

# THE BIBLE TEACHER

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## EDITORIAL

### A Father And His Children

A beautiful relationship is that of a father and his children. The father feels responsible for his children. He loves them and at times, because of that love, must discipline them. He wants to give his children the very best of everything, but there are also times that he must withhold certain things from them. The children love their father and has every confidence in him that he will look after them and care for their needs. They do not like to have to be disciplined, but they always respond with greater love for their father than even before the punishment was given. They don't worry about the next meal, where their clothes will come from, and whether the rent will be paid. They have no fear of those who would be their enemies. As long as their father takes them by the hand, leads them, watches for their safety, and cares for

their needs, they know that he loves them and that all is well.

The same is true with the Father in heaven and his children, sons and daughters of God, Christians. Let us therefore think about the kind of love that God has for his children and the kind of love that he wants them to have for him and for one another.

1. We should keep in mind that God loves all of the world, that is, all people, because he is the one who created man and made it possible for him to live. Man sinned and became the enemy of his creator but then God showed his love by sending his Son that man might be saved. We read, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:16,17). Paul said, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). John said that he laid down his life for us because of his love. (1 John 3:16). Again, Paul said that Christ gave his life for us. (Galatians 2:20).

2. Because of God's love for us, and making it possible for us to be saved through Christ, then we have become sons and daughters of God. The apostle John said, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." (1 John 3:1).

3. Now that God is our Father and we are his children, then he wants us to love him. Christ said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15). He also said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." (Matthew 22:37). Again, he said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." (John 14:23:24).

4. Our Father cares for us and blesses us because we are his children. Paul wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3). John declared, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7). Again, he said, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." (1 John 3:22). Continuing, he says, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (1 John 5:14,15). Now hear the words of Paul, as he says, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9).

5. Because the Lord loves us then he disciplines or chastens us when we disobey him. The Hebrew writer said, "Ye have not resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children. My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and love? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasures; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yeildeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (Hebrews 12:4—11).

6. As children of God, our Father would have us to love one another. John stated, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment:

because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also." (1 John 4:16-21). Christ said to his disciples, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35).

7. We are to love the Lord's family, the church. Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. (Ephesians 5:25). John said that Christ laid down his life for us, and therefore we should be willing to lay down our lives for the brethren. (1 John 3:16). Peter exhorted, "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." (1 Peter 2:17).

Surely, then, if our Father loves us and we as his children love him, then it will be seen on both sides. It is this kind of love that will not only save us, but will draw others to the Lord.

What kind of love do you have? Are you a child of God? Do you have the assurance of the Father that he is with you, will provide for all of your needs, will watch over you and care for you, and one day to take you to heaven? Do you have the kind of confidence in him that drives out fear and that of being concerned about the things of this world? Only our Father in heaven, and our Lord Jesus Christ, can do all of this for us, and more.



## Make it Sure

In last month's associate editorial reader's attention was

drawn to the fact that one may be sincere and honest in himself, yet it is possible for one to be mistaken and deceived. This we had seen from the Bible's story of the man of God who sincerely believed a lie, thinking that it was the will of God for him that he should go to the old Prophet's house and receive his hospitality. From the record it is evident that he was a good and an honest man. He never intentionally wanted to do any thing that was contrary to the will of God. He had earlier rejected the invitation and the reward that the king had offered him, because he knew that it was not the will of God that he should go to anyone's house in that city or accept anything given there. (1 Kings 13:9). But then he made a serious mistake when he accepted another man's word honestly believing it to be the word of the Lord. His sincerity didn't save him. His honesty and simplicity didn't change the lie into truth. He heard a lie and believed a lie and consequently faced the destruction.

Millions of people around the world are making the same mistake today, as they are accepting man's word for God's word, and many of them are sincerely doing so, being ignorant of the teaching of God's word. They are simply believing men who are claiming to be of God. Let any come to them in white robe or with a Bible in hand or with some religious title and they would listen to him as though God is speaking to them. There are those who are claiming to be apostles and having authority from the Apostles. The old prophet, in 1 Kings 13, remember, had told the man of God that an angel from heaven had spoken to him by the word of the Lord. And he believed the man! This reminds us of what the apostle Paul had taught in Galatians 1:8, he said, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." Aren't there those today who are claiming the same thing what the old prophet claimed? Men are misleading people of good heart by telling them that God is revealing to them His message for the present generation. They are publishing religious papers with such messages and are sending to people around. Like the Old Prophet they are telling people things that are not written in the Bible. And the sad thing is that simple people are sincerely believing those things thinking that it is God's word. The good lesson that we learned

from the story of the man of God was that sincerely believing a lie would not change the lie into truth.

