

THE BIBLE TEACHER



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THE BIBLE TEACHER

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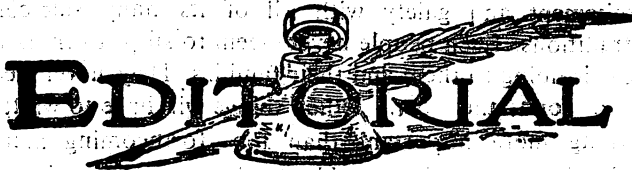
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The Dowry System

Here in India all are familiar with the dowry system. It is the property, money, or whatever, that a woman brings to her husband in marriage. Or perhaps more correctly, it is what the father, brothers, or the family as a whole, whichever the case may be, offers to entice a particular chosen man to marry. This is why a couple feels so blessed when they have a number of sons born to them. From their side they see that it is altogether proper and right for them to expect a rich dowry in offering their sons in marriage. This can bring wealth into their family. On the other hand, this is why parents often feel cursed when they have several daughters because they know that it will present a momentous task to get up a dowry for each one of them at marriage time. This can put them into debt for years or even for the rest of their lives. Even where a couple have an equal number of boys and girls the dowry can still put a tremendous burden on them, depending on their material means of course. But anyway you look at it, it doesn't present a very pretty picture, does it?

Everything points to the fact that the age old custom of the dowry system should be dropped and no longer practised

but it lingers on. This is also in spite of the fact that even the government has carried on campaigns against it. Outlawed or not, liked or disliked, with the rich or the poor, even if heavy debts are incurred, still it goes on. But why? Because it is a traditional practice that is ingrained into the society and the lives of the people of this country. It is a part of the culture and of the religious background of the vast majority of the citizens of the nation. It is hard to go against such a custom when it has held sway for so long, whether good or bad. Next, and as mentioned earlier, those who have sons naturally are in position to reap from it and therefore they would be in favour of keeping it. Then it represents a period of excitement and gaiety with all of its many side customs and traditions. Such people never seem to stop to think about what it is doing to them and their families. They never seem to stop to count the cost. Other things will have to wait; there is nothing more important than the forthcoming marriage. And finally, those who would stand opposed to the dowry system find themselves seemingly in a hopeless situation. The majority may be going along with it but here they are holding back, not willing to give in, refusing to participate. This somewhat marks them and they may be shunned and left outside of their circle of friends. Rather than to end up this way they may find it easier to give in and go along with the pattern that has long gone before them.

What do you do then with something like the dowry system? How do you deal with it? How do you reject it? How do you chart a new course? For sure, it is not easy to change such an old practice. But if it is to be done then someone must have the courage to resist. For instance, it might begin with you. Then as a result of your example, someone might likewise have the courage to do the same. If you can be successful in resisting it then your family members and their families may likewise follow the pattern that you have set. And on and on it goes. While thinking about these things, also think about the following: First, it is an old, outdated, and outmoded practice. Second, it degrades woman and puts her on the level of being even lower than an animal or common merchandise. While men will go out and bargain for and buy animals, and things of a material nature, here is a woman and her family

who have to offer a certain amount of wealth to get a particular man to be willing to become her husband. Another way of looking at it, her family is almost literally buying her a husband. It is not called this, and such a thought would no doubt be rejected, but people of other parts of the world who do not practice this type of thing would certainly look upon it in this manner. Third, it also debases the man involved because he may begin his business, have a car, take a trip, have a bank account, have gold, cattle, or any number of other things, not because he earned it for his wife and future family, but because he received it from his wife through the dowry system. Fourth, it becomes a great burden on the girl and her people. They may have to go into deep debt to provide the dowry. This may be a debt that they will have to pay on for the rest of their lives. Now what man would want to bring such hardships to his wife's people? Fifth, what good is accomplished through this system? Are all of the members on both sides of the family benefitted and helped? Can they highly recommend it to the rest of the world? And sixth, if it is so good, why would the government be against it? Why would others oppose it? Why do so many have to find quiet ways to carry on this practice without calling to much attention to it? My friends, for these reasons, and other reasons, no doubt, the dowry system is really not in the interest of the people of this country. We would therefore like for you to know that we are opposed to it and we would hope that you would likewise take a stand against it.

In Christianity we highly esteem parents and their children whether they be boys or girls. (Ephesians 6:1-4). They are counted as blessings from God. (Genesis 1:26,27). Where the dowry system is not practiced then they are not counted as desirables or undesirables. Both male and female were created by God and each depends on the other. (1 Corinthians 7). Both have souls and God loves both of them. And we love them. And we love our own children, both boys and girls. We want them to grow up to respect each other and those of the opposite sex. (Ephesians 5). Neither do we want to buy or sell our children through a dowry system. We do not want to be burdened the rest of our lives because of it and neither do we want our children to be burdened with such a practice

in their lives or in the lives of their children. We simply want our children to grow up, to be married, to have their own families, to have a good life, and to be happy. (Matthew 19:5,6). We also want to enjoy our future years, and our grandchildren, without having to be worried about having to pay back old debts incurred through the dowries we had to offer to make it possible for our children to be married. Surely this would be the preferred way in dealing with marriage and those who would be wise will no doubt choose this as being the better way.

But many would no doubt respond by saying, "The problem is, you just don't understand." Yes, I understand altogether. The fact is you would allow the customs and traditions of the past to control your life, and even rule and ruin your life, without having the courage to try something else. Also, those old customs and traditions have continued to grow through the years, demanding that you do this and that and something else. A lot of it has become meaningless but because it has been handed down to you from your forefathers then you feel obligated to keep these practices alive. I pity you. You are not the master of your own life. You are letting the past regulate and control you. If there was a real purpose or benefit to be derived from it then it might be a different matter. I ask you again to consider the possibility of throwing off that yoke of bondage. You will be just as married and with far less troubles, problems, and debts for you and your family members. Try it and see if it doesn't work. Little by little there are those who are doing something about these matters and in doing so there is the possibility that more and more will do likewise. Take courage, my friends, this means there is hope for the future.

