

# **Fifty TV**

## **Sermon Outlines**

**By**  
**J.P. Williams**

**Published by**  
**J.C. CHOATE PUBLICATIONS**  
**Winona/Singapore/New Delhi**

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J.C. CHOATE PUBLICATIONS

Printed in the United States of America 1981  
Second Edition

Artwork — New Delhi, India

*Order from:*  
J.C. CHOATE PUBLICATIONS  
Route 2, Box 156  
Burton Drive  
Winona, Mississippi 38967  
Phone (601) 283-1192

## **DEDICATION**

To my good wife, Gracie Williams, who was a source of great encouragement as I compiled the manuscript for this book, and to the fine Elders of the churches of Christ in Visalia and Dinuba, California, this book is affectionately dedicated.

## **FOREWORD**

This book contains fifty sermon outlines which were used by your scribe over television station KVVG, Tulare, California, in the years of 1956 and 1957, at which time I labored with the congregations in Visalia and Dinuba, California.

I do not claim originality in these outlines so far as the material is concerned. This was gathered from every available source. I do claim originality in the way the outlines are compiled.

Our hope and our prayer is that these outlines may be of help to many as they strive to further the Lord's cause on earth. If they by any means attain this zenith, unto God be the glory now, and forevermore.

**J. P. Williams**

## INTRODUCTION

I have not seen Brother J.P. Williams for a number of years. The last I heard of him he was still preaching the gospel in California.

These sermons were originally presented on television station KVVG at Tulare, California in 1956 and 1957 while he was working with congregations in Visalia and Dinuba. At about this time my wife and I were living in Shafter where I preached for the local church.

Later my wife and I moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota and Brother and Sister Williams went to Augusta, Maine. Then they located at Granbury, Texas and finally went back to California. Eventually my family and I went to Karachi, Pakistan, Colombo, Sri Lanka, and then to New Delhi, India where we continue to labor to this day.

Since we still have a lost world to deal with, and inasmuch as man still needs the pure gospel of Christ, then I thought that if this sermon material was needed more than twenty years ago then it will still do good today.

I want to thank Brother Williams for having prepared these outlines and sharing them with us in this form. I trust that they will be used again and again in pulpits, classrooms, on the radio, through the avenue of television, and in every way possible to spread the good news of salvation throughout our country and around the world.

J.C. Choate  
Winona, Mississippi  
August 6, 1981

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# The Bible, the Word of God

## INTRODUCTION

1. Bible (Latin, **Biblia**) — The Book.
2. Truly The Book of books.
3. 66 books — 40 writers — 1500 years in preparation.
4. 39 books constitute the Old Testament, and 27 books constitute the New Testament.
5. Old Testament contains: 5 books of law, 12 books of history, 5 books of poetry, 5 books of major prophecy, 12 books of minor prophecy.
6. The New Testament has: 4 books known as the gospels, 1 book of history, 21 letters to churches and individuals, 1 book of prophecy.

## DISCUSSION

### I. From Whence Came This Masterpiece?

1. The atheist, infidel, and modernist say it is of man.
2. Many religionists say that part of it is of God and part of man.
3. Of a truth, it is of God. (2 Pet. 1:20, 21; Heb. 1:1.)
4. It was given by inspiration. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17.)
  - a. No such book ever compiled, neither could have been over such a long period of time without contradiction, except God's unerring hand had guided it.
  - b. So-called "modern day revelations" **all** fail this test.

### II. It Is Eternal. (Matt. 24:35.)

1. Books of today and yester-year come and go, but the Bible remains.

### III. It Is the Only Authentic Record of Where Man Came From. (Gen. 1:1-26.)

1. No other record can prove a beginning of man, neither successfully deny this record.

### IV. It Alone Tells of the Destiny of Man. (Rev. 20:15; 22:14.)

1. This destiny is predicated upon obedience or disobedience. (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Matt. 7:21.)

### V. The Word of God Shall Judge Mankind. (John 12:48.)

1. There is no escape of resurrection and judgment. (John 5: 28, 29.)



## **CONCLUSION**

1. Man is a free moral agent to accept or reject the Word of God at his own will.
2. The only difference in accepting and rejecting is the consequence. (Matt. 25:46.)

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## **How To Study the Bible**

John 5:39, 40

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Many fail to receive from the Bible what they should because of the way they study it.
2. Jesus in our text was conversing with the Jews.
3. They above all men should have accepted Him rather than rejected.
4. They did not reject Jesus because they had not studied but because of the way they studied.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Study Reverently. (Ps. 19:8-11.)**

1. Holy and reverend is God (Ps. 111:9), therefore we should approach a study of His Word reverently.

### **II. Diligently. (Ps. 1:2; 2 Pet: 1:5; Matt: 7:7.)**

1. Slothful, hit and miss, study of the Bible will never produce wisdom.

### **III. Intently. (Prov. 2:1-5.)**

1. There is no promise to those who search lightly.

### **IV. Study Systematically.**

1. God's Word has power to save. (Jas. 1:21.)
2. But it does not have this power until properly divided. (2 Tim. 2:15.)
3. Anyone with an accountable mind can divide the Word sufficient unto salvation of his soul. "if" he is diligent in his search. (Isa. 35:8; Eph. 3:1-4.)

### **V. Study Prayerfully. (Ps. 119:18.)**

1. To approach a study of the Word without a prayerful attitude is grave danger indeed. (Matt. 7:7; Jas. 1:5-8.)

### **VI. Study To Understand. (Acts 8:30, 31.)**

1. The truth can and will make free, but only when understood. (John 8:31, 32.)

### **VII. Study with Faith. (John 20: 30, 31.)**

### **VIII. Study Retentively. (Ps. 119:11.)**

1. Not what we learn that delivers us, but what we retain.

### **IX. Study Daily. (Acts 17:11; Lk. 9:23.)**

### **CONCLUSION**

1. The Word of God's grace can give a home among the sanctified. (Acts 20:32.)
  2. Therefore we should strive to know and obey its contents.
- 

## **Can All Understand the Bible Alike?**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Discuss few thoughts presented today.
  - a. All right as long as conscientious.
  - b. That is just your way of interpreting.
2. If we cannot possibly understand alike then Jesus prayed in vain. (John 17:21.)
3. Paul also pled in vain. (1 Cor. 1:10.)
4. His lesson to Ephesus was foolishness. (Eph. 4:3-5.)
5. To summarize the whole picture we would say:
  - a. If we do not understand the Bible alike, somebody just doesn't understand because God didn't give a book of confusion.
  - b. It is not a matter of understanding, but **believing** what it says.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. What Is Resorted To When Differences of Opinion Arise in Weights and Measures?**

1. The standard.
  - a. 16 oz. equal 1 lb., 12 in. equal 1 ft., 2 plus 2 equals 4.
2. Some may be hard losers, but they do not deny the **standard**.
3. The same logic should be applied in studying the Bible.

#### **II. In Christianity There Can Be Only One Source of Authority.**

1. Nothing else needed to settle differences of honest seekers. (2 Pet. 1:3.)
2. In fact nothing else can settle spiritual differences.

#### **III. How Many Churches Does the Lord Recognize?**

1. Without the standard we would not know.
2. What does the standard say? (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; 1:22, 23.)

#### **IV. Is Church Membership Necessary unto Eternal Salvation?**

1. What does the standard say? (Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:4; 5:23.)

#### **V. Is Baptism Necessary unto Remission of Sins?**

1. Without the standard we would not know.
2. What does it say? (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21.)

#### **VI. Can Man Be Baptized by Sprinkling or Pouring?**

1. Let the standard answer. (Rom. 6:3-5; Col 2:12.)

#### **VII. Some Say, "Oh, Yes, but I Thought."**

1. So did Naaman. (2 Kings 5.)
2. So did Peter. (Matt. 17:4.)
3. So did Paul. (Acts 23:9.)

#### **CONCLUSION**

1. Thinking made none of the foregoing right.
  2. What makes right religiously?
  3. Only God's standard.
  4. Must live by it, and shall be judged by it. (John 12:48.)
- 

### **What the Word of God Can Do for Man**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Word is powerful. (Heb. 4:12.)
2. It is the sword of the Spirit. (Eph. 6:17.)
3. It is the seed of the kingdom. (Lk. 8:11.)
4. The Word as such will —

#### **DISCUSSION**

##### **I. Furnish Man Completely to Every Good Work. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17.)**

1. Many fine books today concerning etiquette.
2. Many fine psychology books which can assist men toward a happier life.
3. Many other fine books that can and do encourage and strengthen men.
4. None can compare in the remotest way to God's Divine Word which can deliver the soul of man from eternal degradation. (Heb. 5:8, 9.)

##### **II. The Word of God Can Make Man Free. (John 8:31, 32; 17:17; 15:3; Rom. 1:16; 6:16.)**

1. Man at the age of accountability becomes bound by the shackles of sin.
2. God's Word alone can free him from these shackles.

##### **III. The Word of God Can Give unto Man All that Pertains to Life and Godliness. (2 Pet. 1:3; Eph. 1:3.)**

1. What more should man want, or what more is worthy of attainment?
2. The deliverance of the soul is man's greatest gift. (Matt. 16:26.)

#### **IV. The Word of God Can Save Man. (Jas. 1:21.)**

1. It is helpless without man's obedience. (Heb. 5:8, 9.)

#### **CONCLUSION**

1. Man accepts God's Word when he —
  - a. Hears. (Matt. 7:24.)
  - b. Believes. (John 20:30, 31.)
  - c. Repents. (Lk. 13:3.)
  - d. Confesses with the mouth. (Rom. 10:9, 10.)
  - e. And is baptized. (Acts 2:38.)
2. Man remains under the protection of God's Word so long as he is faithful. (Rev. 2:10.)

## **The Bible the Only Source of Authority in Christianity**

1 Pet. 4:11

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Divine Authority has always versed man's authority as in the days of Noah, Adam, and Saul.
2. If the religious world had true respect for Divine Authority, there could be no division, confusion and sects.
3. We must distinguish between Divine Authority and man's authority. (Matt. 15:1-9.)
4. In opinion man has liberty until his opinion contradicts God's will.

#### **DISCUSSION**

##### **I. Christians Accept the Bible as the Only Source of Authority.**

1. God speaks through His Son. (Heb. 1:1, 2.)
2. Jesus is the author and finisher. (Heb. 12:1, 2.)
3. Bible not given by private interpretation. (2 Pet. 1:20, 21.)
4. We are commanded not to add to, or take from. (Rev. 22:18, 19.)

##### **II. The Bible Is the Only Authority Needed. (Jas. 1:21; John 15:3.)**

1. Completely furnishes. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17.)
2. Gives all things. (2 Pet. 1:3.)
3. It is a guide and light. (Ps. 119:105, 130.)
4. It is the sword of the Spirit. (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12.)
5. It is perfect and converts. (Ps. 19:11 )
6. It is power to keep man from sinning. (Ps. 119:11.)

### **III. This Great Source Book Teaches Man To:**

1. Speak as the oracles of God. (1 Pet. 4:11.)
2. That there is danger in feelings. (Prov. 14:12.)
3. That he should prove all things. (1 Thess. 5:21.)

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Do you accept the Bible as the Word of God?
2. Is it your authority in all spiritual matters?

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## **The Two Covenants, No. 1**

Heb. 8:7, 8

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The fact that there are two covenants or testaments is obvious to all.
2. To this fact we will assume all agree.
3. There is much confusion in the world today concerning the two covenants.
4. Some make no discrimination between the two at all.
5. Others accept part and reject part of both.
6. Is there a way to determine which covenant we are under today, and if so how, is the thought we are interested in?

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. We Are In the Last Days.**

1. Joel's prophecy, 800 B. C. (Joel 2:28.)
2. Peter's statement concerning this prophecy, 33 A. D. (Acts 2:16, 17.)

#### **II. Who Are We To Hear in These Last Days?**

1. God's Son. (Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1, 2.)

#### **III. By Whom and To Whom Was the Law Given?**

1. The law was given by Moses. (John 1:17.)
2. It was given to the Jews. (Ex. 20:1, 2; Deut. 5:1-22.)

#### **IV. How Long Was This Law To Last?**

1. Till the promised Seed should come. (Gal. 3:19.)
2. Christ was the end of the law. (Rom. 10:4.)
3. The law was only a schoolmaster to bring to Christ. (Gal. 3:24-27.)
4. The old was to vanish away. (Heb. 8:13.)

