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# THE BIBLE TEACHER

*Pleading for the Restoration of Pure New Testament Christianity*

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Vol. 31

May 2000

No. 1

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## EDITORIAL

### ***What Does The Bible Teach?***

***"... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."***

Christ, after His resurrection, told His disciples, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28: 18, 19).

A few years ago, in America, a man began to proclaim that he was a prophet of God and that God had revealed to him that what Christ actually meant in Matthew 28:19 was that His disciples should baptise people in the name of Jesus only! Because, he said, Jesus is the only God. That is, He is the Father, and He is the Son, and He is the Holy Spirit. To justify his doctrine of oneness, he went to such scriptures where Christ said, "I and my Father are one." (John 10:30). And that Christ had told His disciples that the Father was to send the Holy Spirit on them in His name. (John 14:26). Therefore, taught he, Jesus is the Father and He is the Son and He is the Holy Spirit. Further, he said, to prove his point, that Peter told people to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, in Acts 2:38, and in other verses of the scriptures people were told to be baptized in the



name of Jesus or in the name of the Lord. What is the name of the Father? What is the name of the Son? And what is the name of the Holy Spirit? he asked. "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." Therefore Jesus is the only God, and all people must be baptized in the name of Jesus only, even those who have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, as Christ had taught, should be baptized in the name of Jesus only, the so called prophet taught. Today his followers, who are called "Jesus only" are teaching everywhere that there is no Father and there is no Holy Spirit, but Jesus only, and therefore people must be baptized in the name of Jesus only!

But what did Christ say? He said, "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The apostle of Christ, Paul, almost two thousand years ago had said, "there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:7-8). Now, what would have been easy for Christ to say? "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Or, "baptize them in my name." Wouldn't this be simple? "baptize them in my name." But He didn't say this. Instead He said, "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Why? Didn't He know better? Well, He did. He knew that besides Him in the Godhead there is also the Father and there is also the Holy Spirit. Just before He commanded His disciples to go and baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, He had said that, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." (Matt. 28:18). There was someone else, who had given Him the authority, after His resurrection, which He had left behind when He had emptied Himself in coming down on earth (Philippians 2:6-7). The Father in heaven, to whom He often prayed (or did he Pray to Himself, if He was the Father Himself!) had given Him the authority.

The "Jesus only" people do not understand what the Bible says about God. The Bible very clearly teaches that there are more than one personalities in the Godhead (Acts 17:29; Colossians 2:9). Even the word Elohim in Hebrew language,



from which the English world God is derived, means plural. That is to say, there are more than one in God. And this is too obvious in Genesis 1:26 where God said, "Let Us make man in Our image." Notice the words "Us" and "Our". Again, in Genesis 11:7, God said, "Come let Us go down." Who was He speaking to? Was He not speaking to the other members of the Godhead? Who were they? Genesis 1:1 & 2 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . . . And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." John 1:1 & 14 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." So here we have God, the Spirit of God or the Holy Spirit, and the Word who became flesh or Jesus Christ the Son (John 3:16). There is only one God. But in that one God there are three distinct Personalities, and each of them is God. There was God, but there was Word with God, in the beginning, who too was God; and likewise the Spirit of God, who was also God. Christ said, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. . . ." (John 3:16). John said, the Word Who was with God and was God, became flesh, the Son. That is why Christ, the Son on earth, always prayer to the Father in heaven. When Ananias had lied, notice, Peter first told that he had lied to the Holy Spirit, but then he told him that he had lied to God (Acts 5:3, 4). Because the Holy Spirit is God.

Just before His public ministry, when Christ was baptized, all the three Personalities of the Godhead had come together. We read, "when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17). Now, if Christ Himself was the Holy Spirit and also the Father and the Son too, as the "Jesus only" people teach, then this means that when Jesus was baptized, He came upon Himself like a dove and also spoke to Himself from heaven claiming that He Himself was His Son. How absurd! Also, when He was on the cross, and spoke, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46), was He talking to Himself? And



when He had said, "Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit" (Luke 23:46), was He saying that He himself was the Father and He was commending His spirit in His own hands? Also, why did He pray, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34)? The truth of the matter is that there was the Father in heaven, when Christ was on earth, and there was the Holy Spirit whom the Father was going to send to the apostles, after the Son would ascend to heaven. Christ was not the only one in the Godhead, but He was one of the Personalities in the Godhead, besides the Father and the Holy Spirit.

When Christ had said, "I am in the Father, and the Father in me," He did not by that mean that the Father and He were one Person; but that they were one in the Godhead, in unity and in purpose. However, if by saying that Father became Jesus, as "Jesus only" people teach, then all His followers also cease to exist individually, but become one in Jesus, "Jesus only!" Because Christ said, "That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in me, and I in you; that they also may be one in us." (John 17:21)!

