

# DIVINE DEFINITIONS

*By*  
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## INTRODUCTION

I love words. I enjoy studying them, digging and probing for their meaning. There is so much more to them than you can see on the surface. Especially is this true with religious words. It is of utmost importance that we know how they may relate to us and our salvation. That is why we are making a study of the words that appear in this volume. That is also why we are calling them divine definitions because we are attempting to define each term according to the teaching of God's word.

There has been no attempt whatsoever to put these words in any type of order, alphabetical or otherwise. Therefore, it is up to each one to read and study the material according to the need of the hour.

This work was originally prepared back in the years of 1956 and 1957. Each study was sent to some gospel paper in the States for publication. In being sent forth in this form, it is the author's prayer that this will cause the reader to have a greater interest in word studies so that God's word might more fully be understood and applied.

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## REPENTANCE

A change of heart; a turning point—to go in a different direction; a state of being penitent; to amend or resolve to live a better life.

Repentance is more than feeling bad because of one's past life; it is more than godly sorrow. To repent one must give up the past, quit sin or leave off those sinful activities that once were delightful, and at the same time, concentrate upon those things that are pure and wholesome. Repentance then, is that of leaving a sinful life for that of a righteous life.

The Lord would have all to repent; the sinner must repent or perish. Repentance is a condition of salvation and therefore is of utmost importance.

*Scripture references: Hos. 13:14; Matt. 3:8; Mk. 2:17; Lk. 15:7; Acts 19:4; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10; 2 Tim. 2:25; Heb. 6:1; 2 Pet. 3:9.*

## BAPTISM

Baptism is a burial, an immersion, a dipping; to submerge or completely overwhelm with water. An act of going down into the water and being altogether covered and then coming up out of the water. Another way of putting it: One dies to his sins, is buried with the Lord by baptism, and then is resurrected from the watery grave to walk in newness of life.

Baptism is connected with the plan of salvation; it is the final condition of pardon. The act of baptism is important because of these reasons: The Lord commands baptism, baptism saves, it puts one into Christ, it puts one into the Body of Christ, it is connected with the New Birth, etc.

It matters not what the world may say or how loud man may scoff; baptism is a command of God, and therefore, must be complied with in order for salvation to result. Baptism demands nothing more than a simple faith and a humble expression of the same in obedience.

*Scripture references: Matt. 3:7; Mk. 1:4; 16:16; Lk. 7:29; John 3:3-5; Acts 1:22; 2:38; 10:37; 13:24; 18:25; 19:3; 22:16; Rom. 6:3,4; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:21.*



## SALVATION

To be delivered or saved from sin and eternal damnation; this redemption comes through the atonement of Jesus Christ. Those that have obtained the remission of their sins or the forgiveness of their sins are said to have salvation.

One may think of salvation from the standpoint of being saved or delivered from some physical obstacle, but usually it is applied to those that have obeyed the Lord, and as a result, have obtained the remission of their sins.

Salvation is of the Lord. Hence, one must obey the Lord in order to obtain salvation. But just because one obtains salvation that does not mean that he will be eternally saved. Therefore, those who are saved at the present time must remain faithful to the Lord in order to be saved in the world to come.

All may receive salvation. How? Through a knowledge of the truth and complying with the conditions of the same. The Lord would have all to be saved, not only in this world, but in the world to come as well.

*Scripture references: Ex. 14:13; Deut. 32:15; 2 Sam. 22:51; 1 Chron. 16:35; 2 Chron. 20:17; Job. 13:16; Ps. 3:8 Lk. 2:30; Mk. 16:16; John 4:22; Acts 2:38; 13:26; Rom. 1:16; 2 Cor. 1:6; Eph. 1:13; Phil. 1:19; 1 Thess. 5:8; Tit. 2:11,12; Heb. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:5; 2 Pet. 3:15; Jude 3.*

## GRACE

Mercy, kindness, favor, etc. An act or exhibition demonstrating unmerited favor. The Lord expressed His love for the world in dying on the cross that all might enjoy salvation and hope beyond the grave. The Lord can never be repaid for all that he has done for mankind.

The Bible teaches that salvation is by grace, but that does not mean that man's responsibility is taken away. It is by the grace of God that salvation is extended to mankind, but man must accept that salvation through obedience. For example, it is by the grace of God that we have food to eat, clothing to wear, and so on, but man must express his appreciation for such things through accepting them. But how is this done? Food does not come directly from God but indirectly, so man has to farm, or at least obtain the food from the farmer or the market, in order to have it to eat, and the same thing is true with the other material things of life. So it is by the grace of God that we have access to certain material things and certain spiritual things, but we must accept them or meet certain conditions in order to have them in reality. But get this please: Just because we have to work for our food that does not mean that that food does not come by the grace of God. The same thing is true with the spiritual things. Just because we have to obey certain commands or do certain works in order to be saved that does not do away with the grace of God, but rather exemplifies it.

We are saved by grace through faith. The grace is God's part, but the faith is man's part. Hence, God saves all that will believe and obey Him.

*Scripture references: Num. 32:5; Ps. 45:2; Lk. 2:40;  
John 1:14; Acts 4:33; Rom. 1:5; 2 Cor. 8:6;  
Eph. 1:7; 2:7,8; Phil. 1:7; Col. 1:6; 2 Tim. 2:1;  
Tit. 2:11; Heb. 4:16; James 4:6; 1 Pet. 1:13.*

## CONFESSION

An acknowledgement; making a certain thing or things known; a statement oral or written; a condition of salvation, etc. There are a number of confessions: the good confession, confession of the erring Christian, and so on.

The most talked of confession is the good confession. The Bible teaches that one is to confess or acknowledge Christ before men in order to obey the Gospel, and thus to be a Christian, a member of the body of Christ. Christ has promised that if you will confess him before men he will confess us before the Father.

Another important confession is that confession the erring Christian makes upon returning to the church and God. The Bible teaches that one may be a Christian but at the same time drift back into sin. When such is the case then the individual must repent of his sins, confess his faults, and ask the Lord's forgiveness in order to be forgiven and accepted once more as a faithful Christian.

Still another confession is the one the Christian makes in living the Christian life. This confession may be oral, but even more so, it is an example. The Christian is to confess Christ daily as he lives the Christian life.

Then the Bible tells us that all will confess the Lord in the last day. This confession will involve both the evil and the righteous. But get this: the evil may confess the Lord on that day but it will be too late then.

*Scripture references: Ps. 32:5; Matt. 3:6; 10:32; Acts 19:18; Rom. 10:10; 14:11; 1 Tim. 6:13; James 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:16; 1 John 1:9; 2 John 7.*

## RELIGION

An awareness of the existence of a supreme being which arouses love, gratitude, and the will to obey; service rendered to God; a practice of faith; devotion expressed in worship.

Religion is as old as man. Although there have been many religious or systems of religion, and still is, there has ever been and will ever be but one true religion. True religion is of God.

Where ever the religion of Christ has gone prosperity has gone. Religion is not only beneficial from a spiritual standpoint, but is also of great importance physically speaking.

The Bible speaks of a pure religion that is undefiled before God the Father. Which religion is that? The true one—the religion of Christ. Those that practice such a religion obeyed the same Gospel, are members of the same Church, are all Christians, worship alike, live the Christian life, and are working for the same place—heaven. The religion of the Lord will lead one to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, help the poor, do good works, and ever abound in the work of the Lord. Yes, the religion of Christ is a “do” religion and it would do all good to keep that in mind.

*Scripture references: Acts 26:5; 1 Cor. 15:58; James 1:26, 27; Rev. 22:14.*

## FAITH

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” An acceptance of God and all things connected with him; entire trust and confidence in God, Christ, and his word; belief in God, etc.

Faith is a condition of salvation. One must not only believe in order to be saved, but must maintain that faith in remaining loyal to God. Bible faith will lead one from this world to a heavenly home.

The Bible further tells us that faith saves but only in the sense that true faith will lead one to obey God, and thus, salvation is brought about. Faith only will not save, but faith will save.

There are many degrees of faith. For instance, there is: dead faith, little faith, strong faith, weak faith, and so on. Again, the Bible teaches that there is but one faith. There may be many faiths or beliefs in the world, but there is but one scriptural faith. Then too, true faith is based upon the Bible and the Bible only when it comes to spiritual and divine matters in written form.

*Scripture references: Mk. 2:5; 16:16; Lk. 7:50; Acts 3:16; Rom. 1:16, 17; 10:10, 17; Eph. 4:5; Col. 1:4; 1 Thess. 1:3; Heb. 11; James 1:3; 2:14-26; 1 Pet. 1:5; 2 Pet. 1:1; 1 John 5:4; Jude 3.*

## CHURCH

The called out; a body of believers; the Lord's people; followers of Christ; the spiritual body of Christ; a divine institution; a group of people that accepts the Bible, that follows its precepts, and so on.

The Lord promised to build or establish his church, and thus he did through the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost, A.D. 33. With the first gospel sermon in fact, over three thousand people obeyed the gospel and were added to the church.

Here are some interesting facts about the church: the Lord established it, and therefore, it wears his name; it is blood bought; Christ is the head; he is saviour of the Body; there is but one church; one is baptized into it or added to it; each congregation is independent with its own Elders and Deacons (where there are men scripturally qualified); the church has the task of preaching the gospel to the world; the Lord will return some day for the church; and all that are faithful members of the Lord's church are not only saved, but have the hope of eternal life.

The Lord's church believes in unity, and therefore, is opposed to denominationalism and such like. There were many congregations of the Lord's church in the days of the Apostles, and moreover, the church has ever existed, and will continue to exist throughout time and even eternity. It is the Lord's will that all be members of his church. To be a member of the church is to be close to the Lord because he loves the church.

*Scripture references: Matt. 16:18; 18:17; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 1; 12:13; Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:1-6; Phil. 3:6; Col. 1:18; 1 Thess. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:5; James 5:14.*

## CHRISTIAN

A follower of Christ; a person with a Christ-like spirit; a member of the Body of Christ; one who has obeyed the truth; and one who practices the religion of Christ.

Disciples were first called Christians at Antioch; ever since that time all that have obeyed the Lord have automatically become Christians. To be a Christian is but to wear the name of Christ, and the Bible says that we should glorify God on this behalf.

There are many people who profess Christianity but are far from such, due to the fact, that they are following the doctrines and commandments of men. In reality, there are but a few New Testament Christians in comparison with the many people that are following the religions of men.