#### **V. Is the Law of Moses or Old Covenant In Force and Binding on Man Today?**

1. If it is binding, is all of it binding or part?

2. The law of Moses was nailed to the cross. (Col. 2:14.)
3. Christ gave a new law. (John 1:17.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Some say that only carnal ordinances were meant in Col. 2:14.
2. This is refuted by Paul in Rom. 7:1-7.
3. Dead to the law by the body of Christ, verse 4.
4. Tenth commandment, "Thou shalt not covet" (Ex. 20:17), quoted in verse 7.
5. Therefore, we know that not only the ceremonial law, but also the ten commandments were nailed to the cross to give way to Christ's new law of grace and truth.

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## **The Two Covenants, No. 2**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. In lesson number one we established the following facts:
  - a. We are living in the last days.
  - b. We are to hear Jesus.
  - c. The Law was given by Moses — to the Jews.
  - d. It was to continue until the promised seed should come, which was Jesus. (Gal. 3:19.)
  - e. And then it was nailed to the cross. (Col. 2:14.)
  - f. That this included the ten commandments also.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. Today We Live Under the Law of Liberty. (Jas. 1:25.)**

1. This is the Law of Christ, the Law of grace and truth. (John 1:17.)

#### **II. Under This New Law We Find the Following New Things:**

1. A new church or system of religion. (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16.)
  - a. This is different to the church in the wilderness. (Acts 7:38.)
2. A new name for God's children. (Isa. 62:2; Acts 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:16.)
  - a. This name glorifies and exalts the name of Christ. (Phil. 2:10, 11.)
3. A new sacrifice to offer. (Rom. 12:1, 2.)
4. A new gospel. (Lk. 24:47; Rom. 1:16.)
  - a. What the old Law could not do (Heb. 10:1-4), the new Law, the gospel of Christ, can do. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.)
5. A new plan of worship. (John 4:23, 24.)

6. This plan includes:
  - a. Teaching. (Acts 2:42.)
  - b. Lord's Supper. (Acts 2:42.)
  - c. Prayer. (Acts 2:42.)
  - d. Giving. (2 Cor. 9:6, 7.)
  - e. Singing. (Col. 3:16.)
7. This plan also excludes all other plans. (Matt. 17:5.)
8. A new day of worship. (Col. 2:15-17.)
  - a. This is the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2.)
  - b. The Lord's Day. (Rev. 1:10.)
    - (1) The day He arose. (Matt. 28:1-6.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. If God did not have power to give a New Law through His Son, then it would be logical to think He did not have power in the beginning to give a law.

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## **Sin**

Jas. 1:13-15

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The most tragic disease of mankind is sin.
2. One thing that makes it so tragic is that few realize the final destination of it.
3. There are three scriptural definitions of sin.
  - a. It is transgression of law. (1 John 3:4.)
  - b. It is all unrighteousness. (1 John 5:17.)
  - c. It is that which is not of faith. (Rom. 14:23.)
4. We define it, "Missing the mark" — that is, God's mark.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. When Does Man Become a Sinner?**

1. Man is not born such. (Ezek. 28:15; Deut. 1:39.)
2. James gives answer to the question. (Jas. 4:17.)

#### **II. Four Steps that Lead to Sin.**

1. No one plunges into sin, as into the pool for a swim.
2. Sin brought forth by four acts —
  - a. Lust, temptation, conception, and yielding. (Jas. 1:13-15; Rom. 6:16.)

#### **III. The Nature of Sin.**

1. It is hideous, yet cunning and subtle. (2 Cor. 11:3, 14.)

#### **IV. The Results of Sin.**

1. Brings forth death. (Rom. 6:23.)
2. Eternal separation from God and His power. (2 Thess. 1:7-9.)

**V. Sin Must Be Pardoned or Punished. (Ezek. 18:4; Matt. 25:46.)**

**VI. Is There a Way To Escape Sin?**

1. Christ is the only way of escape. (John 14:6.)
2. His blood is the only atoning power for sin. (Heb. 9:22; 1 John 1:7.)
3. He becomes the way of escape only when we obey Him. (Heb. 5:8, 9.)
4. We obey Him when we —
  - a. Believe. (John 8:24.)
  - b. Repent. (Lk. 13:3.)
  - c. Confess. (Matt. 10:32, 33.)
  - d. Baptized. (Mk. 16:16.)
  - e. Remain faithful. (John 8:31, 32.)

**CONCLUSION**

1. A sinful life does not pay — in this life or the next.
2. Put sin behind you and strive to live a righteous life.

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**Salvation by Grace**

Eph. 2:8-10

**INTRODUCTION**

1. There is no doubt in the true searcher's mind but that man is saved by grace.
2. He who would deny this, denies God's Word.
3. The text is proof once and for all in favor of the subject.
4. The only question is: "How does grace save?"
5. Does grace save separate and apart from all else?
6. If so, all men would be saved. (Tit. 2:11.)
  - a. This would make universalism right and harmonious with the Scriptures.
7. Yet if this is true the Scriptures contradict themselves. (Acts 2:40.)
8. Therefore, we need to make a thorough investigation and see if we cannot find a logical, scriptural conclusion on this subject.

**DISCUSSION**

**I. What Is the Meaning of Salvation by Grace?**

1. Grace — unmerited favor or good will.
2. Salvation — saved from, delivered from.
3. This is needed since man fell (Gen. 3:15), and continues to fall. (Rom. 3:23.)



4. Man has not power to save himself; therefore, God's grace begins. (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Matt. 1:21.)
5. Christ extended His grace to man in His advent and the shedding of His blood. (2 Cor. 8:9; Matt. 26:28.)

## **II. How Does Man Appropriate Grace unto Salvation?**

1. Some say to do anything makes grace void.
2. Others say, man must do all.
3. Both cannot be right.
4. Note closely Tit. 2:11, 12.
  - a. Appeared to all.
  - b. Doing what?
  - c. Teaching.
5. Teaching to be of value must be adhered to. (Matt. 7:24.)
6. When we obey God's commands it is not works of merit by man, but works of righteousness commanded of man. (Acts 10:34, 35; Eph. 2:10.)
7. The gospel of Christ is the manifestation of God's grace to man.
  - a. No man merits this. (Rom. 1:16.)
8. We appropriate this grace in obedience to God's commands by:
  - a. Believing in Christ. (John 20:30, 31.)
  - b. Repenting. (Acts 17:30.)
  - c. Confessing Christ. (Rom. 10:9, 10.)
  - d. Being baptized for remission of sins. (Acts 2:38.)
9. Finally through faithfulness in life here, we become the recipients of God's ultimate grace. (Rev. 22:14.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Are you abounding in God's grace?
2. Remember that God will do His part; what about you?

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## **Salvation by Faith**

John 20:30, 31; 3:16

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. No doubt the most misunderstood and misapplied subject in the Bible.
2. Man in general speaks of faiths — plural — as though any faith could save.
3. Bible speaks of **one** saving faith. (Eph. 4:5.)

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. What is Faith?**

1. The Bible says. (Heb. 11:1.)

## **II. Is Faith Essential to Salvation?**

1. Let the Bible answer. (John 8:24; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 5:1; 14:23.)

## **III. How Is Faith Obtained?**

1. Some say it is a gift of God separate and apart from the Word.
2. The Holy Spirit says. (Rom. 10:14-17.)

## **IV. Does Faith Alone Save?**

1. Some answer in the affirmative.
2. The Holy Spirit says. (Jas. 2:14-19, 24-26; 1 Cor. 13:2.)

## **V. How Does Faith Save?**

1. Faith gives us power to become, and does not make us sons of God. (John 1:11, 12.)
2. Repentance — is faith turning. (2 Pet. 3:9; Matt. 21:28-31.)
3. Confession — is faith speaking. (Matt. 10:32, 33; Acts 8:37.)
4. Baptism — is faith obeying. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16.)
5. Worship — is faith praising. (John 4:23, 24.)
6. Doing good — is faith helping. (Jas. 1:27.)
7. Christian living — is faith shining. (Matt. 5:13-16.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. A scriptural faith is a working, saving faith.
2. Pure faith will take one to heaven.

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## **Salvation by Repentance**

Acts 17:30, 31

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Some day we must stand holy or condemned — blessed or cursed — welcomed or rejected — happy or sad.
2. A major factor of this end depends on repentance.
3. Jehovah has cried to mortal man to repent in all ages.
4. Repentance has always been one condition upon which God pardons the erring.
5. All have sinned (Rom. 3:23) which gives need for repentance. (Acts 17:30.)

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. Significance Of and Need For Repentance Seen in Following Facts:**

1. Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. (Matt. 9:13.)
2. Suffered and died that repentance might be preached in His name. (Lk. 24:46, 47.)
3. Rejoicing in heaven when man repents. (Lk. 15:7.)

## **II. There Are Certain Things that Move Man to Repentance.**

1. The goodness of God. (Rom. 2:4.)
2. Godly sorrow. (2 Cor. 7:10.)
3. Attentively hearing God's Word. (Acts 2:36, 37.)
4. Certainty of final judgment. (Heb. 9:27.)

## **III. What Is Repentance?**

1. Not necessarily sorrow — sorrow leads. (2 Cor. 7:10.)
2. Not reformation of life — this is the fruits of repentance. (Matt. 3:7, 8.)
3. Repentance is a complete change of will. (Matt. 21:28-31.)

## **IV. Who Shall Repent?**

1. Alien sinner. (Lk. 13:3.)
2. Erring child of God. (Acts 8:22.)
3. All men. (2 Pet. 3:9.)

## **V. Where Does Repentance Belong in God's Plan To Save Man?**

1. Cannot precede faith, for without faith men would not know what to repent of.
2. Cannot follow other acts of obedience, because it is necessary unto salvation. (Lk. 13:3.)
3. Repentance logically follows faith in God's Word which commands man to repent. (Acts 17:30.)

## **VI. Repentance Alone Does Not Save.**

1. One step in God's plan, as faith, confession, and baptism are. (Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:10.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Repentance is a Bible subject.
2. Have you repented as yet?

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## **Salvation by Baptism**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The command to be baptized is too obvious to be argued.
2. Those who deny the need of baptism in order to be saved either desire to quibble or do not believe the Bible.
3. Jesus commanded baptism in John 3:5, Matt. 28:19, and in many other Scriptures.
4. Let us spend our time investigating the following in regard to baptism.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. Who Is To Be Baptized?**

1. Not the infant or unaccountable.

2. Christ said, "He that believeth. . . ." (Mk. 16:16.)
3. Paul said, "Faith cometh by hearing. . . ." (Rom. 10:17.)
4. This excludes infants and the untaught.
5. Peter said, "Repent and be baptized." (Acts 2:38.)
6. Therefore, we conclude that the believer who has repented is a rightful candidate for baptism.

## **II. How Is Man To Be Baptized?**

1. Paul said, "There is one baptism." (Eph. 4:5.)
2. What act constitutes this one baptism?
3. A burial in water. (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12.)
4. Sprinkling or pouring in no way fits the picture of baptism as it is described in Holy Writ.

## **III. Why Should Man Be Baptized?**

1. To be saved. (Mk. 16:16.)
2. To put on Christ. (Gal. 3:27.)
  - a. Salvation in Christ. (2 Tim. 2:10.)
3. To get into His name. (Matt. 28:19.)
  - a. Salvation in no other. (Acts 4:12.)
4. To enter the church. (1 Cor. 12:13.)
  - a. Salvation in the body. (Eph. 5:23.)
5. To have our sins washed away. (Acts 22:16.)
6. To become new creatures. (John 3:5; 2 Cor. 5:17.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. One must be baptized to be saved and to go to heaven.
2. Have you been baptized? scripturally baptized?

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# **The Church a Divine Institution, No. 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Define the subject.
  - a. Church — called out (Col. 1:13, 14) — by the gospel. (2 Thess. 2:14.)
  - b. Divine — Godlike, sacred, and holy.
  - c. Institution — that which is established.

