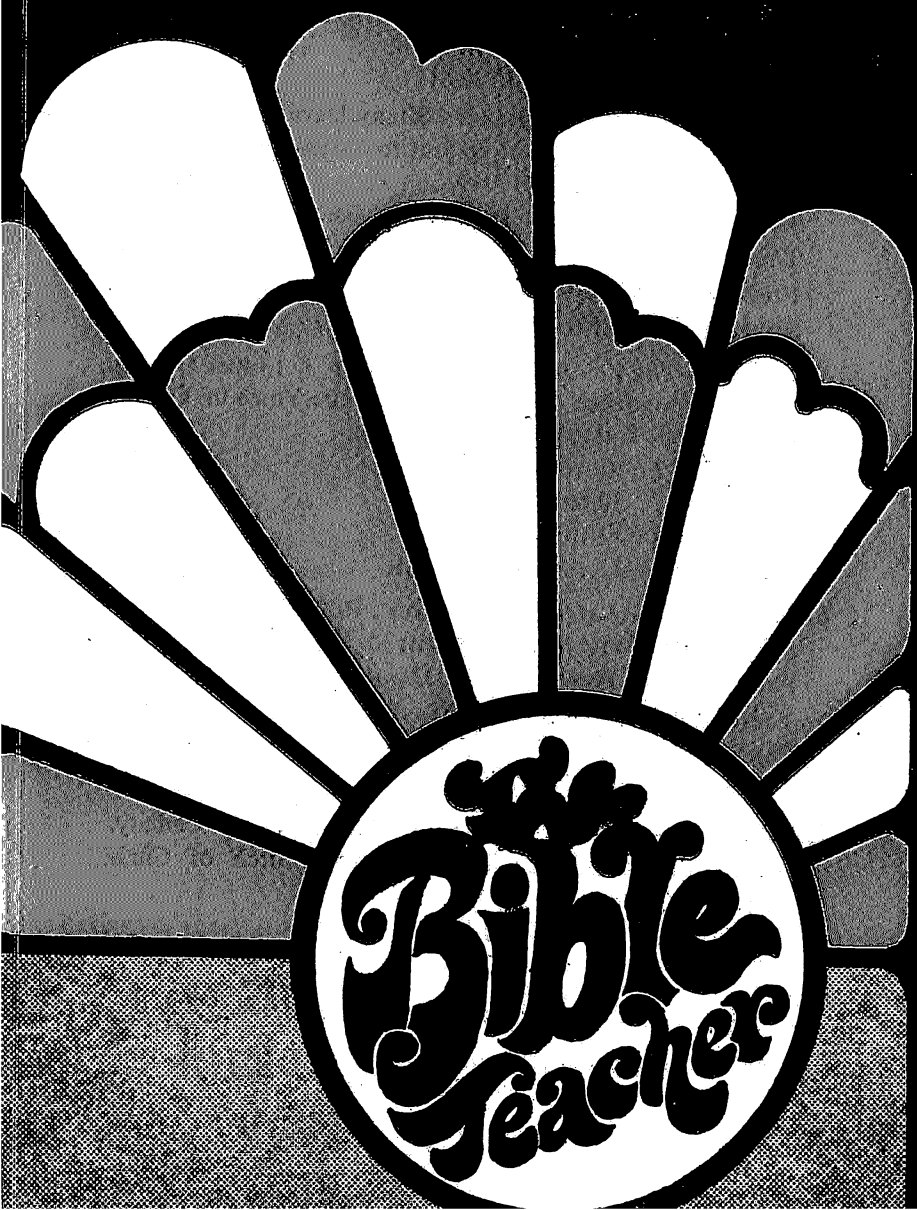


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EDITORIAL

Homosexuality And Lesbianism

The Bible clearly teaches that God made man and then, seeing it was not good for man to be alone, he made woman. (Genesis 2 ; 18). Please note that he did not make another man but rather a woman who would be able to satisfy man's social and physical needs. Had he made another man to go along with the first one, they could have cared for each others social needs but they would not have been able to reproduce and therefore human life on the earth would have been short-lived. This within itself should tell us something about the importance of the male and the female and their relation to one another. As long as these needs are recognized and provided for, there is no problem. Once this pattern is forsaken and man begins to rely on man for all of his needs, and likewise woman turns to woman, then God's way is perverted and sin becomes the way of life.

A homosexual is one who turns to a member of his own sex to fulfill his sexual needs. We generally think of homosexuals as males. A lesbian is a female homosexual. Such perverted people have always been a part of the population but until recent years they were usually very secretive about their activities. It was counted as a disgrace for one to become known as a homosexual or lesbian. It was a hush, hush, kind of thing and if it became known that one was a sexual deviate then he

or she was shunned and rejected. One could lose his job. Most parents were afraid to have such people around their children lest they molest them. But lately things have changed, especially in some of the more developed countries. So radically have things changed, that the homosexuals and lesbians have now come out into the open. They have become known as the GAYS, and now you hear about the Gay Movement, Gay Marches, Gay Rights, etc. There are enough of them now, and they have become active enough, that they have tried to change the feelings of the majority from being against them to being in sympathy with them as a misunderstood minority group. They have tried to leave the impression that their problem is a human rights problem instead of being a moral issue. Through their efforts, some local laws have even been changed in their favour. In other places, where they have met with opposition, strong political contests have been waged.

The homosexuals and lesbians, or Gays as they are called, have gotten enough publicity that they cannot any longer be ignored. They have tried to create, and have pretty well succeeded, the feeling that if you oppose them you are biased, discriminating against fellow humans, and therefore you are the one that is in the wrong. The leading women in the Women's Lib Movement are lesbians and this is openly known. Among many other things that they are working toward is what they call lesbian rights, as if they should have rights.