False prophets, teachers have always existed. They were there in the Old Testament time, and they also existed in the first century when Christ and his apostles preached, and they are here today right in our midst. And I believe they will always exist. But thank be to God that He has given to us His book, His written will, the Bible, to which we can go and find what He wants us to believe and do. We don't have to rely for information on any man. We can directly go to the book of God and read it for ourselves to know His will.

At Romans 15:4 the inspired writer says, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." The same writer in 1 Corinthians 10:11 wrote, "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come." Let us learn from the man of God, about whom we read in 1 Kings 13, that sincerity alone is not enough. If we want to do only God's will and if we want to be saved and go to God's beautiful heaven then we must **MAKE IT SURE** that the things we believe and do in religion are written in God's book, the Bible. Remember, God is not speaking today through any man on earth. He is not giving special revelations. He is not speaking in dreams to people. Because He has spoken already once for all. (Jude 3). And according to the Spirit filled apostle, if any man, whether he is in Rome, or in America, or in England, or in India, no matter wherever and whosoever he be, but if any man or even an angel preaches any thing contrary to the things revealed in God's Bible then God's wrath will be upon him. (Galatians 1:7-9).

The only way God's people can make their calling and election sure is by doing only those things which are revealed by God in His book. Is your religion based on what the Bible teaches? (James 1:25-27). Are you worshipping God as He requires? (John 4:24). Were you saved from your sins as the Bible says in Mark

16:16 and Acts 2:28 ? Are you a member of the church of which you can read in your Bible? (Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16). If not, then make it sure by doing what God says in the Bible.

## Come Home

**Rick Rickard**

Home. There's a certain magic connected with the word. One is made to think of such things as warmth, laughter, security, love, happiness, peace, and contentment. All who have grown up and left home to make their own places in the world, carry with them special memories of life at home. Quite often, home is not appreciated until one has left it behind. Such is the case with one young man of whom the Bible speaks—the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).

Like many people, this young man had certain ideas about the things he wanted from life. We may safely assume that he sought and set about to fulfil virtually every carnal desire. His father's house represented confinement and so he demanded his inheritance and set out into the world to "really live".

While his money lasted all of his expectations were realized. Truly, though, the pleasures of sin are but for a season (Hebrews 11:25). Soon his financial resources were exhausted and with their passing went his friends, also. In desperation, the young man finally stooped to the depth of Hebrew disgrace—he became a keeper of pigs! His lack of sustenance became so great that in his hunger he was tempted to eat the pigs' food! He was indeed paying the price for service to sin (Galatians 6:7, 8).

The love of his father and the blessings of home became the sparks that ignited the fire of repentance deep within his soul. Home took on a new meaning. He wanted to go home—but how could he? Sin had wasted everything his father had given him. He was filthy with the mud and the sickening stench of the pig sty. He knew that he was not worthy of being taken back by his

father. His mistakes had been terrible and costly.

Still, he knew that he *had* to return! There was no other way. "I will arise and go to my father," he said, "and I will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants." His homecoming had begun.

No doubt, the miles seemed long and the road endless as he journeyed home. How would he be received? The answer was not long in coming. The boy was yet a great way off when his father saw him. He had been watching for his son's return! He ran out to meet him and what a joyous reunion it was! The two embraced and kissed! No questions were asked about the boy's sinful ways, his misuse of a lifetime's savings, or his ragged condition. His boy was back home! At last, his son was at home!

### THE PRODIGAL SON AND YOU

Through the ages hearts have swelled with joy at reading this tender story. Probably, yours has, too. Homecomings are always joyous occasions. The return of one lost to sin is the most joyous of all. Even the angels in the presence of God rejoice. The warmth the tenderness, and the joy of such a reunion make us wonder what attraction could have ever been found in sin. Sin is an ugly thing.