The majority of those who profess Christianity wear man made names and titles. Hence, the name of Christ is pushed aside while the names of men are glorified. But mind you, this is completely out of harmony with the will of God. In order to be on the Lord's side then one must wear the name of Christ, and the name of Christ only. Otherwise, even though a professor of Christianity, one is an enemy of the Lord.

Pure Christianity is based upon the Bible and nothing but the Bible. Furthermore, it takes obedience to make a Christian, and it takes faithfulness to remain a Christian.

*Scripture references: Acts 11:26; 26:28; Eph. 1:5;  
James 1,2; 1 Pet. 4:16.*



## DISCIPLE

A learner; an individual that receives instruction from another; a believer; a follower of Christ; a member of the Lord's Church.

The New Testament speaks of the disciple in the sense of a 'learner only', but the New Testament also speaks of a disciple in the sense that he is a follower of Christ or a Christian.

Now in the days of Christ there were many disciples. In other words, those that followed the Lord were considered disciples. For instance the twelve Apostles were at one time considered the Lord's twelve disciples.

Then with the establishment of the Church those that obeyed the Lord became known as the Lord's disciples. However, later on at Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

In our day the followers of Christ are known as Christians. And yet, a Christian can still be called a disciple in that he is still a learner. Hence, Christians are disciples just like they are saints etc. However, the Lord's people are to be known as Christians in order to give the Lord the glory. That is, the Lord's people are to wear the name of Christ.

*Scripture references: Matt 5:1; 9:10; 10:1; 11:1; 19:10; Mk. 5:31; Lk. 22:11; John 20:2; Acts 1:15; 9:1; 11:26; 13:52; 14:20; 1 Pet. 4:16.*

## WORSHIP

Adoration; reverence or respect paid; offering thanks and praise unto the God of Heaven; to adore; the observance of certain acts that have the Lord's approval; bowing before God in obedience.

God is the object of worship; man is the worshipper. The Lord would have all to worship him in spirit and in truth. True worship calls for singing, praying studying, giving, and partaking of the Lord's Supper. The Lord would have his people to observe these acts of worship with the understanding and according to his will.

There are three kinds of worship: ignorant, vain and true. Only true worship is acceptable with the Lord. Many people worship God, but only a few worship him according to his word.

Man has ever worshipped but so often his worship has been in ignorance and in vain. Man is a worshipful being, and since that is true, then he should desire to worship in an acceptable manner.

God deserves man's adoration, honor, respect, homage; yea, God deserves man's worship. But when should man worship God? At all times, especially on the Lord's Day, the day of worship.

*Scripture references: Gen. 22:5; Ex. 4:31; Deut. 26:10; Ps. 95:6; 1 Cor. 10,11; 14:14,15; Eph. 5:19; Matt. 2:2; 28:17; Mk. 7:7; John 4:20-24; Acts 17; Phil. 3:3; 2 Thess. 2:4; 2 Tim 2:15; Heb. 1:6; 1 John 5:14.*

## PRAYER

Man's way of communicating with God; entreaty; an earnest request, supplication; a means of confessing adoration, thanksgiving, etc., to God; a channel in which to praise God or to ask God's help.

Prayer is an age old subject since man has ever had communication with God. In other words, man has always had the privilege to talk with the Lord.

The Bible tells us that prayer is an act of worship. That is, when the Lord's people assemble for worship prayer is to be a part of that worship. Of course, prayer is not only an act of worship but may be engaged in at any time since such is a spiritual blessing.

Further, the Bible reveals that the alien sinner is not in a position to pray, in the sense of being heard and blessed accordingly. Hence, the sinner is to obey God, and upon doing such, then he is in a state whereby he may call upon God, but even then his prayers must be in harmony with the will of God for them to be answered.

The Lord taught the importance of prayer, and not only so, but was a great believer in prayer since he called upon the Father upon many occasions. The Apostles taught the importance of prayer, and all Christians believe in prayer.

It is the will of God that his people pray often. To remember to pray is to remember God, and to walk in the paths of righteousness. Yes, prayer is one of the greatest blessings of all time.

*Scripture references: Ps. 4:1; Prov. 15:29; Matt. 6:1-13; 21:13; John 17; Acts 1:14; 2:42; Rom. 12:12; 1 Cor. 7:5; 14:14,15; Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17; James 5:16; 1 John 5:14.*

## SINGING

Producing musical tones by the voice; a manner of praising God; one of the acts of acceptable worship, rendering psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, making melody within the heart unto the Lord.

According to the Bible, Christians are to sing and sing only. That is, the mechanical instruments of music are to be left off completely. Many religious people sing, but at the same time, use mechanical instruments of music, but just as certain as they do it, it's just that certain that they are going beyond the will of God.

When it comes to singing, it's to be done with the spirit and with the understanding. Or another way of putting it: God would have his people to sing in spirit and in truth.

In singing, scriptural or spiritual songs are to be used. Furthermore, we are told that through singing one teaches and admonishes. Certainly all will agree that singing plays a great part when it comes to worshipping God; those that take part in singing are edified, built up, encouraged, strengthened; outsiders or people of the world are taught, admonished, and encouraged to obey God; and finally, God is glorified through the same.

*Scripture references: Matt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26; John 4:23,24; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; James 5:13.*

## GOSPEL

Good news; glad tidings; the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ; facts pertaining to Christ in relation to the salvation that he offered, and still offers, the world.

The gospel existed in purpose, promise, prophecy, preparation and finally in perfection. It was the Lord who came into the world in order to present unto mankind the gospel, that which has the power to save. But in order for the gospel to be complete it took the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Then the gospel has certain commands of conditions that one must comply with before receiving salvation. What are they? Faith, repentance, confession and baptism.

Not only so, but the gospel is rewarding. When one obeys the gospel, then the Lord saves that individual, adds him to the church, grants unto him the gift of the Holy Spirit, showers upon him the many spiritual blessings, leaves with him the promise of eternal life, etc.

The Lord, in giving the great commission, commanded the Apostles to carry the gospel into all the world, to teach it to every nation, and to present it to every creature. That commission is still binding and ever will be.

The gospel of Christ is great and glorious; it should be accepted and obeyed; Christians should carry it unto a lost and dying world; it will save in this world, and far greater, in the world to come.

*Scripture references: Matt 4:23; 28:18-20; Mk. 1:1, 16:15, 16; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 4:15; 2 Cor. 4:4; Gal. 1:7, 9; Eph. 1:13; Phil. 1:5; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; 1 Tim. 1:11; Heb. 4:2.*

## PREACHING

A public discourse; delivering a message or sermon; teaching the word of God; impressing certain facts upon a person or an audience by means of speech.

God has always worked through man in the proclamation of his word in relation to the world. As men of God go forth declaring the will of God then it is the duty of all to give heed to the things that they are saying, since the Bible teaches that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Many may look upon preaching as being but foolishness, but it pleases "God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." God has sent forth his word, and he expects his people to carry it unto the lost, and thereby bring about their salvation.

In the great commission the Lord commanded the Apostles to go into all the world and preach the gospel unto every creature. Yes, the gospel saves: it has power to save all that will believe, but in order for it to save it must be preached. Further, the Bible teaches that the truth saves, but it must be taught or preached in order for it to save.

The Lord has left his word in earthen vessels and therefore, depends upon human beings in carrying forth his word. That is, he expects his people to serve as evangelists in the teaching and preaching of his word. Preaching has always been important and it will ever hold its ground.

*Scripture references: John 3:2; Matt. 12:41; Mk. 16:15, 16; Lk. 11:32; Rom. 10:17; 16:25; 1 Cor. 15:14; 2 Tim. 4:17; Tit. 1:8.*

## GIVING

To bestow freely; to present something to another; to lay by in store as God has prospered one, etc.

We are to freely give of our time, energy, and material things. The Christian is to have a giving spirit. As a matter of fact, the Christian is to be sacrificial in his giving.

Giving is an act of acceptable worship. The Lord's people are to give as they have purposed within their hearts, cheerfully, according as they have been prospered. Giving, when it comes to worship, is to take place on the first day of the week—each first day of the week. We are not to rob God, but since he has been so good to us in giving so much for our welfare, then the least we can do is to give as we can to his cause. The Lord is not unreasonable, but would have us to give only as we have prospered. Really, the Lord has a perfect right to demand that we give all that we make since all things came from him or is of him. But as stated, the Lord only requires that we give as we have been prospered, and we do not even have to give that much, that is, if we do not want to. But of course, the Christian wants to give and does give according to the will of God.

The Scripture tells us that the Lord would have us to give our all to him. No, we do not have too, but all that will, will be blessed of God both in this life and in the world to come.

*Scripture references: Mk. 8:37; Lk. 9:23; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7; James 1:5.*



## LOVE

Affection; strong liking; fondness; an expression of one's feeling; a strong attachment as a result of sympathetic understanding; compassion and devotion shown.

God has expressed his love for man from the very beginning; he created man in his image, sent his Son to live and die for man; presented to the world the gospel; left with man the Holy Scripture; assured all that obey him a home beyond the grave, and so on.

God has expressed himself in terms of love. As a matter of fact, the Bible teaches that God is love. God hates sin and those things that are of a wicked nature, but at the same time he loves righteousness and those that seek after righteousness.

Since God is love then he would have man to express himself in terms of love. One must love God in order to obey him, and another way of putting it, those who love God will obey him.

Nothing can separate the Lord's people from his love; love is greater than faith or hope; it is love that leads one to become a Christian and it is love that keeps one faithful as a Christian; yea, it was love that prompted God to assure man of salvation, and love that will lead one home to heaven when he dies.

Be it remembered that a Bible love will assure redemption but a lack of love will bring about condemnation, eternal condemnation.

*Scriptural references: Matt. 19:19; 22:36, 37; Lk. 6:27; John 3:16, 17; 15:14; Rom. 5:8; 8:28; 1 Cor. 13; 16:22; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 5:2; Col. 3:19; 1 Thess. 4:9; 2 Pet. 1:5-11; 1 John 4.*

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

The supper Jesus instituted the night before his crucifixion; a memorial; an act of divine worship; Christians are to partake of the supper each first day of the week; it is to be partaken of in remembrance of the body and blood of Christ.

The Lord taught the importance of the Lord's Supper while he was yet with his Apostles; after the death of Christ the Apostles began to preach the importance of the Lord's Supper. This was the case because the New Testament reveals that the disciples assembled on the first day of the week in order to break bread.

Many religious bodies do not partake of the Lord's Supper, and still others observe it quarterly, yearly, etc. Then there are certain religious groups that allow only their members to partake of the Lord's Supper. But what does all of this spell? It just suggests this: that such people are merely following the doctrines and commandments of men, and are therefore, unscriptural when it comes to worshipping God.