Summary — The church of Christ is an established group of people who have been called out of darkness by the glorious gospel of Christ, who stand Godlike, sacred and holy.

2. Many ask why we speak of the church as divine.
3. This question is logical and in order.

4. It is enjoined upon all to give an answer for their hope. (1 Pet. 3:15.)
5. The answer must be according to the oracles of God. (1 Pet. 4:11.)
6. Therefore, let us give attention to why the church of Christ is a divine institution, according to the Scriptures.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. God Planned Her.**

1. Any church planned by man cannot be divine, because man is not divine.
2. Paul spoke of this divine plan in Eph. 3:8-21.
3. The mystery hidden from the beginning of the world was manifest in the church.

### **II. Christ Purchased Her with His Blood. (Acts 20:28.)**

1. This shows her outstanding value.
2. Both God and Christ paid a supreme sacrifice for the church. (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 8:9.)

### **III. The Church of Christ Is Divine Because Christ Built Her. (Matt. 16:18.)**

1. No man had one iota to do with the building of the church of our Lord. (1 Cor. 3:11.)
2. Jesus said He would build the church. (Matt. 16:18.)
3. He promised to do so while some of that day were alive. (Mk. 9:1.)
4. David said, "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it." (Ps. 127:1.)
5. Jesus said many would be rooted up which His heavenly Father had not planted. (Matt. 15:13.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. That church was built and continues to exist.
2. The Lord's body will never be destroyed.

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## **The Church a Divine Institution, No. 2**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. In lesson number one we learned the church of Christ was a Divine Institution because:
  - a. God planned her.
  - b. Christ purchased her with His blood.
  - c. Christ built her.

2. Let us at this time further our investigation as to her divinity.
3. The church of Christ is divine because:

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Her Every Morsel of Doctrine Is of God.**

1. By this we mean, the church has no other doctrine than that which is taught in the New Testament.
2. Paul warned against innovations. (Gal. 1:6-10.)
3. John also gave warning. (2 John 9-11.)
4. No man has a right to add to, take from, or substitute for God's Divine plan. (Rev. 22:18, 19.)

### **II. The Church Is Divine Because Her Head Is Christ.**

1. A law of nature, "A body cannot exist without a head."
2. The church of Christ has no earthly head.
3. Her head is Christ, the Divine Son of God. (Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18.)
4. He has all power or authority. (Matt. 28:18.)
5. Paul said those who would set themselves up as heads of the church today, along with their followers, would be damned. (2 Thess. 2:4-12.)

### **III. The Church Is Divine Because Christ Gave Himself for Her.**

1. Paul expressed this fact plainly twice. (Eph. 5:25; 2 Cor. 8:9.)
2. No other church today can successfully and scripturally make this assertion.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. We plead with you to accept the Divine Authority today and become a member of the Divine Institution, the church, by:
  - a. Believing in Christ. (John 20:30, 31.)
  - b. Turning from your sins in repentance. (2 Pet. 3:9.)
  - c. Confess with your mouth Christ's name. (Rom. 10:9, 10.)
  - d. Be baptized for remission of your sins. (Acts 2:38.)
2. And the Lord will add you to the church. (Acts 2:47.)

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## **The Church a Divine Institution, No. 3**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. In lessons one and two we found the church of Christ is a Divine Institution because: God planned her, Christ bought her, Christ built her, her doctrine is of God, her head is Christ, and Christ gave Himself for her.
2. Paul said, "Prove all things." (1 Thess. 5:21.)

3. Therefore, let us continue our proof of the divinity of the church with scriptural proof. (1 Pet. 4:11.)
4. The church of Christ is divine because:

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Her Members Wear Christ's Name.**

1. They wear the name Christian only. (Acts 11:26; 23:28; 1 Pet. 4:16.)
2. No other name can be scripturally used.
3. No hyphenated name can be used; that is some different kind of Christian.
4. There is only one name whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12.)

### **II. The Lord Adds Each New Member by His Own Personal Decision.**

1. No one voted in or accepted on personal experiences.
2. No one accepted because of pomp, prestige, or degrees.
3. All must obey. (Heb. 5:8, 9.)
4. Then the Lord adds them to the body. (Acts 2:47.)
5. The unconverted cannot be a member of this body. (Acts 2:47.)

### **III. The Church Is Divine Because the Fulness of Christ Is in Her.**

1. The church is the manifestation of the fulness of Christ.
2. He is her head and guide. (Col. 1:18.)
3. All fulness is found in her. (Eph. 1:22, 23.)

### **IV. Christ Is Her Saviour.**

1. This is a human impossibility.
2. Christ is the only one who can play this role. (Eph. 5:23.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. One day Christ will present this Divine body to Him as a glorious church. (Eph. 5:27.)
2. All the obedient will enter the glorious eternal city. (Rev. 22:14.)

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## **The Church a Divine Institution, No. 4**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Paul said, "There is one body." (Eph. 4:4.)
2. He said the body was the church. (Eph. 1:22, 23.)
3. Therefore, we should do our utmost to identify this Divine Institution.

4. If we can point out the divinity of the church in the Bible, then no one could deny her as being the church which Paul spoke of.
5. The church of Christ is divine because:

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. It Is the House of God. (1 Tim. 3:14, 15.)**

1. House of someone signifies:
  - a. A place owned by someone.
  - b. An abiding place of someone.
2. This is what the church is to God.
3. He purchased it with His Son's blood. (Acts 20:28.)
4. He abides in this spiritual house.
5. Christians make up this Divine House.
6. God abides in them, thus in the house, the church. (1 Cor. 3:16.)
7. To be Divine the house must be built by God. (Ps. 127:1.)

### **II. It Is Divine Because It Is the Bride of Christ.**

1. Christ knows His sheep. (John 10:14.)
2. Christians are chaste virgins to Christ. (2 Cor. 11:2.)
3. They are dead to the law, that they may be married to another, even Christ. (Rom. 7:4.)
4. If married to Christ, then His bride.
5. John spoke of the church glorified as a bride. (Rev. 21:2.)

### **III. Christ Is Her King.**

1. A kingdom demands:
  - a. Territory.
  - b. Subjects.
  - c. Law.
  - d. A king.
2. The church has all of these:
  - a. Territory — whole world. (Mk. 16:15.)
  - b. Subjects — all who will come. (Matt. 11:28-30.)
  - c. Law — perfect law of liberty. (Jas. 1:25.)
  - d. King — Christ. (Lk. 19:38.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. It is an honor indeed to be a member of this Divine Institution.
2. The Spirit and Bride invite all to be. (Rev. 22:17.)



# What the Church of Christ Stands for Religiously

## INTRODUCTION

1. We are not interested in what the church stands for socially, politically, or ethically, primarily.
2. Our salvation does not depend upon these necessarily.
3. We are concerned about religious principles upon which the church stands, which are guides to the destiny of our souls.
4. The church of Christ stands for:

## DISCUSSION

**I. One True and Living God, Creator of All.** (Gen. 1:1; Matt. 16:16.)

**II. For Man Created in the Likeness and Image of God.** (Gen. 1:26.)

1. This forever explodes and excludes the theory of evolution.

**III. For the Divinity of Jesus Christ as God's Son.** (Matt. 3:17; 17:5.)

**IV. For the Inspiration of the Word of God.** (2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16.)

1. For this Word as man's only spiritual need. (2 Pet. 1:3.)

**V. For One Church, with Jesus as Head, with Sole Authority.** (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18; Matt. 28:18.)

**VI. For a Complete and Full Gospel, Which Is God's Power To Save.** (Rom. 1:16.)

**VII. That This Gospel Includes:**

1. Facts to be believed. (John 20:30, 31.)
2. Commands to be obeyed. (Heb. 5:8, 9.)
  - a. Repentance unto life. (Acts 11:18.)
  - b. Confession unto salvation. (Rom. 10:10.)
  - c. Baptism into Christ. (Gal. 3:27.)
  - d. Continuing in Christ. (John 8:31.)
3. Promises to be received. (Acts 2:38; Rev. 22:17.)

**VIII. That Any Other Gospel Than the Gospel of Christ Will Condemn.** (Gal. 1:6-9.)

## CONCLUSION

1. Jesus said to live and believe in Him would evade death. (John 11:26.)
2. Paul said to fail to obey bringeth everlasting destruction. (2 Thess. 1:7-9.)

# The Unchanging Christ in a Changing World

Heb. 7:22-24

## INTRODUCTION

1. This is a changing world, and no man dare deny the same.
2. Manner of transportation, household tasks, farming, medicine, television, atomic power, and church creeds are all changing.
3. Perhaps not all for the better, nevertheless, they are changing.

## DISCUSSION

### I. Human Beings Have Not Changed.

1. Same greed that characterized Lot prevails today. (Gen. 13:10, 11.)
2. Same love for preeminence as in Diotrephes. (3 John 9.)
3. Same love for money. (1 Tim. 6:9, 10.)
4. Same lusts of the flesh. (1 John 2:15-17; Jas. 1:13-15.)

### II. Man's Needs Have Not Changed.

1. He needs guidance because of inability to guide himself. (Jer. 10:23.)
2. Salvation because of sin. (Rom. 3:23.)
3. Encouragement because of weakness. (Gal. 6:1, 2.)
4. Sympathy because of sorrow. (Rom. 12:15.)
5. Hope because of death. (1 Cor. 15:19.)

### III. Christ Is Unchangeable. (Heb. 13:8.)

1. Does not change because He is from everlasting to everlasting. (Rev. 1:8.)
2. Still the Saviour of man. (Heb. 12:1, 2.)
3. His laws are unalterable. (Matt. 24:35.)
4. His condition of salvation remains the same. (John 3:5; Mk. 16:16.)

### IV. His Attitude Is Unchangeable.

1. Toward sin. (John 8:24; Rom. 6:23.)
2. Toward disbelief. (Mk. 13:16.)
3. Error. (Matt. 15:9-13.)
4. Toward man. (John 15:13, 14.)

## CONCLUSION

1. In Christ and His labors is the only thing man can enter with full assurance of reward. (1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10.)

## Simplicity in Christ

2 Cor. 11:3; Isa. 35:8

### INTRODUCTION

1. God has always known and understood His creation.
2. He knows that man will not accept something hard to understand.
3. Therefore, His law unto man has always been simple, easy to understand, and the manner easy to conceive.
4. In this lesson we want to note some examples of the same.

### DISCUSSION

#### I. Adam and Eve. (Gen. 3:3.)

1. Two things stated:
  - a. Eat of every tree save one.
  - b. Eat of it and die.

#### II. Abraham Told To Offer Isaac. (Gen. 22:2.)

1. Perhaps hard to accept, yet simple and easily understood.

#### III. Naaman. (2 Kings 5:1-14.)

1. Easy to understand, even though Naaman almost failed by not obeying.

#### IV. Walls of Jericho. (Josh. 6:3, 4.)

1. Sounded almost too simple to be effective.
2. Yet when order was obeyed, the desired end was obtained.

#### V. Noah Told To Build an Ark. (Gen. 6.)

1. Make thee an ark of gopher wood, 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, 30 cubits high.
2. Make 1 door, 1 window, pitch it without and within.
3. Simple, indeed, yet effective.

#### VI. So It Is with Christ, His Church, and His Gospel, and Worship Service.

1. One body (Eph. 4:4), body the church (Eph. 1:22, 23), Christ will save this body. (Eph. 5:23.)
2. This is His church. (Matt. 16:18.)
3. One gospel, simple, yet all that is needed. (Rom. 1:16.)
  - a. Faith **unto** righteousness. (Rom. 10:10.)
  - b. Repentance **unto** life. (Acts 11:18.)
  - c. Confession **unto** salvation. (Rom. 10:10.)
  - d. Baptism **into** Christ. (Gal. 3:27.)
4. The worship is simple.
  - a. Teaching. (Matt. 28:19.)

- b. Praying. (1 Thess. 5:17.)
- c. Singing. (Col. 3:16.)
- d. Breaking bread. (Acts 20:7.)
- e. Giving. (1 Cor. 16:2.)
- 5. Christian living simple.
  - a. Add Christian graces. (2 Pet. 1:5-11.)
  - b. Shine as lights. (Matt. 5:13-16.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. This plan is within the reach of **every** accountable and responsible mind regardless of scholastic attainment.

