



THE BIBLE TEACHER

YOUR INVITATION

Please attend our Services at :

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

Schedule of Services :

Sunday :	Bible Study	9 : 00	A.M.
	Morning Worship	... 9 : 45	A.M.
	Evening Service	... 6 : 30	P.M.
Wednesday :	Midweek Bible Study	... 6 : 30	P.M.

विशेष सूचना !

प्रत्येक मंगलवार तथा शुक्रवार
को रात्री ६:४५ से ९:१५ तक सुनिये
हमारा विशेष कार्यक्रम
“सत्य सुसमाचार”
यह कार्यक्रम रेडियो श्रीलंका से २५ तथा
४१ मीटर बैंड पर सुना जा सकता है ।

“सत्य सुसमाचार”

प्रचारक सनी डेविड के रेडियो प्रबचनों का प्रकाशन अब तक तीन पुस्तकों में हो चुका है । प्रत्येक पुस्तक का मूल्य रु० २ : २५ है । परन्तु अपने पाठकों व श्रोताओं को हम यह पुस्तकें मुफ्त भेज रहे हैं । प्रत्येक पुस्तक को प्राप्त करने के लिये केवल २५ पैसे का डाक टिकट हमें भेजिए ।

१. सत्य सुसमाचार (भाग एक)
२. उद्धार की योजना (भाग दो)
३. क्रूस की कथा (भाग तीन)

नोट :—आपसे विशेष आग्रह किया जाता है, कि डाक टिकट भेजते समय उस पुस्तक का नाम अवश्य लिखें जिसे प्राप्त करने के लिये आप टिकट भेजते हैं । अपना पता स्पष्ट लिखें ।

सत्य सुसमाचार
पोस्ट बॉक्स ३८१५
नई दिल्ली-११००४६

THE BIBLE TEACHER

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EDITORIAL

Love Of The Truth

There are those who can be easily taught the truth. They have no difficulty at all in recognizing God's will. They will acknowledge it once it is presented to them. There are no excuses, arguments, or attempts made to escape the force of it. It is there for them to see, it is plain and clear, and it is logical. That being the case, they are ready to obey it. But why do they so easily respond? Are they insincere? Do they have ulterior motives? Would this be an indication of their ignorance of the scriptures? To the contrary, it would be the reverse. We are talking about people who happen to love the truth and this makes all the difference in the world.

What a pleasure it is to come across someone who is looking for the truth and who can see it once it is presented to him. Why shouldn't all want the truth? Why shouldn't all love it? Whether in economics, science, or religion, it is the truth that counts in the end. A lie will not help one even though it is sincerely believed. Rather, it is the truth that the intelligent and honest person seeks after and in the Bible we have the truth of God's word. Those who will come to it with respect and love can come to know God's will and all

who do the same will be united because the truth will not confuse, mislead, divide, and thus send those who accept it in different directions, but it will bring them together, unite them, and make it possible for them to agree and to work together as one.

It is sad to say but not near all people love the truth, especially when it comes to religious matters. That is why we see them going off after man-made teachings, all kinds of errors and practices, believing and teaching everything imaginable. Surely if they would but stop and think a little they would realize that this cannot be right but alas they are convinced that this is the way they should go and they are happy in what they are doing. These same people are not willing to sit down to study the Bible. As a matter of fact, they teach things that are in direct contradiction to God's word. They rely on their feelings, argue that one church is as good as another, and appeal to prejudice to justify themselves. Their minds are closed to the truth and it is very difficult to reach them and almost impossible to get them to accept the truth. What is the Problem? They do not love the truth. They are lost and as long as they insist on following this course there is little that can be done to stop them from reaching their destination of eternal destruction.

These people may tell you that they love the truth, and they may zealously work for their cause, but they do not. How may we know this? Inasmuch as they refuse to study the Bible with an open mind. One who loves the truth and is trying to obey it and follow it has nothing to hide. He does not fear to be questioned. He never turns down an opportunity to study even with someone he disagrees with because it is not going to hurt to study. Those who do not love the truth are afraid of the truth. They shun it and those who teach it.

Paul wrote the Thessalonian bretheren, "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let

no man deceive you by any means : for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition ; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things ? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work : only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming : Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish ; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie : That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thessalonians 2 : 1-12). Did you hear what Paul said ? He said that there would be many who would go off into error because they do not love the truth. He also said that because of their lack of love for the truth that God would allow them to be deceived that they might believe a lie to be damned. Even beyond that, that He would send them a strong delusion that they should believe a lie and be damned. Why would God do this ? Because he is dealing with people who do not love the truth. They don't want the truth. They are interested in power, in signs and wonders. Never mind if Satan is responsible for them, still they want them. They have itching ears, ears that are constantly wanting to hear something new and different. Again Paul says, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine ; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears ; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Timothy 4 : 3,4).

Speaking of the people of his days, Christ said, "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand ; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive : For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed ; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." (Matthew 13 : 14,15). John wrote concerning another group of people in the days of Jesus, "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him ; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they be put out of the synagogue : For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." (John 12 : 42, 43).

In the foregoing we read of the people of the first century, and of conditions that would follow, but what do we have today ? Basically the same thing. We have worlds of people who have itching ears, who are looking for something strange and different, searching for a miracle, ears that are dull of hearing, having a love for the praises of men rather than a love for God and the truth that will save them. You know that such is true. Look around you and what do you see? People who are following any and everything religiously. Furthermore, if some new person or teaching comes along, regardless of how foreign it is to the teaching of God's word, as revealed in the Bible, then there will be a large number of people who will go after that. But why ? Because they are not interested in the truth and that is because they do not love the truth.

It is a dangerous thing to play around with God's word. It is dangerous to follow the teachings of men. God gave us his word so that we might have the truth and that through believing it and obeying it we might be saved. There is nothing that can take its place. There is no substitute. Woe be unto us if we accept another gospel, Paul said. (Galatians 1 : 7-9). Listen, if we will but love God and his will then this whole matter can be cleared up as far as our salvation is

concerned. Because if we love God we will obey his teaching and thereby be saved. If all would do the same then we would all be united. The all-important question then for you and me is, do we love the truth? That question can be easily answered by one and all if we will but compare our actions with God's word.



**associate
editorial**

“Who Will Pardon My Sins ?”

This question was asked recently by a young man in his letter to me. After stating the mistakes that he has committed in his past life, that he now has come to the realization of his guilt, he wonders, however, that even after committing such drastic sins if there is a way for him to be saved. And he asked, “How can I become pure? How can I attain happiness? Who will pardon my sins?”