Since the majority of the people do not observe the Lord's Supper then it is no wonder that the Lord, as a whole, has been forgotten. You see, one purpose of the Lord's Supper is to keep man's mind renewed from Lord's day to Lord's day concerning the Christ.

Each individual is to examine himself to see whether or not he is worthy of partaking of the Lord's Supper.

If a soul is not living in harmony with the will of God, then he might as well leave it off completely. However, if one is living according to the scripture, then he is to partake of the Lord's Supper and such will build him up. Partaking of the Lord's Supper is a serious matter and it should be dealt with accordingly.

*Scripture references:*      *Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 2:42;  
20:7; 1 Cor. 10:11.*

## HOPE

Expectation; looking forward to something that is desired; that which has resulted from the promises of God; has to do with things of this world and the world to come.

Hope is a wonderful thing; it keeps us working, moving onward, ever looking to the future. It was the apostle Paul who said: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." Hence, we have hope in this life, but greater than that, through Christ we have hope of living beyond this veil of tears and sorrows.

There are some who would destroy our hope if possible. Yes, there are those who tell us that there is no hope beyond this life; there are those who propagate the doctrine that there will be no resurrection, judgment, etc. But who are such people? Infidels, of course. All Bible students know that the holy writ of God teaches that Christ was resurrected from the grave and along with that resurrection he extended hope unto the world—for if Christ was resurrected, then we too one day shall be resurrected.

Hope is a precious thing; it keeps us happy, full of faith, ever trusting in the promises of the Lord and the fulfillment of the same, both in the life and the life beyond the grave.

The word of God tells us that hope saves, and certainly it does. Yes, hope leads one to obey God and to remain loyal and faithful to him all the days of his life.

*Scripture references: Lk. 6:34; Acts 2:26; Rom. 5:5; 8:24; 1 Cor. 9:10; 13; 15; 19; Gal. 5:5; Eph. 1:18; Phil. 1:20; 2:23; Col. 1:5; 1 Thess. 1:3; 2 Thess. 2:16; 1 Tim. 1:1; Tit. 1:2; Heb. 11:1; 6:11; 1 Pet. 1:3, 13; 1 John 3:8.*

## MIRACLE

An act performed by super natural power; and event occuring in the physical world but apart from the known laws of nature; a wonder brought about through God.

In Old Testament days miracles were not uncommon; with the coming of Christ many signs and wonders were brought about to convince the world that the Messiah had truly come. The Lord healed the sick, raised the dead, etc., to make believers, and furthermore, to confirm his word. The Lord not only had this power but passed it on to the apostles, and they in turn, laid their hands upon others, thus, giving them the power to perform miracles. As with the Son of God, the apostles, and so on, used the power that they possessed to make believers and to confirm the word.

The Bible reveals that the power to perform miracles was to last for only a while—until “that which is perfect is come.” But when did it come? With the giving of the word of God in a written form. As a matter of fact, it is referred to as the perfect law of liberty.

Miracles served their purpose and were taken away. Therefore, those that claim to have the power in our day to perform miracles are nothing but fakes and racketeers. The miraculous age has passed and thus, we are living in the age of the written word. The best we can do now is to turn to the Bible and read where Jesus and others performed miracles, and through reading such, faith should be built within our hearts, to the extent that we will accept the word, obey it, and abide by it until death takes us across the great divide.

*Scripture references:*      *Mk. 6:52; 9:39; Lk. 28:8;*  
*John 2:11; 3:2; 4:45; 6:2; Acts 4:16; 6:8; 1 Cor.*  
*12; 13; Gal. 3:5; Heb. 2:4.*

## MINISTER

One that preaches or teaches the word of God in a public manner; one who serves another; a minister of Christ; a servant of the most high God.

Christ explained unto his fellowers that he came not to be ministered unto but that he had come to minister unto others. This should be the attitude of every Christian.

The preacher is usually thought of as being a minister since he gives, as a whole, his time in proclaiming the gospel of Christ, and in helping or assisting his fellow man in what ever way possible.

Then, too, every Christian is a minister in the sense that every Christian is to minister unto others. Hence, it might be pointed out that all preachers are ministers but not all ministers are preachers. There are some ministers who serve the Lord in a public sense, that is, there are certain men who preach the gospel, teach Bible classes, and so on. Then there are other ministers who serve the Lord in the sense of helping the poor, practicing a pure religion, by means of influencing others for good, etc. But the point is this: all Christians are ministers of servants of the Lord, and whether one serves in a public capacity or not, the main thing is doing the job and doing it well, ever being faithful to the Lord that he might have all the glory.

If an individual would be greater in the sight of God then let him be a minister. All should truly desire to minister unto others in one way or another.

*Scripture references:* Matt. 4:11; 20; Mk. 10:43; 15:41; Lk. 8:3; Rom. 13:4; 15:27; 1 Cor. 3:5; 9:13; 2 Cor. 3:3, 6; 11:23; Eph. 3:7; 4:29; 1 Tim. 4:6; Heb. 6:10; 1 Pet. 1:12.

## EVANGELIST

A preacher of the gospel of Christ; one that travels over the country holding meetings, etc.; a traveling missionary; a minister or servant of God.

An evangelist is to carry forth the word, planting it in the hearts of men and women, boys and girls, that it might bring forth fruit unto God.

In the apostolic days evangelists went every where preaching and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a result, many congregations of the Lord's church were established. Then from time to time, the preachers who began the work would visit with them again. Sometime they would stay but for a short time, and then again, they would extend their stay, depending on the need and the time they had available.

Nothing can take the place of preaching. Therefore, just as preachers or evangelists have always been in demand, such will ever be the case.

Many evangelists remain with one congregation of people over a period of time, while others move on from place to place at a rather rapid pace. The main point is this: as long as the gospel is being preached then much good is going to be accomplished. It matters not then whether a person remains in one place a day or a year, and so on, the emphasis is to be placed on preaching the gospel in order that good might result from it. This is what the Bible teaches.

*Scripture references: Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5.*

## THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week; Sunday; the day that Christians assemble to worship God; the day that the Lord was resurrected; the day in which the church was established, etc.

In Old Testament days the Sabbath or the seventh day of the week was recognized as the day of rest, the day of worship, as a result of the Lord's decree. However, there were prophecies even in those days to the effect that a new day would be selected and recognized as the day of worship. Hence, with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, that day was ushered in. That being true, the first day of the week or the Lord's day has been recognized ever since.

During the apostolic days the Lord's people assembled on the first day of the week, to break bread, to give, and in general, to worship God in spirit and in truth.

Even in our time there are some people that still cling to the Sabbath. Then in various countries there are those who worship on one day or another. But those who would recognize the day that the Lord ordained will acknowledge the fact that the first day of the week is the true day of worship.

Since Sunday, or the first day of the week, is the Lord's day then we should look forward to it as a day of worship; we should encourage others to do likewise, ever using it in the way that God intended for it to be used.

*Scripture references: Matt. 28:1; Acts 2:42; 20:7;  
1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10.*



## APOSTASY

A complete departure from that which has been practiced; to accept the religion of Christ and then to desert the same; to turn from the Lord in order to follow the doctrines and commandments of men, etc.

It was the apostle Paul who spoke of a great apostasy or falling away. In other words, after the church had been established, and had existed for a few days, Paul warned that the time would come when some would depart from the faith, "giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

Hence, the falling away came in the form of the establishment of the Catholic church; later Protestantism resulted, and that which is now referred to as Denominationalism.

There's no doubt about it, apostasy has taken its toll; but on the other hand, knowing it is possible to fall strengthens the faithful in that they are that much more determined to succeed.

Those that turn their back upon the Lord will surely reap the consequences. The Bible teaches: "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

The Lord would have his people to remain faithful unto him; to follow the truth is to be saved, but to turn after the fables of men is to be lost.

*Scripture references: Matt. 15:9; Rom. 16:17, 18; Gal. 6:8; Col. 2:20-22; 2 Thess. 2; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Tim. 2; James 1.*

## SERVANT

One who is employed by another; one who serves; as a Christian, a servant of Jesus Christ or a servant of God, etc.

People of God have ever been known as the servants of God. Such was true in Old Testament days and the same thing was true in New Testament days.

The apostle Paul, the apostle Peter, and so on, referred to themselves as being servants. In other words, they were following the Lord's will, and since that was the case, then they were nothing more than servants.

Christ said upon one occasion that he had not come to be served but to serve. Hence, if one would be great then let him be a servant or a minister.

All that obey the Lord become servants of the Lord. If an individual cannot humble himself enough to be a servant then he cannot be saved. To serve is to work, and to work is but to follow the Lord's will, hence, to be saved in this world and in the world to come. Yes, those that serve or work will deserve a rest one day; rest for the soul throughout eternity.

*Scripture references: Matt. 20; John 13:16; Acts 16:  
17; Rom. 1:1; Col. 4:12; James 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:1;  
Jude 1.*

## SANCTIFICATION

To set apart; to make holy; God set many things apart for a specific purpose, to be used according to his will.

Many people think of sanctification as being something of a mysterious nature; something that takes charge of a person and controls him; something that is better felt than told, and so on. However, the Bible teaches that God's people have been sanctified, and for one to be sanctified just simply means that one has been set apart to do a work, and that being the work of God. Now there's nothing mysterious about that.

Every Christian has been sanctified. It is not a matter of becoming a Christian and then later on becoming sanctified, but get it, every Christian is sanctified. As a matter of fact, the very moment that one becomes a Christian that soul becomes sanctified or set apart or holy, in the sense that he is a Christian, that he is a servant of God, etc.

For a person not to be sanctified just means one thing: that soul is not a Christian or not saved. But on the other hand, if a person is sanctified then it means that that soul has separated himself from the things of the world, that he has obeyed the Lord and thereby saved, a Christian, and sincerely devoted to the cause of Christ, in the sense of living faithful to God even unto the end.

*Scripture references: John 17:17; Acts 20:32; Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2; 3:15; Jude 1.*

## SAINT

A disciple; a follower of Christ; a child of God; a servant of the Lord; a godly soul; a Christian.

The Lord's people may be referred to as saints, a group that has been sanctified or set apart to do a particular work. Mind you, all of the Lord's people, not just a few or a selected group, but all, may be referred to as saints.

In New Testament days all disciples or Christians were known as saints. You may read where Paul spoke of the saints in Corinth, the saints in Rome, the saints in Ephesus, etc. As a matter of fact, Paul declares that the Lord's people were called to be saints; called to obey the gospel and thereby to be saints.