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## **Christ and Him Crucified**

1 Cor. 2:1, 2

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The whole teaching of the New Testament radiates from Christ, and must likewise be taught to permeate the human soul.
2. Remove Christ and His cross from the New Testament and you have destroyed its message. (John 14:6.)
3. If Christ does not exist, then salvation does not. (2 Tim. 2:10.)
4. Either His blood atones or sin prevails. (Heb. 9:22; Col. 1:13, 14.)
5. In this lesson we want to view Christ both as the Son of God and the Son of man — Divine and human. (Matt. 3:17; 1:21.)

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. The Incarnation of Christ. (John 1:14.)**

1. Did this that man might be rich. (2 Cor. 8:9.)
2. Lived an obedient life, and offered salvation to man. (Heb. 5:8, 9.)
3. Set the perfect example. (Heb. 4:15.)

### **II. His Death Was Vicarious. (Heb. 2:9.)**

1. This was while man was yet a sinner. (Rom. 5:8.)
2. Christ died because man needed a deliverer, not because man had been delivered.

### **III. He Had a Victorious Resurrection. (Matt. 28:1-10.)**

1. Now has the keys of death and hell. (Rev. 1:17, 18.)

### **IV. He Had a Triumphant Ascension. (Acts 1:9-11.)**

1. All men shall see His glorious return.

### **V. He Had a Glorious Coronation. (Heb. 12:1, 2.)**

1. He is **now** exalted. (Acts 2:33.)
2. He does not wait for this exaltation as some men teach.

**VI. He Left a Perfect Example. (1 Pet. 2:20-23.)**

1. This is the better way of life today, and assures man of the eternal blessed life beyond the grave.

**VII. He Left for Man a Glorious Gospel. (2 Cor. 4:4.)**

1. This gospel is hid **only** to those who have deaf ears.

**CONCLUSION**

1. Nothing on earth today requires so little of man, and offers him so much as the blessed gospel of the risen Saviour. (Rom. 1:16.)

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**Christ and Christians**

Acts 11:26

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Show how closely related the words Christian and Christ are.
2. Can't use word Christian without word Christ.
3. In this lesson we want to make some observations of the relationship which exists between Christ and Christians.

**DISCUSSION**

**I. Christ Is the Husband. (Rom. 7:4.)**

1. Christians are the bride. (Rev. 22:17.)

**II. Christ Is the Vine and Christians Are the Branches. (John 15:5.)**

1. Man is the branch and not the church. (John 15:6.)

**III. Christ Is the Shepherd and Christians Are the Sheep. (John 10:14.)**

1. Work of shepherd to protect and provide for the sheep. (1 Cor. 10:13.)
2. Sheep should follow and eat the provided food. (Matt. 5:6.)

**IV. Christ Is the Friend — Christians Are the Friends. (John 15:13, 14.)**

1. Christ showed His friendship by giving His life.
2. Christians show their friendship by doing His will.

**V. Jesus Is the Teacher (Matt. 7:29), Christians Are the Disciples. (Acts 11:26.)**

**VI. Jesus Is the Captian. (Heb. 2:10.)**

1. Christians are the soldiers. (2 Tim. 2:3.)

**VII. Jesus Is the Saviour. (Lk. 19:10.)**

1. Christians are the redeemed. (Col. 1:13, 14.)

## **VIII. Jesus Is the Heir. (Heb. 1:1, 2.)**

1. Christians are joint heirs. (Rom. 6:16, 17.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. You can be a friend of Jesus by doing His will.
  2. Life is too short and eternity too long to gamble with our souls. (Matt. 16:26.)
- 

## **The Second Coming of Christ, No. 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Many thoughts, opinions and doctrines taught on this subject.
2. All cannot be true to the Book.
3. In this and the lesson to follow we want to search the Bible to find the truth on the subject irrespective of any man.
4. We believe Christ is coming again because:

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. The Bible Teaches the Second Coming of Christ.**

1. Christ said He would return. (John 14:1-3.)
2. The angels said He would return. (Acts 1:9-11.)
3. Paul said He would return. (2 Thess. 1:7-9.)

#### **II. When Is He Coming?**

1. Many dates have been set by men.
2. Some have the audacity to say He is here now.
3. Men and angels do not know when. (Matt. 24:35.)
4. Christ does not know. (Mk. 13:32.)
5. It will be an unexpected hour. (Matt. 25:44.)
6. The grave warning is, watch and be ready. (Matt. 25:13.)

#### **III. What Will Be the Manner of His Coming?**

1. Many are looking for signs.
2. He will come as He went away. (Acts 1:11.)
3. He will come with a shout. (1 Thess. 4:16.)
4. He will come with a host of angels. (2 Thess. 1:7.)
5. All shall hear His voice. (John 5:28, 29.)

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Are **you** ready for His coming?
2. This is the most important question ever asked man.
3. If **you** are not prepared eternal degradation awaits. (Matt. 25:10.)
4. The Lord has left a plan whereby **you** may prepare, by:
  - a. Having faith in Christ. (John 20:30, 31.)

- b. Repenting of sins. (Lk. 13:3.)
  - c. Confessing your faith in Christ. (Matt. 10:32, 33.)
  - d. Being baptized for remission of sins. (Acts 2:38.)
  - e. Living faithful. (Rev. 22:14.)
- 

## **The Second Coming of Christ, No. 2**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. In the preceding lesson we established the fact of Christ coming again.
2. In this lesson we want to study the purpose of His coming.
3. Many teachings concerning this topic today.
4. Some say He is coming to "establish" a kingdom.
5. Some say to give to mortal man a "second chance."
6. Some say to "cleanse" the earth.
7. But, what does the Bible say?

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. He Is Coming To Raise the Dead. (John 5:28, 29.)**

1. Even the sea shall give up her dead. (Rev. 20:13.)

#### **II. He Is Coming To Judge the World. (Heb. 9:27.)**

1. The time is appointed.
2. His coming will fulfil this time. (Acts 17:30, 31; Matt. 25:31, 32.)

#### **III. He Is Coming To Reward and Punish.**

1. Reward the righteous. (Matt. 25:34.)
2. Punish the wicked. (Matt. 25:41.)

#### **IV. He Is Coming To Deliver the Kingdom to the Father. (1 Cor. 15:23, 24.)**

1. Not to establish, but to deliver up that which is already established. (Col. 1:13, 14.)
2. Not to give a second chance, but to judge.
3. Not to cleanse the earth, because God will provide a new heaven and earth. (2 Pet. 3:13.)

### **CONCLUSION**

1. The one thing that matters at Christ's coming will be: "Are we ready?" (Amos 4:12.)
- 

## **The Good Samaritan**

Lk. 10:25-37

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Jesus did much of His teaching in parables while on earth.

2. The word means: alongside of, placing beside of.
3. Jesus took things of material nature and placed them beside the spiritual to make plain that which would otherwise have been obscure.
4. This parable came forth as a result of two questions.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. What Shall I Do To Inherit Eternal Life? (v. 25.)**

1. The question asked trying to entrap Jesus.
2. The answer given in verse 26.
3. The lawyer's answer, verse 27.
4. "Thou hast answered right, this do, and thou shalt live." (v. 28.)
5. This should have offered satisfaction to the man if he had been honest with his soul and God.
6. The desire of all should be to be saved.
7. When the way in the Scriptures is found man should be satisfied.
8. This wasn't true of the lawyer, and, sad to say, not so with many today.
  - a. They often try to find ways to escape certain commands.
  - b. The end of such ways is certain death. (Prov. 14:12.)

### **II. Question Number Two: "Who Is My Neighbor?" (v. 29.)**

1. Correct way to have stated the question would have been: "Whose neighbor am I?"
2. The lawyer was not interested in edification but justification.
  - a. This is truly a pathetic state for any man to be in.
3. From this question came forth the parable under consideration, the design of which was to explain the word "neighbor."

### **III. Four Characters Are Involved in the Parable.**

1. The ruthless robbers.
  - a. The Jericho road was a "robbers' roost."
  - b. It became known as "the bloody way."
  - c. The highway of life is likewise today.
  - d. It is filled with robbers and thieves of men's souls.
  - e. Their only god is their desires. (Phil. 3:19.)
  - f. They care not for man, neither physical nor spiritual.
  - g. They must continually be watched. (Jude 3, 4.)
2. The pitiful victim.
  - a. Fell into the hands of the ruthless.
  - b. So do men on the highway of life.



- c. Men and women are often stripped of righteousness, robbed of necessities, broken in body, and wounded in spirit. (Jude 8.)
  - d. The would-be pleasures of drink, dance, gambling and such like, are all robbers of homes and leave behind spiritual degradation and eternal ruin. (Jude 12, 13.)
3. The passer-by.
- a. They might well be termed as representatives of degenerate religion.
  - b. The pains of the poor victim failed to touch them.
  - c. He could die, but they must go on their merry way.
4. The compassionate helper.
- a. In him we find a tender heart, a helping hand, a willing foot, an open purse, and an assuring voice.
  - b. He acted on the principle of the "Golden Rule." (Matt. 7:12.)

## CONCLUSION

1. Have **you** been caught in the highway of life that leads down?
2. If so, won't you accept the helping hand of Jesus? (John 14:6.)
3. Let Him help you by hearing and obeying His voice. (Matt. 7:24, 25.)

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## The Narrow Door

Lk. 13:22-30

## INTRODUCTION

1. The parable is the outcome of the question asked in verse 23.
2. The Lord answered with a two-fold answer:
  - a. Admonition — Strive to enter in the narrow door.
  - b. Warning — Many shall seek to enter in and shall not.
3. It is a serious matter not to enter.
4. It means eternal exclusion.
5. In this parable we see the figure door used in at least three different ways:

## DISCUSSION

### I. We See It Used as a Door. (v. 24.)

1. It is a way of escape.
  - a. Cities are seeing the urgent need of more doors in buildings as ways to escape in time of tragedy.
2. Jesus is the door of escape spiritually. (John 10:9; 14:6; Acts 4:12.)

3. To try to escape some other way is the same as a thief and a robber. (John 10:1.)

## **II. We See It as a Narrow Door. (v. 24.)**

1. Not broad as universalists would have us believe — all saved.
2. Not broad as the denominationalist would have us believe — some of all churches saved.
3. It is wide enough to admit all the obedient — yet too narrow to admit even one disobedient.
4. It is for the righteous only. (2 Tim. 4:6-8.)
5. The unclean shall not pass over. (Isa. 35:8.)

## **III. It Will Be a Closed Door. (v. 25.)**

1. Some day the Master will close the door forever. (v. 27.)
2. This shall be the final day, the day of judgment. (v. 28.)
3. To all the righteous this will mean eternal security and seclusion from all evil intrusion.
4. To the wicked it will mean eternal exclusion. (Matt. 25:46.)
  - a. Pleading will do no good. (Matt. 7:21-35.)
5. The rich man's pleading of Luke 16 was to no avail.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The door stands before **all** as a way of escape.
2. It stands as an invitation to a better life.
3. The Lord invites all to enter.
4. Man is free to accept or reject at his own will.

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## **The Ten Virgins**

Matt. 25:1-13

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Master's great lesson is couched in the last verse of the text.
2. The lesson is animated by a parable.
3. The parable speaks of five wise, and five foolish virgins.
4. From the parable we learn:

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. That Christ Is Coming.**

1. This promise also made in many other Scriptures. (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 11:26.)
2. He will come at an unexpected time. (1 Thess. 5:1-3.)
3. He will gather His own forever to be with Him. (1 Thess. 4:16, 17.)
4. He will destroy the unrighteous. (2 Thess. 1:7-9.)

## **II. That We Should Watch at All times.**

1. This does not mean we are to be "sky-gazers."
2. It does mean that we should ever be alert and have our lamps of righteousness filled at all times.

## **III. The Parable Teaches that We Should Watch Because:**

1. We know neither the day nor hour when He will come.
  - a. Jesus does not know this. (Mk. 13:32.)
2. When He comes our character shall be revealed as the ten virgins.
3. We shall either be prepared or forever shut out. (Heb. 9:27.)
4. The closed door has a two-fold significance —
  - a. To the wise it means eternal security and peace, where no evil can intrude.
  - b. To the wicked it means eternal misery and despair, with no door of escape.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Where would **you** stand if Jesus were to come at this moment to man the door?
2. If on the inside, it would be because of obedience. (Rev. 22:14.)
3. If on the outside, it would be because of disobedience. (2 Thess. 1:8.)
4. Jesus pleads for all to enter. (Matt. 7:13, 14.)
5. Your decision will be the greatest that **you** ever make.