Homosexuals and lesbians have tried to sell the idea to all others that their way of life amounts to no more than a sex preference, choosing their own life style, and that they are entitled to this as much as those who adhere to the heterosexual arrangement, that is, where man and woman live together as husband and wife. If left to them, and they are working toward this goal, they would like to see laws enacted that would permit them to marry, hold jobs in schools, and similar places where they could influence and teach the young their way of life, be accepted in religious circles, and in general lead "respectable" lives.

A lot of people of our day are indifferent about this issue, either because they lean in that direction or else they just do

not want to become involved. Some fear that if they oppose such people, they will be boycotted. This applies especially to politicians and public figures in general. Still others write them off as being sick and they feel therefore they need help. But is this all there is to it? The Bible tells us that homosexuality and lesbianism is wrong and therefore those who engage in it are committing sinful acts. Because of this most of them reject the Bible and belittle men like Paul for having spoken out against such practices.

When we go back to the Old Testament period we read about the destruction of such cities as Sodom and Gomorrah. (Genesis 18, 19). Who destroyed these cities? God did. Why? Because of their wickedness. What was their crime? They were guilty of a number of things but their main sin had to do with their morals. They had become so wicked, vile, polluted, depraved, and perverted that God could no longer tolerate them. Even with Abraham pleading with God to spare these cities because he knew that Lot and his family lived there, and in spite of the fact that God was willing to do so if they could find only ten righteous people living in them, not even that many could be found. (Genesis 18 : 32).

See for yourself the kind of people God had to deal with at Sodom, as the story is told : "And there came two angels to Sodom at even ; and Lot sat at the gate of Sodom ; and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them ; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground ; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servants's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay ; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly ; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house ; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter : And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which come in to thee this night ? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door

after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes : only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge : now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that were at the door with blindness, both small and great : so that they wearied themselves to find the door. And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides ? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place. For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place ; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto them : and they brought him forth, and set him without the city... Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground." (Genesis 19 : 1-16, 24, 25).

In the foregoing account you can clearly see that the Lord would have spared those cities if only ten righteous could have been found. Sad to say, they were so wicked that in the end only Lot and his wife and their two daughters were spared as they left the city, and even Lot's wife was destroyed when she looked back upon those cities as they were being destroyed,

when she had been commanded not to do that. But when those two men of the Lord went into Sodom to see Lot and his family, the record says that the men of the city came and asked for those men that they might know them. That simply means that they wanted them for immoral purposes. Please note that they did not ask for Lot's wife and daughters—and even that would have been wicked—but they didn't want them. Neither would they take Lot's daughters when he offered them as substitutes for the two men. But rather they wanted those men. This means that they were homosexuals. Furthermore, these cities were so corrupt with such evils that their sin even to this day is called sodomy. But those cities had become so corrupt with this practice that they were beyond rehabilitation. Therefore God destroyed them. Now if we allow homosexual activities today to go on unchecked, unchallenged, uncondemned and they continue to grow and are generally accepted, what will be the eventual outcome? If God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, then it will automatically follow that if we turn our world into another Sodom and Gomorrah God will also destroy us. Those who engage in homosexual and lesbian activities, and those who are willing to condone such practices, should give a lot of thought to past punishment of such societies.

The apostle Paul talked about a group of people who had also become corrupt by such practices. He writes to the Romans: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse; Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For

this cause God gave them up unto vile affections; for even their women did change the natural use unto that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." (Romans 1: 20-32).

Now isn't that a description of a people? Who would try to uphold them as having any good in them? Women were going after women and men were going after men. If this is not lesbianism and homosexuality, then what would you call it? It even says that the men had left the natural use of the woman, "burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly..." (Romans 1: 27). Then the writer goes on to list a number of their sins and among them he talks about fornication, being without natural affection, and he says that they which do such things are worthy of death because they not only do them but even have pleasure in doing them.

In writing to the church at Corinth, Paul said, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6: 9, 10). Notice who is included in this catalogue of sinful practices. He speaks of the effeminate and those who abuse themselves with mankind. Who would this include? Homosexuals and lesbians, for certain. But then observe how he says that those which do such things shall not

inherit the kingdom of God. That is, such people cannot be saved and go to heaven as long as they are committing such sins. But Paul reminds the Corinthians, "And such were some of you : but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6 : 11). This means that it is possible to repent of these sins, or to quit them. Then on obedience to the gospel one is washed, purified, and made whole again. If one will obey God, and continue to refrain from those practices, then he can be saved in this world and in the world to come.

Here in India where there are so many people, and where men and women are separated to the extent that men spend a lot of time together and women also are with each other much of the time, then it would be more than likely that there would be a high rate of homosexuality and lesbianism being practiced at this time. We don't like to think so, but knowing what is going on in the rest of the world, it would be realistic to think that India might not be far behind, and indeed, might have as much of this practice as others, but just not publicized. May it be pointed out, as the foregoing statement would indicate, that such sexual practices are sinful and wrong. If you are one that is guilty of this kind of thing then please give it up. You can do that. You must quit it if you expect to obey God and have the hope of heaven. Christians cannot be homosexuals and lesbians and be faithful Christians. Also, realize that it is not left up to you but God has specified that if you are a man then you should have a wife to care for your sexual needs and that if you are a woman you should have a husband to care for your sexual needs. This is God's way and any other way is abnormal and contrary with the laws of nature. Don't be deceived into thinking that if one or many are involved in these kinds of things that makes it right. God made male and female and decreed that they should be united in marriage and spend the rest of their lives together. This, and this only, is the good and right way. Any way that differs from this is sinful and wrong.