Yes, in apostolic days Christians were known as saints. However, the time soon came when a person had to be recognized as a saint. With the great apostasy and the establishment of the Catholic church this practice soon became a habit. That is, after some great Catholic leader had died when the Catholic church would canonize that individual, making him a saint. In other words, they announce to the world that while that soul was on earth he lived a perfect life. Such is still practiced by the Catholic church.

Some people, in order to excuse their way of living, say: "Well I am not a saint." Not only so, but some members of the church are guilty of this. A person that makes such a statement is really suggesting that he is not perfect, but at any rate, if a person is a Christian then he is a saint.

*Scripture references: Acts 9:32; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:25; Jude 3.*

## SIN

To transgress the law of God; to violate the law that God has set in order; to transgress or to neglect certain laws, the law of God and the law of the land, etc.; to offend; that which is opposite to goodness and righteousness.

Sin is not to be smiled upon, but rather to be shunned. The Bible pictures sin as being that which can destroy the body, but even worse than that, can destroy the soul.

Sin causes heartaches, tears, sadness, death, destruction; such brings disappointments and woes of all kinds; it brings pleasure but for a while and then ends in torment and anguish; those that engage in it without fear will greet death early in life and hell for all eternity.

Many times sin is publicly proclaimed, but again it may be hidden in the hearts of men and women who are afraid to express themselves outwardly. Sin may be covered with robes of righteousness or found in a rebellious spirit. Sin is no respecter of persons but reigns as king in every receptive heart and life; it may walk with the poor, but it may also dwell with the rich; it may delight the uneducated, but then it may lecture to the educated; it is to be found in the low places and in the high places; it may prove delightful, but then turn on its friend or friends; it has many friends, but few enemies.

Sin expresses itself in many ways, but you can be sure of one thing: it has no good intentions. The wise will seek the Lord in order to be delivered from this terrible disease. Christ is the hope of the world.

*Scripture references: Lk. 5:21; John 1:29; Rom. 3:20; 5:12; 6:23; 14:23; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 1:4; Col. 1:14; 2 Pet. 2:4.*

## SINNER

One who sins; a transgressor of the law of God; one who is lost.

All have sinned, and since that is true, then all are sinners. That is, all that have reached the age of accountability are sinners. The alien sinner is that individual who has never obeyed the gospel of Christ, and therefore, not a Christian; the erring Christian is one who has obeyed the gospel but has gone back into the world, and as a result, is a sinner; the Christian is one who has obeyed the will of God but may still be referred to as a sinner in the sense that even Christians sin from time to time, not purposely but unintentionally, since it is impossible to live above sin.

The alien sinner is lost as he is; but he does not have to remain lost because God so loved the world that he sent his son in order that man might have hope. Hence, all that will obey the Lord, or meet the conditions of pardon, may be saved. Not only so, but the erring Christian is not as he should be, though he doesn't have to remain lost. The Lord not only extended a law of pardon to the alien sinner, but he also extends to the erring child of God a law of pardon. Therefore, if the erring Christian will but acknowledge and follow it then he may be forgiven of his sin. Then as far as the Christian is concerned, it might be pointed out that just because one is a Christian that does not mean that he is so saved that he cannot be lost. But even as God has given certain laws to the alien sinner and the erring Christian, he has

given certain commandments to the Christian, and they must be followed. Hence, all are to simply obey God in order to be saved at present and in the hereafter.

*Scripture references: Mk. 2:17; 16:16; James 5:16;  
Rev. 22:14.*



## SAVIOUR

One who saves; one who delivers; the individual who extends remission of sins unto all that obey him; Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

It was God who planned and offered the scheme of redemption to the world. However, Christ was the center of those plans and the fulfilment of God's promises relative to salvation. With the coming of Christ as the saviour of the world then the scheme of redemption began to take on real shape. But with death of Christ, not only was salvation or redemption promised, but assured to all that would meet the conditions of the Lord's will.

All should be thankful to God that he thought enough of the world to send his own Son to suffer, bleed, and die that man might be saved in this world, and above that, might have the hope of life eternal. Furthermore, all should be thankful that Christ humbled himself to the extent that he would go to the cross to offer himself as a ransom for many. There are many ways to express our thankfulness to God and his Son, but one of the best ways is to simply bow before the Lord and say in all humbleness and sincereness: "Lord, you command and I'll obey."

With some there are many saviours. Some put their trust in money to save them. Others put their trust in denominationalism to save them, etc. But such will not save one in this world nor in the world to come. There is but one true saviour and that is Jesus Christ the Son

of God. Look to no one then but Jesus Christ. However, if you will place your faith in him and obey his will then he will save you now and in the last day. Hearken unto the Saviour's call.

*Scripture references: Matt. 1:21; John 4:42; Acts 13:23; Eph. 5:23; Phil. 3:20; 1 Tim. 4:10; Tit. 1:4; Heb. 5:8, 9; 1 John 4:14.*

## OBEDIENCE

Submission to the will of God; the act of doing something; doing a particular work as a result of following the Lord's instructions; keeping the commandments.

The Bible reveals that God would have all to be saved. But there is a condition of salvation that must be recognized and dealt with: that condition is obedience. Really, obedience is a broad term which covers a number of conditions relative to the salvation of the soul. However, it's going to take obedience to deliver one from sin to righteousness. There's no getting around it; obedience cannot be pushed aside.

God has demanded obedience from the time he created man on down to the present time. Moreover, he will ever expect obedience. But what about those that refuse to obey him? Such people will have to suffer the consequences.

Even Christ was obedient to God. That's right. The Lord said upon a number of occasions that he was not interested in doing his will but the will of him that had sent him. The Lord not only obeyed his Father's will but taught his followers to be subject to the God of Heaven. Yes, the Lord taught such and he expected such.

To obey God then one must hear the Lord's will and thus submit himself to that will without adding to it, taking from it, or substituting for it in the least bit. In other words, if the Lord commands then man is to obey, and at the same time, without question.

*Scripture references:* Rom. 5:19; 16:19; 1 Cor. 14:34; 2 Cor. 7:15; Phile. 21; Heb. 5:8, 9; 1 Pet 1:2.

## TRUTH

That which is true; having to do with reality; things that are from God; opposite to error, deceit, or lies.

What is truth? Christ informs us that he is truth. Then, too, we are told that the word of God is truth. This is not to be doubted because such is the truth about the matter. As a matter of fact, anything that is from God is to be accepted as the truth.

The truth is important for many reasons. In every field of endeavor the truth is being sought after, and especially should that be true when it comes to religious matters. But why should people search for it? Because of its value. For instance, in connection with religious matters, we are told that the truth makes us free. Now the word is the truth. Hence, when one studies it or hears it presented and then obeys it, it makes one free or saves one from his sins. Again, we are told that we must worship in spirit and in truth. But the word is the truth, therefore, Christians are to worship God according to the word or the directions revealed therein.

The Bible contains only the truth. Thus, the Bible reveals the truth about the plan of salvation, the church, the Christian life, heaven and hell, and so on. The truth will save one in this world and will lead one home to heaven in the after awhile.

The precious will of God has been revealed; the truth of God has been made known, souls are being saved day by day and are making arrangements for a better world. The truth—may it ever be proclaimed.

*Scripture references:*      *Mk. 5:33; John 17; 4:24;*  
*8:32; 14:6; Rom. 2:1; 10:9-17; 2 Cor. 11:10;*  
*Gal. 2:5; Eph. 4:25; Col. 1:5; 1 Tim. 2:4; 1*  
*Pet. 1:22.*

## SCRIPTURE

The word of God; the Old and New Testaments; any passage or verse from the Bible; any sacred or divine writing; the will of God in written form.

We are told that all scripture is given by the inspiration of God. We are also told that holy men of old were moved by the Holy Spirit to pen down the word of God, and not only so, but the same thing was true with the writing of the New Testament.

Hence, when one picks up the Bible then he does not have just another book but he has the inspired word of God. Yes, the Bible contains the word of God, or the very mind of God in written form. One does not have to guess about the will of the Lord because the Bible was presented to the world in order that man might not have to grope in darkness, but that he might turn to the holy writ of God and know what the Lord expects of him.

The scripture or the word of the Lord is perfect; it serves as a light; it is powerful; it will save all who will believe it and obey it.

Man is not only faced with the scripture now but will have to face it again on the day of judgment. Since that is true, then the best thing to do is to abide by the scripture in this life, and in the world to come the same will bless the faithful with a home for the soul.

Accept the scripture and let it be your guide in all that you say and do. If you will do this, you will never regret it.

*Scripture references: Matt. 21:42; Mk. 12:24; Lk. 4:21; John. 5:39; Acts 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:3; Gal. 3:8; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; James 2:8; 1 Pet. 2:6; 2 Pet. 1:20.*

## UNITY

Oneness; the state of dwelling together in peace; living in harmony; being united in one body; in one accord; opposite to division, confusion, and strife.

The Lord prayed for unity; he prayed that all might be one even as he and the Father were one. There in the garden the Lord not only prayed that the apostles might be one, but he also prayed that all who should believe on him through their word might be one. But why should the Lord make such requests? In order that the world might accept him in obedience.

Division and confusion are every where. People are confused when it comes to religious matters, and therefore, do not know which way to turn next. But there is a solution. All that will turn to the Bible and follow its instructions may find peace of mind and contentment. How's that? In that the Bible will lead one to become a Christian and a Christian only; in that the Bible will lead one into the Lord's Church where there is peace and happiness.

God is the author of peace, therefore, unity is stressed throughout the book of God. For instance, there is but one Bible, there is but one God, one Lord, one Spirit, one church, one faith, one baptism, one worship, one way, one hope, one heaven, one hell, etc. Yes, with the Lord there is but one. Those who would tell you that there is more than one of these is but a false prophet.

The Bible condemns division but upholds unity. If you want unity then hear the Lord's will and obey it, and the same shall be yours. Division is of the Devil, but unity is of the Lord.

*Scripture references:* Ps. 133:1; John 4:24; 14:6; 17; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-6.

## TRANSGRESSOR

One who transgresses or goes beyond; one who trespasses or sins; one who over steps; an individual who breaks the law of God, and so on.

Many a soul has been brought down to desolation because of transgression. It was the wise man who taught that the way of the transgressor is hard and as one studies his Bible then he is able to understand the significance of that statement. Not only so, but any transgressor will tell you, if he will be truthful about the matter, that his road is a hard road to travel.

There are many transgressors, but who are they? The infidel, the modernist, the denominationalist, the worldly, the erring Christian, etc. Yes, these and no doubt many others are nothing more than transgressors.