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## **The Pearl of Great Price**

Matt. 13:45, 46

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The kingdom or church is likened to many things in parables by the Master.
2. The pearl is the only jewel of ornamentation that is ever used.
3. No doubt the primary lesson is to set forth the value of the church, and exhortation to leave all for her.
4. Yet there must be some significance in using the pearl in respect of its likeness to the church.
5. To this thought we challenge your attention and consideration.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. The Pearl Originates in Water.**

1. All other jewels originate among the central fires of mother earth, and are vomited to surface by volcanic eruptions.

2. They are as large when formed as they ever are.
3. The pearl is a growth.

## **II. The Pearl Is a Perfect Stone.**

1. All other stones must be ground and polished before they have commercial value.
2. When the pearl is touched by human devises its beauty is marred.
3. It needs nothing added or subtracted, neither can anything substitute for it.

## **III. The Pearl Is a Costly Stone.**

1. Imitations may be had cheap.
2. The real jewel is extremely costly.

## **IV. The Pearl Is a Much Desired Stone.**

1. What lady would not give almost anything to possess a string of pearls?

## **V. The Church Originates in the Watery Grave of Baptism.**

1. Each born again individual becomes a part of this great kingdom. (John 3:5; Acts 2:38.)
2. Growth must then follow. (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18.)

## **VI. The Church Is Also Perfect.**

1. It offers all that man needs. (Col. 1:13, 14.)
2. Most beautiful of all with splendor, beauty, and glory offered therein. (Rev. 22:14.)
3. Not so when marred by human innovations. (Matt. 15:8-13.)  
Illustration: Strychnine a great medicine when used right, yet when tampered with it becomes a deadly poison.

## **VII. The Church Is a Costly Institution.**

1. It cost Christ His life and blood. (Acts 20:28.)
2. It cost God His only Son. (John 3:16.)
3. Imitations may be had cheap, but when examined in the light of God's Word their beauty fades, as the beauty of the imitation pearl fades under the skillful glass of the jeweler.

## **VIII. The Church Should Be the Most Desired Thing on Earth.**

1. The true church is as rare as the true pearl.
2. No other except the true church offers the full, pure, unadulterated gospel of Christ.
3. Only difference in the pearl and the church — the pearl is greatly desired by many, and only obtained by few because of the great cost — while the church is rare and costly in

respect to her initial cost, yet she is in obtainable distance of all, while relatively few accept her.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The church purchased by the blood of God's dear Son is His greatest contribution to living man.
2. To this great institution He promises to add all the obedient. (Acts 2:47.)

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## **The Vine and the Branches**

John 15:1-11

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This parable constitutes a part of the Master's farewell message to His disciples.
2. He had bade them farewell prior to this and informed them that they could not immediately follow Him. (John 13:33.)
3. Sorrow no doubt was weighing heavily upon them.
4. To be separated from the Master was more than they felt they could bear.
5. The parable teaches that though separated in body, there is that ever-present life-giving spiritual connection between Christ and His disciples.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. Christ Is the True Vine.**

1. There are many false vines which falsely claim to offer life.
2. John said to try the spirit. (1 John 4:1.)
3. The branches are individual Christians, and not churches as many would try to have us believe. (v. 6.)

#### **II. Separated from This Vine There Is No Life.**

1. To those truly interested in their souls, the question immediately arises: "How can I be in the vine?"
2. Paul tells us we are grafted in. (Rom. 11:24.)
3. The grafting in takes place when one follows the process pointed out in God's Word and:
  - a. Believes. (Heb. 11:1.)
  - b. Repents. (Acts 17:30.)
  - c. Confesses. (Acts 8:37.)
  - d. Is baptized. (Acts 22:16.)
  - e. The Lord then adds to the church. (Acts 2:47.)

#### **III. How Can We Tell if One Is In the True Vine?**

1. By their fruits. (Matt. 7:20.)

2. Branches connected to the true vine preach **only** the pure gospel of Christ with nothing added, subtracted, or substituted.
3. They speak as the oracles of God. (1 Pet. 4:11.)
4. They are striving to do the will of the Father. (Matt. 7:21.)
5. They stand ready to give answer for their hope. (1 Pet. 3:15.)

## CONCLUSION

1. The true branches call Bible things by Bible names, and do Bible things in Bible ways.
2. There is only one way to do things spiritual, and that is the Lord's way.
3. Paul sets forth the perfected way in Eph. 4:4-6.

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## The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-18

### INTRODUCTION

1. It perhaps will be worthy of our time to read the text together.
2. Describe shepherd guiding his sheep, giving description of sheepfold with one door, and how all enter for protection against the outside.
3. Jesus uses this parable to show forth what great protection He could be to mankind **"if"** men would only accept Him as the sheepfold.

### DISCUSSION

#### I. "I Am the Door."

1. Seeking entrance into the fold another way is robbery and thievery. (v. 6.)
2. If there were but **one** way to escape physical death, and that way was legitimate before all, would not all seek that way?
3. The answer is obvious, all would accept.
4. This would be the **only** sane thing to do.
5. This **exact** situation faces all in regard to eternal death.
6. Jesus is the **only** way of escape, and His way is legitimate. (John 14:6.)
7. To fail to accept is eternal death. (Rev. 20:14, 15; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.)
8. We enter Jesus by baptism, which is the primary act of obedience. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38.)

#### II. Jesus Leads His Sheep. (v. 4.)

1. Jesus does not lead or ask His people to go where He did not go. (Heb. 4:15.)

2. He does not enact laws on His people that He would not obey. (Heb. 5:8, 9.)

### **III. He Protects His Sheep. (v. 11.)**

1. He gave His life for His sheep. (2 Cor. 8:9.)
2. Greater love has no man than this. (John 15:13.)
3. Man expresses his love to Jesus when he obeys. (John 14:15.)
4. What are you doing for Him?

### **IV. A Mutual Understanding Exists Between the Sheep and Shepherd.**

1. I know my sheep and am known of mine. (v. 14.)
2. This sets forth the close relationship of Christ and Christians.
3. God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are not far away, obscure characters as some would have us believe, but are near us, ready always to help in the time of need. (Acts 17:27; Ps. 119:151; Heb. 13:5; Ps. 23:4.)

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Do **you** not feel that you owe it to yourself to provide the very best protection possible for your soul, and the souls of your loved ones?
2. Then accept Jesus as your shepherd by obeying His commands. (Mk. 16:16.)
3. Your soul is your most precious possession. (Matt. 16:23.)
4. Why not safe-guard it with the protection Jesus offers?

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## **The Blessed Poor**

Matt. 5:3

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Place — a mountainside.
2. Audience — an inner circle of friends, and beyond them a multitude.
3. Wise and unwise; conquerors and conquered; religious and non-religious; varied races; in fact, a miniature world.
4. The speaker — Christ Jesus, the Son of God.
5. The audience seeks one thing, and has missed the mark thus far.
6. They have sought happiness and missed it.
7. What greater thing could Jesus do for them than to point out the mark they have missed?
8. He would face the same type audience if He were here today.
9. Men are seeking happiness and sadly missing the mark.
10. Why are they missing the mark?
11. The answer to this question is the true burden of the lesson before us.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Who Are the Blessed Who Find Real Happiness?**

1. Jesus makes plain that really happy people are not necessarily happy in an outward manner.
2. Real happiness is much deeper than the outward appearance.
3. He did not say happy are the rich, the healthy, and the kings.
4. Rather, He said, "Happy are the poor in spirit." (Matt. 5:3.)

### **II. Poverty Within Itself Is Not a Blessing.**

1. The blessing that poverty procures is that it teaches man a sense of need.
2. Riches often give false independence. (Rev. 3:17.)
3. Happiness does not depend on what we have, or what we do, but what we are.
4. Happiness "if" ever possessed by us must come from within.
5. Jesus said the happy man was poor, which sounded ridiculous to some.

### **III. What Was the Real Meaning of the Statement? (Matt. 5:3.)**

1. He did not mean for us to look on self with contempt, disdain, or disrespect.
2. He simply meant to be humble, childlike, teachable, and ready to lean upon higher power.
3. The poor materially are not above begging, neither are the poor spiritually.
4. Poor in spirit and poor spirited are two different things.
5. An example of this is set forth in the ten spies in Numbers 13, and Joshua and Caleb in Numbers 14:8.
6. Jesus personifies poor in spirit. (John 8:28.)
7. Paul also was a like character. (Phil. 4:13.)

### **IV. Why Does Poverty Lead to Happiness?**

1. It is through the same we become a part of the kingdom of heaven.
2. Jesus taught the necessity of poor spirit. (Matt. 18:3.)
3. Through poverty of spirit we continue as children of God. (1 John 1:8, 9; 2:1-3.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Will you not let this spirit personify you, and in humility obey your Lord?
2. Those who look into and abide in His will shall be blessed. (Jas. 1:25.)

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## **The Blessed Mourner**

Matt. 5:4

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Do we congratulate because of tears?



2. Do we congratulate a broken, aching heart?
3. No, toward such we offer pity and sympathy.
4. Yet, Jesus said the mourner was blessed.
5. We think of tearless as blessed.
6. It is said that when a leper reaches a certain stage he loses all sensitiveness of pain to his outward self.
  - a. Hot water, fire, thorns, etc., pass unnoticed.
7. The same is true of the hardened sinner in regard to spiritual things.
8. As long as man is sensitive enough to sin to mourn, there is hope.
  - a. When tears will not grace his cheek or heart he is beyond hope.
9. Jesus does not infer that all mourners shall be blessed.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Mourners That Are Not Blessed.**

1. The deliberate pessimist, who searches for despair.
2. Their eyes are blinded with tears of misery, not tears of blessedness.
3. Mourners over some selfish loss or thwarted ambition.
  - a. Some have ambition for popularity, wealth, pleasure, etc.
  - b. When the zenith is not herein reached they mourn.
4. Some mourn out of remorse.
  - a. Anguish of guilt alone cannot comfort.

### **II. Who, Then, Are Those Whose Mourning Ends in Comfort?**

1. Those whose mourning leads them to obey God.
2. Those whose sensitiveness to sin leads them to obey. (Matt. 7:21.)

### **III. Let Us Examine and Contrast Some Who Mourned in the Scriptures.**

1. Judas. (Matt. 27:3-5.)
2. Peter. (Matt. 26:75.)
3. The rich young man. (Mk. 10:22.)
4. The sinful woman. (Lk. 7:47.)
5. What was the difference in these characters?
  - a. One thing only: "Sensitiveness" of state of being for which cause they moved in the right direction.

### **IV. See Jesus Weeping:**

1. "Jesus wept." (John 11:35.)
  - a. Out of this grief Lazarus was restored to life.
2. Jesus wept for Jerusalem. (Matt. 23:37.)
  - a. Out of this grief for man came redemption of the soul by way of the cross.

## CONCLUSION

1. Every man should mourn the error of his way and obey. (Mk. 16:16.)
2. After obeying every man should mourn the state of lost souls, and carry the gospel of redemption to them. (Rom. 1:14-16.)

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## The Blessed Meek

Matt. 5:5

## INTRODUCTION

1. To a man of the world this beatitude makes no appeal.
2. Meekness is definitely no asset to the worldly-minded.
3. The average man of the world resides in the "Iron Rule," the survival of the fittest.
4. How out of place this beatitude would be if it were framed and hung in the average business office today.

## DISCUSSION

### I. Meekness Demanded in the Scripture. (1 Tim. 6:11; Col. 3:12; 1 Pet. 3:3, 4.)

1. Christians are to follow after meekness, or adorn themselves with the same.
2. It is one of the fruits of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22, 23.)
3. It is a virtue of great price in God's sight. (Num. 12:3.)