Why don't you throw off the dowry system by becoming a Christian? That would be an excellent beginning point. In obeying God, you leave behind all of your sins, old habits, customs, and practices. (Romans 6). You become a new person, pure, clean, and godly. (2 Corinthians 5:17). You will have a new name (Christian, Acts 11:26), a new family (the Lord's church, Acts 2:47), a new Father (God, Philippians

4:20), and a new life to live (the Christian life, Colossians 3:17). You begin life again (Johns 3:3-5), but in the right way. If anyone asks you why you are not following the old ways of the past you can tell him that you are a Christian now and you have a better way to live, a better life to enjoy, and a far better hope to look forward to. (Ephesians 1:3; Revelation 22:14; John 14:6).

If any of my brothers and sisters in Christ who may be reading this are still holding on to the past by following such things as the dowry system, may I say to you that we don't mean to say by any means, that all things of the past, that all of the old things, that even all customs and traditions are bad and wrong. But we are saying that there are some things that are not good for man and woman, whether old or new, and in this case they must be rejected. I hope that you will think seriously about what you are doing and that you will make the necessary correction. For after all, you are a Christian now, and of all people, you should be setting the proper example by showing the world that there is indeed a better way.



**associate
editorial**

“Now is the Acceptable Time”

Do you know today is the most precious time in your life? Yes, TODAY! Today is the most valuable time you have. Today is yours! Yesterday has gone. And tomorrow! WE do not know what shall be on the morrow. There were many people yesterday who thought like us today that they would be living tomorrow, but they have gone today. If there is any thing in the world that we are not certain about it then it is death. Death, like God, is no respecter of persons. But we are living today! It is ours! What is the most important thing then for us that we can do today?

If you are a Christian then the most important thing that you can do today is, you can give the Good News of Christ to

others. The most important duty of every human being is to fear God and keep His commandments. (Ecclesiastes 12:12,13). And in the Great Commission Jesus commanded his disciples to Go and preach the gospel to every person upon the earth. Gospel of Christ is the power of God, it has the power to save all people, if obeyed. Was not the sole purpose of Jesus Christ in doing what ever he did to save others? Then what other important thing can you do today?

If you are not a Christian, however, then it is equally important for you to know today that God loves you. God loves you not because of what you are or what you have done, but he loves you instead of what you are or what you have done. Therefore, He wants to save you today. You should know that to save you from your sin God has made His Son Jesus, who knew not sin, to be sin on your behalf, so that you might become righteousness of God in Him. Consequently, He wants you to believe in Jesus Christ that He died for your sins, and He wants you to turn away from your sins, and He wants you to be buried in water of baptism for the forgiveness of your sins today. And He says, "Now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2). **WILL YOU NOT DO THIS TODAY!**

Today is ours.....Let's live it.

And love is strong.....Let's give it.

A song can help.....Let's sing it.

And peace is dear..... Let's bring it.

The past has gone..... don't bring it.

The world is wrong.....Let's right it.

If evil comes.....Let's fight it.

The Road is rough.....Let's clear it.

The future vast.....Don't fear it.

Is faith asleep.....Let's wake it.

Today is ours.....Let's take it.

Selected.

Do You Really have Eternal Life?

Bob Danklefsen

.....MOST PEOPLE DO NOT. To a vast majority Jesus will say, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels."

Over 99% of those I talk to are lost according to God's Word, even though 80% of them think they are saved. This startles the average person, yet Jesus said, "Narrow is the gate and straightened is the way that leadeth unto life and few are they that find it" (Matthew 7 : 14).

If a person responds to accept eternal life exactly like the people did in the New Testament then they will have the same assurance the people in the New Testament had. Sadly, most respond to some man made doctrine, never investigating to see if God approves. They often say, "I know what the Bible says about how to become a Christian, but I feel saved in my heart. You can't tell me I won't make it to heaven." Jesus, when he spoke of this group, said in Matthew 7 : 21-23, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven ; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name ? and in thy name have cast out devils ? and in thy name done many wonderful works ? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." From this passage it is clear that the statement, "Many will say", indicates that a large number of people will claim to have performed numerous good deeds, but He will profess "I NEVER knew you," indicating they had never properly obeyed the Lord's will and, thus, their service to Him was in vain as far as their eternal destiny was concerned.

Why Will Most Be Lost ?

Every person who reaches the age of accountability begins to accumulate sins which are recorded in heaven. Jesus said, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement," Matthew 12 : 36. Solomon

said, "For God will bring every work into judgement, with every hidden thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil," Ecclesiastes 12 : 14. Often I have heard, "I'm just as good as any of you people at church." A person who makes a statement like this is totally ignorant of the fact that God includes everyone under sin, Romans 3 : 9-23. All men will be judged by some law system, Romans 2 : 11-16. Jesus said if you die with your sins unforgiven, you will be separated from Him forever, John 8 : 21. Why won't faithful Christians be lost also? Because they heard the 'gospel and accepted the free gift of eternal life by obeying the gospel.

What Is the Gospel ?

Less than 5% of the hundreds I have talked to have actually known what the gospel is. Yet Paul said that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, Romans 1 : 16. Since it is the power of God to save people from sin, and some who claim salvation do not know what it is, how can they have salvation ?

Victory over Sin

God who knew that man would sin, planned from the foundation of the world, a way to redeem him. Man as a law violator must pay for his sins. God, who has never experienced temptation (James 1 : 13), planned a way for Him to understand man's sin problem. John expresses how He accomplished this, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..... And the Word became flesh", John 1 : 1, 14. After God was manifested in the flesh (1 Timothy 3 : 16) He could be tempted in all points like as man, Hebrews 4 : 15. Even though He was tempted, He remained sinless and yet Paul said, "Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf," 2 Corinthians 5 : 21. Isaiah expressed this so beautifully, when he wrote, "All we like sheep have gone astray ; we have turned everyone to his own way ; and Jehovah hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all," Isaiah 53 : 6. Picture your sins heaped on the sinless son of God. The first words Jesus uttered from the cross were, "Father forgive them ; for they know not what they do." Luke

23 : 34. Jesus had taken the hell we deserve—voluntarily. John 10 : 15.

Victory over the Grave

Jesus was buried in a rich man's tomb, but raised victorious over the grave the third day, 1 Corinthians 15 : 1-4. He promised a victory over the grave for all those who belong to God. 1 Corinthians 15 : 20-23.