For one to go beyond God's will or to break the law of God then that individual is asking for trouble. Not only does God hold such people responsible for their sins in this world but in the world to come as well. That which one sows will have to be reaped, and the Bible further reveals that the wages of sin is death.

Hear the Lord's will and abide by it. Otherwise, you will have the anathema of God resting on you. Yea, the way of the transgressor is hard.

*Scripture references:*      *Mk. 15:28; Lk. 22:37; Gal. 2:18; James 2:9; 2 John 9.*



## AUTHORITY

Power; the divine right to act or to command; the right of control; the ability to allow a certain thing to take place or the ability to reject or to condemn that which is in process.

Christ has all power in heaven and on earth. In order to be acceptable to the Lord then one must do all by the authority of the Son of God. Otherwise, that which is done is marked or recognized as transgression.

There are many who look to man and his theories and ideas instead of turning to the Lord. But when an individual follows the wisdom of man, then it is that he has rejected the authority of the Lord, and therefore, has the condemnation of the Lord resting on him.

The Lord is looking for people who will recognize him as having all authority. No, the Lord is not pleased with those who will follow man in some things but will not follow him on other points. The Lord is jealous, and therefore, he wants his followers to recognize him as having all authority. To acknowledge the Lord as having all authority one must accept the word of God, but not only so, he must obey it.

While on earth, the Lord proved that he had all authority time and time again. But since the Lord is no longer with us in the flesh then he works with us through his word, the written word. Hence, as one accepts the Bible then he is accepting the authority of Christ, or as one obeys the will of God then he is acting by the authority of Christ.

*Scripture references: Matt. 7:29; 28:19, 20; Mk. 1:22; John 5:27; 1 Cor. 15:24; 2 Cor. 10:8; Tit. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:22.*

## ADVOCATE

One who pleads a case for another; an individual who defends another; a person who intercedes; Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

The Bible tells us that we have an advocate with the Father and that advocate is Jesus Christ. In other words, man cannot call on God in a direct manner but must have an intercessor and that's where the Lord comes in. When a Christian sins then he may take it to God, of course through Christ, and be forgiven. That is, the Lord pleads the case or intercedes, and thus, brings about the desired results.

Every child of God should thank the Lord daily for the fact that there is an advocate. The Christian is not to sin, but nevertheless, he is human, and therefore, makes mistakes. But when those mistakes are made; when sins are unintentionally committed then they may be done away with. No, they do not have to remain attached to, or connected with, the soul and bring about his damnation, but through taking the steps of pardon they may be blotted out for time and eternity, but mind you, only through Jesus Christ can this be done.

Surely God loves his people, and to express that love, he sent his Son. Hence, Christ manifested his love for man in that he died for him on the cross. But he not only acknowledged his love there, but continues to demonstrate that love and compassion. How? As already stated; through serving as an advocate to those who love him and desire to obey his precious will, as well as in many other ways.

*Scripture references: John 3:16. 17; Rom. 5:8; 1  
John 2:1, 2.*

## ATONEMENT

Propitiation; reconciliation; sacrifice; an offering that was made to bring about man's salvation; Christ served as man's atonement that the soul might be saved.

Without Christ man was lost but with Christ man was given hope. God sent his son into the world for a purpose and that being that he might offer himself for the sins of the world. Hence, "he was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth." With the death of Christ or with the atonement of Christ came the gospel and with the gospel came salvation.

Since Christ became our atonement then he is the propitiation for our sins, yea for the sins of the whole world. Through the Lord's atonement he became our reconciliator, thus bringing God and man together for the first time since Adam and Eve. Furthermore, through the blood of Christ there is remission of sins, hope in this world and in the world to come.

Man could not be saved until Christ became his atonement. Not only so, but man cannot be saved even now until Christ is recognized as the one who made that atonement. Thus, Christ has become our mediator, our advocate, the one who has paved the way for us, and we should express our appreciation through following his precious will all the days of our life. Truly the way of the cross leads home.

*Scripture references: John 3:16, 17; Acts 8:32, 33;  
Rom. 5:11; 1 John 2:1, 2.*

## COURAGE

Spirit, fortitude; endurance; bravery; determination; virtue; the strength or firmness to stand a test; to stand fast or to see a thing through.

As one reads the Bible he cannot help but see the courage that many of the characters displayed. Not only so, but as one reads he also realizes that courage was needed, and at the same time was emphasized by example and precept.

New Testament Christians had to have courage to go through with the things they did. In other words, they had to have courage in order to be saved because multitudes of them were persecuted and even put to death.

It takes courage to be a Christian. One must have courage to fight the wiles of the Devil, to stand for the truth, to remain true and faithful to the Lord even unto death. The preacher must have faith in order to preach the word and to face his foes; elders must have courage in order to see after the flock; parents must have courage to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; children must have courage in order to remain free from the things of the world, and to ever stand for the right; yea, all must have courage to remain on the Lord's side and to walk in the narrow way.

But God has not forsaken his people. He is with every Christian, helping and strengthening him all the way.

Hence, the Lord gives us courage, the Bible gives us courage, Christian people give us courage, good works give us courage, etc.

Therefore, “be ye of good courage” and stand.

*Scripture references: Num. 13:20; Deut. 31:6,7,23;  
Ps. 27:14; 1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10,11; 2 Pet. 1:5-  
11; Rev. 2:10.*

## UNBELIEF

Disbelief; skepticism; doubt; incredulity; distrust; question; disobedience; withholding belief; the absence of faith; a rejection of that which is stated, and so on.

Unbelief is one of the most terrible sins in all the world, and yet, multitudes are guilty. Jesus said: "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Where there is unbelief there is no forgiveness.

There are many atheists, infidels, and modernists. These people admit readily that they do not believe in God, Christ, the Bible, etc. But still there are others who claim to believe in these things but really they do not. For instance when it comes to the Bible many of them reject certain commands or portions of it. But to reject one verse of scripture is but to express unbelief. Hence, denominational people, and as far as that is concerned, all religious people as a whole are nothing but unbelievers.

Unbelief brought about the destruction of many Old Testament people. Moreover, because of unbelief many were condemned in New Testament times. But what about the present? Well, even as it was in Old Testament days and New Testament days, there are still many unbelievers, but mind you, every unbeliever has the anathema of God resting upon him. Yea, the Bible plainly teaches, "He that believeth not shall be damned."

*Scripture references: Matt. 13:58; Mk. 9:24; John 3:18; Rom. 3:3; 1 Tim. 1:13; Heb. 3:19; 4:6.*

## HATE

Abhor; detest; dislike; despise; displease; oppose; to hold malice in the heart against another; to be so disgusted with an individual or some system as to work against it.

It was hate which led the people to nail Christ to the cross; it was hate which led the multitudes to persecute and destroy the people of God, not only in New Testament times, but even beyond that, in old Testament times as well. Hate has led to many a war; it has caused many a home to be broken up; it has led to the destruction of many a soul; it has prompted many other sins.

The evil hate the righteous; those of darkness hate the light; yea, there are those who hate their fellowman. No wonder then the Bible condemns the sin of hate. Those who have hatred in their hearts are of the Devil but those who have love in their hearts are of God.

There are two kinds of hate: one is discouraged but the other is encouraged. The one that has been mentioned is discouraged, but the one that is to be mentioned is encouraged. In other words, the Christian is to hate sin, unrighteousness, that which is of the Devil. The Lord hated such and so must Christians, who are following in his steps. Yes, the Christian is to hate everything that is of a wicked and ungodly nature; he is to hate every evil work. Moreover, he is not only to hate those things that are of the Devil, but he is to hate the Devil himself.

Opposite to the people of the world, the Christian is to hate that which is evil and cling to that which is good. One could never go wrong by following this policy.

*Scripture references: Lev. 19:7; 2 Sam. 22:41; Ps. 5:5; Matt. 5:43; Mk. 13:13; Lk. 6:22; John 3:20; Rom. 7:15; Eph. 5:29; Tit. 3:3; 1 John 1:9; Jude 13.*



## THE LAW

The law of Moses; the Jewish or Mosaic law; the Pentateuch; given to Moses and lasted until the death of Christ; contained the ten commandments, as well as many other ordinances dealing with sacrifices, etc.

We are told that the law was added because of transgression but was taken away because it was unable to be kept. To begin with, the law was given to Moses and then he passed it on to the people of Israel. Of course God was the author of it, and therefore, it was directed to his people. The law was not only for their spiritual guidance but for their physical guidance as well. As a matter of fact, it was a law of works and those that transgressed it were punished physically according to that which they had done or that which they had not done.

The majority of the prophets lived under the law, including Christ himself. There were those who felt that Christ had come to destroy the law but he explained: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." So Christ had come to fulfill the law and he did just that. As he hung on the cross stranded between earth and heaven, he said: "It is finished." Thus, with the death of Christ the law was fulfilled and blotted out of the way.

Some still want to follow the law, but one cannot be saved by following such. Paul says if one leaves the law of Christ and goes back to the law of Moses then he is fallen from grace. Understand then that “the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

*Scripture references: Ex. 20; Matt. 5:17, 18; Lk. 24:44; John 1:17; Gal. 3:11; 5:4; Col. 2:14.*

## REVERENCE

Respect shown or manifested; honor paid; fear expressed; bowing down; a humble spirit; an obedient spirit in worshipping and serving God; to revere him who is greater than all.

If there is anything that man should express in worship and service to God then it is reverence. Woe be unto any soul that would mock God or cause others to mock God in regard to those things that are divine. Upon entering into worship then it should be accompanied by quietness, meditation, and a submissive spirit in regard to God's will. Not only so, but in connection with living the Christian life it should be chained with humility, love, fear, and reverence for God. Those who will bow before God in this manner may truly find rest, peace, and happiness for the soul.

Sad to say, there are some people who enter a period of worship like a group of heathen. As a result, the worship turns out to be nothing but mockery. Laughing, gossip, and a host of other things are characteristic of such people, and hence, little is gotten from such an assembly. But again, there are some people who claim to be serving the Lord but they serve him just about like many denominational people do. That is, they do what they want to do and leave off what they want to leave off. But such is a shame and a disgrace before the God of Heaven.

Do you respect God? Do you love the Lord? Are you following his word? If you can answer in the affir-

mative then happy are you, but if not then woe be unto you. Hear ye the word of the Lord today and obey it; live for the Lord, ever respecting him and expressing reverence for him in all that you say or do. Honor the Lord and he will ever bless you.