### II. Many Meek Characters Pictured in the Bible.

1. Jesus was meek, and perfect example. (Matt. 11:28-30; 1 Pet. 2:21-23.)

### III. What Is Meekness, Biblically Speaking?

1. Hard word to define, and seldom heard in conversation.
2. Some define as a spineless creature that bows to every breeze.
3. This not true, we can see from Jesus' example. (Matt. 21:12.)
4. Biblically speaking **meekness** might be defined as follows: Strength grown tender; might with a caress in its brawny hand; or plain gentleness.

### IV. Some Characteristics of a Meek Christian Are:

1. He is considerate of others. (Matt. 7:12; 22:37, 38; Gal. 6:1.)
2. He hears quickly, but is moderate in speech and decision. (Jas. 1:19.)
3. He is humble-minded. (Phil. 2:3.)
4. He is courageous. (Jude 3; 1 Cor. 16:13.)
5. He is strong in the Lord. (Eph. 6:10.)

### V. How Do the Meek Inherit the Earth?

1. With this type character they truly discern the **good** things of life; those things really worth possessing.

2. They can come to the end of life's way as David and Paul. (Ps. 23; 2 Tim. 4:6-8.)

## CONCLUSION

1. If you have not put on your Lord (Gal. 3:27), and adorned the quiet meek character that He portrayed, then you are missing the better part of life.
2. This is the life that pays dividends now, and in the world to come. (Mk. 10:29, 30.)

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## The Blessed Appetite

Matt. 5:6

### INTRODUCTION

1. Everybody recognizes a good appetite as a bit of treasure.
2. The only exception to this rule is those who have never lost their appetite.
3. If you have ever been in a state where good food nauseated you, then overcome the same, you know how to appreciate a good appetite.
4. A good appetite is a blessing because:
  - a. It is a mark of life — when the appetite is gone life subsides.
  - b. It is a mark of normal, healthy, vigorous life.
    - (1) Hunger and thirst are perfectly normal.
    - (2) They are the gift of nature.
  - c. A good appetite is the roadway to growth.
    - (1) The baby is a bundle of hungers and thirsts.
    - (2) As long as he keeps these he will grow.
    - (3) When he loses them we rush him to a doctor.
  - d. A good appetite is a blessing because it is a source of genuine enjoyment.
    - (1) Many enjoyable hours are passed around a table of good food.
    - (2) Someone has said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

### DISCUSSION

#### I. Certain Appetites Bring Ultimate Sadness.

1. The appetite that hungers for bread alone ends sadly.
2. This is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. (1 John 2:15-17.)
3. Men need an appetite for bread, pride and possession.
4. Yet, an excessive appetite for these to the exclusion of spiritual things will condemn the soul.
5. Man's most valuable asset is his soul. (Matt. 16:23.)

## **II. What Is a Blessed Appetite?**

1. The answer is found in the text. (Matt. 5:6.)
2. What shall they be filled with? Righteousness.
3. What is righteousness? Answer is in Ps. 119:172.

## **III. The Blessed Man Then Is:**

1. He who hungers after Jesus and His way. (Mk. 16:15, 16.)
2. Why does this bless?
3. It offers a way of escape from past sins, and promises life eternal.
4. The blessed man is he who hungers and thirsts after the Christian graces. (2 Pet. 1:5-11.)
  - a. Why is he blessed?
  - b. He shall never fail, and ultimately have an eternal home.
5. The blessed man hungers and thirsts for the Lord's church.
  - a. The saved are in Christ. (2 Tim. 2:10.)
  - b. To be in Christ is the same as to be in the church.
  - c. There is only one body (Eph. 4:4), the church. (Col. 1:18.)
  - d. Christ will save this body. (Eph. 5:23.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Christ invites all to come. (Matt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17.)

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## **The Blessed Merciful**

Matt. 5:7

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. This is one of the most arresting of all the beatitudes.
2. It brings to our minds our hasty judgments and sharp criticisms.
3. As we analyze this beatitude it makes us feel like the publican. (Lk. 18:13.)
4. It tends to humble when we realize that but by the mercy of God we would be lost.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Mercifulness Is Far More than Being Possessed with Ability To Shed Tears.**

1. It does not exclude shedding tears.
2. The merciful often meek.
3. Jesus did not restrain His tears. (John 11:35.)
4. Tear-stained cheeks leave a lasting impression.

### **II. Yet Many Tears Have No Meaning.**

1. They bring added weakness.
2. Those in sorrow need words of comfort.
3. Yet sometimes we feel that when they see us weep we have

discharged our duties to them, and truly contributed to their needs.

### **III. To Be Merciful Is To Do Something More Than Give and Serve.**

1. Mercifulness is more than passing out coffee and sandwiches to the down and out, although this is an attribute of her character. (1 John 3:17.)
2. Mercifulness is helping the needy, then getting to the bottom of the need and helping to remove it permanently if possible. Example: The merciful doctor first stops the pain, then finds the cause of the pain, helping to remove it permanently if possible.

### **IV. Mercifulness, Then, Can Be Described as Disposition of Soul.**

1. It is possessed with a forgiving spirit.
2. It has a heart of compassion and pity.
3. It is to have God and Christ's way of viewing man.

### **V. God Is the Father of Mercy. (2 Cor. 1:3.)**

1. In mercy He gave His son. (Rom. 5:8.)
2. Through mercy He first promised this gift. (Gen. 3:15.)

### **VI. Christ Is the Saviour of Mercy.**

1. Through His mercy He left heaven for men. (2 Cor. 8:9.)
2. On the cross His mercy was extended to all. (Heb. 2:9.)
3. In mercy He prayed for His murderers. (Lk. 23:34.)
4. His blood was man's greatest gift of mercy. (Heb. 9:22.)

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Man appropriates this mercy when he obeys. (Heb. 5:8,9.)
2. Man exemplifies this mercy when he heeds. (Matt. 7:12.)

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## **The Blessed Vision**

Matt. 5:8

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Perhaps this is the most familiar and most loved of all beatitudes.
2. It is not difficult to see why, because it speaks of the possibility that touches the heartstrings of all creation.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. This Beatitude Sets Forth Man's Highest Possibility.**

1. Nothing supercedes the possibility of seeing God.
2. It tells of man's deepest longing.
3. From the beginning man's yearning to see and be with God has moved his heart in righteousness.
4. This characterized Abram as he left his home. (Heb. 11:10.)
5. "O that I knew where to find him," Job said. (Job 23:3.)
6. Philip said to see the Father would suffice. (John 14:6-8.)

## **II. Man's Deepest Need Is God.**

1. No doubt but what many in the viewing audience have many and varied needs.
2. Some may have come from graveside tragedies, or from resolutions you solemnly made then broke.
3. Your greatest need is God.
4. With God you can do all worthy things. (Phil. 4:13.)
5. Without Him life ends in ultimate failure. (Rom. 6:23.)

## **III. What Is It To See God?**

1. Not to look on Him in this life with physical eye. (Ex. 32:20.)
2. It is to see Him through the eye of faith. (Heb. 11:27.)
3. It is to realize that God **truly** is a living God.

## **IV. How Shall We See God?**

1. Our text, by being pure in heart.

### **V. How Can One Become Pure in Heart?**

1. By being born again. (1 Pet. 1:22, 23.)
2. The truth makes free. (John 8:32.)
3. We are made free in obedience. (Rom. 6:16-18.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Do you want to go to heaven and see God?
2. Then obey His commands. (Rev. 22:14.)

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## **The Blessed Peacemaker**

Matt. 5:9

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. For nearly 20 centuries this great word peacemaker has knocked at the door of every closed heart striving to enter in.
2. We have answered yes with our lips, but by our lives we have said, "Blessed are the sowers of discord."
3. Every positive has a negative.
4. So it is with peacemakers: if they are the children of God, then the disturber must be the child of the devil.
5. As a nation we are crying for peace.
6. Yet, do we search for it at the feet of the Prince of Peace or somewhere else?
7. The stopping or prolonging of the atom bombs will not bring ultimate peace.
8. All the peace pacts in the world will not bring lasting peace.
9. Is there no hope? Yes, but not in **power** and **might**.
10. Hope lies in God-given principles. (Matt. 7:12; Rom. 12:20, 21.)

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. How Are We To Become Peacemakers?**

1. By putting ourselves in the right relations with Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. (Isa. 9:3.)
2. Jesus divided men into two groups.
  - a. Those for Him — those against Him. (Matt. 12:30.)
  - b. We cannot serve two masters. (Matt. 6:24.)
  - c. Yet we do serve one. (Rom. 6:16.)

## **II. To Be In Relationship with God and Christ Is To:**

1. Surrender to Their will. (Matt. 7:21.)
2. Obey Their every command. (Heb. 5:8,9; Mk. 16:16.)
3. In so doing man comes out from among the worldly. (2 Cor. 6:17, 18.)
4. Then the Spirit bears record with man's spirit that he is a child of the Father. (Rom. 8:16, 17.)
5. God's great love is manifested when He calls the obedient His sons. (1 John 3:1.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. To be a child of God is the greatest blessing ever bestowed upon man.
2. The final applaud is worth man's every effort. (Matt. 25:21.)

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## **The Blessed Persecuted**

Matt. 5:10-12

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. This is the last of the beatitudes.
2. Jesus has thus far described Christ-like character.
3. In this last beatitude He sets forth the real Christian character as it confronts the world filled with opposition.
4. It might well be called the acid test.
5. Most of us can meet the standard when it is easy and in our favor, but how about a standard like this?
6. No one denies that the flesh thinks that this command is hard, but to the spiritual it is a great joy when accomplished.
7. Jesus is our perfect example. (Heb. 4:12.)
8. He lived the beatitudes.
9. Most of all He personified this last one.
10. No man ever lived to bear so much persecution in such short time.
11. Paul, another man of persecution, suggests the necessity of the same. (2 Tim. 3:12.)
12. Peter also adds his warning. (1 Pet. 4:12.)

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Why Does Christianity Provoke Persecution?**

1. Because it makes a person different. (2 Cor. 5:17.)
2. Any change from unrighteousness provokes Satan.

3. True Christians are peculiar. (Tit. 2:14.)
4. Not peculiar in dress or fleshly appetite, but because they are willing to leave all for Christ. (Matt. 10:37, 38.)

## **II. True Christianity Provokes Persecution Because:**

1. It is a constant rebuke to sin and selfishness. (1 Tim. 5:20.)
2. Christianity and sin have nothing in common.

## **III. True Christ-Likeness Provokes Persecution Because It Interferes.**

1. It constantly reminds of God.
2. It reminds that He must be loved supremely. (Matt. 22:37, 38.)
3. It often interferes with proposed pleasure.
  - a. A test here is: "Are you willing for Jesus to walk with you every hour?"

## **IV. True Christianity Is Aggressive but Not Digressive.**

1. John warns against digression. (2 John 9,10.)
2. It fights the good fight of faith. (1 Tim. 6:12.)
3. It contends earnestly. (Jude 3.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The beatitude said the persecuted would be happy.
2. Paul said the same thing. (Rom. 8:18; 1 Cor. 2:9.)

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# **Enemy Characters of the New Testament**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. In this lesson we desire to view those in days past, and those today, who were by action opposers of New Testament principles, commands, and examples.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Overthrowers of the Faith. (2 Tim. 2:16-18.)**

1. 2 Tim. 2:15 exhorts us to study.
2. Verses 17, 18, tell us why this is necessary.
3. A good resolution to follow: "Prove all things." (1 Thess. 5:21.)
4. Peter said to be ready to answer. (1 Pet. 3:15.)
5. He who cannot give answer is like unto Hymeneus and Philetus, and has a vain doctrine.

### **II. Deserters of the Faith. (2 Tim. 4:10.)**

1. Demas one time a fellow-laborer with Paul. (Col. 4:14.)
2. Trials and hardships too much. (Like seed on stony ground.) (Lk. 8:13.)
3. Many today like those among the thorns. (Lk. 8:14.)
4. Contrary to the belief of many, the Bible speaks of those who fall from the faith and are lost. (1 Cor. 10:8-12; Gal. 5:4.)
5. Greater error never taught: "Once saved always saved."