We hope that, as you reconsider this wonderful story, you'll think seriously about your own need to come home. Probably, you've given much thought to doing so already. We believe that you have because we know that your heart was once filled with the joy of redemption. You loved the fellowship of God and his people. The wonderful story of His great love once touched your heart and led you to obey his saving gospel. Spiritual things were once an important part of your life. Maybe such things are *still* important to you. Perhaps you've just allowed other things to overshadow them until you were farther away than you had realized. It's easy to become entangled with the world and its affairs, without stopping to see where they are leading until it's



too late. By then much effort is needed to re-establish one's relationship with the Lord. But, that re-establishment *can* take place. Home awaits you, just as it did the Prodigal.

### **GOD WANTS YOU TO COME**

Though you've left the fold, the Father looks anxiously for your return. His love for you did not cease when you went astray. The Prodigal's father saw him while he was yet a great way off because he was looking for him. He wanted his son to come home. God is watching for your return. His love and concern are written on every page of the Bible and are etched into the heart of each faithful Christian. He is ready to restore you to your rightful place and will receive you back gladly. He wants you to come home.

### **WE WANT YOU TO COME**

The Bible makes it clear that brothers and sisters in Christ are to be concerned for one another. In our earthly families we feel this care. If a brother or sister in the flesh were to wander into a forest and become lost, the whole family would be concerned for his welfare and each would do his part to find the lost one. This is the same kind of care that we feel for brothers and sisters who have strayed from the fold of God. We realize that we cannot make your decisions for you. We cannot force you to come home. But, because we are concerned, we can encourage you to give careful thought to your spiritual needs. We believe that anyone who will honestly look at his spiritual condition will make whatever corrections are necessary to be restored to the graces of God. There is a second son in the parable of the Prodigal—the elder brother. He was wrong in not caring for his wayward brother. We do not want to make the same mistake. We love you and will do whatever we can to help you to decide to come home.

### **ETERNITY BECKONS YOU TO COME**

Each day that we live gives us yet more proof that life is brief. Death and decay are all around. One day, all of us will stand

before God to be judged according to the things that we have done (Acts 17:30,31; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Our lives on earth will then be behind us; there will be no opportunity to go back and change things. When death comes we must be ready. A lifetime of neglected opportunities will be enough to condemn one with even the best of intentions. God has planned and prepared a way to escape condemnation. You entered that way when you obeyed the gospel (Mark 16:16; Romans 6:17, 18). His plans include a "second law of pardon" whereby you may be restored to the way of life (Acts 8:13-24; James 5:16,19,20). Blissful thoughts of Heaven once tugged eagerly at the strings of your heart. God does not want you to be lost (2 Peter 3:9). You do not want to be lost. Eternity looms on the horizon of life. The decisions you make regarding your homecoming will follow you to the Judgment Bar. Make them carefully.

God has planned and purposed that each accountable soul should choose his own way. He forces his will upon no one. We are all where we are because of our own decisions. Our hope and prayer is that these thoughts may serve as gentle reminders of things you already know and that you, as the Prodigal, will decide to return to your heavenly Father. The decision to turn back is the first step toward your great homecoming. Confession of your sin the prayers of the faithful will restore you to your rightful place.

Travel down the road of sin is a wearisome thing. Don't the blessings of the Father's house sound inviting? Why not come back home?

## Nine Important Questions And Their Answers

**Basil Overton**

### **1. Are children sinners when they are born?**

**The answer.** No. Sin is not inherited; it is committed by transgressing God's law. (Ezekiel 18:20; 1 John 3:4.) God is the

Father of our spirits. (Hebrews 12:9.) This means God gave us our spirits. So, when we were born, we were pure and sinless. Jesus said grown men had to become as 'little' children in order to be saved. (Matthew 18:3,4.)

## **2. Does God love all people?**

**The answer.** Yes. He loves all people enough that he gave his only begotten Son to be the sacrifice for the sins of all. (John 3:16.) God says each person is worth more than all the world. (Matthew 16:26.) God loves every one of us humans more than we can possibly love each other.

## **3. Are all people lost?**

**The answer.** All people who are accountable to God are lost. (Romans 3:23.) Little children are not lost. There are those who are born with inadequate mental capacities. These are not lost.

## **4. Can all lost people be saved?**

**The answer.** Yes. God wants all lost people to be saved. (1 Timothy 2:3, 4; 2 Peter 3:9.) Whosoever wills to be saved can be saved. (John 3:16; Revelation 22:17.)