First of all, I commended the young man for the courage and sincerity that he manifested in asking this question. For there are not many examples of people asking this question. And yet it is the most important question of all. In the New Testament we have at least three examples in different places where people asked this very question, but not until they realized their sinful situation. Firstly, in Acts 2:37, around three thousand people asked this question after they heard the gospel preached to them. The record says, “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, *What shall we do?*” Secondly, we read about Saul, in Acts 9, who persecuted the Lord's church to the extent that the record says, “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord...” But when he

heard the Lord and realised his sinful way, he asked, "...*Lord, what wilt thou have me to do ?*" (Acts 9:5) Then thirdly, we have an example of a Jailor at a place called Philippi, in whose custody that time were two gospel preachers, Paul and Silas. However, at midnight suddenly there was a great earthquake and Paul and Silas were released miraculously by the power of the Lord. The Jailor realised his great mistake and sin and asked them, "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved ?*" (Acts 16:30).

There is, however, only one answer to this question and that comes from the pen of apostle, "But to us there is but one God..." (I Corinthians 8:6), Yes, Almighty God can only answer this great question. There is not a man upon earth who can answer this question, because all have sinned, "For all have sinned" declared the Holy Spirit through apostle Paul, "and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

And God says, "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him ; in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live." And then he pleadingly ask, "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die ? Saith the Lord God, and not that he should return from his ways, and live ?" (Ezekiel 18:21-23).

And not only that but at John 3:16 we read, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Think of God's tremendous love for all mankind ! All have sinned, but God gave His Son for all. He wants you and me to be saved, he wants all the world to be saved, and therefore He sacrificed Himself in sending Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, to die on the cross. Speaking of Christ, Apostle Peter says, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree..." (1 Peter 2:24). God so loved the world that to save men He punished His own Son upon the cross. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew

no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Corinthians 5:21). And what Apostle Paul says, in Romans 5:6-8, is also noteworthy and wonderful, Listen, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

So what is the answer to our question? God Almighty is the only answer. He gave His Son to die for us. Jesus bore our sins in his own body on the cross; God made him to be sin for us; while we were sinners Christ died for us. And based upon this fact the scripture declare, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Hebrews 5:8, 9).

So now, therefore, any man can obtain salvation from his sin through Jesus Christ, the author of eternal salvation. Yes, Jesus can forgive your sins, if you will believe in him and obey him, as the scriptures teaches. Jesus has commanded, that all men everywhere must believe in him, must repent of their sins, must confess him as the Son of God, and must be bapized (buried in water) for the remission of sins. Read in your Bible Mark 16: 16; Luke 13:3, 5; Matthew 10:32.

No one can be saved from his sin until he does what the Lord has specifically commanded, because he saves, *them that obey him*. This is what exactly the 3000 people did in Acts 2: 38, 41. Again, this was exactly what Saul did to be saved. (Acts 22:16). And the Jailor at Philippi also did the very same thing. (Acts 16:33).

The Bible Church in a Modern World

Homer A. Daniel

We are often asked the questions : Is the church of Christ any different from other churches ? Has it a creed ? What does it believe ? etc. We propose to answer these questions in light of New Testament teaching.

Why Do We Exist ?

The object of our existence is not to add another to the many denominations that are now found. The church of Christ is not a denomination. The prayer of our Lord, (Jno. 17), the teaching of the Apostles and the condition of the world demand the laying aside of the doctrines of men and a return to the church as it existed in the days of the Apostles. Hence, a divided church is contrary to the teaching of Christ and His Apostles (1 Cor. 1 : 10-11 ; Jno. 17 : 21). We submit to you the plea of Christ which is the plea of His church.

1. To restore primitive Christianity and oneness of all followers of Christ in one body (Jno. 17 : 21).

2. To exalt Christ above party and His Word above all human creeds.

Hence, "Where the Bible speaks we speak ; where the Bible is silent, we are silent." "In faith, unity ; in opinion and methods, liberty ; in all things love." "No book but the Bible ; no creed but the Christ ; no Name but the divine name."

Our Beginning

The church of our Lord came into existence in A. D. 33, on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. By a careful reading of Acts of the Apostles, one will know of the organization of the church. People heard the gospel in its

original purity and simplicity as preached by the apostles under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They believed the gospel of their salvation, repented of their sins and were baptized by the authority of Christ in order to receive the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2 : 36-41). They continued with a degree of regularity in the Apostle's teaching. The Lord thus added the saved to His church (Acts 2 : 47), and continue to do the same today. The addition takes place in the mind of God and not at an altar service. The word of God is the seed of the Kingdom (Lk. 8:11). We have the same word today and when that word is sown into the hearts of men and women—good honest soil—it will make only a Christian and a Christian only.

Name of the Church

Human names cause and perpetuate division—thus we plead with people to accept the names we read in the Bible. The church is the term most often used in the New Testament. It means called out from the worldly life into the service of God. Other names were used in apostolic times—The Church of God (1 Cor. 1 : 2) ; The Church of the Lord (Acts 20 : 28) ; Churches of Christ (Rom. 16 : 16) ; Kingdom of God, House of God, Temple of God, Body of Christ, etc. Individual members were called disciples, saints, brethren, friends, Christians and Believers. Hence, collectively we are called "Churches of Christ" (Rom. 16 : 16), and individually we are called "Christians" (Isa. 62:2 and Acts 11 : 26).

Organization of the Church

Christ, the Lord, is the Head of the church. (Col. 1 : 18). Each local congregation has elders and deacons to supervise the work of that particular group (Phil. 1 : 1). The word elder means overseer, bishop or pastor. They are to supervise the spiritual matters of the congregation (Acts 20 : 28 ; Heb. 13 : 17). The deacons are to supervise the material affairs of the church under the direction of the elders (Acts 6 : 1-6). The qualifications of elders and deacons are found in 1 Tim. 3 and Tit. 1, among other places in the New Testament.

Also the church has ministers, preachers or evangelists to work under the oversight of the elders of each congregation (2 Tim. 4 : 5 ; Rom. 10 : 13-17 ; Eph. 3 : 7). No where in the New Testament do we read of any preacher being "The pastor" of anything. The term "pastor" is always found in the plural (pastors) in the New Testament, and refers to the class of men called "elders," "bishops," or "overseers." A preacher may be a "pastor" if he has the qualifications of an elder, but being a preacher does not make him a pastor much less the pastor. The word reverend is found only once in the whole Bible (Psa. 111 : 9) and there it refers to the name of God.