Victory over Life

After appearing to man numerous times after He was resurrected, He ascended back to the Father to act as a mediator for Christians, 1 Timothy 2 : 5. He is the only one qualified to act in this capacity because He is both God and man. Therefore, we have one of our kind (man) interceding for Christians. Some day time will end, Jesus will appear in the clouds with His mighty angels "Rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus.....when He shall come to be glorified in His saints." 2 Thessalonians 1 : 8-10.

Expressing Faith in the Gospel

What is faith ? Many have understood faith to mean one must only believe in God and Christ. The scriptures teach that faith encompasses everything that one does to accept the Lordship of Christ, both in response to become a Christian and in Christian living. (See Jude 3, Acts 6 : 7). An excellent example showing that faith embraces everything one does is found in I Timothy 4 : 1-3. Here Paul tells us ".....some shall fall away from the faith," and then he lists two characteristics of the departure ".....forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from meats." Note that neither of these departures involved disbelief in God or Christ. Also, it is apparent that what man considers a "minor" sin, God calls a doctrine of demons (verse 2). The statement, "It doesn't make any difference what one believes as long as he is sincere", obviously did not originate with God, but with man.

Faith Leads to Repentance

When one hears about God's love through Jesus' death and resurrection (Romans 14 : 9) he desires Jesus as Lord. When

one examines his sinful life, it produces godly sorrow and this leads to repentance (II Corinthians 7 : 10). To repent simply means to have another mind. This change of mind is the action of turning from "my will be done" to an attitude of "thy will be done". Incidentally, most people, religious and nonreligious, have a difficult time when it comes to repentance, because they have to give up pre-conceived ideas on how one accepts Christ. True Biblical faith means that when God says something in His Word, the sinner accepts without reservation that God means what He says and says what He means. Therefore, a person who truly turns to Christ must accept His will in order to be saved. (John 12 : 48).

God has chosen to ask true believers to declare their faith in Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9; 10). In the conversion of the *Ethiopian eunuch*, Phillip had taught him about Jesus (Acts 8:35). The eunuch asked to be immersed and was asked to express his faith verbally (verse 37).

Obeying the Gospel

As the scriptures clearly declare, the heart of the gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. This is the message Peter expressed the day the church began. Acts 2:22-24. Those present asked what to do to be saved (verse 37). Peter replied, "Repent ye, and be immersed every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (verse 38). Why did the Lord include immersion in the response for salvation?

God chose for man to re-enact the death, burial and resurrection by being immersed in water.

Romans 6:3, 4 tells how a person demonstrates a trusting faith in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. Paul said, "Or are ye ignorant that all we who were immersed into Christ Jesus were immersed into his death? We were buried therefore with him through immersion unto death; that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life." He further states that when one does this, he will be forgiven of all past

sins (Romans 6:17, 18). This clarifies why Jesus included immersion in the plan of salvation when he gave the great commission. He said, "Go preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is immersed shall be saved: he that believeth shall be condemned" (Mark 16: 16). A person truly seeking salvation from sin wants to know what to do to be saved. After reading or being taught what Jesus wants him to do, he must respond as Jesus asks even though it differs with what he thought one would do. If he really believes Jesus meant what he said, he would want to be immersed as soon as possible. This is exactly what we see in the scriptures. See Acts 8:35-39; Acts 16:31-33 ; Acts 22:16.

Most Reject the Gospel

How Jesus must be hurt deeply when one hears the gospel and then says, "I know what the Bible says to do to be saved, but I don't think I'm lost." A large portion of the religious community today teaches one is saved and then is immersed several days or weeks later at the convenience of the church. No one responded in this manner in the Bible. Man says immersion will not save. Peter says immersion "doth now save you" (I Peter 3:21). Paul said in Galatians 3:26, 27 that when a person is immersed he puts on Christ, and is immersed into Christ. If one is never immersed into Christ, where would he be? Obviously, he would be out in the world and lost. When one is immersed into Christ, this is the beginning of a new birth into God's family, the church (I Corinthians 12:13).

What Church Were the Saved Added to ?

Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." Matthew 16:18. In Acts 2 those who gladly received Peter's message were added to the church (verses 41, 47). In the days of the Apostles, men and women (Acts 8:12), were added to the church when they were immersed. They wore a name that gave glory to the one who died for them—Christians (Acts 11:26). They were members of Christ's church and they were proud of it because Christ had purchased it with his own blood. (Acts 20:28).

The thought of Jesus dying on the cross and the forgiveness

he offers is foremost in the minds of those being immersed. The Lord had instituted a memorial so that the Christian could continue to remember the supreme sacrifice every week. Today Christians eat the Lord's Supper every Sunday, Acts 20:7-11; Corinthians 11:20-26. Also, they were exhorted by a message from God's word through preaching (Acts 20:7). They gave as they purposed in their hearts so that the gospel could be proclaimed to the whole world (II Corinthians 9:6, 7). Through public prayer they expressed thanks to God for all his blessings (I Corinthians 14:16). God also chose singing as a means of expressing one's heart in music. Even though later in denominational groups man chose to take the Lord's supper less frequently and began the introduction of instrumental music, burning incense, statues, etc., God's Word continued to speak out to those seeking only to do his will.

Man Has a Better Idea—or Does He?

Jesus warned the people of His day, "Beware of false teachers," Matthew 7:15ff. Paul warns that the other gospels would be taught, 2 Corinthians 11:4, 13-15. Paul even cried over the fact that forces in the church and outside the church would lead the very elect away from salvation: Acts 20:29ff.

It is the prayer of this author that you too would like to be just a Christian—nothing more, nothing less. Ananais said to the man who became the great apostle Paul, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be immersed, and wash away thy sins, calling on His name," Acts 22:16. That same invitation is offered today to those who want to be with God throughout eternity. If we can help you make this most important decision write to us or contact the church of Christ in your area. You can really know that you have eternal life if you will obey God's Word. 1 John 5:13.

Can We Ignore Denominationalism in our Preaching?