### **III. Resisters of the Faith. (2 Tim. 3:8.)**

1. Group that stoned Stephen. (Acts 7:51.)
2. These we commonly call Infidels or Atheists.
3. Any who fail to accept all of God's Word are opposers. (Matt. 4:4; Rom. 10:17.)
4. To resist literally means to oppose, strive against, make opposition.
5. This is literally the venture of all who fail to accept God's Word in its entirety.

### **IV. Self-Preferers over the Faith. (3 John 9.)**

1. Three rules of life have been called:
  - a. Iron rule: "What is thine is mine and I will get it if I can."
  - b. Silver rule: "What is mine is mine and I intend to keep it."
  - c. Golden rule: "What is mine is thine and you may have the same if it will help you."
  - d. This last is God's rule. (Matt. 7:12.)
2. Each of these rules is set forth in the parable of the Good Samaritan. (Lk. 10:29-37.)
3. Paul's admonition should be heeded by all. (Phil. 2:3.)

### **CONCLUSION**

1. In conclusion let us ask ourselves the following questions:
  - a. Am I an overthrower of the faith as Hymeneus and Philetus?
  - b. Am I a deserter of the faith as Demas?
  - c. Am I a resister of the faith as Stephen's murderers?
  - d. Am I a preferer of my way rather than God's way as Diotrefes?
2. These are the most sober questions anyone can ask himself.
3. Remember that truth and obedience to the same is our only deliverer today. (John 8:31, 32.)

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## **Men Who Walked with God**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. In this investigation of men who walked with God, we want to try and understand why the writers said they walked with God.
2. There is one Scripture we desire to keep before our audience during this investigation. (Jas. 4:8.)
3. Men need to feel the ever nearness of God. (Acts 17:27.)
4. God is an omnipresent God.
5. The one thing to be remembered: "He will not force men to walk with Him."

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. Enoch Walked with God. (Gen. 5:21, 22.)**

1. Two things we want to understand about Enoch walking with God.
  - a. When did he walk with God?
  - b. How did he walk with God?
2. How long he walked with God before he begat Methuselah we don't know.
3. This we do know, he walked with God 300 years after he begat Methuselah.
4. How did he walk with God? The answer is very plain. (Heb. 11:5.)
5. We, too, must walk with God by faith. (2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:6.)
6. Enoch pleased God by doing His will; so must we. (Matt. 7:21.)

## **II. Noah Walked with God. (Gen. 6:9.)**

1. When did Noah walk with God? (Gen. 6:8; 2 Pet. 2:5.)
  - a. From these two Scriptures we can plainly see he walked with God prior to the flood, even though we cannot determine how long before.
2. How did he walk with God?
  - a. This our chief concern, Answer: Heb. 11:7.
3. Let us analyze how he walked with God.
  - a. He walked by faith.
  - b. He moved with fear. (Ecc. 12:13.)
  - c. He did what the Lord commanded. (Jas. 1:25.)

## **III. Abram Walked with God. (Gen. 17:1.)**

1. When did he walk with God?
  - a. We cannot be definite.
  - b. But from the age 75 until death we can be assured. (Gen. 12:4.)
2. How did he walk with God?
  - a. He walked by faith. (Heb. 11:8.)
  - b. He obeyed God.
  - c. He did not question God's commands.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Men today can walk with God when they remember their creator. (Ecc. 12:1.)
2. When by faith and fear they render obedience. (Ecc. 12:13.)
3. The greatest blessing to walk with God is to come to the end of life's way with the assurance of David and Paul. (Ps. 23:4; 2 Tim. 4:6-8.)

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## **Impetuous Peter**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. It is good to study Bible characters, for by their examples we can profit withall.
2. Paul exhorted men to follow him. (1 Cor. 11:1.)

3. We also can profit by studying Biblical characters' mistakes.
4. Peter made many mistakes.
5. Many of them were brought about by his impetuous character. (Matt. 17:4.)
6. He was too sure of himself, therefore he often spoke too quickly. (Jas. 1:19.)
7. We want to investigate his downfall today, and see how it was brought about.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Overconfidence. (Lk. 22:31-34.)**

1. Peter's attitude: "Satan can't overcome me."
2. But he did, and we should be warned. (1 Cor. 10:12.)
3. Prodigal son thought he was beyond being overcome. (Lk. 15:15.)
  - a. Many in the hog pen of sin today by being overconfident.

### **II. Fear of Men.**

1. He said, "I will go with you," but in the acid test he followed afar off. (Lk. 22:54.)
2. Fear that overcomes is not always bodily fear. (John 12:42, 43.)
  - a. This fear is often of our family, employer, and friends, and keeps some from obeying the gospel of the risen Lord.

### **III. Wrong Company. (Lk. 22:55.)**

1. Peter tried to hide himself among them.
2. Evil company corrupts. (1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Tim. 4:10.)
3. It caused Peter to deny the Lord and swear. (Matt. 26:74.)
4. We cannot afford to discount the power of wrong influence.

### **IV. The Denial. (Lk. 22:57.)**

1. It happened according to the true proverb. (2 Pet. 2:22.)

### **V. The Lord Looked on Him. (Lk. 22:61.)**

1. The Lord is not blind to us today.
2. He can see both our good and evil. (1 Pet. 3:12.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. One outstanding thing about impetuous Peter — he was a penitent character. (Lk. 22:62.)
2. He did not try to hide behind a cloak of righteousness.
3. Peter arose from his downfall and became one of the greatest sources of distributing the gospel of Christ that this world has ever known.

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## **Diligent Paul**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Paul was industrious, zealous, persistent, and diligent.
2. There wasn't a lazy period recorded in his whole life's history.

3. We would do well to follow this warrior's example.
4. True, he made his mistakes. (Acts 26:9,10.)
5. Even in them he was zealous.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. As a Pharisee. (Acts 26:4, 5.)**

1. As a Pharisee he lived after the strictest sect of their religion.
2. Even in vain imagination we cannot see Paul failing to obey the laws of the religion he professed.
  - a. He was present for the Sabbath Day worship.
  - b. He was present when the feast was kept.
  - c. He was present when the sacrifice was offered.
  - d. He was present when the material offering was made.
3. Yes, Phariseism was wrong, but Paul was diligent even though wrong.
4. Nothing so nauseating to the Lord as lukewarmness.

### **II. In His Conversion to Christ He Was Diligent. (Acts 9:1-18.)**

1. He did not desire to wait, but said, "What wilt thou have me to do?"
2. He obeyed the voice of the Lord immediately.
3. He did not first consider flesh and blood. (Gal. 1:15, 16.)

### **III. He Was Diligent in His Work for the Lord.**

1. Nothing could stop him. (2 Cor. 11:24-28.)
2. We are made to wonder if this would characterize us under like circumstances.

### **IV. When Death Nears His Door He Could Say (2 Tim. 4:6-8) —**

1. I am ready to be offered. . . . Are you?
2. I have finished my course, not started then stopped. . . . Can you say this?
3. I have fought a good fight. . . . Have you?
4. I have kept the faith. . . . Have you?
5. A crown awaits me. . . . Does one await you?

## **CONCLUSION**

1. All of these can belong to us today if we will hear and obey the voice of the Lord as did Paul.
2. Why not found upon the rock, the sure foundation? (Matt. 7:24; 1 Cor. 3:11.)

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## **The Ideal Home, No. 1, Choosing Our Mates**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The subject in hand perhaps quite a new subject to speak on publicly, but not a new thought.
2. Many have mourned the thought after it was too late.

3. The reason more ideal homes do not exist is because the marriage contract is entertained so lightly.
4. The subject needs to be viewed positively and negatively.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Some Places Not To Look for a Mate.**

1. Taverns, saloons, dance halls and any other questionable place.
2. Christian mates cannot be found in such places, because Christians do not attend such places.
3. Above all in seeking a mate, seek a Christian, a follower of the Lord. (John 8:31.)

### **II. Don't Look for Sinless Perfection.**

1. Christ the only one to attain this standard. (Heb. 4:15.)
2. Learn these two lessons:
  - a. The little angel you now see won't have wings when you marry her, boys.
  - b. The prince you now see won't really have a throne and crown when you marry him, girls.
3. Often so much expected, that when we falter in one small point, the whole is wrecked.

### **III. Be Agreed.**

1. Love is the greatest thing in the world. (1 Cor. 13:1.)
2. Yet love cannot walk together except it be agreed. (Amos 3:3.)
3. If this lesson was learned prior to marriage many divorces could be avoided, and homes saved.

### **IV. Use the Court of Inquiry.**

1. Ask yourself these questions:
  - a. Is this the man I want to be the father of my children?
  - b. Is this the woman I want to be the mother of my children?
2. Domestically speaking, what does the one I am choosing stand for?
3. What kind of past does he have?
  - a. Past does not make future wrong, but wrong without manifested repentance will surely wreck the future.

### **V. Look for Inward Beauty.**

1. Don't let money, possession, beauty, or emotions influence you.
2. When they are gone more than likely "the would-be love" will fade.

### **VI. Seek Someone You Can Trust.**

1. Jealousy brought about by distrust leads to the divorce courts.

### **VII. Seek Someone Who Follows the Golden Rule. (Matt. 7:12.)**

### **VIII. Boys, Seek Helpers, Not Wall Flowers. (Gen. 2:18.)**

Proverb: Wasteful woman can throw more out the back door than any man can finance through the front door.

1. Though only a proverb, it can happen.

### **IX. Girls, Seek Someone Who Will Provide for You. (1 Tim. 5:8.)**

1. A boy who desires to stay on dad's relief is not worthy of a respectable girl.

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Pray about your choice. (Col. 3:17.)
2. Remember, in God's sight, "This is till death do we part."
3. Choose someone who has heard and obeyed the gospel. (Mk. 16:15, 16.)
4. This and this alone gives full assurance of an ideal, lasting home.

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## **The Ideal Home, No. 2, Husband and Wife Relationship**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Home not necessarily a house.
2. Christian home that we desire to speak of is a place or abode of affection, peace, love, harmony, and congenial abiding place.
3. A Christian home is where Christ abides.
4. Vast difference in a **real** Christian home, and a home established on Christian principles.
5. I often go to the grocery store and embrace some of the principles of a groceryman, but that doesn't make me a groceryman.
6. We desire to discuss the relationship between husband and wife in the lesson.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. The Union of Marriage Is:**

1. Of God. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:21-24.)
2. It is to avoid fornication. (1 Cor. 7:1, 2.)
3. Union to be severed only by death (Rom. 7:4) or fornication. (Matt. 19:9.)
4. Parents ought not to intervene. (Matt. 19:5, 6.)

#### **II. Domestic duties of Husband and Wife. (Eph. 5:21-25; Col. 3:18, 19.)**

1. Wives to be in subjection.
2. Husbands to rule the wife. (Gen. 3:16.)
3. Paul said wife should love husband, love their children, be keeper at home. (Tit. 2:4, 5.)
4. Husbands to love their wives. (Eph. 5:25.)
5. To provide for them. (1 Tim. 5:8.)
6. To dwell with them as the weaker vessel. (1 Pet. 3:7.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. No home can be a home as God would have it until it has obeyed the Lord. (Matt. 7:21.)
  2. To obey the Lord is to:
    - a. Believe in Christ. (John 8:24.)
    - b. Repent of sins. (Lk. 13:3.)
    - c. Confess Christ's name. (Matt. 10:32, 33.)
    - d. Be baptized. (Mk. 16:16.)
    - e. Dedicate self to faithful service of the Lord. (1 Cor. 4:2.)
- 

## **The Ideal Home, No. 3, Relationship of Parents and Children**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Youth of the land today are running rampant.
2. They are not to be blamed for this.
3. Parents have almost completely relinquished parenthood in quest of money and happiness.
4. The Bible is very specific on the subject of relationship of parents and children.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. Parents Should Teach Their Children. (Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:4.)**

1. To teach diligently, not just take them to someone else to teach.
2. This to be a daily process. (Deut. 6:7.)
3. To nurture them. (Eph. 6:4.)
  - a. Simply means to educate them in the way of the Lord.

#### **II. Parents Should Teach Their Children To Obey. (Eph. 6:1, 2.)**

1. Today most parents obey their children.
2. To manifest love for the child in teaching him to obey will oftentimes incur chastisement. (Prov. 13:24.)
3. To fail in this principle is almost certain to bring sorrow.