Mission of the Church

As Christians, our mission is to glorify God. Man's chief function upon this earth is to glorify Him who made him. Many scriptures may be found—1 Pet. 2 : 9 ; Matt. 5 : 16. Our mission first should be to glorify God by living soberly and righteously and godly—thus live a life of service. Our mission also is to continue to help those whom we have won to Christ, to see that they are trained and educated in the scriptures, thus nurtured and cared for (Matt. 28 : 19-20 ; Col. 2 : 6-7). But our mission also consists in looking after the members of the church who need our special care in a spiritual way (1 Thess. 5 : 14). I am also reminded that our mission is to "remember the poor" (Gal. 2 : 9 ; Jas. 1 : 27). We are to glorify God by the way that we live. All these things compose the great mission of the church of the living God.

Worship of the Church

The worship of the church consists of eating the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week—the Lord's Day (Rev. 1 : 10 ; Acts 20 : 7, 2 : 42). The purpose of the Lord's Supper is a memorial (Lk. 22 : 19). A communion (1 Cor. 10 : 16). The Lord's people are to eat the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23; 1 Cor. 1 : 2 ; Acts 2 : 41-42, 47). We might ask, how often are we to partake ? From Acts 2 : 42 we learn that the Lord's Supper had a prominent part in the worship of the early disci-

ples. We learn from Acts 20 : 7 the early Christians met on the first day of the week to break bread. There is absolutely no authority to have the Lord's Supper on Thursday night, or any other day except the first day of the week—known on the calendar as Sunday. Each week has a first day and that is the day we are to meet. Also the early Christian sang praises unto the Lord (Eph. 5 : 19 ; Col. 3 : 16). This was vocal music and not mechanical. They prayed to God and gave of their means according to their prosperity and studied and meditated upon His Word. They met with a degree of regularity in the teaching of the Apostles (Acts 2 : 42).

Entrance Into the Church

The New Testament teaches a plan of salvation that can be heard, understood and believed by responsible people. The Scriptures do not teach us to look for lights and signs and listen for strange voices, etc. Conversion is a change of the heart. We reason and think with the heart—the intellect (Mk. 2 : 8). We love and hate with the heart—the affections (Matt. 6 : 19-20). And we purpose and obey from the heart, that is the mind or will of man (2 Cor. 9 : 7). So when a man is converted he is completely changed in intellect, in affections and will. Faith changes our way of thinking—the heart or mind of man. Repentance changes his life and baptism our state, and all combined changes our relation toward God, and make one a Christian.

The Holy Spirit

We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit. He can be grieved, rejected or resisted. He is the third person in the God-head. In conversion the Spirit operates through the word. He has told us what to do to be saved. God has ordained that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1 : 16 ; Ps. 9 : 17).

Baptism

Baptism is a positive command of God. We place no more stress on baptism than we do on faith, repentance and good

works. Neither of these alone will save a man, but all taken together secure salvation. There is no virtue in the water ; it is in the act of obedience to God's command that we are saved (Jno. 19 : 34 ; Rom. 6 : 3-4 ; Acts 22 : 16). These passages teach that the blood of Christ was shed in His death. We are baptized into His death. Therefore, through the waters of baptism we reach the cleansing power of the blood of Christ.

Baptism is for the penitent believer (Mk. 16 : 16 ; Acts 2 : 38). It is thus essential to salvation as these scriptures so plainly teach to the honest seeker of divine truth. Also the word baptism means immersion and the scriptures teach by example as we look into the days of the Apostles and see how responsible people obeyed their Lord in this consummating act of obedience to the will of God. Acts 8 is a good example of Philip and the Eunuch. Kind reader, please read carefully and prayerfully verses 26-39 of Acts 8.

Summary

We believe that both the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God, but that the New Testament is the book of authority for us today. The Old has been nailed to the cross (Col. 2 : 14). Christ fulfilled it (Matt. 5 : 17). It served as a school master to bring us unto Christ (Gal. 3 : 24-25). The Old was for the Jew and the the New for the Christian.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give us a biography of Jesus. We learn what to believe to be saved. Acts of the Apostles is a book of church history—telling us what to do to be saved from our alien sins and the work of the church. Many examples are given telling what people did in apostolic times to be saved. The twenty-one epistles—Romans through Jude—are letters written by inspired men to children of God instructing us how to grow in grace and to live the Christian life. The book of Revelation pictures the New Jerusalem—the destiny of mankind.

Obey the Gospel of Christ at your earliest convenience, and live a life of service unto God.

What Religious Divisions Do To Christ

Basil Overton

There is considerable talk in many religious groups about religious unity. There is what is called the Ecumenical Movement. The word **ecumenical** was developed from the Greek word **oikos** which means **house** or **household**. Ecumenism is the doctrine that all followers of Christ should be one big household, or family. This concept is in keeping with what the New Testament teaches, but it teaches the principles by which that kind of unity can be attained. We should all be glad there is a feeling among many religious group for the need of unity.

Anyone who reads the New Testament soon learns that it does not teach the followers of Jesus to be divided. Christ prayed that all who believed in him would be one as he and the Father are one. (John 17 : 22.)

Those who read the New Testament can readily see that it teaches that Jesus established one church. He is head of that church. (Col. 1 : 18.) When there was division in that church the Holy Spirit said such division was wrong. (1 Cor. 1 : 10 ; 3 : 1-3 ; Rom. 16:17.) The Holy Spirit taught in the New Testament Epistles that God's people are to be united. (Phil. 1 : 27 ; Eph. 4 : 1-6).

Great Apostasy

The Holy Spirit through writers of the New Testament predicted that the one church would suffer a great apostasy or great falling away. (2 Thess. 2 : 1-10 ; 1 Tim. 4 : 1-6 ; Acts 20 : 28-34.)

This falling away occurred just as the inspired writers said it would. There may have always been some who followed the Bible, but the masses of the church became the victims of error and its fruits.

The Fruits Of The Great Apostasy

As a result of the great apostasy there developed a gigantic religious system with headquarters in Rome. The first universal head or pope of that system was crowned in 606 A.D. named Boniface III.

Hundreds of years went by following the crowning of the first pope before there began to develop what we know as Protestant denominationalism. The modern system of Protestant denominationalism was begun by a Catholic priest named Martin Luther. He started this movement in 1517. Now there are hundreds of denominations in the Protestant world, and there are also divisions in Catholicism. Every denomination is by its very nature designed to do away with every other denomination, for if all people should follow the teaching of any one particular church they would get into that church and such action would do away with all other churches.