## **5. How can one be saved?**

**The answer.** To be saved one must believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. (John 3:16; 8:24.) Believing in him means trusting in him as the one who is able to save from sin. Believing and trusting in him involves turning from sin and confessing Christ as God's Son and then being baptized into him. (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27.) The reason it is necessary to be baptized into Christ is because redemption through his blood is in him. (Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:14.)

## **6. Is the baptism that puts one into Christ immersion?**

**The answer.** Yes. by being baptized one goes down into

water and comes up out of the water. (Acts 8:38,39.) In baptism one is buried. (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:2.) Baptism is the English form (Anglicized form) of a Greek word that means immersion.

**7. When was sprinkling water on people for baptism started?**

**The answer.** Many years after the New Testament was written the practice of sprinkling water on people was started. It was first administered on people who were sick and was called "clinical baptism." The Lord did not authorize this. Even after there were a few cases of "clinical baptism" it was many hundreds of years later before sprinkling was practiced widely. The Lord still does not authorize sprinkling for baptism.

**8. Should babies be baptized?**

**The answer.** No! Even if sprinkling were baptism, it would not be for babies. The baptism that Jesus commands in the gospel is immersion and only those are to be immersed who are capable of believing. Infants cannot believe the gospel. But, Jesus said that he that believes the gospel and is baptized shall be saved. (Mark 16:16.) The Bible also says that those baptized are to repent of their sins and confess their faith in Christ. (Acts 2:38, 8:37; Romans 10:10.) Infants cannot do this, so they are not subjects for being baptized, and do not need to be baptized.

**9. When a person does what is stated above in order to be saved from all his past sins and thus becomes a Christian, of what church will he then be a member?**

**The answer.** He will be a member of the same church of which the people were members about whom we read in the New Testament who did those things to be saved. That church is not a denomination. It is the Lord's family, or the body of Christ. (Colossians 1:18, 3:15; 1 Timothy 3:15.)

Please study all the Bible passages in the foregoing and make a practice of studying the Bible regularly and you will learn more of God's will.

# Christ, A Divine Teacher

**John G. Shaver**

Nicodemus said to Jesus, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God . . ." (Jno. 3:2). Christ came to sustain the three-fold office of prophet, priest and king. Each of these offices he fully and perfectly fulfilled. As a prophet, he made known the will of God. As a priest, he offered the holy and spotless sacrifice of himself. As a king, he gave laws to his church, and remains seated upon his throne, where he shall sit until he hath made his enemies his footstool. As a prophet, he was superior to all who had ever preceded him, greater than Moses himself. As a priest, he was after the order of Melchisedec. As a sovereign, he has written upon his vesture and upon his thigh, "King of kings, and Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16). Let us contemplate that part of his prophetic office which more immediately relates to him as a teacher, and thus the propriety and force of the ruler's confession, "we know that thou art a teacher come from God."

First, let us consider Christ as a teacher. Here two things will demand our notice. First, the nature of his instructions. His instructions were diversified in nature. He revealed the character of deity, explained and illustrated the doctrine of providence, exposed the human heart, exhibited the remedy for sin which God provided, stated and enforced the necessity of faith, repentance, confession, baptism and holiness. He published a new code of law extending to the thoughts of men. He plainly stated the certainty of a resurrection and opened the glorious gates to immortality and eternal life (Matt. 5-7; Jno. 3; Jno. 5:28-29). His instructions were of great importance—the very opposite of the conceits of the Jewish Rabbis, and affording an equally striking contrast to the wild theories of the pagan philosophers. He taught man that which related to his true dignity, permanent happiness, and eternal well-being (Lk. 4:18; Jno. 10:10). His instructions were of universal and individual concern. He was the teacher of all classes. All stood in need of his instructions, and all were equally interested in them. He stood in the capacity of a teacher of the whole world. His teachings were intended to enlighten every man that came into the