*Scripture references: John 4:24; 1 Cor. 14:14,15;  
Heb. 12:28.*

## TORMENT

Pain; anguish; distress; torture; agony; suffering; a place of eternal punishment, prepared for the wicked, usually referred to as Hell.

The Lord presented to his disciples the story of the rich man and the poor man. Upon death the rich man was cast into a lake of fire and lifted up his eyes being in torment. Whereas, upon death the poor man went to Abraham's bosom. Hence, the Lord merely illustrated the truth that the wicked will be punished but the righteous blessed.

It is possible to be tormented in this life from the standpoint of having to suffer, being in agony, and so on. However, man's trials and tribulations in this life are nothing in comparison with the torment that one day will be a reality. That terrible place was prepared for the Devil and his angels, but mind you, there will be many to join them in the last day. But who will be responsible if one goes to Hell, and we know that many will go, because the majority are on the broad way? Well, the answer is simple. The one who goes will be responsible. God has done all that is within his power to bring about man's salvation or maybe I should say that God has made all arrangements whereby man may accept and obey the truth, and at the same time he has left the final decision up to man. Hence, if one goes to torment then only he himself will be responsible.

The Lord died upon the cross that man might not have to go to that terrible place but that he might be

saved. Therefore, all who will obey the Lord will be spared, but those that refuse him will be like the rich man, thus one day to lift up their eyes being in torment.

*Scripture references:*      *Matt. 4:24; 25:46; Lk. 16;*  
*1 Thess. 1:7-9; 1 John 4:18.*

## WORLDLINESS

That which is of the world; things that are impure and unholy, the polluted and profane; those things that are ungodly, wicked and abominable.

Worldliness is one of the most terrible diseases there is when it comes to spiritual matters. Why? Because if it gets hold of a Christian it continues to work until it has eaten all the good away, and thus, there is nothing left but a spiritual skeleton, an erring child of God. If worldliness finds its way into a congregation of the Lord's people, then as with an individual Christian, it continues to work until the very heart of all that is good is eaten away, and thus, the congregation falls in ruin.

Worldliness is one of the greatest enemies of all time. Many times it disguises itself and slips in unaware, and as it finds its way around among the Lord's people it leaves a trail of disaster.

The majority of people engage in worldliness in one form or another. For instance, those who love worldliness bow to dancing, drinking, cursing, immodest dress, gambling, fornication, adultery, gossip, etc.

The Bible condemns worldliness. Therefore, those who engage in such stand condemned. As a matter of fact, we are told that those who engage in such shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven. Remember then that worldliness is of the Devil, but righteousness is of God.

*Scripture references: Gal. 5:19-21; Tit. 2:11,12;  
Heb. 9:1; James 1:27; 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17.*

## GOSSIP

That which is told time and time again; passed from one to another; rumors or chatters that goes around; stories, tales, and news that is based on mere hearsay; seed of a loose tongue.

Many people are guilty of this sin, both of the world and of the church. It seems that a lot of people get a great deal of pleasure out of peddling bad news, and in many instances, plain falsehoods or lies. Many times as a story is being passed on it either picks up weight or loses weight. That is, there are those who will add to a story in order to "make it better", and then there are those who will subtract from it in order to "Patch it up."

The tongue is an unruly evil. At times it speaks blessings but still at other times it pronounces curses. Those who gossip are in the same category as the tale-bearers, slanderers, and whisperers. That is, such people stand condemned in the sight of God.

Instead of peddling gossip the Christian should be carrying the good news to a lost and dying world. Then, too, a follower of Christ should not be interested in trying to find the bad that is within a person, but rather, he should be trying to find the good. In other words, if you are going to have to say something about a person then say something good about him, and if you will only do this it will pay off in more ways than one.

Gossip is of the devil; it is no good; it will hurt one rather than do him good. Those who engage in such will have to reap the consequences.

*Scripture references: Prov. 18:13; 11:8; Rom. 1:29; 2 Cor. 12:20; Eph. 5:19-21; James. 3.*



## THE WAY

Course; channel; avenue; path; road; a certain route; that which one travels upon; going in a particular direction; a journey that leads upwards to Heaven.

Christ is the way. He is not a way, some way, one of the many ways, but he is the one and only way. To follow Christ is to follow the way of truth, the way of righteousness, the way of godliness, the way of life, etc.

Furthermore, the Lord's way is a narrow way. However, there are only a few who are on the narrow way because there are only a few who are following the Lord. You see, his way is not very popular, but at any rate it is rewarding. Those who will avail themselves of the opportunity of following the Lord will never regret it, that's for sure.

When it comes to the Bible there is but one way, and as suggested. Christ is that way. But on the other hand, there are many ways as far as the world is concerned. Man made ways are very popular. As a matter of fact, it is said often that there are many ways to Heaven. But listen, those who reject the Lord's way for man made ways will have to suffer the consequences. The Bible teaches: "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Then too, the Bible teaches that man is not able to direct his own steps.

We are to stay with the old paths, ever looking to the Lord for guidance, of course, through and by his word; we are to recognize Christ as the way, walking in the steps of Christ, that eventually we might walk with him through the gates into the Holy City.

*Scripture references: Prov. 14:12; Jer. 6:16; 10:23;  
Matt. 7:13,14; John 14:6; 1 Pet. 2:21; Rev. 22:14.*

## MARRIAGE

The joining of man and woman as one; wedlock; the husband and wife joined in a mutual relationship; an act whereby man and woman are united for the purpose of raising a family; being married; an intimate union.

In the beginning God created man and woman and then joined them together as one flesh. At that time God laid down some particular laws regarding marriage. For instance, he explained that man should leave their father and mother and that he should cleave unto his wife. He also stated that with man and woman as one flesh they should replenish the earth. Now that was the will of God in the beginning and it has ever remained the same.

However, during Moses' time there was a writing of divorcement. Why? Because the peoples hearts had become so hardened that they demanded such. Christ tells us that even though God granted Moses to give them a writing of divorcement that from the beginning it was not so.

Christ explained unto the people of his day that they were to recognize the laws of marriage and abide by them: "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whose marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." Hence, when a man and woman are united in marriage there is but one reason for divorce and remarriage, and that is fornication, and even then, only the innocent party is free to marry again.

There are three reasons for marriage: for companionship; for procreation; to avoid fornication. Keep this in mind—as long as one abides by the divine laws that govern marriage then he can be happy, but to break those laws is but to bring sorrow, regret, shame, and disgrace.

*Scripture references: Gen. 1:28; 2:18; 3; Matt. 5:19  
1 Cor. 7:1.*

## DIVORCE

Sever; separate; divine; disunite; disassociate; disrupt; dissolving a marriage relationship or partnership; a matter of cutting off.

The modern world is experiencing divorce on every hand. It seems that the trend is to marry today and divorce tomorrow or marry this one and if you don't like her then get a divorce and marry the other. Then too, some reason that it's alright to try married life but if it is not suitable then there is always a way out, and that being the door of divorce.

But what does the Bible say? Well, the Bible teaches that there is but one scriptural reason for divorce, and that is for the cause of fornication. Hence, one can't get a scriptural divorce on every little thing that comes up. But listen! Marriage is a serious thing. It should be thought of and dealt with from that standpoint, and remember, that it is much easier to get into than it is to get out of it.

Now when a couple marries the Lord expects them to remain married, that is unless one or the other becomes unfaithful by committing the sin of fornication. It is not a matter of getting married and then getting out of it as a result of some little excuse. But when one gets married then it's to be a lifetime proposition.

No doubt divorce has caused more trouble, strife, hardship, and sorrow than any other one thing, that is,

as far as this country is concerned. It has broken homes, left children homeless, led many people to drinking, as well as to many other sins. Yes, divorce is a terrible sin and therefore stands condemned.

*Scripture references:*            *Matt. 5:19; Mk. 10: Gal.  
5:19-21.*

## BONDAGE

In the service of another; a term associated with slavery; one who is in subjection; suppressing a certain people or keeping them in a state of captivity.

In thinking of bondage one cannot help but recall the Old Testament story of how the Israelites were at one time in Egyptian bondage. Pharaoh had everything well under control, that is, until Moses appeared on the horizon and immediately the great Egyptian ruler began to lose ground. This was due to the fact that God had sent Moses into the land to lead his people out of bondage, and even as he was sent, he fulfilled his mission. On the other side of the Red Sea the people raised their voices in offering praise to God for being delivered from a land of despair and death.

No doubt but what there have ever been people in literal physical bondage. But the saddest of all things is the great number of people that are in the bondage of sin. One may be free physically but a slave spiritually. Christ came to this world to lead men and women, boys and girls, out of bondage into freedom. We are told that there is freedom only in Christ. Hence, all that will hear his voice and heed his way will be set free from sin, thus to be blessed in this world and presented with the hope of eternal life. What more could be offered, or what more could be asked for, as far as God and man are concerned? Bondage spells slavery but Christ means freedom.

*Scripture references:* Ex. 1-20; Deut. 5:6; Josh. 24:17, Neh. 5:18; Isa. 14:3; Matt. 11:28-30; John 8:32; Acts 7:7; 1 Cor. 7:15; Gal. 4:24; 2 Pet. 2:19.

## NEGLECT

To omit; disregard; slight, ignore; overlook; or forget: drifting along with the intention of doing a certain thing but failing to do it; to push something aside.

To neglect is to sin: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." No doubt the sins of omission outweigh the sins of commission. This can be said because just about everyone is guilty, from the alien sinner to the Christian.

The majority of the people have good intentions but they keep putting off those things that are important until it is too late, at least, too late for many. For instance, the sinner has it on his heart to obey God before he departs from this old world, but because of neglect, so often death knocks on his door and before he obeys the gospel he is thrust out into eternity unprepared to meet his maker. Then there's the erring Christian who reasons that he will return to the church before long but again in many cases, neglect spoils those good intentions. Other examples could be given but no doubt such is sufficient to get the point across.

The sacred word reads: "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with



signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" The point is: there is no escape for those that neglect their salvation. Neglect not your salvation alien sinner, erring Christian, or child of God.

*Scripture references: Matt. 18:17; Acts 6:1; James 4:17; Heb. 2:1-4.*

## THE ASSEMBLY

A gathering; a coming together; a meeting; a congregation of people that has assembled for the purpose of worshipping God in spirit and in truth.

It is important that the individual Christian feast upon the word of God in order to remain spiritually fit to fight the battles of life. But not only so, it is important that the people of God assemble in a collective sense, that is, in the form of the local congregation. Thus, this pattern is to be followed throughout the world where there are members of the body of Christ. Now to this question: Why is such a gathering or assembly so important? The assembly is important for many reasons. People of God are to assemble for the purpose of worshipping God, to enjoy Christian fellowship, to study the word of God, to be encouraged, to remember the Lord, to use those talents which have been given, to lay by in store in order that the Lord's work might be continued, to ask the Lord's help, to teach others, etc.