Back To The Bible

Over a period of many years there have been various men who made efforts to teach people the folly and unscriptural nature of religious division, and to point them to the New Testament order of things. Such efforts were intensified beginning in the Eighteenth Century. As a result of these efforts there are approximately 20,000 congregations of people known as churches of Christ in various places over the earth ; most of them are in The United States.

Mocks The Prayer of Jesus

Religious division blind people to the important and the scopes of the Unity for which our Saviour prayed. (John 17.) Jesus prayed that all who follow him are to be one. as he and the Father are one.

Divisions among those who propose to follow Christ blind people to the high and holy model and purpose of the unity for which Jesus prayed. Its model is divine unity ; the unity of Jesus and the Father. The purpose of the unity for which

Jesus prayed for divine association and fellowship. Jesus prayed that all who follow him would be one in him and his Father ! (John 17 : 21.)

Divisions among those who claim to follow Jesus blind people to the only means of that unity — the word of God. Jesus prayed that unity would be through God's word which Jesus told his Father he had given to apostles. (John 17 : 8, 14.) There is a tendency to blame the Bible for divisions. Some even say, "You can prove anything by the Bible." This is libel on the Bible! The Bible is the only thing that can bring about unity. Misuse and abuse of the Bible causes divisions, but what the Bible teaches is the only means of unity !

Many who are engrossed in religious divisions do not see the importance of God's word. Instead, they are attracted by creeds of men, tales, dreams, fables, and other things that divide people.

Divisions among those who claim to follow Jesus blind people to the ultimate beneficial result of unity—the conversion of people ! Jesus prayed that all who follow him be one "that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:21.) Religious divisions cause much unbelief.

A Wasteful System

A divided religious world that proposes it is following Christ makes Christ appear to be a Master over a very impractical, and wasteful religious kingdom. Think of what could be done in taking Christ to people if all who say they are following Jesus were united !

Conclusion

One cannot commit himself to a higher, nobler and greater cause than the task of uniting people in Christ through the preaching of the word which the apostles and other inspired men preached.

Attend the church of Christ and learn how you can help in this great work.

The Importance of Bible Study

Tom Dockery

Usually with the purchase of any major appliance or piece of equipment, an instruction manual is provided to assist in operating the item correctly and efficiently. One may find that if he doesn't read and follow the instructions carefully the equipment will not function properly. His problem may be simply a failure to follow the instructions.

The most complicated activity we face is the living of life. Without some instructions we are bound to have trouble. Fortunately, we have been given a perfect manual by the Creator Himself. Paul plainly states that the scriptures furnish us unto every good work. (II Timothy 2:15.) Yet, in spite of this, many go through life paying little or no attention to the instruction book. No wonder so many lives are in chaos. The living of life is difficult enough without ignoring the instructions. With God's help, however, we can be quite successful.

In view of this it is really sad to see how little Bible study people do. Many think it is so difficult that they cannot understand it. Others seem to be fearful of what they might find in it. I was recently amused to learn of some people in Ghana who had carefully pinned up the book of Revelation in their Bibles because they thought it was so difficult that they would lose their sight if they read it. Yet in the very first chapter a blessing is placed on all who read and study the book.

There are certainly things difficult to understand in the Bible. (II Peter 3:16.) But it also contains all things that pertain to life and godliness. (II Peter 1:3.) Though there are many things which God has not revealed, there are also many things which He has revealed and which are important to us. (Deuteronomy 29:29.) In a chaotic world in which we are blown by many winds and buffeted by many storms, we certainly need a chart to lead us to our destination. But a chart which is never studied and followed cannot help.

God in His goodness has given us the instructions we need. Let us then faithfully study them. Let us give earnest heed to His word. (Hebrews 2:1.) Resolve now to begin a new programme of daily Bible study !

Science and Faith

Basil Overton

“This scientific age” is an expression that is used frequently to emphasize the accomplishments of science. Indeed, many blessings have come to people through science. But the world would be better off if its people had put as much emphasis on the saving faith we read about in the Bible as it has put on science. How wonderful it would be if we could freely and truthfully refer to our times as **this faith age** !

What is Science ?

The word **science** is from a Latin word that means **knowledge** or what is known; what is factual. People have become so accustomed to science and the blessings of science, that many fail to recognize the limitations of science. Also, some seem to think everything a scientist says is scientific or factual just because a scientist says it.

A scientist may express an opinion knowing that what he says is actually not a proven fact but merely his view; merely speculation. Opinions and speculations can be called **scientism** but not **science**. Unfortunately many things are called science merely because scientists have expressed opinions regarding such. Likewise, many things are referred to as **theology** which are mere speculation. True **theology** is that which is taught in the Bible about God and all that is related to him and his work. Much that is called theology is not in the Bible, and is false theology.

Paul warned Timothy not to be misled by “science falsely so called.” (1 Tim. 6:20.) In the Greek text Paul used **pseudonumou gnoseos** which literally means “the falsely named knowledge.”

The evolutionary hypothesis is often called science, but it is falsely named ! It is pseudo-science, or false science. More and more, true science is proving how utterly unscientific the evolutionary doctrine really is.

Where Is It Taking Us?

Where is our dependence on science alone taking us? Science—true science—is not wrong in itself, but even true science can lead us astray! It is wrong to depend on true natural science and forget and leave God. The well wrought prayer of Kipling is surely timely: He exclaimed:

“Lord God of hosts
Be with us yet,
Lest we forget! lest we forget!”

What Do We Have, If All We Have Is Science?

Science has put the hydrogen bomb in the hands of men. How terrifying, if those who hold it do not have in their hearts “the power of God unto salvation,” the gospel of Jesus Christ! The gospel is more powerful than man’s bombs, because when people live by the gospel they will use nuclear energy to benefit and bless and not to destroy.

Man’s “wisdom” is so limited that by it the human race can be led down a corridor that will emerge into a “hell” of global catastrophe. As the people of God were on the brink of disaster one of the Lord’s prophets expressed the reason for the impending doom when he said, “O Lord I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” (Jer. 10:23.)

Apart from what God has revealed to man in the Bible, man cannot direct his own way; he will instead destroy himself! Faith in what God has told man is needed more than all science! Indeed the greatest need is for people—all people—to become so oriented to Bible faith that this age would be called **this faith age**.