The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are three distinct Personalities, according to the Bible, and together they are one God. And for this reason Christ had asked His disciples to baptize the believers in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. That is, by the authority of God. However, one need to remember that when Christ had sent His disciples to preach the gospel and to baptize the believers, most people were familiar with the baptism of John the baptiser, and many of them had already been baptized according to John's baptism. (Matthew 3:1-6). This explains then as to why His disciples had to ask people to be baptized in the name of Christ or by the authority of Christ. (Acts 2:38; 19:5). But this does not mean that they were baptizing people in the name of Jesus only. Or is there a passage in the Bible where one could read what the apostles, or any one who had administered baptism at any place, had said at the point of baptizing? There is none. Would the disciples of Christ disobey Him? Would they argue with Him about what is the name of the Father, and what is the name of the Son, and what is the name of the Holy Spirit? No. They understood him that He was asking them to baptize the believers in the name of the Deity, or by the authority of God. Watch the deceiver.



# Why A.I.D.S.?

J.C. CHOATE

In recent years the world has been plagued by A.I.D.S. Since there is no cure for it, hundreds of thousands have already died with it. Some countries, especially in Africa, have been devastated by it. It has the potential of almost wiping out some countries.

Where did this disease come from? What causes it? How does it work?

It came about through homosexual activity, men having sex with each other, which is an unnatural practice. It effects the immune system and makes it impossible for one that has this disease to overcome other sicknesses and diseases. There are some medicines that have been developed that helps these patients, but no permanent cure has been found. Homosexuals and their sympethisers would like to find a cure so that they can continue with their ungodly activity. They even think that the governments of the world should fund research efforts to bring about such a cure. They would put this ahead of finding a cure for cancer and many other deadly diseases and sicknesses.

A.I.D.S. can be contacted through sexual acts with those who are H.I.V. positive. It can also be passed on by drug addicts who share needles with each other in taking drugs.

The liberal news media of the world have taken up for the A.I.D.S. victims since they have promoted the homosexuals throughout the world and pushed their cause of having so called equal rights, even passing laws that would allow them to marry each other. They try to force homosexuals on all others in the military, in politics, in the entertainment world, and so on. They imply that if you oppose their lifestyle in any way that you are a bigot, that you are trying to deny their rights, that you are treating them less than human.

All of this has led to them "coming out of the closet" and to proudly reveal who they are and to demand their so-called rights, which really means that they want special privileges and rights above all others. It is amazing how far they have gone to force themselves upon the general population.



Since A.I.D.S. first came to light through homosexual activity, they, with the help of the press, have done everything in their power to show that A.I.D.S. have also been contacted through heterosexual relationships. In other words, it is not just homosexual practices that produces A.I.D.S. but also heterosexual activity may also produce it. This, however, has never been proven. Man and woman in a proper marriage relationship, and where neither one are taking drugs with questionable characters, have no reason to fear A.I.D.S. It is only when people are immoral, and especially engaged in homosexual practices and taking drugs with those who have A.I.D.S., that one is in danger of contacting this disease.

When it is emphasized that non-homosexuals may also get this disease, they are conveniently overlooking the facts that one or both may be taking illicit drugs, may be involved in immoral sex with a person who is an H.I.V. positive, or one or both of them may have had a homosexual or lesbian contact in the past, or even presently. In other words, the impression is left that there are non-homosexuals, or non-lesbians, or non-drug takers, but as those who are straight, who are heterosexuals, still they have gotten A.I.D.S. from each other. Again, this has never been proven. Neither do any of those who bring these kind of things up ever mention the fact that these so-called heterosexuals may have had some homosexual contracts or may have contacted this disease through illicit drugs.

The fact is, when people engage in immoral practices, man with woman, man with man, or woman with woman, then they are risking their very lives. There are many sexual diseases that come about through immoral practices, some of which are curable and some that are not. Of course A.I.D.S. is the result of homosexual activity. Through the law of nature then, those who are pure in their morals and practices the kind of marriage that we read about in the Bible, then they are rewarded with companionship without the fear of these diseases. Those who want to engage in immoral activities whether male or female or the same sex, then the law of nature is ready to punish such people with various diseases, and even to the point of insanity and death.

The Bible clearly condemns homosexual and lesbianism practices. The Old Testament laws forbade such and even



Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of such sins. Then in the New Testament, fornication, adultery, homosexual and lesbian practices are clearly condemned. Read Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 6:9,10; and Galatians 5:19-21. Listen to the Apostle Paul and what he has to say about all of this: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 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, 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 uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted 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 into 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 in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do these things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful; Who knowing the judgment 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 1:18-32).