It is sad that we have so much of this kind of sin today

that it is necessary to discuss it in a study such as this. These are things that we don't like to have to talk about publicly or through these pages. Yet, man is so brazen today with his sins that we are forced to deal with them. Let us take heed to the things that have been said and be the kind of people God would have us be. Let us also try to teach our children and those around us the truth on these matters so they may not be corrupted by such evil practices.



**associate
editorial**

What One Should Not Do To Be Saved

One of man's greatest need is salvation, that is, redemption from the bondage of sin and reconciliation with his Maker, God. This is evident from his pursuit of salvation. Man realizes the fact that he is a sinner, that he is in need of salvation. So he wants to do something to be saved. Beside many other things he offers sacrifices to a deity, he worship various gods to appease and please them. But should a man do all of these things that he does to be saved ?

There is only one God. (Ephesians 4 : 6). And he has given us His only one Way through which we can be saved. (John 14:6). Therefore all other gods, goddesses and saints or gurus etc. whom man worship and follow for salvation are only man-made, imaginary, fictitious. Some may reason and say that all of these other gods are but only a medium through which to worship and reach the same one God. But the Bible, the revelation of God to man, emphatically declares this : "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2 : 5). God is a Spirit (John 4 : 24). He is a living God. (Romans 1 : 18-

32). Apostle Paul said that we are God's offspring, and he continued, "Being then the offspring of God we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man." (Acts 17 : 19). Thus God cannot be likened unto an image of any kind, because He is the Living God. Man should not therefore approach or worship an image to be saved.

Should then one worship the one Living God to be saved ? In fact, worship and prayer is a privilege of a child of God. But unless and until man is restored to the Father and son relationship with God how can he come to God with a prayer ? The Bible at another place says, "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, so that He does not hear." (Isaiah 59 : 2). And then at John 9 : 31 we read, "We know that God does not hear sinners ; but if any one is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him." Therefore, one must first be saved from his sins and then he has a right to worship and pray to God. Evidently, then, one should not pray to be saved.

Now, a large number of people believe that since they go to a church regularly, and celebrate one or more so-called religious festivals yearly therefore they would be saved. But in the first place, since we do not read of any denominational church in the Bible, therefore it is not safe at all to be a member of any one of them. Secondly, the Bible does not command us to observe any so-called religious festivals. On the other hand, it clearly teaches that "The Lord Adds the saved to the Church." (Acts 2 : 47). Now, since the Lord adds the saved to the church, that is, one is saved first and then becomes a member of the church, so one should evidently do some thing else to be saved.

There are many many others who for their salvation depend upon their religious leaders or preachers. They believe what they say, and do what they teach regardless of what the Bible says. Hardly people open and read their Bible to see what it

says when they hear a preacher preach a sermon. They simply believe his preaching and follow it blindly. But do you know what the scripture say? It says, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world". (1 John 4: 1). Therefore we should not depend on a preacher for our salvation—but we should rather listen carefully to what he says and then we should examine in the scripture to see whether the things he said are written in the Bible. At one place in the Bible we read that there were people who even examined the teachings of the Apostles with the teaching of the scripture. (Acts 17: 11).

One of the thing that almost all the religion on earth teach is doing good works. The Bible give even more emphasis in doing good unto all men. (Galatians 6: 10). The Bible teaches that we should love and do good even to our enemies. (Romans 12: 18-21). But it is absolutely wrong, as majority of people believe and teach, that man can be saved by doing good works. If man can be saved by doing his own good works, then he does not need God, he becomes his own saviour. Speaking to those who have been saved by doing God's will, the Apostle Paul says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2: 8-10). So no one should think that he can be saved by doing good works.

Then there are those who today are going in the way of Namaan of whom we read in the 5th chapter of II Kings of the Bible, rejecting to obey God's simple command and believing that they can be saved by faith only. But if only faith is necessary that all one should do to be saved then there should be no doubt that demons should also be saved. Because the Bible says, "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe and shudder." (James 2: 19). Here, in this chapter, the writer clearly shows by giving different illustrations that no one can be saved by faith only. And then

he declares, "you see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone..... For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." (James 2 : 24,26). Also, we should notice that he is not talking here at all about our own works of goodness but rather he is talking about obeying God's command through faith. Faith is the first and very important thing for salvation. For we read, Christ taught, "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins ; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins. (John 8 : 24). Faith, however, is not the only thing that is required for man's salvation. We should believe, but we should not believe "ONLY" to be saved. There are certain commands of the Saviour that one must obey, which make the faith perfect, to be saved.

Likewise, repentance is another step that is required for salvation. Christ taught, "I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13 : 3). But repentance is not the only thing that is required for salvation. What is repentance ? To repent means, to turn away from the former way, to quit doing bad or wrong, cease to sin. But suppose one repents from his sins, he decides to turn away from sin. However, what would be about those sins that he has already committed ? Surely, he need forgiveness of those sins to be saved. So you see, repentance does not eliminate the sins already committed, it is not the remedy for the sins that are already there. One should, therefore, repent from his sins, but one should not repent *only* to be saved.

Now, listen carefully, this is what the Bible says that one should do to be saved, Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16 : 16). And when the Apostle Peter preached the gospel to a large multitude of people and when they wanted to know what they must do to be saved, Peter gave them this answer : "Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins ; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2 : 38).