Some Things Science Has Not Done

1. It has not lifted the drapes of despair that have fallen around so many. Dr. Harold Treffert, Director of the Winnebago Mental Health institute at Oshkosh, Wisconsin reports that teenage suicides in the United States have tripled in the last decade to an estimated thirty such suicides per day; Dr. Treffert also says more than half the patients in the nations psychiatric hospitals are under age twenty-one. He says that one of the "fairy tales" that has helped to bring about these lamentable facts is the philosophy that more possessions mean more happiness.

Dr. Treffert says that another "fairy tale" that has contributed to our sad society is the idea that perfect mental health means no problems and that a person is abnormal unless constantly happy.

Even Jesus did not promise there would be no problems. He taught that those on the rock would have the same rains, floods and winds to beat upon them as those on the sand. The difference, is, those on the rock—those who do God's will—stand. Christ did not say there would be no problems for those who serve him, but he promised the necessary assistance in such problems!

2. Science has not halted war and its awful carnage. Men continue to write their history using as ink their own blood.

3. Science has not stopped Americans from killing each other on the roads at the rate of about 1000 per week. Half of these are killed by those under the influence of alcohol!

4. Science has not changed man's course toward death and the grave. Only in God is there hope. Science has nothing to offer one from treading his rapid path to his tomb!

Conclusion

if scientific knowledge is all we have, we do not have much. If the only facts worth believing are those which emerge from computers, and tumble from laboratories, we are in a miserable plight! If all the power we have is such as comes from atom-smashers and refineries, then our deepest most pertinent and practical questions remain unanswered.

Scientific research answers some questions, but it raises more questions than it answers.

Book of The Month

Send postage stamp worth paise 25 only and we will send you the following book free.

“How To Study The Bible.” Written by Earle H. West. This book has thirteen powerful lessons in it, including “How the Bible Came to us” and “Helps for Bible study” etb.

“The purpose of this book is to help people towards effective, independent Bible study, thus it is intended primarily for the person who feels the need of help and is willing to believe that by proper methods and diligent work Bible study can be enjoyable and fruitful for him.”

नए नियमानुसार एकता

धार्मिक दृष्टिकोण से आज संसार बहुत बंटा हुआ है। हम देखते हैं कि अनेकों लोग कैथलिक तथा प्रोटेस्टैन्ट हैं, अनेकों सम्प्रदाय, संगठन व समुदाय इत्यादि हैं। ये सभी अपने-अपने विचार में एक ही प्रभु की सेवा करने का प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। इसी के साथ, वे सभी ये भी स्वीकार करते हैं कि कुछ न कुछ अशुद्धि व अनुचित अवश्य है। परिणाम स्वरूप, ऐसा प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है कि किसी प्रकार से इन सब में एकता हो जाए। विभिन्न धार्मिक समुदायों व सम्प्रदायों के अगुओं के बीच में परीषदें, सभाएं, तथा सेमिनार इत्यादि, किए जाते हैं ताकि उनमें कुछ ऐसे उपायों पर विचार किया जाए कि सभी सम्प्रदाय किसी एक ऐसे मार्ग पर सहमत हो जाएं जिस के ऊपर एकता की नींव डाली जाए। यद्यपि जबकि यह बात प्रशंसनीय है कि कम-से-कम ये लोग एकता की आवश्यकता का अनुभव कर रहे हैं, परन्तु वास्तव में एकता तब तक नहीं आ सकती जब तक ये लोग व समुदाय अपने निजी धर्मसारों (पुस्तकों), निजी विश्वासों, नामों, शिक्षाओं, विधियों इत्यादि को छोड़कर पूर्ण रूप से बाइबल की ओर नहीं आ जाते और उसकी शिक्षाओं को नहीं अपनाते। यदि ऐसा किया जाए तो एकता अवश्य ही विद्यमान होगी।

परमेश्वर फूट तथा भगड़े से बँर रखता है। पवित्र शास्त्र में इसका वर्णन स्पष्ट रूप से हुआ है। उदाहरणार्थ, कुरिन्थुस नाम स्थान पर प्रभु की कलीसिया की एक मन्डली में जब फूट उत्पन्न हुई तो प्रेरित पौलुस ने एकदम इस बात की निन्दा की। इस वर्णन को ध्यान से पढ़ें : “हे भाइयो मैं तुम से यीशु मसीह जो हमारा प्रभु है उसके नाम के द्वारा बिनती करता हूँ, कि तुम सब एक ही बात कहो; और तुम में फूट न हो, परन्तु एक ही मन और एक ही मत होकर मिले रहो। क्योंकि हे मेरे भाइयो, खलौए के घराने के लोगों ने मुझे तुम्हारे विषय में बताया है, कि तुम में भगड़े हो रहे हैं। मेरा कहना यह है, कि तुम में से कोई तो अपने आप को पौलुस का, कोई अपुल्लोस का, कोई कैफ़ा का, कोई मसीह का कहता है। क्या मसीह बंट गया ? क्या पौलुस तुम्हारे लिये क्रूस पर चढ़ाया गया ? या तुम्हें पौलुस के नाम पर बपतिस्मा मिला ? मैं

परमेश्वर का धन्यवाद करता हूँ, कि क्रिस्पुस और गयुस को छोड़, मैं ने तुम में से किसी को भी बपतिस्मा नहीं दिया। कहीं ऐसा ना हो, कि कोई कहे, कि तुम्हें मेरे नाम पर बपतिस्मा मिला। और मैंने स्तिक्रनास के घराने को भी बपतिस्मा दिया ; इनको छोड़, मैं नहीं जानता कि मैंने और किसी को बपतिस्मा दिया। क्योंकि मसीह ने मुझे बपतिस्मा देने को नहीं, बरन सुसमाचार सुनाने को भेजा है, और यह भी शब्दों के ज्ञान के अनुसार नहीं, ऐसा न हो कि मसीह का क्रूस व्यर्थ ठहरे।” (१ कुरिन्थियों १ : १०-१७)।

उपरोक्त कथन में, आप एकता के लिये पौलुस के निवेदन को देखते हैं। स्वयं फूट के विषय में बोलते हुए उसने उन से ऐसे तीन प्रश्न पूछे जो उनकी मूर्खता पूर्ण दशा को प्रगट करते थे। सर्व प्रथम, उसने पूछा, “क्या मसीह बंट गया ?” वे जानते थे कि नहीं। दूसरा प्रश्न था, “क्या पौलुस तुम्हारे लिये क्रूस पर चढ़ाया गया ?” और वे जानते थे कि प्रभु उनके लिये क्रूस पर चढ़ाया गया था। और फिर, अन्त में, उसने पूछा, “क्या तुम्हें पौलुस के नाम पर बपतिस्मा मिला ?” कदापि नहीं, उन्होंने ने किसी मनुष्य के नाम से बपतिस्मा नहीं लिया था। इस कारण, निष्कर्ष यह था कि उन सबको मसीह में एक होना चाहिए। कितना साधारण !