My! Did you hear what Paul had to say? My friends, if we take up for all of those bad things, including homosexual



activities, then we are opposing God himself.

Am I then encouraging hatred toward these people, refusing them, rejecting them, not having any love for them? No. I reject their sins but I want to see them saved, and therefore I would ask them to believe in God, to repent of their sins, to confess Christ, and to be baptized to be saved. (Hebrews 11:6; Acts 17:30; Romans 10:10; Acts 2:38). Unless they do this they will die in their sins and be lost for all eternity. That applies to one and all.

## *Feet Washing*

FRANCIS DAVID

Jesus our Lord was one of the unique and remarkable persons who ever lived in this world. He was a kind of man who practised what he preached and this is what Luke tells us in the book of Acts chapter one and verse one, he says: "... Jesus began both to do and teach."

One of the remarkable example that we see about Jesus is revealed in the book of John where the master Jesus becomes the servant. Though He was a master to his disciples, but he showed them how to serve one another. Jesus knew that he is going to be betrayed soon by one of his own disciples, he had supper with them and as the supper was over He rose from the supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After this, He poured some water in the basin and began to wash the disciples feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Everyone was astonished to see this and they were talking among themselves "What's happening?" After this the Lord came to His beloved disciple, whose name was Peter and Peter said to Him "Lord, are you washing my feet?" Jesus told him let me do it, and you may not understand it now but you will understand it later. Further we read in this incident that after He washed their feet, he took His garments and sat down, then He asked them: "Do you know what I have done to you? Then He answered them that you call me master and teacher and Lord, and being this I have washed your feet,



you ought to wash one another feet. The important thing that Lord said here is this "that He has given them as an example, that they should do as he has done to them."

Many of my religious friends teach it as a church ordinance and they practise feet washing in their congregations. But our Lord did not mean that it should be done as a church practise or a ritual. Here we see that Jesus wanted to teach them a lesson of humility. He wanted to put in their minds that how they should treat each other. You may be practising feet washing but just let me ask you how you are treating your fellowman? Our Lord was full of humility. He was the most humblest man who ever lived on the Face of this earth. The Bible tells us about him that: "Who, (Jesus) being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men, and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. . ." (Phil. 2:6-8). And apostle Paul says that "let this mind be in you which was also in Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:5). Washing feet mean clothed ourselves with humility. The kind of humility which our Lord had. Many have been practising feet washing, but I tell you, and this is a fact that they have not transformed their lives according to the teachings of Jesus. The gist of the lesson here we find that Lord is trying to teach humility and service to His disciples. We might be giving more stress on feet washing but may be forgetting the real meaning of the teaching here.

Friends, we learn from this particular incident that Jesus our Lord actually wanted to teach us that we must learn humility. Foot washing was a custom of those times founded on the wearing of Sandals and then walking miles and naturally your feet will be dusty, because the roads were very dusty. By washing his disciple's feet he has shown the humility which he expects from them. All the disciples were watching this but nobody took the towel to do the menial service which our Lord was doing. Here we see that this very act emphasized His humility. Do we practise humility as Christians? What about our attitude toward our fellowmen? Do we practise humility in our families? What about husband and wife, do you practise humility when you have some argument? What about your brothers and sisters? On many occasions, we forget this. Some of my

religious friends forget to practise humility but rather give more stress on washing feet. What about when dealing with our enemies? No doubt, we want that they should be punished and sometime we even try to curse them. But see, what our Lord did, the Scripture tells that He prayed for His enemies (Lk. 23:34). In Matthew chapter 5 verse 44 Jesus Himself said: "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

We need to learn from Jesus the Son of God. Once He said: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matt. 11:29). Let us keep in mind that this was not a religious ceremony but rather one of the strongest example of humility. Do you have the mind of Christ? Paul says: "Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5). If we don't have the mind of Christ, then instead of washing each other feet let us first wash our minds or our hearts where lies all the pride and haughtiness. Let us lay aside all the pride and serve our fellowmen with all humility. Jesus talked to his disciples James and John and they were discussing with him the subject of greatness and Jesus said: "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so AMONG YOU; but whoever desires to become great among you, shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. (Mark 10:42-44). Our Lord came to serve the mankind and not to be served. (verse 45). Let us be humble clothed with humility (I Pet. 5:5). We must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and He will exalt us (I Pet. 5:6).

