewhere. Man and woman are human souls. But how the religions of this world, including those of Christendom, have twisted that fact and deceived mankind." (What Has Religion Done For Man, Pp. 39-40).

"So when Adam died 930 years old the soul died. There was no intelligent, conscious, sentient soul that survived

Adam's death to go anywhere. A religion that teaches otherwise is the devil's religion." (What Has Religion Done For Man ? P. 63.)

"When a man dies he is as dead as a dog." (Deliverance, P. 324)

"No man has or possesses a soul." (Riches, Rutherford, P. 180) (Compare : "In your patience possess ye your soul." Luke 21:19.)

"Man dies like other animals, and all go into the same place. (Where Are The Dead?, P. 36.)

"The word SOUL means a creature that lives, moves and breathes." (Cause of Death, P. 4.)

A Summation of What Jehovah's Witnesses Teach About the Soul

1. Soul and spirit recognized as being the same. (Proposition of Mr. B.M. Cole.)
2. Man is said to be wholly mortal...All of man subject to death.
3. Man does not have a soul or spirit dwelling in him.
4. "Soul or spirit is the air we breath."
5. Man's soul or spirit does not leave the body.
6. The soul or spirit cannot exist apart from the body.
7. There is no sentient, conscious soul that survives to go anywhere when death comes to man's physical body.
8. At death men and animals go to the same place.
9. "When a man dies he is as dead as a dog."
10. Those who teach that man has an immortal, ever-living soul is teaching the devil's religion.

Some Things the Bible Says About Man and His Soul or Spirit

Genesis 2:7, "God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**; and man became a living soul." By a figure of speech called metonymy one word is here used for another, and a part is put for the

whole. The word "soul" is here used to refer to the whole person or being. Compare 1 John 4:1-3, and Ezekiel 18:4, 20. The "breath of life" involves more than air inhaled or exhaled. An inanimate body pumped full of air would not live. The "breath of life" was that vital life principle or spirit that God infused into man, and as a result he became a living soul or living person. James 2:26, "The body without the spirit is dead. That part of man created in the "image of God" was not the physical body, but the spirit of man.

Hebrews 12:9, God is said to be "the Father of our spirits."

Acts 17:28-29, "We are God's offspring."

God "formed" man's **spirit** within him. Zechariah 12:1,"
 "...And formeth the spirit of man within him."

Ecclesiastes 3:21, "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth."

Ecclesiastes 12:7, "Then shall the dust return unto the earth as it was : and the spirit unto God who gave it."

Psalms 90:10, We are "...soon cut off and we fly away. "Now we know the body does not fly away when we are cut off. It is buried in the grave. But, "We" fly away...when "We" are cut off : **What** is this we that flies away ? It is not the body ! Is it only the air that is exhaled ? Or, is it the spirit of man ? Anyone willing to be honest and fair can see the answer to this question. It is man's spirit that flies away when death occurs.

The Bible clearly teaches that there is a spirit that dwells in man. The following scriptures prove this fact.

Job 32:8, "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the almighty giveth them understanding."

Job 27:8, "For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul ?"

Job 14:22, "But his flesh upon him shall have pain and his soul within his shall mourn."

Daniel 7:15, "I was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body."

Jonah 2:7, "...when my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee."

1 Corinthians 2:11, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is within him."

A clear cut distinction is made between the body and soul, or the spirit of man. Consider these passages carefully.

2 Corinthians 7:1, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord"

Matthew 10:28, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul : but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (The word "hell" here refers to the **gehenna** of fire.)

2 Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 5:5, "...Deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

The soul or spirit can leave the body...be separated from the body, and exist apart from it.

Genesis 35:18, "And it came to pass as her soul was departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni..."

Luke 23:26, "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having thus said he gave up the ghost," (ghost=spirit.)

Act 2:31, "...his soul was not left in hades, neither did his flesh see corruption."

Act 7:59, "...Lord Jesus receive my spirit."

Luke 12:19-20, "Thou fool, this night is thy soul required of thee."

Revelation 20:4, "And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Christ."