J. C. Choate

Not long ago a gospel preacher told me that he was just going to preach the Bible and have nothing to say about the denominations. I reminded him that this would be wonderful if it could be done, but with the religious world as divided as it is, with even the non-believers not understanding the difference between the Lord's church and the churches of men, that I didn't see how he could preach the truth without speaking out against the denominations. I explained that if he didn't bring up the subject that his audience would, or whoever he happened to be studying with at the time, and that he would be forced to deal with the matter. Without some explanation, even though some might be converted to the truth, they might conclude that the church of Christ is just another denomination and therefore they are left free to fellowship all others who profess faith in Christ.

Our religious friends have been telling us all along that we should preach Christ and leave everyone else alone. They mean by that that we should not get involved in preaching the doctrine of Christ, condemning those of other religious beliefs, but that we should preach only the life of Christ and leave everyone to believe what he wants to believe and to be religiously what he wants to be. They strongly object when we preach not only the person of Christ, but also his will, and stress the fact that we should all believe, obey, and practice the same thing, and thus be Christians only and members of the one church of the Bible. (Ephesians 4: 1-6).

How wonderful it would be if we didn't have to be bothered by denominationalism, if we didn't have to deal with it, if we didn't have to condemn it. We don't like to have to be negative. Certainly we are not trying to be mean and ugly. But it is because we love the souls of men that we have to deal with these things. We are commanded to do so: (Romans 16:17,18).

Jesus had to deal with religious error of his day. (Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 15:9). I am sure that he wasn't just looking for an excuse to condemn someone. Rather, he was forced to deal with the error that was all around him. He condemned the Pharisees and Sadducees for their misuse of the law, for their hypocrisy, and for their refusal to obey God. (Matthew 6; Matthew 23:23-33). He had some rather harsh words to say to them. They were direct, cutting, and they were intended to condemn. He spoke to the guilty and called names. No one wondered or was left to doubt as to who he was talking about. But why did Jesus do this? Didn't he love them? He did it because he did love them, and wanted to see them make the necessary corrections that they might be saved. For sure, they couldn't be saved as they were.

We also must meet the sins and errors of our day with a thus saith the Lord. We do so, not to merely find fault or to condemn, or to even say that we are better than everyone else. But we must preach Christ and to preach Christ is to preach his will, and to preach his will then we must rebuke those in religious error. (2 The Salonians 2:1-12; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Peter 3:17). There is no way to keep from doing this and please God.

To ignore error will not help the situation at all. It will not go away. Rather, where it is not challenged it will continue to grow and to mislead people. Furthermore, those who ignore it will stand condemned for not opposing it and warning others against it. (Ezekiel 3:17-21).

Denominationalism represents the denominations of men. It developed in the fifteen hundreds in the form of Protestantism inasmuch as there were those at the time who were protesting or standing in opposition to Catholicism. It is amazing that the denominations of men today grew out of a period in which they rejected another religious practice but the only protesting they are engaged in today is when someone opposes them. It is also amazing that the only unity that they enjoy is the united stand they take against those who would point out their error. Furthermore, they are unhappy with us

when we reject them, but they feel that it is perfectly in order for them to find fault with us.

The denominations of men only vaguely profess to believe the Bible and to believe that Christ is the Son of God. Actually, they are a strange lot of people. Within their ranks a little of everything is believed and practiced. This is no doubt the key to their popularity. People can soothe their consciences by their acceptance of "Christianity" but in the church of their choice they may believe and practice whatever pleases them. This again is far from the teaching of Christ.

With the denominations then being all around us, with them being in the vast majority, and with even the world's concept of Christianity being coloured by denominationalism, then whether we like it or not, we must deal with it, that is, if we intend to obey God and teach His word. There is no possible way to escape from doing so. We must be gentle but firm. We must have love but courage to condemn sin, even religious sin. We must oppose every man-made denomination, but point to the church that belongs to Christ. (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28). We must warn the ignorant against false teaching but inform them of God's way. Those who listen will be enlightened and those who obey God will be saved. (Mark 16:15,16). Those who refuse to listen will be lost in their ignorance and those who knowingly choose to continue in their error will have to answer to God for their stubbornness and their unwillingness to accept the truth.

We must have the courage and determination to obey God and preach His truth. We cannot afford to ignore sin of any kind, religious or otherwise, and we must never stoop to compromise the truth. It is not easy to take a stand with the Lord, and even sometime having to stand alone, but it is the only thing that one can do if he expects to please God. It may be difficult to do but in the end it will be more than worth it. We just need more who are willing to pay the price to do it.

The Obligation of Truth

By Tom Estes

Truth places an obligation upon all men. Unfortunately, due to handicaps of education, environment, and political systems, all men do not have means of discovering truth, and thus discharging this obligation. How unfortunate these are, Thanks be to God you have an intelligent mind—you have the ability to read, to hear, to compare and to evaluate. You have the capabilities of searching and finding truth. What a great blessing! What a great responsibility!

Pilate asked of Jesus, "What is truth?" (John 18:38) as if to say, "Is there such a thing?" How can one know? Millions go through life with this same bewilderment. (Admittedly truth in some fields is "relative" and elusive (e.g. politics, sociology, and some phases of medicine) However, there are other fields wherein truth is absolute, definite and rigid. Some examples would include certain areas of science, mathematics and God's revealed way to heaven.) While the Christian should be a friend to truth, whatever the area of knowledge might be, the concern of this tract is the truth of God as it relates to the saving of the human soul.

But you know the truth. You know that Jesus said,

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6),

You know that Jesus is the fountainhead of truth; the very embodiment of it. It is said of Him that He was "full of grace and truth." (John 1:14). The Holy Spirit also is said to be the "Spirit of truth." (John 16:13) You know that God's Word is the standard of truth for the soul. "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). You know that:

*"God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must
Worship Him in spirit and in truth."* (John 4:24).

You know that the "judgment of God is according to truth," (Romans 2:2), and that God will render unto them that do not obey the truth "indignation and wrath." (Romans 2:8).

Chances are that you are reading this article because you have recently discovered some truth new to you. This

truth has been in existence longer than you and will outlast you. This truth may shake your entire outlook on life and consequently your life. It may threaten your present answers to life's problems. It may place demands upon you that you would rather not have. It may force you to make decisions you'd rather not make. It may subject you to ridicule or even to persecution, but now that you have discovered this truth, you must decide what you will do with it, and what it will do with you! You will never be the same again. Because of it, you will either be better or worse, but never the same again!