## *The Courage of Amos*

JOHNNY RAMSAY

Not many truly great people come across the stage of life in any given generation. Such a rare jewel was the prophet from Tekoa, the courageous Amos. Few books ever written capture



the heartbeat of a nation, but the sterling quality of the Old Testament message of Amos is definitely in that category.

Although removed from our present society by nearly 3,000 years, the dynamic drama of Amos is still vibrant, fresh and needed. For a treatise to never die, its salient points must be practical indeed. Such a book is the nine-chapter powerhouse known as Amos.

Preachers of today need a double portion of his courage, conviction and commitment. He was not an after dinner speaker but, rather, a before-judgment proclaimer. Amos provoked men to think, pricked their conscience to action, or prompted audiences to plead with the preacher to move on to other regions and leave them alone.

Three of the most insistent servants, God ever had on the subject of repentance were Ezekiel, Amos and John the immerser. They were also three of the most unpopular men who ever lived.

What a debt we owe to the unbending courage of Amos. The literature in the Bible bearing his name is a veritable storehouse of brilliant loyalty toward Jehovah and love for the very people who despised the unprofessional prophet who could not be hired or fired by men. Though a simple herdsman and fruit-gatherer, Amos proved to be a profound spokesman for God with a sermon long overdue.

In the first stanza of Amos, enemy nations are rebuked sternly for their shameful actions. Many transgression had been committed by Edom, Egypt, Ethiopia, Moab, Syria and Philistia. God would not have wasted time rebuking them if (as some today erroneously say) the Gentiles were not answerable to Him.

As the book of Amos continues, the prophet rebukes Israel and Judah for their failures in the spiritual realm also. Not only were they guilty of mistreatment of the poor, but their covetous hearts choked out spiritual growth and they dishonored God.

Adding to their sin-hardened hearts was another heinous crime—they discouraged the spiritual leaders of their day. Both the prophets and the Nazirites, who walked close to the Creator, were mocked by the contemporaries of Amos.

Today in the church we often see weak, worldly members make light of godly brethren who will not partake of Satan's delights. We ought to be very careful lest we dishearten folk who

strive to walk hand to hand with Jesus. When the cause of Christ is bereft of spiritual giants, we are all in a terrible state of affairs. If we were all as worldly as some brethren are, the army of the lord would soon perish from the earth.

Amos 3:3 makes it clear that unless we agree with our Maker, we walk alone down a rocky, rugged road.

One of the most misunderstood verses in the Bible is a famous one in Amos 4:12, "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." The passage simply sets forth the pronouncement that, because of their overt wickedness, Israel only had time to meet God in judgment. They would not be bale to escape punishment and bondage, but would shortly reap as they had sown (Hosea 8:7). Words of an old gospel song are apropos on this issue:

Too late, when death has barred the door,  
Your wailings can be heard no more!  
Rejected there, thy soul will be—  
Shut out for all eternity.

One of the classic chapters in the Old Testament is the fifth stanza of Amos. In this part of the brilliant book, we learn of vain worship, pretended devotion, misplaced values and the scourge of materialistic pursuits. That which was offered as homage and devotions was called "noise" by Jehovah. The people had become so corrupt they could not escape punishment for sins that separate them from their heavenly Father.

A day of doom was coming, and Israel felt the retribution for iniquity, indifference and insincerity. Similar to the rich man of Luke 16, they had fared sumptuously for a long while, but now a time of torment awaited them. Though Israel had been "at ease in Zion," the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7) was just around the corner.

Captivity on enemy soil would be their lot for many years because of lack of spiritual perception that caused them to run roughshod over their fellows. Being insensitive to the need of others would result in years and tears of loneliness. Their actions, deeds and thoughts had alienated them from divine mandates and had dashed their vibrant hopes. What a tragedy it is when children of God squander blessed moments and opportunities.

Austin Taylor wrote a grand hymn on the other side of the ledger:



O blessed hope of life eternal  
When my work on earth is done.  
There will be no sin my soul to trouble  
When my work on earth is done.  
My soul will reach its glad fruition,  
At home I'll live in peace forever  
When my work on earth is done.

But, alas, Israel in the time of Amos, turned their back upon God, disregarded the needs of their neighbors and pursued a life of earthy pleasure. The measuring rod of heaven's will (Amos 7:7) was forsaken, and the standard of the world was followed. Even the religious leaders disdained the messenger of Jehovah and urged the valiant Amos to leave their region and stop preaching to them. Many a great preacher has been run off by weak people through the years. In many cases leaders would do better to keep the preacher and get rid of the unspiritual complainers. Amos told Israel they were like a basket of summer fruit—rotten, bad smelling and useless.