So let the Bible be your only guide. Because it is the inspired word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16). Because the word of God abides forever. (1 Peter 1 : 25). And because all men will be judged according to what is written in His word. (John 12 : 48).

The Purpose of Miracles and Spiritual Gifts

By Thyagaraj

In the Old Testament, we have a record of miracles that God did through His servants. Let us study about miracles of Moses and Aaron :

1. A staff was changed into serpent (Exodus 4 : 3).

PURPOSE : "That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob hath appeared unto thee." (Exodus 4 : 5).

2. A hand became leprous (Exodus 4 : 6).

PURPOSE : And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. (Exodus 4 : 8).

3. Water was changed in to Blood. (Exodus 4 : 9 ; 7 : 20).

PURPOSE : "And it shall come to pass if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign." (Exodus 4 : 8). "And the Lord spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh and say unto him, thus saith the Lord, let my people go, that they may serve me". (Exodus 8 : 1).

Likewise, there are several other miracles recorded in the following chapters of the book of Exodus; and for all of them there was a specific purpose.

Some more miracles were performed by Moses and Aaron for which there was a **PURPOSE**. Now let us study about the miracles of Elijah.

1. He prevented rain with his prayers. I Kings 17 : 1.
2. He increased the widow's meal and oil. I Kings 17 : 14.
3. He raised a child from the death. I Kings 17 : 19-23.

4. A burnt offering was consumed by fire. I Kings 18 : 30-39.

For all these miracles the PURPOSE was to show them that there is a God in heaven. I Kings 18 : 39. Likewise God did some more miracles through Elijah where there was a PURPOSE. Now let us come to New Testament's miracles and signs. Our Lord Jesus Christ did many miracles and signs of healing. For example, let us see few of them :

1. He healed a ruler's child. John 4 : 46-54.
2. He cast out Demons. Mk. 1 : 23-27; Matt. 8 : 28-32 ;
Matt. 9 : 32-33
3. He healed lepers. Matt. 8 : 1-4
4. He changed water into wine. John 2 : 1-11.
5. He walked on the water. Mark 6 : 45-52.
6. He raised the Dead. Luke 7 : 12-15.

The PURPOSE of all of them was that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God : and that believing we might have eternal life through him. (John 20 : 30,31).

Moreover, his purpose in performing miracles had a much deeper meaning than that of more temporal relief. It was to show that he is the Son of God and that he has the power to save men from their sins. (Mark 2 : 1-12).

Now, let us come to the apostles. The Apostles also did many miracles and signs. For example : Peter healed a lame man (Acts 3 : 1-8) ; Paul brought blindness upon Elymas the sorcerer (Acts 13 : 9-12), and many other miracles, signs and wonders were done by the hands of the apostles (Acts 5 : 12), all for the purpose of confirming the word (Mk. 16 : 20). So, the signs and wonders were done for the purpose to confirm what they preached or to confirm that they were speaking the truth, For speaking the truth they were to be guided into all truth, and for this very purpose, the Lord Jesus Christ promised them "the comforter which is the Holy Ghost" (John 14:26; 16:13).

The apostles were led or guided by the Spirit in the "TRUTH" and they have written the New Testament which is called the perfect Law of Liberty. (James 1 : 25).

Now, Dear reader, you have understood that God won't do anything without a **PURPOSE OR NEED**. Please read I Cor. 2 : 4-13. The Word was fully confirmed by the miraculous demonstration of the Holy Spirit during the first century and the inspired record of the same we have today in our New Testament. When the need had passed for these miraculous demonstrations they **CEASED**. We believe today upon hearing the Word of God. "So, then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God". (Romans 10 : 17).

God created Adam and Eve full grown man and woman, Gen. 1 : 26-27, and it was a miracle. It was performed as the **NEED** was there. But God is not performing the same miracle again as there is no need or purpose. It does not mean that God cannot do it. He can, but He does not choose to do so.

All these Spiritual Gifts were present in the church, when it was in an infant stage or when there was no perfect law of liberty, in its written form, in the church. All these spiritual gifts (Miracles and Signs) ceased when the church had the Bible in its present perfect form. (1 Cor. 13 : 9-13).

Dear reader, do not be misguided by those people who claim that they can do miracles, wonders, Signs and are able to speak in tongues. There is no need for all these things as we are **PREACHING** the **CONFIRMED** word of God. So, confirmation of Word is not needed again and again.

The Christian and Recreation

Guy N. Woods

It can scarcely be seriously questioned that the people today have developed a mania for recreation. Millions of people live largely for fleshly indulgence and their weekends are spent on the lakes, in the mountains and at the seashore. Many of these are professing Christians who do not hesitate to forsake the assembly of the church to lie in the sun on public beaches, to fish in the lakes of the land, and to play golf on the fairways. Some of these seek to satisfy the conscience by a quick stop on the way to the beach for worship or by

carrying the "emblems" of the supper with them. To all such the LORD'S DAY has lost all real significance; it is a national holiday providing freedom from responsibility and affording opportunity for a lazy routine of fleshly pursuits.

ALL recreation is not to be condemned. The Scriptures teach that man is so constituted as to need rest and relaxation. God set apart and made holy the seventh day of the week, as a rest day; and the law of Moses made provision for many feast days on which the people of Israel were given opportunity for physical and social recreation. Christians, also need release occasionally from the taxing responsibilities of life, and our civilization is vastly more complex than it was in the days of Moses. Ours is indeed a time of great stress and pressure, both mental and physical; and children of God need seasons of refreshing to renew and re-invigorate the physical man. God wants us to use our faculties to his glory and in the most useful manner possible, and this can be done only if our physical frame is kept in efficient order. All human beings need rest and recreation. Jesus practiced it (Mark 6 : 31,32), the apostles taught it (I Timothy 4 : 8), and we must have it if we are to discharge fully our potential here.