#### **III. Parents Should Train Their Children. (Prov. 22:6.)**

1. This is a much deeper process than just teaching; it incurs action on part of the teacher.
2. We don't train our children by sending them to Sunday school.
3. We train them by going with them.
4. This sets before them the needed example, as well as teaching.

### **CONCLUSION**

1. We need more Timothys today. (2 Tim. 3:15.)
2. For this to happen we will have to have more Eunices and Loises. (2 Tim. 1:5.)
3. Every child is due Christian parents.
4. Those who do not have Christian parents have been cheated.

5. Parents need to open their spiritual eyes and see real value. (Matt. 16:26.)
6. Then apply this knowledge by laying up treasures both for themselves and their children where there can be no failure. (Matt. 6:19, 20.)

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## Ways that Man Is Unlike God

Ps. 50:16-21

### INTRODUCTION

1. Man needs to realize that God cannot be deceived. (Gal. 6:7.)
2. God is not as far off as some would think.

### DISCUSSION

#### I. Man May Hide from Man, but Not from God.

1. Cannot even hide our thoughts. (Heb. 4:12.)

#### II. Man May Deceive Man, but Cannot Deceive God.

1. Our sins will find us out. (Num. 32:23.)
2. Pretence of religious piousness will not suffice.

#### III. Man May Break His Promise, but God Does Not.

1. To promise to turn from sin, and do same thing tomorrow will not do.
2. God forgives on the basis of genuine, true repentance. (Acts 3:19.)

#### IV. Man May Bribe Man, but Cannot Bribe God.

1. Attends church occasionally. (Heb. 10:24, 25.)
2. Gives occasionally. (1 Cor. 16:2.)
3. Makes large contributions occasionally. (Mk. 12:41-44.)

#### V. Man Makes Distinction in Sins, but God Does Not.

1. In so doing he feels that God overlooks the small.

#### VI. Man May Accept All Religions, but God Does Not.

1. Cry out everywhere go to the church of your choice.
2. By the same token casting the firstborn to the crocodiles is as good as any other.
3. One religion or one church is not as good as another.
4. Jesus said if the Father did not plant, it would be rooted up. (Matt. 15:13.)
5. David spoke of building in vain. (Ps. 127:1.)
6. The Lord said He would build **His church**. (Matt. 16:18.)
7. Luke said He bought it with His blood. (Acts 20:28.)
8. Paul said there was one church. (Eph. 4:4; 1:22, 23.)

### CONCLUSION

1. You can be a member of this church when you obey the will of the Lord.
2. You can wear a fadeless crown by remaining faithful. (Rev. 2:10.)



# Things that Will Cause Us To Live Better

## INTRODUCTION

1. Every person should desire to live better.
2. We are each busy writing a history of our lives.
3. Each moment perhaps closes a paragraph, each day a page, each year a chapter, and at life's end the book is concluded.
4. We should strive to make each chapter of the book the best, for it might be the last.
5. There are a few things that will help us write this book better, to which we desire to call your attention at this hour.

## DISCUSSION

### I. A Greater Degree of Faith.

1. Peter began to sink for lack of faith. (Matt. 14:28ff.)
2. We need the faith Jesus spoke of. (Matt. 6:31-33.)
3. This faith will turn man to spiritual things which are eternal.

### II. Realization of the Value of the Soul.

1. Value seen in cost. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20.)
2. Worth more than whole world. (Matt. 16:23.)
3. Our only eternal possession. (Matt. 10:28.)
4. To understand these will draw us close to God. (Jas. 4:8.)

### III. A Consciousness of Judgment.

1. It is a serious time, an appointed time. (Heb. 9:27.)
2. All will be present, none will escape. (Rom. 14:12.)
3. Every man judged according to his life. (2 Cor. 5:10.)

### IV. Consciousness of Uncertainty of Life.

1. Life short at best. (Job 14:1; Jas. 4:13, 14.)
2. No man has power over life in day of death. (Eccl. 8:8.)
3. Therefore we should live each day as though it were the last.

### V. Consciousness of Two Destinies.

1. Both same duration. (Matt. 25:46.)
2. Both prepared places. (Matt. 25:41; John 14:1-3.)

## CONCLUSION

1. Where you spend eternity is in your hands. (Phil. 2:12.)
2. You can reject Christ and His way and spend eternity in the pit of fire and brimstone. (Mk. 9:44.)
3. You can accept Christ and His way and spend eternity in heaven. (Rev. 22:14.)

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## The Veil Shall Be Taken Away

2 Cor. 3:16

## INTRODUCTION

1. Briefly relate the setting of the Scripture.

2. People going back to law of Moses, and in so doing they were placing the veil of Judaism over the true picture of Christ.
3. When they turned their hearts to the Lord this veil was removed.
4. The veil needs to be removed for many today.
5. It shall be when men turn their hearts to the Lord. (Matt. 22:37.)
6. When the veil is taken away:

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. The Alien Will Learn in Sequence:**

1. He will stop arguing about whether the law of Moses is in effect today. (Col. 2:14.)
2. How many churches the Lord respects, and how many He will save will no longer worry. (Eph. 4:4; 5:23.)
3. He will no longer rebel at baptism. (Mk. 16:16.)
4. He will give heed to himself, and leave tradition and kinsmen for the way of the Lord. (Lk. 14:26.)

### **II. The Professed Christian Will Become the Confessed Christian in Life and Teaching When the Veil Is Taken Away.**

1. No longer will he seek his type of work and worship. (Isa. 6:8.)
2. One thing wrong with Pharisees.
3. Their fathers' tradition became their doctrine. (Matt. 15:9.)
4. Greatest error in religious world today is tradition.
5. Jesus can't heal and bless the heart turned from Him. (Matt. 13:15.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. What direction is your heart turned?
2. Just two directions:
  - a. World.
  - b. Jesus. (Rom. 6:16.)
3. Our destiny rests in the balance as to which direction we go. (Matt. 25:46.)

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## **What God Has Joined Together**

Matt. 19:6

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Discuss text as to setting and context.
2. God has joined many things together, spiritually speaking.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Faith and Baptism. (Mk. 16:16.)**

1. Who shall be saved? He that believes? No. He that believes and is baptized.

2. Saving faith leads to obedience. (Rom. 1:5.)
3. A person cannot be baptized without faith. (Eph. 4:5.)
  - a. Without faith it is just immersion, not baptism.

## **II. Repentance and Baptism. (Acts 2:38.)**

1. Whatever may be said about faith and baptism, can be said about repentance and baptism.
2. If baptism is of remission and not in order to, then the same is true of repentance.

## **III. Christ and the Church. (Eph. 5:25.)**

1. To persecute the church is to persecute Christ. (Acts 8:3; 9:4.)

## **IV. Christ and Salvation.**

1. Salvation is in Christ. (2 Tim. 2:10.)
2. We are baptized into Christ. (Gal. 3:27.)

## **V. Grace and Salvation.**

1. Saved by grace. (Eph. 2:8.)
2. We are baptized into Christ. (Gal. 3:27.)

## **VI. Faith and Salvation.**

1. Justified by faith. (Rom. 5:1.)
2. Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6.)
3. Not saved by faith alone. (Jas. 2:24.)

## **VII. Baptism and Salvation.**

1. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. (Mk. 16:16.)
2. Baptism doth now save us. (1 Pet. 3:21.)

## **VIII. Obedience and Salvation.**

1. Author of salvation to obedient. (Heb. 5:8, 9.)

## **IX. Work and Salvation.**

1. Paul said, "Work out your own salvation." (Phil. 2:12.)
2. This the works of righteousness. (Acts 10:34, 35.)

## **X. The Church and Salvation.**

1. One body. (Eph. 4:4.)
2. Saved in the body. (Eph. 5:23.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. How dare any man to put asunder anything that God has joined.
2. Let us accept these things as they are.

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## **Upon What Must We Agree To Please God?**

Amos 3:3; Matt. 18:19, 20; Gal. 1:10

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. It is obvious that God wants men to agree religiously.

2. Unity is not man's plea, but God's.
3. The question is not, "Should we agree," but "Upon what must we agree to please God?"

## DISCUSSION

### I. The Deity of Christ. (Matt. 3:17; 16:16; 17:5.)

1. To deny His virgin birth as many do, would be denying His deity. (Isa. 7:14.)
2. He was both man and God. (Matt. 8:20; 16:16.)

### II. The Sacrifice of Christ. (Heb. 2:9.)

1. This sacrifice made while man was in sin. (Rom. 5:8.)
2. This sacrifice not accepted by all. (2 Cor. 4:3.)

### III. The Authority of Christ. (Matt. 28:18.)

1. This is authority in all things.
2. All must accept this authority now or when it will be too late. (Phil. 2:9-11.)

### IV. The Testimony that Christ Exists. (John 30:30, 31; 21:25.)

1. This testimony not by sight, neither tangible.
2. It is by faith, proved by evidence and undeniable truth. (2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:1.)

### V. The Commands of Christ. (Jas. 1:25; 2 John 9:11.)

1. The blessed are the doers of these commands. (Jas. 1:22; Rev. 22:14.)

### VI. The Promises of Christ.

1. His promises are alike to all. (2 Pet. 3:9.)
2. The only thing that alters His promises is man. (John 5:28, 29.)

### VII. The Church that Christ Built. (Matt. 16:18.)

1. Paul said He purchased it. (Acts 20:28.)
2. Thus it is His possession. (Rom. 16:16.)

### VIII. One Gospel for All That Will Save All. (Rom. 1:16.)

1. Other gospels are forbidden. (Gal. 1:7-9.)

## CONCLUSION

1. Yes, we can agree on all of these things if we will.
2. We must accept them to be saved.

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## What Shall I Give in Exchange for My Soul?

Matt. 16:24-26

## INTRODUCTION

1. Most values fluctuate: stocks, bonds, estates, even money.
2. The worth of the soul never changes.
3. Not being able to see the soul does not discount its value.
  - a. If so, what about joy, sorrow, pain, wind, electricity, etc.

4. The question asked implies at least five things we desire to investigate.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. The Soul Can Be Lost.**

1. This will be the miserable fate of the majority. (Matt. 7:13, 14.)
2. Sin is the destructive power. (John 8:21; Rom. 3:23; 6:23.)
3. The soul is lost due to personal decision. (Acts 13:46.)

### **II. Grave Danger when Man Gambles with His Soul.**

1. Jesus continually warned of this peril. (Matt. 10:28.)
2. Many so-called respectable ways a man exchanges his soul.
  - a. Too busy — too many Marthas, too few Marys. (Lk. 10:41, 42.)
  - b. Evil association. (1 Cor. 15:33.)
  - c. Little leaven, leavens whole lump. (1 Cor. 5:6.)
  - d. False doctrines that tickle the ear. (2 Tim. 4:1-4.)
  - e. Satan is subtle. (2 Cor. 11:14.)
  - f. Other gospels sure to curse. (Gal. 1:7-9.)

### **III. Man Cannot Have Everything.**

1. Must gain one often at the loss of another.
2. Cannot have two masters. (Matt. 6:24; Rom. 6:16.)
3. Cannot sow to flesh and reap incorruption. (Gal. 6:7, 8.)
4. You may have sin at your own discretion, but must sacrifice heaven.
5. The wise trader gives up all for the kingdom. (Matt. 13:45, 46.)

### **IV. Man's Most Tragic Loss Is His Soul.**

1. Even lesser losses are bad enough.
  - a. Gain much possession — lose health.
  - b. No gain to have money and not be able to use it.
  - c. Loss of soul incomparable to this.
2. Loss of soul means two losses.
  - a. Spiritual blessings now. (Eph. 1:3.)
  - b. Heaven ultimately. (Matt. 25:34, 46.)
3. Value of the soul is seen in:
  - a. God's love. (Rom. 5:8.)
  - b. Christ's death and sacrifice. (2 Cor. 8:9.)
  - c. Preparation being made. (John 14:14.)

### **V. The Soul Can Be Saved.**

1. The gospel has power to save. (Rom. 1:16.)
2. Man will be lost if he obeys not. (2 Cor. 4:3, 4.)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The only thing important is that which endures. (Eccl. 12:7; 2 Cor. 5:1.)
2. Have **you** prepared your soul in obedience? (2 Thess. 1:7-9.)