Then the man of Tekoa added insult to injury by predicting a famine in the land. This famine would not be bread and water but of the Word of God (Amos 8:11-12). What a drought, and it is back with us today. Many pulpits are devoid of scriptural preaching, and many lives are bereft of deep Biblical emphasis. This is our gravest problem in this decade. When we participate in this sad decline of teaching and practicing the sacred text, we are truly and absolutely spiritual criminals.

Give me the Bible, lamp of life immortal;  
Hold up that splendor by the open grave.  
Show me light from heaven's shining portal;  
Show me the glory gilding Jordan's wave.

If Amos were with us today, would it be possible to find a place that would accept his urgent preaching? Would brethren invite him to go elsewhere with such stern teaching?

Would that fearless prophet find much of the same message needed in our day? Have we really learned with profit what the courageous man of old boldly stated?

Are we, too, at ease in Zion? Is our worship just merely noise? Is Our day embroiled in another famine that plagues our

land with an absence of the Word of God? Are we on the brink of bondage and totally unprepared for what our indifference will bring inevitably to us? Amos did live 750 years before Christ, but we surely need to listen to his sterling message now.

## *Adam A Type Of Christ*

W.A. HOLLEY

"Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression, who is a figure of him that was to come" (Romans 5:14, ASV). The foregoing quotation does not mean that those who lived from Adam to Moses did not sin at all—there are many accounts of sin charged to those who lived then—Cain, the antediluvians, Sodom and Gomorrah, *et al*—but it does mean that the people did not commit the same sin as Adam. Hence, we are not guilty of Adam's sin. Man is not born a sinner (Exekiel 28:15). We are not born away but we do go astray (Psalm 58:3; Jeremiah 50:6; Exekiel 14:11).

The word *similitude* is translated *likeness* in the American Standard Version. Hence, there is a resemblance, analogy, affinity, when we compare Adam and Jesus Christ.

We suggest that I Corinthians 15:45-47 be read. Here you will see a comparison made between Adam and Christ.

(1) Adam was not born into this world; he was created miraculously. "And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils and breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7, ASV, Isaiah 7:14).

Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary. He, therefore, did not enter into the world in the ordinary way. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Spirit . . . And she shall bring forth a Son; and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:18,21).

(2) At first Adam had no wife. He had to be put to sleep and suffer giving up a rib in order to have a wife (Genesis 2:21-24).

At first Jesus had no church, but had to suffer on the cross, shedding his blood for the sins of the world. (John 19:31-37; Hebrews 9:22-28; Romans 6:23). Jesus shed his blood in order to purchase the church which is his bride. See Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 5:25; Acts 20:28; Revelation 21:9; Romans 7:4.

(3) Adam was put into a deep sleep, but he finally awakened and revived (Genesis 2:21-24). Here we have the first surgery in the history of the world. God made Adam a suitable companion. It has been said, "That woman was not taken from man's head to rule over him, nor from his feet to be trampled upon, but from his side, under his arm, to be protected, and closest to his heart, to be loved."

Jesus Christ in a true likeness slept the sleep of death, revived and now lives forevermore (Acts 1:22; 2:31; 4:33; Romans 1:4; 6:5; Philippians 3:10; I Peter 1:3; 3:21). Some of whom Paul wrote thought the resurrection was already past (II Timothy 2:18). The resurrection of Christ was a tremendous conquest: Christ through his resurrection gave man victory over the law of Moses, for it was nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14-17; man was given victory over sin, for He made atonement for sin (Hebrews 7:27): Jesus resurrection became the first fruits or the down payment of all humanity (I Corinthians 15:20-28).

(4) Adam had but one wife, Eve. Polygamy was sinful and is still so in God's sight. When a man and a woman are married Scripturally, they become one flesh because God joined them together, and what God joined together man must not put asunder (Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 10:11-12). Marriage is the fundamental principle of social order. We are seeing the evil fruits of sex without benefit of marriage. Marriage is stronger than parental relationships. In marriage the pair become one flesh, so that man is as much joined to his wife as he is to his own body.

In comparison, Jesus has but one bride, the church. We suggest that II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 22:17, be closely scrutinized. Dear reader, is Jesus married to all denominational churches? If so, Jesus becomes a polygamist Jesus has but one church (Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 4:4-6). Denominationalism is sinful (John 17:20-23; Matthew 15:13).

(5) The woman wore Adam's name. "Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created" (Genesis 5:2). Hence,



their names were Adam and Eve Adam.

Those who are married to Christ are named after Him. God's family includes those saints who have gone on and those saints still living on earth. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and on earth are named" (Ephesians 3:14-15). The word CHRISTIAN is used three times in the Bible (Acts 11:26; 26:28; I Peter 4:16). The name Christian is never used as an adjective.