world (Jno. 1:9). His instructions were of eternal consequence. The woes he pronounced to the wilfully ignorant and finally impenitent were eternal, and the rewards he offered were not temporal, but eternal. For this end did he come, to show men the way to everlasting life (Jno. 10:28; Jno. 17:2-3; I Jno. 5:20). Second, consider the manner in which he communicated his instructions—with plainness and simplicity. How beautifully familiar were his discourses. How clearly he illustrated all the subjects that he brought before the people. He referred them to the sower, the fisherman, the woman with the leaven, the three measures of meal, the lost sheep, the lilies, the vine, to houses built upon sand and rock; and the consequence was, the common people, the plain and unlearned, who formed the great majority of his listeners, heard him gladly. His discourses suited their capacities, and thus they received instruction, delight and profit (Mk. 12:37). His teaching was distinguished for condescension and patience. He stooped to the poor, sought out the wretched, and those who were overlooked by the teachers of his day. He addressed publicans and sinners, profligates and harlots. And how patiently he taught his disciples. How he endured their dullness, and with all perseverance gave them lesson upon lesson, and never did he break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax (Matt. 9:11-13). His teaching was distinguished for tenderness and affection. How deeply he felt for the poor perishing souls he came to instruct. With what graciousness he made his words known to them. How he yearned over them. And when they remained incorrigible he wept over them (Matt. 23:27). His teaching was distinguished for truth and fidelity. Though tender and affectionate, yet he was faithful in all things to the ministry committed to him. He loved the souls of man too well to hold back any part of truth (Matt. 23). His teaching was distinguished for unwearied constancy and perseverance. He went about from place to place in search of ignorant wandering souls, and times, places or circumstances had no weight with him. He cared not whether it was morning, noon or evening, whether the sabbath or any other day. He cared not whether the people were gathered in the synagogue, marketplace, the way-side, the mountain-top, or the sea-shore. It was his meat and drink to do his Father's will, and he never allowed himself to be diverted from that will.

Second, Christ was a teacher sent from God. As proof, we appeal to his messenger, John (Jno. 1:23-27). We appeal to the signs at his baptism (Matt. 3:16-17). We appeal to his transfiguration, where Moses and Elijah surrendered all into his hands; and a solemn injunction is heard, "Hear ye him" (Matt. 17:5). We appeal to his heavenly teachings. Did not his discourses attest, that both the teacher and his teachings were from above? Who could have revealed such truth, if he had not been from God? We appeal to his glorious miracles. He did what no other teacher had ever done. He healed all manner of sicknesses, expelled demons, and raised the dead. We appeal to his resurrection. Surely, God, would not have raised an impostor from the dead. But Christ he did raise, and thus he was proved to be the Messiah, the Son of God, with power (Rom. 1:4). We appeal to the influence of his teaching. Has it not made myriads wise to salvation? Did it not chasten the impure, reform the profligate, dignify the abased, make happy the wretched, and inspire the lost sons of men with a joyful hope of immortality? Yes, we know that he was a teacher sent from God.

What is our duty in reference to him? We are to receive his heavenly instructions, that the design of his teaching may be fully answered in us. In order to do this, we must receive his teaching with deep humility, with constant attention, with affectionate application, with unabated constancy; with grateful acknowledgements and with a practical application of his teaching in our dispositions and lives.

## Citizens Of God

Michael Bond

There are many passages of scripture that inform us how to receive heaven as our reward (II Tim. 4:8; Rev. 2:10). But in

Psalms David tells us what God expects of us if we want to be citizens in his holy hill.

First, let's notice that there is a question raised. Who shall dwell with God in his tabernacle (Ps. 15:1)? David sees God's people as guests. Whether we are accepted as his guests depends on the life we live.

Second, David gives us an outline of those who will dwell with God. This is the answer to the question raised in verse one. Notice ten things that God expects from us. One, that his children "walk uprightly" (Ps. 15:2). That is we must conduct our lives in a righteous fashion. God's citizens should not bring reproach against him. We are to let our light shine that God will be glorified (Mt. 5:16). We are the salt that will preserve people of this world. We are to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. (Tit. 2:12).

Two, we should work righteousness (vs. 2). What is righteousness? It is right doing. Our conduct should be just and fair. Dealings with our fellow man should be honest and upright. The Old Testament prophets condemned lives that were corrupt.

Three, we should be truthful (vs. 2). This truthfulness should come from within the heart. Liars and cheaters will not enter heaven (Rev. 21:8), God's citizen will be truthful and honest with his fellow man.