We must, however, be careful that we keep our recreational activities under restraint, and maintain the proper perspective regarding them. Paul, the apostle endorsed SOME recreation in the following statement to his associate and co-worker, Timothy: "For bodily exercise is profitable for a little; but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life which now is, and of that which is to come." (I Tim. 4:8). There is profit in it. Exercise provides needed stimulus for unused and dormant muscles. By it the appetite is stimulated and encouraged. From it the mind derives diversion, and there is in it relaxation from the tension and pressure of everyday living. Bodily exercise provides zest for life and extends the span of it. It IS profitable.

The profit to be thus derived is, however, "for a little," that is, for a limited time, and in a restricted and small area. Our earthly span is, at best, brief; and that which has to do

with the fleshly part of man, extremely temporal. Moreover, the area of fleshly activity is small, affecting only the individual engaging therein. "Godliness" (piety, reverence), however, "is profitable for all things" (matters running out to every direction), and "having promise of the life which now is, and of that which is to come." Such involves, not only those about us, and the life we now live, but also that which is to come. It is, therefore, vastly more important to practice godliness; and bodily exercise, though useful, must never be permitted to interfere with the obligations which a life of godliness enjoins.

It is possible to engage in the wrong kind of recreation; or, as many do today, place too much emphasis on the right kind. Some prolong their rest until it is indolence. Mere idleness is not exercise. To engage in recreation is to recreate the mind and body with proper and pleasurable pursuits. Moreover, there are some "amusements" classified a recreation which are really sinful and prohibited activities. Any thing wrong must be avoided. Some acts are not in themselves sinful, but they lead to the neglect of proper duties and ought therefore to be avoided. Solomon said, "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich." (Proverbs 21:17). When recreation is pursued until it has become one's chief interest in life, it is sinful and subversive of the soul. Any activity, questionable in nature, ought to be shunned; and, all suspected amusements must be avoided. It is never safe to follow a course which has proved to be disastrous to others.

These questions we ought to ask regarding any proposed form of recreational activity: (1) Do the Scriptures condemn it? (2) Does it bear on its face the suspicion of evil? (3) Have others found participation therein to be harmful to their spiritual welfare? (4) Does it tend to break down the distinction between the church and the world? (5) Do good people generally approve it? (6) What effect will my participation therein have on others? (7) Will it lead on to the indulgence of bad habits in other areas? (8) Will it cause me to be associated with people who are not good? (9) Will it take me to places of doubtful propriety? (10) Will my example influence

others in a harmful fashion ? (11) Can I afford the cost in time and money ?

These questions properly answered will enable us to evaluate correctly any type of pleasure or recreation. We must not allow the world to set up the standards of permissible recreational activity ; God's word is the only proper criteria of what is right or wrong. The "retirements" which our Lord occasionally engaged in provide us with a pattern to follow. They were for (a) rest ; (b) relaxation ; (c) meditation. From his example, we will engage in recreational pursuits (1) only at the proper time (and never when such will interfere with our obligations to God and to our fellow men) ; (2) only for the proper purposes (and not for fleshly ease or indulgence) ; and (3) only in the right way (avoiding all sinful or questionable activity). Bodily exercise is profitable only if it serves to equip us better for life's duties and responsibilities. When it interferes with such, it is sinful, and should be shunned.

What Was God Doing ?

John Gipson

Talk about troubles ? Joseph had more of them than you could shake a stick at. They tramped into his life with such rapid cadence they were almost doing double time. Joseph was victimized by family, friends and foes. Folks were out to get him..... and they did a pretty good job of it.

Joseph was a victim of envy. His brothers knew that he was his daddy's favorite. Envy grew from day to day until they decided to kill him. Only the pleadings of Reuben squelched the scheme. Joseph was thrown into a pit without so much as a drink of water. Meanwhile, his brothers feasted and plotted against him. Finally when a band of Midianites passed by they decided to sell him as a slave for twenty pieces of silver. Where was God when Joseph needed Him ? What was He doing ?

Joseph was a victim of lying. Sold into the hands of

Potiphar, Joseph performed his services so faithfully he was put in charge of his master's house. But the situation was fraught with danger. Joseph was a handsome young man and Potiphar's wife wanted to have an affair with him. Day after day she tempted him. Joseph resisted her advances. He asked, "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" One day this designing woman caught Joseph by the clothes and begged, "Lie with me." Joseph fled. Later that evening when Potiphar returned home his wife told him that Joseph tried to rape her. Poor Joseph. Where was God when he needed Him? What was He doing?

Joseph was a victim of injustice. He was thrust into the prison where the king's prisoners were confined. He was innocent of all charges—but he was in jail. Where was God when Joseph needed Him? What was He doing?

Joseph was a victim of ingratitude. Inside the prison Joseph once again rose to the top. He was placed in charge of all the prisoners. Two of the men confined to their cells had dreams—the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt. Joseph interpreted the dreams and told the butler that in three days he would be restored to his position. The butler was delighted. Joseph made only one request: "But remember me, when it is well with you, and do me the kindness. I pray you, to make mention of me to Pharaoh." But such was not to be. "The chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him." Where was God when Joseph needed him? What was He doing?

You remember the story. Joseph was made ruler of Egypt. And never during his trials did Joseph accuse God of forsaking him. In fact, as he looked back on his trials Joseph said, God meant it for good.

You have troubles? You wonder where God is and what He is doing? One word of advice, please. Never underestimate God.