Thus, Adam was the head of his wife and her only rightful ruler. Adam ruled over no other bride.

Christ is the head of His church which is His body (Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; 4:4-6; Colossians 1:18). Jesus rules over no other religious body, society, or organization.

(6) Adam and Eve were miraculously created, but their children were born according to God's natural law of reproduction (Genesis 1:28).

Just so, Christ was miraculously begotten, and His church or kingdom was established by miraculous power on the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, when the apostles as charter members were set in the church, by power from on high (Acts 2:1-36; Ephesians 4:11-12; I Corinthians 2:28-31) Miraculous offices ceased when they had accomplished their purpose (I Corinthians 13:8-13). Now all things are perpetuated by divine law (Psalm 19:7; I Peter 1:22-25; Romans 1:16).

(7) Adam was commanded "to be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

The church of the Lord is commanded to preach the Gospel of Christ to all the world (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47).

(8) Another important likeness is: Cain and Abel did not join Adam's family. Rather, they were born into it.

Note, the church is God's spiritual house (I Peter 2:5). Jesus taught that one enters the church or kingdom through the door of the new birth (John 3:3-5). In birth there must be a begetting and a bringing forth into the family relationship. Sinners are spiritually begotten by the word of God (Luke 8:11; I Peter 1:23). It is then that faith is produced in the human heart (Romans 10:17; I John 5:1). Birth occurs when the sinner is raised in baptism to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4, 16-18; Colossians 2:12). In New Testament times no one ever

"joined the church of his choice."

These words are written for those honest souls who truly wish to know the truth.

## ***Just Suppose the Lord Should?***

DILLARD THURMAN

When Jesus began His preaching and teaching in Galilee, his fame spread immediately to distant regions, and throngs assembled to hear Him: *"And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from Beyond Jordan."* (Mt. 4:25). The crowds gathered wherever Jesus began a discourse, for *"The common people heard him gladly."* (Mk. 12:27). With Him went God's signs of approval, so that one would say, *"Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."* (Jno. 3:2). The graphic report was: *"The people pressed upon him to hear the word of God."* (Lk. 5:1). Jesus could say, *"The Son of man hath not where to lay his head," but one thing He did not lack was an attentive audience! Wherever He went, a throng followed to hear Him, and to observe His mighty works; "And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power."* (Lk. 4:32).

### **JESUS DOES NOT VISIT IN PERSON TODAY!**

The Son of God does not come in person to visit cities and towns in our day. God has now clearly and concisely revealed the terms of salvation in the inspired words of His Son and His apostles. That gospel of our salvation will not be altered or amended; and Paul asserts, *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."* (2 Cor. 4:7). But for a few moments, let us consider what our reaction would be if Jesus **did** come to our towns and villages, and speak to us as He did in Galilee over 2000 years ago! Would we rush out to fall at His feet as they did? What would we do and say about His teaching?



## IF JESUS CAME TO BUILD A CHURCH

Just suppose Jesus should come into your community and personally establish His church! Just suppose He pointed out the truth Peter stated on the mount of Transfiguration: "*Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God*" and then Christ said, "*Upon this rock I will build my church.*" (Mt. 16:16-17). Would you then face Jesus and contend, "One church is just as good as another"? Would you argue with Him that a church built by Luther, Calvin, Wesley, etc., is just as worthy as that built by the Son of God? Just suppose that Jesus cited the inspired words of Paul: *Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it,* and spoke of "*the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood.*" (Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28). What would you then say about that church, and what would your attitude be toward it? While facing Him, and remembering the price He paid for the church, would you still argue "One can be saved OUT of the church as easily as within it"? Just suppose that the Lord preached that God is glorified only in that church (Eph. 3:21), would you still try to glorify Him in civic clubs and lodges?

## SUPPOSE HE OPPOSED THE SECTS

Just suppose that Jesus Christ should come into your community and condemn those who entered into any church not divinely built? What if He should say, "*Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*" (Mt. 15:13-14). Would you contend that Jesus lacked compassion and understanding? would religious leaders charge that He was too legalistic in contending for these principles regarding the church He established?

Further, suppose Jesus was heard to Pray: "*Neither pray I for these [the apostles] alone do I pray, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they may all be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*" (Jno. 17:20-21). Would you still try to uphold the religious division that plagues the world? Would you still be willing to work for, plead for, and support that which Jesus so fervently prayed against? Or would you then be willing to become a member of



the church He built, and pray and plead for that unity for which He prayed? If you could personally hear Jesus pray for unity, would you seek to unite the religious world on the principles of Truth He preached?