Since Jesus is the truth, this truth is to be found. His children must be seekers for truth. It matters not when nor where nor whom. Truth is always a friend—never an enemy. It is an ally, not an opponent, that is, as long as we are on the right side. Jesus said, "The truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). Truth is opposed only by the forces of Satan—those of darkness, evil and fear. Therefore, any time you fear or oppose truth, you have allowed just that much of Satan to fill your soul—and, in effect, are fighting against your own self interest.

What, then, is the obligation of truth that is upon all men, but especially upon you? First, there is the obligation to . . .

Love the Truth

This is necessary in order to be saved.

"...because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved." (II Thessalonians 2:10).

Inasmuch as Jesus declared Himself to be the truth, one may safely conclude that to love Jesus is to love the truth. By the same token, to not love truth is to not love Jesus—regardless of claims to the contrary. Love for the truth creates the obligation to . . .

Search for Truth

Some are fortunate to have been born into easy access of the truth of God. Some others accidentally stumble upon some facets of some truths. Still others arrive at truth only after

following the Biblical injunction, "seek and ye shall find." (Matthew 7:7). These also bear out the promise of our Lord in John 7:17. All must search for the truth individually—not accepting traditional family, credal faith. Jesus commended Simon Peter with these words:

"Blessed art thou Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee. . ." (Matthew 16:17).

To back away from discovery of truth for fear of its force and implications is hardly to qualify as a disciple of Jesus the Truth. This also renders one unprepared for God's judgment, which will be according to truth. (Romans 2:2). In some ways, unavoidable ignorance may present some extenuating circumstances. But neither God nor man has any respect or consideration for that person who willfully closes his eyes and ears to shut out truth. He who loves the truth will seek it, and ultimately find it. This then creates the obligation to...

Obey the Truth

Note carefully I Peter 1:22; Romans 2:8,9. He who will not accept and obey truth identifies himself with those who opposed Jesus. He aligns himself with those who destroyed Jesus, and with those who thrive on ignorance and deceit. He who will not obey that which is right, therefore, becomes dishonest with himself, and in reality starts living a lie. Truth unobeyed can be spurned only unto the Judgment, if that long. Usually it rises again and again to point its finger at the weakling or hypocrite. But when obeyed, it frees—"the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). Obedience to the truth creates yet another obligation—that of...

Living By Truth

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth." (John 3:4). Often there are some initiatory phases of truth that can be accepted and obeyed. In such cases, this initial obedience is not the end of one's relationship to truth—it is only the beginning. Such initiatory phases usually can be obeyed speedily, and in a brief period of time. But the love and search for truth must continue throughout one's life. All the while he must also live by the truth he has found and accepted. Notice next the obligation of...

Loyalty to Truth

Carefully read Philippians 1:17; Jude 3. Stand up for truth. He who finds truth has the moral responsibility to stand for truth and right. It matters not where—whether in the witness stand, or in the jury room; in the professor's chair, or in the student's desk; in the pulpit, or in the pew; in the home, on the job, or in the community. But by all means, the Christian has the binding obligation to stand up for the spiritual truths of God, His salvation, and His kingdom. In some cases, depending upon opportunity, ability and maturity, this will require no more than taking a stand for right and truth and letting one's identity and stand be known. In some other situations, it will require an active defense of the truth against its opponents or an active offense into the stronghold of error. Pray for the strength and ability to stand for the truth in whatever of life's situations that yet await you. Lastly, observe the obligation of. . .

Sharing the Truth with Others

Notice carefully Matthew 12:30; Mark 5:19. He who possesses truth that he does not wish to share does not fully possess the truth he imagines he has! Truth was not made to be hoarded. It is every man's birthright. The nature of sharing the truth with others is such that one must possess complete humility, and a sincere love for his fellow man. Remember also, that some of those who seemingly are opposed to truth are in reality searching for it. Your attitude and life can, with patience, love and humility, open the door for them. Or, with short temper, bitterness and pride, you may close forever the door they are seeking to open.

The obligation of truth is upon you, regardless of the cost involved. Solomon said, "Buy the truth, and sell it not." (Proverbs 23:23). Besides the exacting hours of searching, truth often exacts a greater price. The truth cost Jesus His life. So with Stephen, the first Christian martyr. It deprived Paul of the religion of his parents, and sentenced him to compass land and sea with the truths of the Gospel. Jesus described the kingdom of God with two parables: Matthew 13:45,46. Note especially:

“Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man seeking goodly pearls, who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” Matthew 13:46.

The same illustration is applicable to man's search for truth and his willingness to pay whatever price involved in order to embrace it. Jesus cautioned those of his generation and ours with these thought-provoking words :

“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me ; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” Matthew 10:37.

“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” (Mark 8:38).

How wonderful is the assurance of Jesus in Mark 10:29,30: *“...for those who will embrace His truth, he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time... and in the world to come eternal life.”*

The Cross of Christ

“THE CROSS OF CHRIST is the greatest of all paradoxes. It was the most blackest event in the history of the world. **YET** the most wonderful thing that ever happened. It was the saddest spectacle man ever beheld. **YET** out of it came the greatest joy. The cross was Satan's greatest victory and Christ's most humiliating defeat **YET** it was the most stunning defeat Satan ever suffered and the most glorious victory Christ won by losing. He conquered by surrendering.

The cross was the greatest exhibition of divine justice in condemning sin, **YET** the most wonderful demonstration of divine mercy in pardoning sin. It was God's greatest manifestation of hatred for sin. **YET** His supreme proof of love for the sinner. The cross was the means by which God's justice condemned sin

and His mercy forgave it. The cross was the darkest hour in history. YET it was the time of greatest light. Though the sun refused to shine, and God hid His face from Christ, the cross was the means by which Christ really became the "light of the world." In the cross we see man's hatred for Christ. YET we see Christ's love for man. There we see human vengeance as they cry for his blood. Yet we see divine forgiveness as Jesus prays "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

The cross portrays man's sinfulness and God's holiness; human weakness and divine strength. It shows man's inability to save himself, and God's ability and power to do this for man. The cross, from the human standpoint, is foolishness; YET it is a revelation of the highest wisdom of God.