The Work of Women In The Church

Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

In the early chapters of Acts, both men and women were responsible to the gospel demands of the budding movement of Christianity. On occasion women were the first in a community to obey the gospel. Such was true at Philippi in Macedonia. Acts 16: 13-15 tells of the conversion of Lydia and her household. Every indication is that her household consisted of women only. Rather significantly it was in an earnest epistle directed to the Philippian church that Paul paid tribute to the work that Christian women had supplied the Lord's Cause at Philippi. He wrote that aid should be given "those women which laboured with me in the gospel." (Phil. 4:3). The work of dedicated women to the Lord's Cause has defied any type of accurate calculation. Only eternity will give an accurate appraisal of the great good godly women have done.

It shall be the writer's, stated purpose in this article to note what her work is and what her work is not. The work of women in the church is one of the burning issues of the day. A number of congregations are already experiencing serious difficulties in this very realm of Biblical teaching. It seems wise that we approach this subject both negatively and positively, both in principle and in personification. A majestic type of motivation for every Christian woman lies in a royal recognition of what Deity and Deity's Book have done for women in general and Christian women in particular. We shall close upon the noble note of some inspirational examples of women at work in their God-ordained spheres. The writer commends each reader for the interest exhibited in your choosing this article to read. The suggestion for the timely need of this article was made by Brother C. Fred Faulk of Ripley, Tennessee. Brother Faulk is one of the elders where this writer lives and labours. He clearly recognizes this as one of the real problems of the day.

LIMITATIONS OF HER WORK—A NEGATIVE LOOK

No surprise should be expressed at the placement of limitations upon women. All the servants of Jehovah God, including his only begotten Son, have had some limitations placed upon them. John 6 : 38 declared, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." It was not the Lord's purpose to please himself but to receive the "reproaches of them that reproached" God. (Rom. 15 : 3). But submission to God did not make Jesus a second-rate Lord and a Saviour of little or no value. Hebrew prophets of the Old Testament and apostles, prophets and evangelists of the New Testament were under strict submission to the Father's will. However, that did not make them second-rate servants or men of but little worth or value. Paul's ladder of proper authority in 1 Corinthians 11 : 3 has Christ in submission to God, man in submission to Christ and woman in submission to man. But such submission does not make Christ a second-rate member of the Godhead. Man is not an inferior creature due to his submission to Christ. Then why should any blasphemously assert that woman is deeply inferior and second-rate because of her commanded submission to man? Biblically speaking, submission and inferiority are not synonymous terms.

The woman cannot be an elder for very obvious reasons. In 1 Timothy 3 : 1 Paul refers to a **man** as the one who desires the office of a bishop. He used the masculine pronoun 'he' also in this verse. An elder is to be the **husband** of one wife and to have **his** children in subjection with all gravity. (1 Tim. 3 : 2, 4). Man, he, his and husband still have a masculine ring to all who have not been duped by all the Women's Lib propaganda. She cannot be a deacon because deacons are to be husbands of one wife. (1 Tim. 3:12). Not even ERA can equip the woman to play the role of husband. Such is biologically impossible! The woman cannot be an evangelist. In 1 Timothy 2 : 12 Paul prohibits her from teaching and usurping authority over the man. The evangelist is to "speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority." (Tit. 2 : 15). This, for the very obvious reasons established in 1 Timothy 2 : 12 cannot be done. She cannot be the head of the home. Paul, by inspiration—not by

an appeal to a cultural situation—conferred headship of the home upon the husband. It is a sad day for womanhood when she seeks to become like a man. A wise woman once said, "There are some things men have to do and other things women have to do. They have no business getting them all mixed up." This wise woman lived to be in excess of 100 years and celebrated 78 wedding anniversaries before she and her husband both died in 1974. God's woman will not seek a place, position or work for which he never equipped her to fill.

WHAT WOMAN CAN DO—A POSITIVE LOOK

She can learn about Jesus in youth and become a Christian when the age of accountability is achieved. Then she can grow in the Christian graces and adorn her life with the fruit of the Spirit. (2 Pet. 1 : 5-7 ; Gal. 5 : 22-23). She can conduct herself as becometh a young woman of Christian holiness during courtship. She can marry a good man, make a success of wifehood and motherhood. To her husband she can be a faithful help meet. (Gen. 2 : 18). She can be a good find for him and exhibit that her origin is from the Lord. (Prov. 18 : 22 ; 19 : 14). She can be a modern woman of worthiness. (Prov. 31 : 10-31). She can love her husband, her children, be discreet, chaste, a worker at home and the Queen of the family. (Tit. 2 : 4-5). She can marry, bear children, guide the house and leave the adversary silent as far as manner of reproach is concerned. (1 Tim. 5 : 14). She can be the sterling type of wife Peter envisioned in 1 Peter 3 : 1-6. To her Christian husband she can be an holy heir along with him of heaven that their prayers be not short-circuited. (1 Pet. 3 : 7).

She can teach other women. (Tit. 2 : 3-5). She can teach her own children and the children of others. (2 Tim. 1 : 5 ; 3 : 14-15). She can be a doer of good works. (1 Tim. 5 : 10). She can be a real partner to her husband in his work for Christ. Elders, deacons, preachers and teachers of the Bible with good wives are blessed with a prized possession far greater than gold. There is a wide open field for qualified and dedicated woman who can and will write helpful material for other women and children's classes. A Christian woman can

teach children in her home. She can bring the neighbourhood children of the unchurched to Bible classes on Sunday, Wednesday, and VBS. The visitation of the sick, shut-ins, the weak and newcomers are an ever present opportunity for good works among dedicated Christian women. The Christian woman can take the lead in seeing that the homes of the congregation provide for recreational needs of our youth. This is a task for the home and should not be charged upon the church. "Let not the Church be charged" should be our attitude in this vital realm. It is this writer's view that the woman who reverently cares for the Lord's Supper in its preparation or assists another woman in getting ready for baptism is doing just as much for the Lord's Cause as the person who officiates at the Table on Sunday or administers the ordinance of baptism to the penitent believer. Did someone say there is **nothing** challenging for our Christian women today?