### **SUPPOSE JESUS SPOKE ON BAPTISM?**

Just suppose that Jesus personally appeared in your city, town or village, and promised: "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*" (Mk. 16:16). Would you be willing to step upon the same platform with Him, and declare: "He that believeth and is NOT baptized shall also be saved"? Or would you be willing to affirm, "He that believeth is already saved, and may be baptized if he desires"? Or would you stand on the same rostrum with the Son of God, and contend, "Baptism is non-essential. You can be saved just as well without it!?" When Jesus said, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*" would you tell your family and friends "But there are various ways to interpret that"? Would you look the Son of God in the eye and say His statement could not be fully understood by all who wanted to be saved? Would you be willing to debate the Son of God on His teachings on this subject?

### **SUPPOSE THE APOSTLES APPEARED?**

Just suppose Peter, Paul, John and other apostles came into your city, town or village, and set up a church having the very same doctrine, faith and practice as that which they set forth 1950 years ago! Suppose further that they set forth the very same terms of membership, organization, form of worship, name and all other things relevant to that New Testament church. Would you welcome them into your midst? Would you receive them kindly, and accept readily their message? If they set forth the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers (Acts 2:42), would you agree this was the gospel of salvation, or would you ridicule their efforts, belittle that church, ignore their plea, and oppose the whole undertaking to restore primitive Christianity to the world?

### **SUPPOSE JESUS SENT AMBASSADORS?**

Just suppose Paul, Peter and other apostles entered your community as the ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:17-21), and began preaching the "Old Time Gospel" that folk talk so much



about; what would be your attitude toward them and their message? Suppose they preached with power and authority in condemning divisions, factions and sectarian efforts—how would you then react? Suppose they exhorted all to speak the same thing, allow no divisions, be perfectly joined together in the same mind and judgment: would you argue with them that it is impossible? Would you “thank God that we have so many different churches so that each might have the church of his choice”? Suppose these apostles taught that there is ONE body, and that Jesus Christ is its Head (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18); would you still contend for many religious bodies? And suppose they taught that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of that body (Eph. 5:23), would you still argue one could be saved as well in other bodies? Or would you become a member of the spiritual body of Christ, His church, and live in obedience to His authority as its Head?

#### **SUPPOSE THOSE GREAT APOSTLES CAME?**

Just suppose these apostles came into your community and preached Jesus Christ as the risen Lord and Son of God, and people were pricked in heart and cried out, “*What must we do?*” and were then told by the apostles: “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” (Acts 2:37-38)! How would you react to all this? Would you scoff at the idea of obeying? or would you humbly and submissively obey the Lord at the word of His apostles? Or yet, suppose a man found you penitently praying and told you, “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” (Acts 22:16). Would you accept this command of the Lord and obey without question? or would you refuse the words of life, and adamantly continue in sin?

#### **SUPPOSE THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME?**

Just suppose the Holy Spirit came on you to confirm those things we have “just supposed.” Would you be willing to accept the Spirit's testimony and confirmation? If the Spirit gave you “*a more sure word of prophecy*”(1 Pet. 1:19) in direct revelation, would you accept His signs, wonders and miracles? Or would you reject the witness of the Holy Spirit, and yet contend, “I'm perfectly satisfied with my religion and don't care to investigate



these matters."? Friends, we have cited you those things the Holy Spirit revealed through inspired men! They can help you begin an investigation of God's Word that can bring you eternal riches in glory! We only ask you to lay aside biased opinions, preconceived notions, and rely on what God has given you in His word, the Bible!

### IF GOD SHOULD OFFER IT TO YOU?

Just suppose that God the Father, and Jesus Christ the Son, offered you their autographed copy of the Bible, would you accept it, love it and respect it enough to follow it implicitly? Well, They will not come in person: but they have given us this sacred volume, signed and sealed with their approval, and bearing the precious promises God now extends to us! What is your attitude toward the Holy Scriptures? Are you willing to show your love and gratitude by obeying all that God has commanded? God will not come today to confront you; but even this day God may call you to face Him in judgment! How would you answer that summons? Can you honestly say you have diligently sought to do His will? Have you treated God fairly? Friend, think on these things! *"And now, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."* (Acts 20:32).

## ***"May I Speak To The Pastor, Please . . ."***

**"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelist, and some pastors and teachers,"** (Ephesians 4:11).

It is not a secret that the religious world often misunderstands the Biblical order of church government. Nowhere is this error so evident as is the case with preachers. Whenever someone who is untaught calls the church building they almost always ask for "the pastor." What a door of opportunity for teaching they have opened to us!!!