—Selected

What Would You Give In Exchange For Your Soul ?

C. E. Powell

We miss the purpose of earth so much of the time by preparing for earth and earthly wealth and prestige, but Jesus said, "What is a man profited if he gain the whole world and loose his own soul ?"

The Lord instructed us to "lay not up treasures upon the earth where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where moth and rust doth not corrupt and where thieves do not break through and steal." Earthly treasures are fine but will be useless at the second coming of our Lord.

Would you be willing to wage an effort for the cause of Christ to such an extent that you would give of time, effort and even your life that your soul might be saved ? Jesus said "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). Jesus also said that "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose

it and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matt. 16:24-25).

I don't believe that a person can make it to heaven unless he highly considers other people; we must be considerate of their souls, or their physical well-being. For this reason our Lord expects a different kind of people. In his judgment scene, he pictured those who would be well pleasing as those who would have served their fellow man in benevolent acts. James then shows that we should have a direct interest in the souls of our fellow man as he uses James 5:19:20. Also in Gal. 6:1. I study about the lost souls of today as we build our fabulous buildings and do other things that consume our money. Would you be willing, individually, to do something to spread the cause of Christ's Kingdom upon the earth? That is, to sacrifice of something that you need or want. It is not enough to say I love my Lord or I love my fellow man, but we must demonstrate this love by the way that we see after his well-being.

What would you give in exchange for your soul? Would you hold for high morals in a time when this is not a very popular thing to do? Solomon says "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). A nation and the Christian religion can be ruined by low and destructive morals. Above all, a generation of people could be lost by moral degradation. So your soul's eternal destiny may be determined by the way that you stand opposed to the low moral standing of our age. An age where drugs, sex, alcohol and premarital activities are being condoned by the general public. Our children tell us that foul language from even 3rd and 4th graders are frequently heard. We are also told that drugs and alcohol are being used by children as low as the 5th and 6th grades. That pre-marital sex is not frowned upon even by many church leaders. All this plus dancing, immodest apparel and social drinking. This is not just a teen-age sin, but all ages are going in for this type of living and it eventually becomes a way of life. It has already become a way of life for many. My friend, we are calling you to come back and search for the value of

See Last Page

“स्वर्ग का राज्य”

जसवन्त गुड़िया

मैं, आप तथा और भी अन्य लोग जो मेरे और आप के साथ इस देश में रहते हैं सभी भारत के नागरिक हैं। भारत विश्व में जनतंत्र एवं सर्वभौम (Sovereign) राज्यों में गिना जाता है। आप यह भलिभांति जानते हैं कि राज्य का संबंध एक निश्चित भू-खंड, जनसंख्या और एक ऐसी सत्ता (Power), जो कि राज्य के अस्तित्व की कायम रखता है, अर्थात् सरकार, से होता है। इस सत्ता का खोत चाहे एक या एक से अनेक लोग भी हो सकते हैं। जहां राजतंत्र या तानाशाही हो वहां सत्ता एक ही व्यक्ति के हाथों में होती है और जहां जनतंत्र ही वहां सत्ता जनता के हाथ में होती है।

चूंकि मनुष्य को जीवन यापन के लिए अनेक समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है उदाहरणार्थ—रोटी, कपड़ा, आवास, विभिन्न सामाजिक परिस्थितियां, अराजकता इत्यादि इसलिए मनुष्य के लिए यह आवश्यक हो जाता है कि वह किसी राज्य का नागरिक बने ताकि इन पर विजय प्राप्त करते हुए सुख-समृद्धि की ओर बढ़ता रहे। मनुष्य एक सामाजिक प्राणी है और राज्य मनुष्य के लिए एक सामाजिक आवश्यकता है।

जब कोई राज्य किसी देश में स्थापित या कायम होता है तो सबसे पहले उसके लिये एक योजना तैयार की जाती है, तब मौजूदा विरोधी तत्त्वों एवं समस्याओं से संघर्ष जारी किया जाता है और उन पर जब विजय प्राप्त होती है तो स्वतः ही एक राज्य कायम हो जाता है। उसके बाद एक संविधान बनाया जाता है और सारे विश्व में उस राज्य के अस्तित्व में आने की घोषणा की जाती है। जैसा कि भारत सन् १९४७ में एक स्वतंत्र राज्य कायम हुआ तब इसका संविधान तैयार किया गया और तत्पश्चात् भारत एक गणतन्त्र राज्य घोषित किया गया।

इस प्रकार हमने एक राज्य के विषय में संक्षिप्त विवरण पर प्रकाश डाला। और अब आईए एक ऐसे राज्य का संक्षिप्त अध्ययन करें जोकि अत्यन्त ही अद्भुत और प्रभावशाली राज्य है। अद्भुत इसलिए है क्योंकि इसकी स्थापना हुए १९०० वर्षों से अधिक हो चुके हैं और इसका अन्त नहीं है, बल्कि यह अनन्तकाल का राज्य है। और प्रभावशाली इसलिए है कि इसका प्रभाव संसार के कोने-कोने में हो चुका है। और यदि आप इसके अतीत में भांके तो यह देखेंगे कि समय-समय पर क्रूर से क्रूरतम शासक वा लोग इसके कुचलने के लिए उठ खड़े हुए और वे इस दुनियां से सदा के लिए चले गये

लेकिन यह राज्य अज्ञ भी कायम है। किन्तु हम यह जानने का प्रयत्न करेंगे कि इस राज्य का उद्देश्य क्या है? इसकी कायम करने की योजना कब बनाई गई? कौन इसके नागरिक हैं और कौन इसका प्रधान है? इस राज्य की सीमा कहां तक है और इसका भविष्य क्या है?