2 Corinthians 12:1-4, "It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ about fourteen years ago (whether in the body or out of the body I cannot tell : God knoweth,) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man, (whether in the body or out of the body, I cannot tell : God knoweth:) How he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."

2 Corinthians 4:16, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

2 Corinthians 5:1-8, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven : if so being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened : not for that

be unclothed, but clothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Therefore we are always confident knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. We are confident, I say and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the lord."

Acts 9:39, "Then Peter arose and went with them, When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and showing the costs and garments. Which Dorcas made, **while she was with them.**"

Now, let us note a few things about this verse of scripture :

1. Dorcas died...Her body was placed in an upper chamber.
2. The body of Dorcas was present and observable, but the real Dorcas was absent. She was no longer "with them."
3. When death came to Dorcas, the real person...the inner

man departed out of the fleshly body and the spirit returned to God who gave it, Ecclesiastes 12:7.)

4. Death is the separation of the spirit from the body, (James 2:26.) However, the spirit or soul, or the inner man does not die at this time of separation. This fact can be seen by a casual reading of Luke 16:19-31.

2. Peter 1:13-14, 'Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle. even as our Lord Jesus Christ has shewed me.'

Philippians 1:21-24, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour : yet what I shall choose I know not. For I am in a strait betwixt two; having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better; nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."

Some Conclusions on This Matter

1. Man does have a God-given soul or spirit.
2. This soul or spirit dwells in man's body.
3. This soul or spirit departs out of the body at death.
4. This soul or spirit can exist apart from the physical body.
5. Man is not wholly mortal, and the soul or spirit does not die when "physical death" comes to man.
6. The doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses false. We should expose their false doctrines and set forth the truth for the people because souls are at stake. Cf. Ephesians 5:11.

A Challenge to Jehovah's Witnesses

Jehovah's Witnesses try to leave the impression that members and ministers of the Church of Christ are unwilling to discuss their doctrines with them. This is untrue. We are willing and ready to meet any of their recognized leaders in public discussion on all points of their false doctrine at any time. Any such public discussions can be arranged by writing to Sunny David, Box 3815, New Delhi 49.

विश्वासघात

लेखक—एफ० डेविड

पवित्र बाइबल में हम एक बहुत प्रसिद्ध मनुष्य के विषय में पढ़ते हैं। शायद आप भी इस नाम से परीचित हों। इस मनुष्य ने एक ऐसा भयानक कार्य किया जिससे इस मनुष्य का नाम संसार के इतिहास में भी बहुत प्रसिद्ध है। हाँ तो पहले इस मनुष्य के नाम से आप परीचित हो जाइये। इस मनुष्य का नाम है यहूदा इस्करियोती। एक ऐसा विश्वासघाती मनुष्य जिसने अपने मालिक को तीस चाँदी के सिक्कों के लालच में उसके शत्रुओं के हाथों पकड़वा दिया। कितनी विचित्र सी बात है कि एक ऐसे व्यक्ति ने जो यीशु का कितना निकट सबन्धी था, उसके साथ कितना बड़ा विश्वास-घात किया।

परन्तु हम अपने विषय में विचार करें ; कि क्या हम तो यहूदा की तरह नहीं गिर सकते। जहाँ तक मैं सोचता हूँ हम भी यहूदा की तरह गिर सकते हैं, और प्रभु यीशु के साथ विश्वासघात कर सकते हैं। यहूदा ने अपने प्रेम को घृणा की ज्वाला में बदल दिया। हम भी ऐसा कर सकते हैं। इससे पहले कि हम आगे इस विषय पर और देखें हम यह देखना चाहेगे कि वह कौनसी वस्तु है जिसके पीछे यहूदा ने अपने प्रभु को बेच दिया। बाइबल में हम इसके विषय में पढ़ते हैं तीस चाँदी के सिक्के अर्थात् पैसा। पैसे के लालच में आकर यहूदा ने इतना बड़ा अनुचित कदम उठाया। पैसा संसार में एक ऐसी वस्तु है जिसके चंगुल में हम फंसकर अनेक अनुचित कदम उठा सकते हैं। बाइबल बताती है कि पैसे का प्यार सब बुराईयों की जड़ है “क्योंकि रुपये का लोभ सब प्रकार की बुराईयों की जड़ है, जिसे प्राप्त करने का प्रयत्न करते हुए कितनी ने विश्वास से भटक कर अपने आप को नाना प्रकार के दुखों से छलनी बना लिया है। (१ तीमुथियुस ६:१०)।” यहूदा ने पैसे के लालच में प्रभु यीशु के साथ विश्वासघात किया।