Four, backbiting is condemned (vs. 3), not only here but also in other passages. Saying false things about someone is hated by God (Prov. 6:16-19). In Romans it is listed as being hated by God. Backbiting is worthy of death (Rom. 1:30,32). The Corinthians were guilty of this (II Cor. 12:20). Speaking falsely against someone is hated by God.

Five, doing evil against our neighbours is condemned also by God (Ps. 15:3). We have a duty to our neighbours. We should always be willing to help those in any way that we can. Doing evil to our neighbour brings reproach upon our God. Jesus stated that we should love our neighbour as ourselves (Mt. 22:39).



Six, Christians should condemn evil. Condemn means to scorn, or to despise. Those whom we cannot convert because they love to do evil need to be scorned. God's word tell us not to associate with these people. It will corrupt our lives as well (I Cor. 15:33).

Eight, God's citizen will honor those who fear him (vs. 4). Let us be thankful for the good friends that we associate with. They at least brighten the world we live in.

Nine, God's citizen, when he makes a promise, keeps it. Let our words be our bond. If we do not plan on keeping a promise then let's not make it.

Ten, God's citizen is not tight with his money (vs. 5). We should give to those in need (Eph. 4:28). We must give cheerfully (II Cor. 9:7). If we are stingy, we cannot give cheerfully. Let us remember the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

God's citizen who does these things will never be moved (vs. 5). In other words, we will have a permanent dwelling place with God. But we have to be faithful to him in this life. We have to be as the Psalmist just described. We must be like Paul; we must fight the good fight, be faithful unto death (II Tim. 4:8). Christianity is our faith in action. May God's people do these things; then we can have heaven as our reward.

## The Art Of Resisting Temptation

W. A. Holley

"Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (I Peter 5:8-9).

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

His Satanic Majesty is not dead!! If we will but open our eyes we can see that his programme for the human race is growing in influence and prospering in numbers. How does Satan tempt mankind? Well, he seeks to debase our thoughts, corrupt our speech, pervert our character, and debauch our actions. He tempts the children of God to compromise their convictions, to neglect their sacred duties, to live unholy lives, and to divide their loyalty between God and Satan himself. To draw the people of God back into the world, he still uses his ever-popular devices: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life (I John 2:15-17).

We are aware of the fact that no set of rules or suggestions can help one resist Satan unless one exerts the will and determination to thrust him aside! We trust that all who read these lines shall not allow Satan to gain an advantage over them (John 7:17; Revelation 22:17; II Corinthians 2:11).

Herewith, we submit some rules which can help you to resist Satan's temptations:

- (1) Do not underestimate Satan's power of inducement, enticement, and persuasion, to yield to his will and way. He has mislead countless millions long before you came into the world.
- (2) Never overrate your own strength to resist temptation. Peter made this great mistake! He, (along with the other apostles) thought that he would never forsake the Lord, but, ironically, he denied Jesus three times (Matthew 26:31-35; Luke 22:31-34).
- (3) Remember that there is always a way of escape which is revealed in the Sacred Scriptures; but that you must use the Scriptures in order to find that way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13; Psalms 119:11; Luke 2:19,51; I John 3:9). God does not provide for any one a miraculous way of escape from temptation.
- (4) Avoid evil companionships (I Corinthians 15:33).
- (5) Never, never forsake the Lord's assembly (Acts 20:7;

Hebrews 10:24-25; Revelation 1:10). The lack of assembling together with the saints of God diminishes one's strength and enthusiasm for the Lord.

(6) Do not lose contact with God. When an electrical circuit is broken, the light goes out! "Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17).

(7) Keep on studying the Holy Bible year after year. When you stop reading God's word regularly, you will begin to lose spiritual strength. God's word is food for your soul (Matthew 4:4; I Peter 2:2; II Timothy 2:15; II Peter 3:18).

(8) "Be sure your sins will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). How can our sins find us out? Our sins may never be publicly exposed, but we will know, and God knows. Smitten consciences, sleepless nights, impaired health, and bitter tears of sorrow and regret represent some of the ways our sins can find us out. "The wages of sin is death," whether ever disclosed or not (Romans 6:23; I Timothy 5:24-25).

(9) Always be aware that God Almighty is looking down upon you, wherever you are, and whatever you do (Job 26:6; Proverbs 15:11; Psalm 139:1-12; Hebrews 4:12-13). To him you must give an account in the Great Judgment (II Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27-28).