बाइबल के पुराने नियम में दानियेल नबी ने भविष्यवाणी करके कहा था, "और उन राजाओं के दिनों में स्वर्ग का परमेश्वर एक ऐसा राज्य उद्वेग करेगा जो अनन्तकाल तक न टूटेगा" (दानियेल २ : ४४)। यहाँ "उन राजाओं" का तात्पर्य चौथे राज्य से है जिसके विषय में हम दानियेल २ : ३८-४५ में पढ़ते हैं। वे चार राज्य ये हैं :

(१) बाबूल (Babylon), (२) माडी और फारसी (Medes and Persian) (३) यूनानी (Greek) (४) रोमी (Roman)।

फिर हम नये नियम में पढ़ते हैं कि जब फिलिस्तीन और यहूदा रोमी साम्राज्य के अधीन थे तो मसीह ने "राज्य का सुसमाचार प्रचार किया और कहा, समय पूरा हुआ है और परमेश्वर का राज्य निकट आ गया है; मन फिराओ और सुसमाचार पर विश्वास करो।" (मरकुस १ : १४-१५; लूका २ : १-२)।

सो परमेश्वर का राज्य मन फिराव और सुसमाचार पर विश्वास करने से सम्बन्धित है। बाइबल हमें बताती है कि मनुष्य पापी है और पाप ने उसे परमेश्वर से अलग कर दिया है। इसलिए मनुष्य को चाहिए कि वह पाप से मन फिराए और सुसमाचार पर विश्वास करके अपने पापों के क्षमा हेतु जल में बपतिस्मा ले। (मरकुस १६ : १६; प्रेरितों २ : ३८)। इस तरह मनुष्य का पापों से उद्धार होता है और मसीह के द्वारा परमेश्वर से मेल हो जाता है। क्योंकि मसीह ने कहा था, "जब तक कोई मनुष्य जल और आत्मा से न जन्मे तो वह परमेश्वर के राज्य में प्रवेश नहीं कर सकता।" (यूहन्ना ३ : ५)।

सुसमाचार अर्थात् यीशु मसीह हमारे पापों के लिए मर गया, गाड़ा गया और पवित्रशास्त्र के अनुसार तीसरे दिन जी भी उठा और इसी सुसमाचार के द्वारा मनुष्य का पापों से उद्धार होता है। (१ कुर्लिथि ० १५ : १-४)। पौलुस के अनुसार परमेश्वर के राज्य में मनुष्य को पापों की क्षमा प्राप्त होती है। (कुर्लिथियों १ : १३-१४)।

सो परमेश्वर का राज्य एक आत्मिक राज्य है। इसलिए मसीह ने

कहा था "मेरा राज्य इस जगत का नहीं है" (यूहन्ना १८ : ३६) । परमेश्वर का राज्य, मसीह यीशु का राज्य और स्वर्ग का राज्य में कोई अन्तर नहीं है ।

अब हम यह जानने की चेष्टा करेंगे, कि इस राज्य की स्थापना कब हुई ? मसीह ने कहा था "स्वर्ग का राज्य निकट है" और एक बार उसने लोगों के बीच यह कहा था कि "मैं तुम से सच कहता हूँ कि जो यहाँ खड़े हैं, उनमें से कोई-कोई ऐसे हैं, कि जब तक परमेश्वर के राज्य को सामर्थ्य सहित आया हुआ न देख लें मृत्यु का स्वाद कदापि न चखेंगे । (मरकुस ९ : १) । अर्थात् यह राज्य उस समय की पीढ़ी के समय में ही आनेवाला था । लेकिन तभी वह मसीह के इस पृथ्वी पर के जीवन काल में कदापि स्थापित नहीं हुआ । हम बाइबल में पढ़ते हैं :—

"क्योंकि तू ने ब्रध होकर अपने लोहू से हर एक कुल, और भाषा, और लोग और जाति में से परमेश्वर के लिए लोगों को मोल लिया है और उन्हें हमारे परमेश्वर के लिए एक राज्य और याजक बनाया है । (प्रकाशित ० ५ : ९-१०) । अर्थात् परमेश्वर का राज्य मसीह की मृत्यु अर्थात् उसके लोहू बहाने के बाद ही स्थापित हुआ ।

दानियेल तबी ने इस राज्य की स्थापना के विषय में सैकड़ों वर्षों पूर्व यह भविष्यद्वानी की थी "और देखो, मनुष्य के संतान-सा कोई आकाश के बादलों समेत आ रहा था और वह उस अति प्राचीन के पास पहुँचा, और उसको वे समीप लाए । तब उसको ऐसी, प्रभुता, महिमा और राज्य दिशा गया कि देश-देश और जाति-जाति के लोग और भिन्न-भिन्न भाषा बोलनेवाले सब उसके अधिन हों; उसकी प्रभुता सदा अटेल और उसका राज्य अचिनाशी ठहरा" । (दानियेल ७ : १३-१४) ।

बाइबल के द्वारा हमें यह ज्ञात होता है कि मसीह अपने मरने और जी उठने के बाद इस पृथ्वी पर चालीस दिन तक शिष्यों को दर्शन देता रहा । और एक दिन उन्हें वह जैतून पर्वत पर ले गया और उनके देखते-देखते ही वह उनके बीच से ऊपर उठा लिया गया और बादलों ने उसे छिपा लिया, अर्थात् बादलों के बीच से वह स्वर्ग में उठा लिया गया और वह परमेश्वर के दाहिने हाथ जा बैठा । (प्रेरितों १ : ९; मरकुस १६ : १९) । और लिखा है, मसीह ने स्वर्ग में जाकर सर्वोच्च प्रद-क्राभा (प्रेरितों २ : ३३), सब प्रवक्ता की प्रधानता और अधिकार और सामर्थ्य और प्रभुता के और हू नाम के ऊपर स्थान पाया (इफिसियों १ : २१) । मसीह के अनुसार, उसने दूर

देश (स्वर्ग) में जाकर राजपद लिया ताकि वह पुनः वापस आए (लूका १६ : ११-१५) । सो इस प्रकार दानियेल नबी की तबूत पूरी हुई । और मसीह ने स्वर्ग के राज्य को कायम किया । मसीह ने राजपद प्राप्त किया, और वह एक दिन फिर आ रहा है, एक दिन, अर्थात् अंत के दिन और तब वह सारी प्रधानता और सारा अधिकार और सामर्थ्य का अन्त करके राज्य को परमेश्वर पिता के हाथ सौंप देगा । (१ कुरिथियों १५ : २४) । और तब न्याय होगा और बने हुए लोग अनन्त राज्य में प्रवेश करेंगे । (२ पतरस १ : ११; २ तीमुथियुस ४ : १८) ।