पौलुस आगे कहता है, कि क्योंकि कुरिन्थुस में इस प्रकार की दशा थी, इस कारण, ऐसी स्थिति में उसे इस बात से प्रसन्नता थी कि उसने बहुत ही कम लोगों को बपतिस्मा दिया था क्योंकि तब वे यूं नहीं कह सकते थे कि उसने उन्हें अपने नाम पर बपतिस्मा दिया था। इसी बात को ध्यान में रखकर उसे ने कहा कि वह बपतिस्मा देने को नहीं आया परन्तु सुसमाचार प्रचार करने को आया था। दूसरे शब्दों में, उसके आने का उद्देश्य सुसमाचार प्रचार करने का था। तत्पश्चात्, स्वभाविक ही, लोगों ने सुसमाचार सुनकर बपतिस्मा लिया था, कुछ ने उसके हाथों से तथा अधिकांश ने अन्य लोगों के द्वारा। पौलुस यहां बपतिस्मा के विरोध में नहीं सिखा रहा था। यदि ऐसा होता, तो उसने किसी को भी बपतिस्मा न दिया होता ; परन्तु परिस्थिति के कारण उसे इस बात से प्रसन्नता थी कि वहां पर उसने कुछ ही लोगों को बपतिस्मा दिया था।

रोमियों १६:१७,१८ में पौलुस ने कहा, “अब हे भाइयो, मैं तुम से बिनती करता हूँ, कि जो लोग उस शिक्षा के विपरीत जो तुम ने पाई है, फूट पड़ने, और ठोकर खाने के कारण होते हैं, उन्हें ताड़ लिया करो ; और उन से दूर रहो । क्योंकि ऐसे लोग हमारे प्रभु मसीह की नहीं, परन्तु अपने पेट की सेवा करते हैं ; और चिकनी चुपड़ी बातों से सीधे सादे मन के लोगों को बहका देते हैं ।” प्रेरित का कहना है कि वे लोग जो फूट डालते हैं उन्हें ताड़ लेना चाहिए तथा उन से दूर रहना चाहिए । क्यों ? क्योंकि वे प्रभु यीशु मसीह की सेवा नहीं करते थे, परन्तु अपनी चिकनी चुपड़ी बातों के द्वारा सीधे सादे मन के लोगों को बहका रहे थे । दूसरे स्थान पर, वह यह नहीं कहता कि उनकी प्रशंसा व बढ़ाई की जाए, या उनकी बातों को सह लिया जाए । अन्य स्थानों पर भी इस प्रकार का वर्णन मिलता है । इस बात को अनुभव करने की हमें कितनी आवश्यकता है कि वे सब जो अपने आप को परमेश्वर की ओर से बताते हैं वास्तव में परमेश्वर की ओर से नहीं हैं, और न ही वे सब जो कहते हैं हम बाइबल सिखा रहें हैं वास्तव में बाइबल की ही शिक्षा दे रहे हैं । उनमें से बहुतेरे धोखे में हैं, और वे अनेकों अन्य लोगों को भी धोखा दे रहे हैं क्योंकि वे चेतावनी की ओर ध्यान नहीं देते ।

यीशु मसीह ने एकता के लिये प्रार्थना की, अर्थात् एक होने के लिये । सुनिये कि उसने क्या कहा, “मैं केवल इन्हीं के लिए बिनती नहीं करता, परन्तु उनके लिये भी जो इनके वचन के द्वारा मुझ पर विश्वास करेंगे, कि वे सब एक हों । जैसा तू हे पिता मुझ में है, और मैं तुझ में हूँ, वैसे ही वे भी हम में हों, इसलिये कि जगत् प्रतीति करे, कि तू ही ने मुझे भेजा ।” (यूहन्ना १७ : २०, २१) । यहां मसीह प्रेरितों के लिये प्रार्थना कर रहा था परन्तु उन सबके लिये भी जो उनके प्रचार के द्वारा उस में विश्वास करेंगे । तब वह उन सबके विषय में बोलते हुए कहता है, “कि वे सब एक हों” । कहां तक? उसने कहा, ठीक वैसे ही जैसे कि वह और पिता एक हैं । यह है सच्ची एकता ।

फिर, पौलुस के लेखों में हम देखते हैं, कि वहां एकता के लिये एक नींव का वर्णन हुआ है. उसने कहा, “सो मैं जो प्रभु में बन्धुआ हूँ, तुम से बिनती करता हूँ कि जिस बुलाहट से तुम बुलाए गए थे, उसके योग्य चाल चलो । अर्थात् सारी दीनता और नम्रता सहित, और धीरज धरकर प्रेम से एक

दूसरे की सह लो। और मेल के बन्ध में आत्मा की एकता रखने का यत्न करो। एक ही देह है, और एक ही आत्मा; जैसे तुम्हें जो बुलाए गए थे अपने बुलाए जाने से एक ही आशा है। एक ही प्रभु है, एक ही विश्वास, एक ही बपतिस्मा। और सबका एक ही परमेश्वर और पिता है, जो सब के ऊपर, और सब के मध्य में, और सब में है।” (इफिसियों ४ : १-६)। यहां सब वस्तुएं कितनी-कितनी हैं? केवल एक-एक। एक का अर्थ कितना है? केवल एक। यदि संसार में अनेकों कलीसियाएं, इत्यादि हैं, और यदि उन सब को मिलाकर एक कलीसिया बन सकती है, तो यही बात परमेश्वर तथा प्रभु यीशु मसीह के विषय में भी कही जा सकती है। कितनी मूर्खता पूर्ण बात है।

मेरे मित्रों, परमेश्वर ने हमें केवल एक ही पुस्तक दी है, अर्थात् बाइबल। यदि हम सब इसी पुस्तक को पढ़ें और इसी के ऊपर विश्वास करें, और इसी की शिक्षाओं को मानें, तो हम सब एक ही शिक्षा पर चलनेवाले होंगे, एक ही कलीसिया में मिलाए जाएंगे, और एक ही प्रकार का प्रचार करेंगे। बाइबल हमें कभी भी अलग-अलग नहीं करेगी पर हम सब को एक करेगी। मसीह यीशु ने यह प्रार्थना नहीं की थी कि हम में फूट हो परन्तु यह कि हम सब उस में एक हों। जब हम प्रभु की इच्छा को पूर्ण करेंगे तभी हम सब एक होंगे, इसके अतिरिक्त नहीं।

अन्य भाषा!