In responding to their request we may teach them about elders as pastors, and the difference between the denominational



model and God's model (Acts 14:23; 20:28; Philippians 1:1). We may try to show them that it is the elders who shepherd the flock not the preacher (unless he is an elder) (1 Peter 5:1-4). We may even attempt to correct the erroneous notion that only one man oversees a congregation (Titus 1:5).

During this conversation we may also explain that the preacher preaches and teaches (2 Timothy 2:2; 4:1-5), that this is the whole of his task, and that it is a great one (Acts 6:4; Ecclesiastes 12:10; Romans 10:14). We may contend that he is not the pastor, and certainly not the sole shepherd or leader of the local church.

We may say all of these things in defending the faith and teaching the truth. But, is it really how we function in the church? If the preacher is in truth not the pastor, then brethren let us not expect pastoral things of him as a part of his job description. Let us not make him the focal point of all that is done in the church. Let us not place on his shoulders the burden for most of the administrative work that gets done. Let us not saddle him with the lion's share of the visiting, the counseling, the benevolence or with any other area of work that the church is commanded to do. If he is "the preacher" and not the pastor, then he should do the God-given work of an evangelist.

When someone calls the building or asks in public the "pastor" question we should be able to answer in reality as well as in theory (1 Peter 3:15). If in truth we have made the preacher into the pastor we had better admit it, repent of our mistake, and begin to practice what we preach.

Let your preacher preach. Let the elders pastor. And, unless the preacher is an elder, let us resolve not to confuse the two by our deeds.

## ***To Receive Christ***

GLENN COLLEY

Most religionists would respond to the question, "what must a man do to be saved" by saying this or something similar: "Receive Christ as your personal savior." What exactly,

according to the Bible, is involved in *receiving* Christ?

The phrase "receive Christ" is not in the Bible, but we can get close with John 1:12: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. . ."

It is not unscriptural to speak of "receiving Christ," although such language is only occasionally seen in the New Testament. Zacchaeus received Christ. Luke 19:6 states, "And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully." Luke 8:40 uses the word in a similar way: And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him." John 4:45 says, "Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galileans received him, having seen all the things that he did in Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast." But these passages speak only of receiving Jesus as an honored guest, not as a savior in the act of saving a soul.

The Colossian brethren received Christ in the spiritual, saving sense: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him." (Colossians 2:6). And yet, this verse doesn't give us details about what receiving Christ actually is or about how we are thereby saved. John 1:12 does offer interesting and important details.

Again, the verse says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." The preceding verse, (John 1:11), says that the Jews, as a whole, received Him not. But some did receive Him. Who were they? According to the verse, they were those who "believed on His name." You receive Jesus when you believe on Jesus. Some should shout, "See there! Receiving Jesus by belief is all that one must do to be born into God's family. Belief, without baptism, will save you. Baptism is not essential for salvation, and should not be taught as the act which makes one a Christian."

But take another look at the verse. What was the benefit to those who received Jesus by their belief? "To them gave He power to become the sons of God. . ." A quick Greek lesson is in order. The word "power" here, according to Strong's Lexicon, is from the Greek word *exousia* which means "power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases, leave or permission." The Greek



word for "become" is *ginomai*, which means "to become, i.e. to come into existence, begin to be, receive being." In other words, what John 1:12 is saying is this: "But as many as receive Him, to them gave He liberty to become the sons of God."

We learn here that:

1. By itself, the act of believing in Jesus does not make one a child of God. Those who receive Him were given the privilege of *becoming* children of God.
2. Those people who receive Jesus are given "liberty of action." They can now proceed with obedience, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16).
3. No one can become what he already is. Those who receive Jesus were given the privilege of becoming sons. They obviously weren't sons at the point of belief. James says, "For as the body without spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:26).

To receive Christ today, one must first receive His word: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." (John 12:48). "If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:9). "And the apostles and brethren that were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God." (Acts 11:1).

After receiving the word, he must be baptized, at which time his sins will be forgiven and he will be added to Christ's church. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. . . Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:38,41).

If you are now lost, and thus without hope, our prayer is that you will receive Christ and obey Him so you will be saved and enjoy eternal life.





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*Printed and Published by Sunny David on behalf of Church of Christ, New Delhi and Printed at : Print India A 38/2, Mayapuri, I, New Delhi-110064. Editor : Sunny David.*

Licence to Post without Prepayment of Postage

No. U/SE/25/2000

Posted at New Delhi PSO on 10/11 May 2000

Delhi Postal Regn. No. DL-11262/2000

Regd. No. 26921/71

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