When are we to assemble? We may gather for a Bible study at any time, but especially are we to meet on the First Day of the week to worship God. This is the Lord's will as revealed in his word. We usually think of this day as being Sunday or the Lord's day. But at any rate, it is the day that God has set aside for his people to worship him.

The Bible tells us that we are not to forsake the assembly. Rather, we are to look forward to it, even

making plans to be present, and then too, exhorting others to be present. To forsake the assembly is but to forsake the Lord; to remember it is to remember the Lord.

*Scripture references: John 4:24; Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Heb. 10:25.*

## LASCIVIOUSNESS

Lewd and lustful; wanton; licentiousness; that which produces lewd emotions; that which excites one's inner thoughts; that which has to do with the low and base things of life.

Lasciviousness is classed as being a work of the flesh. It is always spoken of in relation to other sins. Therefore, one cannot engage in such and expect to please God.

The apostle Paul condemned the sin of lasciviousness a number of times. He stressed the fact that those who engage in such cannot be saved in this world, and consequently, neither can they inherit the eternal kingdom of God. Of course, if one is willing to repent of such then there is hope, but not until then.

The sin that is under consideration is usually tied in with other things such as dancing, mixed bathing, wearing shorts, and the such like. With this in mind then certainly one can see the evil that is connected with this kind of living.

There are those who try to justify dancing, mixed bathing, etc., but to try to justify such is but to condone the sin of lasciviousness. Surely then there are many people deceived in regard to these matters, and the only thing that can be done is to try to do away with such through the presentation of the truth over and over again.

Lasciviousness is of the world and it should be condemned on every hand. Fight it with all of your might, all the days of your life. Remember, in so doing you may save a soul, and who knows, it might even be your own soul.

*Scripture references: Mk. 7:22; 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 4:19; 1 Pet. 4:3; Jude 4.*

## PARDON

Forgiveness; remission; oblivion; amnesty; mercy; the act of sparing one; to set an individual free; releasing one or discharging one from certain things of the past, etc.

There is but one person in all the world who can pardon you of your sins and that is Jesus Christ. Yes, the Lord came into his world to call sinners to repentance. With his death on the cross a law of pardon was presented to the world. Hence, all that will hear the Lord's will and obey him may be forgiven of their past sins.

On the day of Pentecost over three thousand souls obeyed the Lord and obtained the remission of their sins. After that thousands of other people answered the gospel call, and as a result, became followers of the Son of God.

The law of pardon to the alien sinner is simple. It consists of these conditions: faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. All who will obey these commands may be saved, but to fail to meet them is only to remain lost.

Then there is a law of pardon for the erring child of God. The conditions are three in the main: repentance, confession of faults, and the asking of forgiveness. Those who will meet these conditions may be forgiven and restored to their first love but those who fail to do such remain unfaithful children of God.

How wonderful it is to know that there is a law of pardon to all that want to be saved. A wise soul will not only thank God that such exists but will take advantage of it.

*Scripture references: Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8; 9;22:16; Rom. 10:10; Heb. 11:6; James 1:22; 5:16; 1 Pet. 3:21.*

## A FRIEND

Someone who is attached to another, a beloved one; an individual that is bound to another by acquaintance, association, or love; one who is willing to help another who is in need, etc.

It has been said: "A friend sticketh closer than a brother." No doubt but what that saying has been proven many times. One of the greatest things a person can have in this life is a host of friends. One may be in trouble; he may loose all that he has materially speaking; trials and tribulations may be piled high; the world may look dark, but as long as one has a friend then there is still some hope left. If you value anything then you should value your friends, yea, put them at the top of the list.

The greatest friend that man has ever had is Christ. He is a friend that will not forsake us. We may forsake him but he will not forsake us. He is the kind of person that is willing to help us and all we have to do is to call upon him, and if we ask according to his precious will, then he will hear us and bless us accordingly. He has proven his friendship in so many ways. We were lost but he died for us. We were without hope but he has given us hope. We were poor but he has made us rich. Who then could be a greater friend?

If the Lord would be our friend then we should be his. Hence, Christ has said: "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." Are you his friend? Are you keeping his commandments? If not then begin today.

*Scripture references: Mk. 3:21; Lk. 7:6; John 3:39; 15:14; Acts 10:24; James 2:23; 3 John 14.*



## LONG-SUFFERING

Patience; endurance; forbearance; the act of waiting, of extending mercy or prolonging certain things; giving an individual another chance, etc.

If it had not been for the longsuffering of God then man would have been destroyed long ago. And get this: The only thing that keeps God from destroying the world even now is his longsuffering! But why has God spared man thus far? In order that more and more souls might be saved. God loves man, and therefore, continues to grant unto him the time and the opportunity in order that he might obey him. We read: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

No doubt if we were in the place of God our patience would run out. We would become tired of dealing with those who seemingly study nothing but having a good time in this world, and so on. God is willing to give every man an opportunity to obey him, but if he fails to take advantage of the opportunity that is his then he will have to answer for it.

We should thank God for his longsuffering in that he has given us the time and opportunity to accept his precious will. But in dealing with our fellowman we should realize that even as God has expressed longsuffering in dealing with us then we must express the same in dealing with others.

*Scripture references: Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 6:6; Eph. 4:2; Col. 1:11; 1 Tim. 1:16; 2 Pet. 3:9.*

## FABLE

A tale, legend, or myth; an untruth; a falsehood; a fictitious narrative; an untrue story that has been handed down from generation to generation, and so on.

The Bible warns that we should not give heed to fables. But why? In that such will not save him but rather condemn him—the truth will set one free but fables will not. Yes, the truth will save one but fables will only condemn one.

The fable originated with man. Every fable is from man and consequently of no value to the Lord, or to those who want to be saved. That which is man made, especially in connection with religious matters, is very dangerous.

Infidels and such like have often referred to the Bible as being a fable. But not so. The Bible is the word of God, and therefore, a living book. The Bible is inspired of God and will stand forever regardless of whether man accepts it or rejects it. No, the Bible is not a fable but is the word of God in its purity and simplicity.

*Scripture references:*      *1 Tim. 1:4; 2 Tim. 3:16,17;  
4:4; Tit. 1:14; 2 Pet. 1:16.*

## HYPOCRITE

One who acts or puts on a show; a pretender; one who claims to be much better than he really is; one who professes to be a Christian but is not a faithful one, etc.

The hypocrite is one of the lowest types of people that there is as far as the Lord is concerned. During his personal ministry, Christ often condemned the hypocrite and at the same time warned his followers not to be like them. The Lord emphasized that outwardly the hypocrite was robed with righteousness but inwardly he was full of evil.

It should not be forgotten that the hypocrite usually has some motive for his actions. That is, he is out for the glory that others can bestow upon him, etc. Then too, it should not be forgotten that the hypocrite many times is very shrewed in that he walks with the world at one time and walks with the Lord at another time. At least this is the case as far as he is concerned.

A hypocrite can be very costly to the Lord's work in that outsiders can tell what is going on, and in most cases, are found to be very critical. Hence, many fail to obey God because of the hypocrisy that is prevalent in so many cases.

The hypocrite should be put out of business. The Lord's people should bear down on such loose living. That is, the faithful should talk with the hypocrite and after taking the proper steps if he will not heed the truth then he should be withdrawn from. By doing such, not only is a hypocrite put out of commission but in many instances souls are saved.

*Scripture references: Prov. 11:9; Isa. 9:17; Matt. 6:2,5;23:14; Mk. 7:6; Lk. 12:56; 1 Cor. 5.*

## DECEIT

Pertaining to a fraud; that which is misleading; a trick; having to do with that which is false or dishonest; the act of beguility or deluding.

Deceit is a most terrible sin. Those who are guilty of such are no more than hypocrites. In other words, such people merely put on a show. They pretend to be something that they are not. As far as they are concerned, they feel that they are better than everyone else.

The Lord has no use for this type of people. They are but damning their own souls and at the same time leading others astray. There cannot be much good said about people who live in this manner. As a matter of fact, the Lord asked his disciples not to be like them and if we would be wise then we will follow the same advice.

It is foolish to try to walk with the Lord and walk with the world at the same time for such cannot be done. An individual who thinks he can do it or tries to do it is merely deceiving himself and while he may deceive some, still others will be able to see through his little game.

The Lord would have an individual to be just what he is. There's no need for putting on because the Lord knows what we are all the time. There's no need to live in such a way to deceive others. The thing to do is just to follow the Lord's will and all will be well. Remember, deceit is bad medicine.

*Scripture references: Mk. 7:22; Rom. 1:29; 1 Thess. 2:3.*

## DOUBT

To question; to be uncertain; to remain undecided that which is brought on many times by unbelief or fear; an unsettled state of the mind, and so on.

If the Devil can only place doubt in an individual's mind then his battle is practically won. The doubt may be hinged on God, Christ, or the holy scripture but wherever it is to be found or what ever it is based on, there's one thing for sure, it will only do harm.

Doubt has caused a many a man to fall; it has led many to bankruptcy; it has severed many friendship; it has broken many homes; it has led nations to war; it has destroyed many a person; it has brought about the downfall of the mighty; it has left many a soul without hope, etc. Doubt then is a terrible disease to come in contact with. This is true because if it ever gets a hold then it is very hard to throw off or to leave behind.

Some people doubt those things that are divine. Others doubt their friends. Then there are those who doubt themselves. But as stated, this is a terrible thing. Each soul should learn to believe in God, his fellowman, and yea, even himself. This must be the case if one is to succeed.

Believe that a thing can be done and in most instances it will be done. This system will work if you will only try it. Yes, have faith in what ever you are doing and even if it does not turn out like you planned it, that should not give room to doubt but it should

instill within you more determination. With every failure there should be more determination to see the next job through.

*Scripture references: Matt. 14:31; Mk. 11:23; Lk. 11:20; John 13:22; Acts 2:12; 10:20; Rom. 14:23; 1 Cor. 9:10; Gal. 4:20; 1 Tim. 2:8.*

## ELDER

A person who holds a certain office because of his age, and too, because of his being able to meet other qualifications; an ordained leader of the church; spoken of as being a bishop, shepherd, etc.

The Bible tells us that after the church was established that elders were selected or appointed. That is, after a number of congregations had been established over the country then Paul stated that elders were to be ordained in every church or congregation. This was done in order that the church might be in a better position to do the work that the Lord would have it to do. The elders were to see after the church, that is, they were to serve as the leaders of the congregation.