धार्मिक दृष्टिकोण से हमारे बीच में अनेकों ऐसे लोग हैं जो कहते हैं कि वे अन्यान्य भाषाओं में या एक अन्य भाषा में बोल सकते हैं। इस बात का अर्थ वे यह कहकर समझाते हैं कि परमेश्वर का आत्मा उनके द्वारा बोलता है। वे आगे कहते हैं, कि उस समय उन्हें यह ज्ञात नहीं रहता कि वे क्या बोलते हैं, न वे लोग जो उन्हें सुनते हैं कुछ समझ पाते हैं कि वे क्या कह रहे हैं, परन्तु केवल परमेश्वर ही जानता है। परन्तु बाइबल में इस प्रकार की बात का कहीं उल्लेख नहीं मिलता। ऐसे लोग केवल एक धोखे में हैं और वे किसी भी भाषा में नहीं बोल

रहे हैं, एक अन्य भाषा की बात तो अलग रही, वे केवल मुंह से आवाज़ निकालते हैं, व्यर्थ का शोर मचाते हैं, और बड़बड़ाते हैं, व इसके अतिरिक्त और कुछ नहीं करते ।

बाइबल में हमें अन्य भाषा का वर्णन मिलता है (१ कुरिन्थियों १४ : २), परन्तु तौभी उस व्यक्ति के लिये जो उसे बोलता है यह एक अन्य या अज्ञात भाषा नहीं है । उक्त घटना में, बोलनेवाला समझता है कि वह क्या कह रहा है परन्तु सुननेवाले नहीं समझते—सो इस प्रकार से उसका समझना फलदायक सिद्ध नहीं होता । परिणाम स्वरूप वह परमेश्वर से बोलता है अपनी ही उन्नति के लिये (समझने के द्वारा), परन्तु उसके सुननेवालों के लिये उसका बोलना व्यर्थ ठहरता है क्योंकि उनके लिये उसकी भाषा एक अन्य भाषा होती है, जिसे वे नहीं समझ सकते । (१ कुरिन्थियों १४ : ४) ।

हम जानते हैं कि लेखक का “भाषा” से अभिप्राय उन शब्दों से है जिन्हें समझा जा सकता है, क्योंकि प्रेरित पौलुस के कथनानुसार, “ऐसे ही तुम भी यदि जीभ से साफ़-साफ़ बातें न कहो, तो जो कुछ कहा जाता है, वह क्योंकि समझा जाएगा ? तुम तो हवा से बातें करनेवाले ठहरोगे ।” (१ कुरिन्थियों १४ : ९) । और फिर, वह आगे कहता है, “इसलिये यदि मैं अन्य भाषा में प्रार्थना करूँ, तो मेरी आत्मा प्रार्थना करती है, परन्तु मेरी बुद्धि काम नहीं देती । सो क्या करना चाहिए ? मैं आत्मा से भी प्रार्थना करूँगा, और बुद्धि से भी प्रार्थना करूँगा ; मैं आत्मा से गाऊँगा, और बुद्धि से भी गाऊँगा ।” (१ कुरिन्थियों १४ : १४, १५) । अन्य भाषा से यहां अभिप्राय ऐसी भाषा से है जिसे वे लोग, बोलनेवाले के अतिरिक्त, न समझ सकें जो सुन रहे हैं । इसी का उल्लेख करके पौलुस कहता है कि वह प्रार्थना तो कर रहा होगा परन्तु वे जो उसकी प्रार्थना को सुन रहे होंगे उनके लिये उसका कोई अर्थ न होगा । और यही बात गाने के विषय में भी होगी । सो वह निश्चय करके कहता है कि वह आत्मा तथा बुद्धि दोनों से प्रार्थना करेगा और गाएगा भी ।

यह बात बिल्कुल स्पष्ट है कि जब पौलुस भाषाओं का वर्णन करता है तो उसका अर्थ उन भिन्न-भिन्न भाषाओं से है जो विभिन्न स्थानों पर बोली जाती हैं, और इसलिये जब वह अन्य भाषा कहता है तो उसका अर्थ एक ऐसी भाषा से है जिसे अन्य लोग न समझ सकें ।

अब, अन्याय भाषाओं में, बोलने की सामर्थ्य किसके पास थी ? प्ररत्नों के पास थी, क्योंकि प्रभु ने उन्हें पवित्र आत्मा से वपत्तिमा देने की प्रतिज्ञा की थी तथा फलस्वरूप अन्य विरहों के अतिरिक्त उनमें यह एक और विशेषता थी कि वे अन्याय भाषाओं में बोल सकते थे,

अपने मन में प्रार्थना करनी चाहिए ।

तथा परमेश्वर से बातें करनी चाहिए । दूसरे शब्दों में, उन्हें वृषवाप बाद कर सके, जो उन लोगों को शान्त रहनेवाला चाहिए और स्वयं से करवाएं । परन्तु यदि कोई ऐसा व्यक्ति बहुत उपस्थित न हो जाओ-चाहिए कि वे एक-एक करके बोलें, और जो वे कहें उसका अनुवाद यदि ऐसे लोग उपस्थित हों जो किसी अन्य भाषा में बोलें, तो उन्हें अभिप्राय उस भाषा से है जिसे सुननेवाला समझने में असमर्थ हो । सो से बातें करे ।" (१ कौरिन्थियों १४ : २७, २८) । अन्य भाषा का बोलनेवाला अपनी भाषा को स्वयं समझ सकता है), और परमेश्वर बोलनेवाला कलीसिया में शान्त रहे, और अपने मन से, (अर्थात्, अनुवाद करे । परन्तु यदि अनुवाद करनेवाला न हो, तो अन्य भाषा ही, या बहुत ही तो तीन-तीन जन बारी-बारी बोलें, और एक व्यक्ति और फिर सुनिये, "यदि अन्य भाषा में बातें करनी हों, तो दो