सो स्वर्ग के राज्य की स्थापना मसीह ने कब की यह हमने देखा । इसकी घोषणा सर्वप्रथम मनुष्यों के बीच यरूशलेम में पितेकुस्त के दिन की गई । जैसा कि मसीह ने कहा था, स्वर्ग के राज्य का आगमन सामर्थ्य के साथ होगा (मरकुस ६ : १), और वह सामर्थ्य के साथ आएगा (प्रेरितों १ : ८) । फिर हम यह देखते हैं कि पवित्रात्मा, अर्थात् सामर्थ्य पितेकुस्त के दिन उतरा । (प्रेरितों २) । उसी दिन सर्वप्रथम यह प्रचार किया गया कि मसीह यीशु को राजपद, प्रभुता और सर्वोच्च पद दिया गया है, वह दाऊद के सिंहासन पर विराजमान है और वह परमेश्वर के दाहिने हाथ बैठा है । (प्रेरितों २ : २६-३६) । उसी दिन प्रेरित पतरस ने सर्वप्रथम स्वर्ग के राज्य की कुंजी (मत्ती १६ : १८) का प्रयोग किया और ३००० लोगों ने राज्य में प्रवेश किया । सो यू इस पृथ्वी पर स्वर्ग के राज्य की शुरुआत हुई जो कि सन् ३३ में पवित्रात्मा के सामर्थ्य सहित हुई ।

इससे पहले कि हम यह जाने कि इस राज्य की योजना कब बनाई गई हमें "कलिसिया" के बारे में ज्ञान लेना अत्यन्त ही आवश्यक है । "कलिसिया" यूनानी भाषा से लिया गया है जिसे यूनानी में "एकलिसिया" बोला जाता है । इसका अर्थ है "बुलाए हुए लोग" । मसीह ने कहा था, कि वह अपनी कलिसिया बनाएगा । (मत्ती १६ : १८) । और यह भविष्यद्वाणी पितेकुस्त के दिन पूरी हुई अर्थात् उस दिन मसीह ने अपनी कलिसिया का आरम्भ ३००० लोगों से किया । उसने एक ऐसा भुंड तैयार किया जिसको कि स्वर्ग में निवास करने के लिए बुलाया गया है । (यूहन्ना १४ : ३) ।

यशायाह नबी ने भविष्यद्वाणी की थी कि "अंत के दिन में ऐसा होगा कि यहोवा के अवन का पर्वत सब पहाड़ों पर दृढ़ किया जाएगा" हर जाति के लोग धारा की भाँई उसकी ओर चलेंगे क्योंकि यहोवा की व्यवस्था

कम से यह भाटा टाट करती है कि राज्य या कर्त्तव्यता दोनों एक दूसरे के पर्याय अब हमें यह कहने में कोई भी आपत्ति नहीं है बल्कि बाइबल स्पष्ट

आरम्भ है। (प्रति २) ।

(६) राज्य और कर्त्तव्यता दोनों एक ही दिन इस पृथ्वी पर

(मती १६ : १८) ।

मसीह ने कर्त्तव्यता को "अपनी कर्त्तव्यता" कहा था ।

(५) मसीह ने राज्य को "मेरा राज्य" कहा था । (यूहन्ना १८ : ३६) ।

मसीह कर्त्तव्यता का पिर है । (कैर्त्तव्यता १ : १८) ।

(४) राज्य का राजा स्वयं मसीह है । (यूहन्ना १८ : ३७) ।

३ : ११) ।

यही बात कर्त्तव्यता में भी है । (यसायाह २ : १-४ कैर्त्तव्यता

है । (दानियेल ७ : १३-१४ ; प्रकाशित ५ : ६-१०) ।

(३) राज्य में पृथ्वी के सभी देवा, जाति, भाषा के लोग शामिल

है । (प्रति २० : २८) ।

कर्त्तव्यता को भी प्रभु ने अपना स्वयं बहाकर मौल किया

स्वयं से मौल किया है । (प्रकाशित ५ : ६-१०) ।

(२) राज्य को उन लोगों से बनाया गया है जिन्हें मसीह ने अपने

देवा है । (प्रति २ : ४७) ।

और जो लोग उदार पाते हैं उन्हें प्रभु कर्त्तव्यता में मिला

१ : १३-१४) ।

(१) स्वर्ग के राज्य में हमें प्रभु से उदार प्राप्त होता है (कैर्त्तव्यता

की कर्त्तव्यता के बीच क्या सम्बन्ध है ?

भाषा के लोग शामिल है । अब हम यह देखें कि स्वर्ग के राज्य और मसीह

के बाद, प्रथम पत्रोकेन के दिन बनाई, जिसमें कि आज हर देवा, जाति और

इस प्रकार हम देखते हैं कि मसीह ने अपना कर्त्तव्यता, अपना प्रभु

वीर्यपूर्ण ३ : १५

(३) "यहोवा का अवन" - जोवने परमेश्वर की कर्त्तव्यता १

(२) "परवान" - प्रति १ : ८ ; २ : ५

(१) "अन के दिन" - प्रति २ : १७

यह मजबूतानी पत्रोकेन के दिन पूरी हुई ।

सिधोन से और उसका वचन परवान से निकलना । (यसायाह २ : १-४) ।

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the soul in comparison to all of this. We know that we cannot condon the things of the world and of Christ at the same time. (James 4 : 4). Where your eternal soul will be is the important thought for you. I love your soul. Do you love mine ?

In Christ the soul can be secured. Paul says all spiritual blessing are there. (Eph. 1:3). Also that salvation is in Christ. (2 Tim. 2:10). That it is in no other. (Acts 4:11-12). So in order to have the care for your soul, get into Christ and enjoy the blessings received there. We enter Christ by baptism. (Gal. 3:27), have you been baptized into Him ? Of course you can't come to him unless you believe or have faith ! (Heb. 11. 6) you can't come and bring your sins, so repent of them. (Acts 2 : 38) Paul then says confession is unto salvation. (Rom. 10 : 9-10). Then we are ready to be baptized into Christ. Will you now ? Make a favorable response today. Study the Bible and if you are not a Christian and need help, call us. If you are then live righteously.

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