WHY WOMEN SHOULD BE BUSY FOR CHRIST

If for no other reason save sheer gratitude the woman should be a dedicated Christian. Where the Bible and Christianity have gone woman has been lifted. Where Christ is respected woman is no longer more chattel and is no longer just the playful sport for the uncontrolled passions of sensual men. Christianity has lifted woman to a superior plateau of feminine value and womanly dignity. Woman should be diligent in Christian service for the salvation of her soul. Though saved by Jehovah's grace she still is saved only through the spirit of submission to Heaven's will. She should be diligent for Christ because so much of her work can only be done by her. If not done by her, it will go undone. Woman needs to work for the Lord to exhibit her love for Jesus. John eloquently echoes the sentiment, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous." (1 John 5:3). Does the devout Christian woman need greater motivation for serving Christ fervently than these points?

INSPIRATIONAL EXAMPLES OF WOMEN AT WORK FOR CHRIST

The unnamed woman at Jacob's well in John 4 made much spiritual headway in her unique conversation with Christ. In

turn she became a soul winner by influencing many of her fellow Samaritans to come to Jesus. Jesus expelled seven demons from Mary Magdalene and she became strong and steadfast in her discipleship to his cause. He conferred great honour upon her by making his first post resurrection appearance to her. (Mark 16 : 9). Mary of Bethany anointed him in Mark 14 : 3-9 and received some sterling compliments from the grateful Galilean Prophet who then stood on the threshold of Calvary. Mary of Acts 12 was a worker for the Lord, opened her home for praying Christians and reared a son who wrote the gospel according to Mark. Priscilla teamed with her husband Aquilla and greatly aided the Lord's cause in many places. She and her husband are uniformly mentioned together. What a spiritual exhibition they have left for emulation by every Christian husband and wife team. By name Lois and Eunice are mentioned but once by Inspiration. What their unfeigned faith and diligent preparation of Timothy achieved for the Cause are well known facts to every Bible student. Phoebe is mentioned only in Romans 16:1-2. There she is depicted as sister, servant, saint and succourer of many. What a quartet of royal roles for every Christian woman to fulfill today! Paul praised the worthy women who aided him in the gospel. (Phil. 4:3). Paul referred to the mother of Rufus in Romans 16:13 who had been a spiritual mother to him also. In this Mark 10:30 is beautifully fulfilled.

What a marvelous and majestic mold Jehovah has made for Christian women to fill with honour, dignity and success. Thank God for our lovely, charming and gracious Christian women. They are as far above the mold Women's Lib is currently carving for all women as the heavens soar above the earth.

Jesus Truly Is The Way !

by

C. L. Powell

In Isaiah 35:8 the Prophet said "then would be a way of holiness, the unclean shall not pass over it". A great many things took place between the prophecy of Isaiah and the time when Jesus said "I am the way." (John 14:6) The angel of God announced "unto you a saviour is born". (Luke 2:11). Isaiah

35:8 says "it shall be called the way of holiness". He also said "the unclean shall not pass over it".

It was said of John, that he (that is John) was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. (John 1:8). Jesus was to be the light, John simply came to point people to the appearance of the light. He, today, is the way (John 14:6), the truth (John 8:32), the light (John. 1:9), he is the Saviour (Luke 2:11). He is also "life". (John 1:4) "In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

My friend, have you found the way in 1978 ? If God permits you to have 1979, will you find Him then? Christ, the mighty and powerful, is not beyond reach of any of us. The 3000 who were baptized on Pentecost were among those who had been guilty of crucifying Him. In Acts 2:23 we read "ye have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain". In verse 36 "that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ". Christ is not far from any of us if we desire His presence. (Acts 17:27).

Listen, Jesus is that way that you need so badly. Without Him there is no hope. (Eph. 2:12-14). Without Him there is no salvation (Acts 4:11-12). Without Him there are no spiritual blessings. (Eph. 1:3). Salvation can be found in this way. (2 Tim. 2:10). Hope can be found there (Eph. 2 : 13). Redemption can be found there (Col. 1:13-14).

Dear reader, in the midst of all the rush and troubles and vanities of life, we plead with you to find your way back to Christ. You are going to lose so much unless you do. Remember Mark 8:34-37 ? If you gain the world and lose your soul you have lost all !

Christ is the way to the deepest needs that you will ever have. You really have only one sincere need and that is to find Him. Let me help you in this great search for eternal life through our Lord. Why not find the way in 1978 ? and live for Him in 1979.