विरवसियों के लिये विरह है ।" (१ कौरिन्थियों १४ : २९, ३०) ।

के लिये विरह है, और अविष्यदणी अविरवसियों के लिये नहीं परन्तु इसलिये अन्याय भाषाएं विरवसियों के लिये नहीं, परन्तु अविरवसियों परए मुख के द्वारा इन लोगों से बातें कहेगा तो भी वे भेरी न सुनौं । लिखा है, कि प्रभु कहता है, मैं अन्य भाषा बोलनेवालों के द्वारा, और और फिर, आगे वह उन्हें याद दिलाकर कहता है, "व्यवस्था में

बातें कहें ।" (१ कौरिन्थियों १४ : १६-१९) ।

अच्छा जान पड़ता है, कि औरों के सिखाने के लिये बुद्धि से पांच ही कलीसिया में अन्य भाषा में दस हजार बातें कहने से यह मुझे और भी कि मैं तुम सब से अधिक अन्याय भाषा में बोलता हूँ । परन्तु की उन्नति नहीं होती । मैं अपने परमेश्वर का धन्यवाद करता हूँ क्या कहता है ? तू तो अली मति से धन्यवाद करता है, परन्तु दूसरे पर आमीन क्योंकर कहेगा ? इसलिये कि वह तो नहीं जानता, कि तू में लाई जानेवाली उस भाषा को समझने में असमर्थ है) तेरे धन्यवाद तू आत्मा ही से धन्यवाद करेगा, तो फिर आत्मा ही (वह जो उपयोग इसी विचार को दृष्टि में रखकर, वह आगे कहता है, "नहीं तो यदि

(प्रेरितों २ : ६) । कुरनेलियुस तथा उसके घराने ने भी पवित्र आत्मा का बपतिस्मा पाया था, जिसके कारण यह प्रगट हुआ कि परमेश्वर को अन्य जाति के लोग भी स्वीकार्य थे, तथा उन्होंने ने भी अन्यान्य भाषाओं में बातें कीं । (प्रेरितों १०) । इसके अतिरिक्त, जिन लोगों के ऊपर प्रेरितों ने अपने हाथ रखे उन्हें ने पवित्र आत्मा प्राप्त किया तथा परिणाम स्वरूप उन्होंने ने भी अन्यान्य भाषाओं में बोलने की सामर्थ्य प्राप्त की । (प्रेरितों १६ : १-७) । तब क्या कुछ अन्य लोग भी थे ? यदि थे, तो बाइबल उनके बारे में कहीं नहीं बताती । परन्तु इन लोगों के पास यह शक्ति क्यों थी ? इसलिये ताकि अन्यान्य भाषाओं को सीखने में समय व्यर्थ करने तथा अनुवादकों की आवश्यकता को अनुभव किए बिना वे संसार के विभिन्न भागों में जाकर वहाँ के लोगों को उन्हीं की भाषाओं में सुसमाचार सुना सकें । ऐसा कब तक होना सम्भव था ? जब तक कि नया नियम न लिखा जाता व लोगों के हाथों में न आ जाता । पौलुस ने कहा था कि ऐसा समय आएगा जब कि भाषाएँ (आश्चर्यपूर्ण) समाप्त हो जाएंगी । (१ कुरिन्थियों १३ : ८-१०) देखिए याकूब १ : २५ । इसलिये आश्चर्यजनक ढंग से अन्यान्य भाषाओं बोलने का क्रम अब समाप्त हो चुका है । और न ही इसकी अब कोई आवश्यकता है । क्योंकि अब बाइबल संसार में लोगों को दी जा चुकी है ।

वे लोग भी जो आज कहते हैं कि वे अन्यान्य भाषाओं में बोल सकते हैं कुछ विशेष बातों को ध्यान में नहीं रखते, अर्थात् :

१. पवित्र आत्मा के बपतिस्मे को देने की प्रतिज्ञा उनसे नहीं की गई थी ।

२. क्योंकि केवल प्रेरित लोग ही इस योग्य थे कि उनके हाथ रखे जाने से अन्य लोग पवित्र आत्मा प्राप्त करते थे, और जबकि अब सारे प्रेरित मर चुके हैं, इसलिये आज कोई भी व्यक्ति पवित्र आत्मा इस रीति से (आश्चर्यजनक) प्राप्त नहीं कर सकता ।

३. अन्यान्य भाषाओं का अभिप्राय अपरिचित भाषाओं से है ।

४. अन्यान्य भाषाओं में अविश्वासियों के लिये बोला जाता था । (परन्तु आज इसका उपयोग उनकी सभाओं में, अधिकांश रूप में, विश्वासियों के लिये ही किया जाता है) !

५. आज यदि उक्त भाषा का बोलनेवाला स्वयं ही नहीं जानता कि वह क्या कह रहा है, तथा वे भी जो उसकी सुनते हैं नहीं जानते कि क्या कहा जा रहा है, तब वे कैसे यह आशा कर सकते हैं कि परमेश्वर उसे समझ लेगा ? यह बात अनुचित है तथा नए नियमनुसार नहीं है। इस कारण, प्रत्यक्ष ही है कि आज लोग उस प्रकार की आश्चर्यजनक शक्ति नहीं रखते।

६. वे जो आज कहते हैं, कि हम अन्यान्य भाषाओं में बोल सकते हैं, वे प्रेरितों की तरह अन्य-अन्य भाषाओं में नहीं बोल सकते, जैसे कि उन्होंने पित्तेकुस्त के दिन बोलीं, और सब ने उन्हें समझा। आज जब उनके बड़े-बड़े प्रचारक भारत में आते हैं, तो उनके प्रचार को अनुवाद करने के लिये उन्हें अनुवादकों की आवश्यकता पड़ती है, जैसे कि हमें जो "भाषाओं में बोलने के दान" को प्राप्त होने की डींग नहीं मारते। सो, इसलिये आज बोली जानेवाली अन्यान्य भाषाएं किसी भी रीति से नए नियम में उल्लिखित भाषाओं से समानता नहीं रखतीं।

सो, प्रत्यक्ष में, इसका अर्थ यह है कि अनेकों लोग आज धोखे में हैं। हम आप से निवेदन करके कहते हैं कि आप अपनी बाइबल को अवश्य ही पढ़ें तथा उसका अध्ययन करें ताकि इस विषय में आप को सच्चाई का ज्ञान प्राप्त हो सके। परन्तु किसी भी रीति से इस विचार के धोखे में न रहें कि आपके पास कोई आश्चर्यजनक वस्तु है, या किसी अन्य व्यक्ति के पास कुछ इस प्रकार की शक्ति है, क्योंकि आज वास्तव में परमेश्वर की ओर से लोगों को इस प्रकार की शक्ति नहीं दी गई है।

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