An elder has the greatest responsibility in all the world. How is that? In that he is responsible for the various members of the church. Paul told a group of elders that they were to watch over the flock over which they were overseers, to feed the church of God which the Lord had purchased with his own blood.

The New Testament also reveals that one must meet certain qualifications in order to serve as elder. It is a great honor to be able to be an elder, and yet, it is a great responsibility—one that is not to be thought of lightly.

The Lord would have every congregation to have elders, of course, if there are qualified men. However, a congregation is better off without elders if there are

no men within the congregation that are able to serve as elders. It might be pointed out here that every man that is a member of the church should qualify as an elder, that is, with the exception of a few who might not be married, etc.

*Scripture references: Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3; 5:1;  
Tit. 1; James 5:14.*



## EDIFICATION

The act of building up; to construct or to improve; to instruct, encourage, etc; helping one another spiritually or building one another up in the faith.

It is the duty of each Christian to edify one another. One of the main purposes of having the assembly is for edification. When Christians meet they enjoy a period of fellowship, or another way of putting it, each is edified through Christian association and divine worship.

The Christian needs a lot of encouragement; he needs help along life's way. Therefore, though the various assemblies and through his associations with various Christians at different times, he is edified or encouraged to the extent of going onward. Yes, edification will do much in keeping an individual faithful to the Lord.

The Bible should edify one as he reads it; a gospel sermon should edify every soul who hears it; Christian association should be a means of edification; every good work should serve as a source of edifying one or encouraging one on to greater things.

Christians should not always be condemning one another or always rebuking their neighbors, but the child of God should be careful in all that he says or does that it might lead to edification. Now be sure and keep that in mind.

*Scripture references: Rom. 15:2; 1Cor. 14:3; 2 Cor. 10:8.*

## EXAMPLE

A model, type, or sample; a pattern; that which is to be followed or imitated; since it has been set or laid down then it is to be accepted and followed as near as possible.

Christ is our great example; he lived a perfect life and would have us to follow him. The scripture reads: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." Therefore, if we will only follow that example then we may be like our Saviour—Christ-like.

Not only is Christ our example but he would have us to be an example to others. We read: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Yes, we are to be an example, and at the same time, give all the glory to God.

Furthermore, in every thing that we say or do we should strive to be an example. "But be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Hence, we should so live as to be able to say with the apostle Paul: "Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me." and "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

When it comes to being an example then the parents

should be an example before their children; children should be an example before their friends; the employer should be an example before those who work for him; the employee should be an example before those that he is associated with, and above all, the Christian should be an example to all.

*Scripture references: Matt. 5:16; John 13:15; 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Col. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Pet. 2:21.*

## DISCIPLINE

Instruction; punishment; chastisement; training which molds and strengthens one; a set of rules that one must follow or obey; that which is used to humble one, etc.

The Bible is the Christian's discipline; it contains a lot of rules that will better one if followed. The word of God not only edifies the righteous but rebukes the unrighteous, and thus, brings about his change of heart and obedience.

Paul advised the Corinthians to use discipline in dealing with certain ungodly members. He explained that they should take steps to bring about their repentance and if such did not work then they should be withdrawn from. Not only did Paul suggest that such a system be followed but the New Testament tells us time and again that such should be done. But why should discipline be used? In order to keep the church pure and holy as the Lord intended.

Discipline is needed in the home. If more parents would only use a little discipline that within itself would do away with many of their problems. Then discipline is needed in the church today. If the Bible was followed along this line there wouldn't be so much worldliness and ungodliness found in the midst of the church. I tell you friends, we need to return to the Bible when it comes to this matter of discipline.

There's one thing for sure, discipline is used in many walks of life to an advantage, and why shouldn't it be used in connection with the home and especially the church? Of course, its value is recognized by some, but by far too few people. Just remember: God's way demands discipline.

*Scripture references: Job 36:10; 1 Cor. 1, 5; Heb. 12; James 5.*

## BISHOP

An elder or presbyter; a spiritual shepherd; one who has been chosen by his brethren to see after the church—he is chosen because he is able to meet specific scriptural qualifications; literally he is an overseer of the spiritual body of Christ.

In New Testament times bishops or elders were appointed in every church. These men were chosen to serve in such a capacity according to their ability to meet the qualifications that the apostle Paul had laid down. Men, and men only, were selected to fill such a office. Another thing—a plurality of bishops was appointed in each congregation. This was done to eliminate the idea of dictatorship.

One of the greatest honors that can be paid an individual is for his brethren to call upon him to serve as a bishop of his home congregation. Such carries with it a great responsibility inasmuch as that individual is not only responsible for his soul but for the souls of that congregation for which he serves as an elder.

The religious world misunderstands the office of a bishop. This is stated due to the fact that many think that a bishop is to be something like a dictator over a number of churches. But as stressed, each congregation is to have a bishop, and not only so, a number of bishops. This is the Bible way.

A bishop does not have the scriptural right to usurp authority over the other bishops, but rather, is to work

with them in caring for the congregation of which they serve. The work of a bishop is never through in that he is to constantly remain on the job in the caring for the souls of others. Thus, he deserves the cooperation and respect of all.

*Scripture references: Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1; Tit. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:25.*

## CONVERSION

A change or a turning point. When an individual is converted it simply means that he has turned from his sins and has become a Christian. This change takes place when a person obeys the gospel of Christ.

It is said that three principle changes take place in a conversion. They are: A change of mind brought on by faith; a change of action brought on by repentance; and a change of state brought about by baptism. Paul explained it like this: "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye had obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Note, they were once the servants of sin but now they are the servants of righteousness. What made the difference? Why of course, obeying the form of doctrine. The Bible tells us that the facts of the gospel are simply the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. But what about these Romans? They obeyed a form of that doctrine. That is, they died to their sins, were buried with their Lord by baptism, and were resurrected with him to walk in newness of life. Thus, they were simply converted by the gospel of Christ.

In Peter's second sermon, after the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection, he said: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out,



when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." What was Peter asking those people to do? He was merely asking them to obey the gospel of Christ. Why was he doing this? Because he recognized that one can be saved only as a result of obeying the same.

*Scripture references: John 12:40; Acts 3:19; Rom. 6:17, 18; James 5:19.*

## HEARING

To perceive or understand; to listen to that which is being spoken; to heed or pay attention to that which is said; to give ear to man or to God's word, and so on.

The scriptures emphasize the importance of hearing—hearing the word of God. Paul says: “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaisas saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Saving faith comes as a result of hearing the truth, and one may hear the truth in two ways: Either by hearing a gospel preacher as he proclaims the word in its purity and simplicity, or by hearing the word through reading the scriptures themselves. But to continue, faith comes by hearing the word of God, and it becomes a saving faith only when it moves one to obey the commands of God. It is possible to be a hearer only according to James: “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” It is the will of God that we hear his word, but it is also his will that we be doers of the word. Otherwise, one only deceives himself.

John informs us that the truth makes us free. But when does the truth make us free? Of course, when we hear it and accept it in obedience. Thus, God has said: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

*Scripture references: Matt. 17:5; John 8:32; Acts 2:8; Rom. 10:13-17; Eph. 1:13; 1 Tim. 4:16; Heb. 2:1; James 1:22.*

## HEAD

The physical head is not under consideration here, but rather the spiritual head which has reference to Christ; the one who is recognized as being preeminent; he who has all authority; the leader of all time; the chief one.

A natural body has only one head. There is no exception when it comes to the body of Christ, that is, the spiritual body of Christ. Of course, Christ had but one physical head, and thus, he has but one head spiritually. Then we come to the question: Who is the head of the Lord's body or the Lord's church? Most certainly it is not the pope. Neither is the head some man who has either died, or is still living. The Bible tells us that Christ himself is the head of the body, the church. Yea, he is the one and only head. He not only was made the head of the body, but still is, and will ever remain in the same capacity.

In the long ago, Paul said: "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." The same writer continues: "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Now these verses of scripture, as well as others, stress the Lord's position in relation to the body, or the church. He is at the peak, or top. Therefore, it is the Lord who directs the church in all that it does.

*Scripture references:* Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 12;  
Eph. 1:22,23; 5:23; Col. 1:18.

## BLOOD

A red fluid which circulates in the heart, arteries, and veins of an individual; life is in the blood, and therefore, may be referred to as life; spiritually speaking, it takes the blood of Christ to save one from his sins.

The record reveals that in the long ago God sent his only begotten Son into the world that he might save man from eternal doom. However, this could only be done through the shedding of the Son's blood. The scriptures then tell us that Christ offered himself up for that very purpose. Just before this took place, the Lord said in connection with the institution of the Lord's Supper: "For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Thus, one may obtain the remission of his sins only through the blood of Christ. But how does one contact the blood of Christ? Through, and only through, obedience to the Lord's will. We know this to be a fact inasmuch as Peter asked the people on the day of Pentecost to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. Through their obedience, then, they contacted the blood of Christ.

Again, the scripture reads: "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." So in the blood of Christ there is redemption and forgiveness of sins. You can see, then, the importance of the blood of Christ when it comes to being saved. But not only so, the Bible emphasizes the blood of Christ when it comes to staying saved. We are informed that if we are to remain Christ-

ians we must partake of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week, and in so doing we remember the blood of Christ. Hence: "Without shedding of blood is no remission."

*Scripture references:*     *Matt. 26:28; 27; Acts 2:38;*  
  *Eph. 1:7; Héb. 9:22.*

## BODY

In this case, not having reference to the physical body, but rather, the spiritual body of Christ; this body is composed of those individuals who have obeyed the Lord's will; the body is also referred to as the church of Christ and the kingdom of God.

The Bible has a number of things to say about the body of Christ, the spiritual body of Christ. For instance, the apostle Paul tells us that Christ is head of the body: "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." Again, he writes: "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

The scriptures further inform us that Christ is the saviour of the body, the church: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Not only so, but there is but one body: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling."

The physical and spiritual bodies are compared, and the sacred writer explains that even as the physical body has but one head the same is true with the body of Christ; and even as the physical body has many members; even so, the spiritual body has many members; but please note, in each case there is one body, but many members.

Finally, the sacred writings declare that one day the Lord will return and receive unto himself a glorious body, or church. Thus, it should behoove everyone to want to be a member of that one body, so when the Lord returns, all will be well.

*Scripture references: Matt. 16:18,19; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 1:22,23; 5:23,27; Col. 1:18.*



**“CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU” (Rom.16:16)**

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