In pointing you to Him, let me refer you to the gospel that deal with his birth, life, death, and resurrection. Then it is through this that you can have salvation. (I Cor. 15:1-4). John said in John 20 : 31 "These are written that you might believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God ; and that believing ye might have life through his name." Do you believe in Him today ? If you do, you have taken two steps in the right direction. Paul says "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10 : 17). So you have openly listened and believed. We read in Hebrews

11 : 6, "without faith it is impossible to please God". So you have heard and you have believed; you are moving two steps nearer to Christ. Now let's complete the steps in obedience. Hebrews 5 : 8-9 says "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." Are you ready now with that faith to let the Godly sorrow move you to repentance (2 Cor. 7 : 10)? For Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13 : 3). Then Luke said in Acts 17 : 30 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Please, dear friend, repent of your sins, quit them today. Paul then goes to Romans 10 : 9-10 and says "with the mouth confession is made unto salvation". Before the Ethiopian Eunuch could be baptized, he was told "if thou believest thou mayest". He said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God". Are you ready now? in Gal. 3 : 27, Paul says "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ". In Romans 6 : 3-4, we are taught that they were baptized into His death. This will put you into Him where salvation is, but you will need to and want to live right in him. (I John 1 : 7).

Call on us for assistance in this. Please read and study your Bible and pray. May God richly bless you and be with you.

Free Book of the Month

Yet another book of outlines, "BIBLE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT" is authored by Roy H. Lanier. The Subjects of these outlines are the great characters of men and women of the New Testament. The good and bad appear. Their strong and weak Points are brought out. You will be greatly helped by studying this book of outlines.

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उद्धार की योजना—लेखक : सनी डेविड

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15 प्रभावशाली रेडियो प्रवचन—लेखक : सनी डेविड

20 लघु रेडियो संदेश—लेखक : सनी डेविड

मुक्ति के संदेश—लेखक सनी डेविड

सुसमाचार बोलनेवाला—लेखक : जे० सी० चोट

(अनुवादक सनी डेविड)

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आवश्यक सूचना !

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The Great Commission

Just before his ascension, Jesus commissioned the eleven apostles to Preach the gospel to the whole world. John's record states, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (Jn. 20:21) Luke says, "Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nation's, beginning at Jerusalem." (Lk. 24:47). Mark records this commission, "Go ye unto all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mk. 16:15-16). Matthew gives a more lengthy account, "All power (authority ASV) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach (Make disciples of-ASV) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world." (Mt. 28:18-20).

These passages are commonly referred to as, "The Great Commission." the word Commission is synonymous with the word "Command" or "Charge". It carries the idea of authority to act in behalf of "another and in a prescribed manner. (Webster). Jesus commanded the apostles by Divine authority to make disciples of all nations in a prescribed manner: Go, teach, and baptize. (Mt. 28:20). The same commission applies to Christians today, because, they are to observe all the commands of Christ. (Mt. 28:20). In this lesson we shall study the accounts of this commission by asking the question, "Why are these words called the Great Commission?"

I. IT'S GREAT BECAUSE OF THE AUTHORITY BEHIND IT.

"All authority is given unto me." Mt. 28:18 ASV

A. This great claim exalts the Lordship of Christ.

1. He was not only our Saviour, but our Lord.
Acts. 2:36.

2. "All authority" embraces every thing over which rule and dominion can be exercised : "in heaven and earth" Matthew. 28:18.

3. This authority was bestowed on Him after his resurrection. Rom. 1:4; Eph. 1:20-22; Phil. 2:5-11.
 4. This command could come from no greater source of authority.
- B. The method by which disciples are made is from Divine authority. Matthew. 28:19.
1. Go-Teach-Baptize, "in the name of" means by Divine authority. Acts 2:38; 4:12.
 2. Without Christians going and teaching the Gospel, People cannot be saved. Rom. 10:13-17.
 3. Without sinners believing, submitting, and being baptized, they cannot be saved. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38.
 4. The man who tries to alter or improve this method is bucking Divine authority.
- II. IT'S GREAT BECAUSE OF IT'S GOALS.
- A. The greatest goal is salvation for every creature. Mk. 16:16.
1. There can be no value placed of man's soul. Matthew 16:26.
 2. The soul that sins is separated from God. Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23.
 3. Preaching the Gospel is God's method and power to bring men back to Him. Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 1:21.
 4. Christ will save only those who obey. Heb. 5:8-9; Mk. 16:16.
- B. The Commission is to make Christianity a universal religion.
1. Make disciples (Christians) of all nations. Mt. 28:19
 2. This demanded the Jews to give up following Moses. Heb. 1:1-2; Gal. 5:4.
 3. The Gentiles were to turn from Pagan religion. Acts 26:17-18; 19:19.
 4. In Christ there is no religious, national, social, or sexual barriers. Gal. 3:26-28.
- C. The Commission demands that we teach new converts. Matthew. 2:20.
1. We often teach and baptize, then drop our new convert.
 2. New converts are to be taught to apply the principles and commands of Christ to their lives.
 3. A failure to carry out the last half of the commission will cause a failure to carry out the first half.

(Contd on last page)

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- D. What we need to carry out that Commission ?
1. Hearts that care.—not passive, but zealous.
 2. Eyes that can see the white harvest.
 3. Men and women to go.
 4. Faith to begin.—at home and abroad.
- III. IT'S GREAT BECAUSE WE HAVE ASSURANCE OF HELP TO CARRY IT OUT.
- A. Christ will be present as we obey the Commission. Mt. 28: 20.
1. A personal presents. "I will be with you."
 2. An abiding presents. "With you always."
 3. An enduring presents. "To the end of the world." (age).
- B. Christ has assured Christian's of presence with them.
1. In their work. Mk. 16:19-20.
 2. As they worship. Mt. 18:20.
 3. When they are tempted. I Cor. 10:13
 4. In their appointed death. Psa. 23:1-4.

CONCLUSION :

1. This assurance is based on whether we are carrying out the Commission.
2. This Commission is great because it is the marching orders of our King.
3. This Commission is great because of its wonderful goals.
4. The greatest question is: "Have you obeyed it?"

TO :

From :

The Bible Teacher

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