अनेक और भी कारण हैं जिनसे हम प्रभु यीशु के साथ विश्वासघात करते हैं। बहुत से लोग प्रभु यीशु की आज्ञाओं को मानकर उसके अनुयायी बन जाते हैं। आरम्भ में तो वे ऐसे लगते हैं जैसे यीशु के प्रति बहुत ही वफादार हैं, परन्तु कुछ ही दिनों में वे अपना विश्वास खो देते हैं तथा यीशु मसीह के साथ विश्वासघात करते हैं। उनके विश्वासघात का कारण होता है उनके सामने सांसारिक कठिनाईयां। परन्तु यदि हम संसार के दुखों को देखकर प्रभु यीशु को छोड़ दें तो यह एक बहुत बड़ा विश्वासघात होगा।

बहुत से लोग मसीह बनने की इच्छा को प्रकट करते हैं। परन्तु मसीही बनने के लिए उनके पास अपनी व्यक्तिगत समस्याएं होती हैं। जैसे पैसा, नौकरी और शादी जैसे अनेक कारण यदि कोई उन इच्छाओं को सामने रखकर मसीही बने तो वह प्रभु यीशु के साथ विश्वासघात करता है।

यहूदा प्रभु यीशु का चेला था। उसके साथ रहता था, खाता-पीता था, कई स्थानों पर उसके साथ जाया करता था। अर्थात् पूरी तरह से वह प्रभु यीशु के पीछे था। परन्तु पैसे की इच्छा ने उसके विश्वास को डावाँडोल कर दिया।

प्रभु यीशु चाहता है, कि उसके चेले उसके ही नाम से कहलाये जाये। न कि तरह-तरह के सांसारिक नामों से व उसके नाम से कहलाये जाने वाली केवल एक ही कलीसिया के सदस्य हों जो उसके नाम से कहलाई जाती है। परन्तु लोग उसके विपरीत करते हैं। यह कितना बड़ा विश्वासघात है। वे कहते हैं कि हम प्रभु यीशु से प्रेम रखते हैं तथा उसके चेले हैं लेकिन नाम वह अपने उपर रखते हैं; रोमन कैथोलिक, मैथोडिस्त तथा बैपतिस्त इत्यादि। उचित तो यह है कि यदि आप मसीही हैं तो केवल अपने को मसीही कहें। इन लोगों ने मसीहियों की कई किस्में (Kinds) बना दी है। मित्रों। वास्तव में यह एक बहुत बड़ा विश्वासघात है। आप क्या सोचते हैं? यह एक बहुत बड़ा विश्वासघात नहीं है क्या?

प्रिय मित्रों आप भी ऐसे बहुत से अनेक कारण सोच सकते हैं जिनसे हम अपने प्रभु को धोखा दे सकते हैं अथवा उसके साथ विश्वासघात कर सकते हैं। कितनी विचित्र सी बात है कोई किसी के साथ पहले तो प्रेम करे व उसके साथ बड़ा घनिष्ट सम्बन्ध रखे तथा इसके पश्चात् उसके साथ विश्वासघात करे। मित्रों क्या आप तो किसी प्रकार से प्रभु यीशु के साथ विश्वासघात नहीं कर रहे?



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Church of Christ
Pathanapuram P. O.
Quilon (DT.)
Kerala State

Church of Christ
Churachandpur
Manipur

Church of Christ
GNT Road
Pozhal, Madras-600066

Church of Christ
953 Kalasiguda, Bolarum
Secunderabad 500010, A.P.
Hyderabad

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H. No. 1-9-312/5/2
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160, Mukerjee Nagar,
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Delhi-9.

Church of Christ
Opp. District Courts
Kannavarithota
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