(10) Practice thought control (II Corinthians 10:4-5). As one thinks in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7). One can think on things which are not lustful and degrading. (Philippians 4:8). One can keep his mind free from licentiousness and wantonness. Clean up your mind! Empty it of all thoughts of moral and spiritual corruption (II Corinthians 7:1; Romans 12:1-2; 13:10-14; Colossians 3:5-15).

(11) You should recognize that sin is just as bad now as it ever has been. Sin is sin, whether "big" or "little," as you may judge sin. From the Biblical point of view, there

are no "big" sins and "little" sins. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4).

- (12) Make certain that you do not put yourself in a situation where you will be sorely tried and severely tested by moral and physical temptations. King David was in the wrong place and Bathseba was in the wrong place; hence, an atrocious sin was committed, the consequence of which was unforeseen (II Samuel 11:2-27; 12:1-23). "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matthew 6:13), is a Hebraism, by which God is said to do a thing which he only permits or suffers to be done. God tries but never tempts any one to do evil (James 1:13-15). Why should you expose yourself to temptations which you may not be able to resist??

## "I Am Not Sick—I Am A Liar"

**Edsel Burleson**

Bruce Henderson wrote of talking to a Christian who, like himself, was greatly disturbed by the lack of church attendance by many. The man made the statement that attendance is to the Christian's life what an oil dipstick is to an automobile engine. The dipstick is an indicator. It indicates when trouble is about to occur within the engine. If the engine is a quart low, the stick shows it. If it is two quarts low, it shows it. If the stick shows three quarts low, something must be done immediately or a disaster will occur.

Likewise an individual's church attendance is also an indicator. If a person begins to miss services during a week, it is an indication that something is wrong. If the person begins to miss more and more, something drastic will soon happen unless a change is made.

A person's lack of attendance at worship is very evident

because it shows. It shows in the way he lives. It shows in the companions he keeps. It especially shows in the amount of knowledge he has.

Hebrews 10:25 declares, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

One of the most flagrant sins engaged in by some members of the church is failing to assemble with other Christians to worship. When one makes a choice to forsake worship opportunities he has committed a willful sin, which if not confessed and forgiven, will cause him to lose his soul in eternal perdition. Such action is saying that worship is unimportant.

After many years of failing to assemble to worship, people reach the point of thinking that they can go to heaven without worshipping with the church.

An interesting prayer appeared in someone's bulletin many years ago. The petitioner said, "Almighty God, as I sit here by the fire on this lovely Sunday morning, surrounded by the Sunday papers and half listening to one of the big preachers over the radio, it has just come to me that I have lied to thee and to myself. I said that I was not well enough to go to church. That was not true. I would have gone to my office if it had been Monday morning. I would have played golf if it had been Wednesday afternoon. I would have gone to a football game had it been Friday night. But it is Sunday morning and Sunday sickness seems to cover a multitude of sins. I had lied to thee and myself. I am not sick—I AM A LIAR." Perhaps it would behoove many to take a good close look at themselves.

Carefully read these words from the pen of a writer unknown to me.

"When you awake on Sunday

morn,

Does Satan often say,

'Just stay in bed and rest a while;

You're not so well today,  
You laboured hard six days  
last week,

which always is your rule,  
Now's your chance to stay in bed—

Don't go to Bible School?

"My head does ache" you  
say,

'I think I have a chill;  
It would be nice to lie in bed—

I just believe I will.

For after all, Sunday was  
made

That working men might  
rest;

Perhaps I'll go to preaching,

I like that service best.

"Why go to preaching?" Satan  
says,

"It only lasts one hour.

Besides, the weather's bad,

It may come up a shower.'

Then, cunningly, he tells  
himself,

'It's needless more to say

That weakling is an easy prey,

I'll have him back some  
day!"

## God's Power And The Gospel

Kyle McWhorter

Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ : for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;

to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith : as it is written, The just shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16, 17.)

All men are acquainted with power of one kind or another. The military people speak of fire power. The automotive industry, and even the airplane manufacturers speak of horse power. In days that are past, people were familiar with steam power in the moving of trains and ships.

God's power is sometimes seen in nature. This is true with the hurricane, the tornado and the mountain shaking earthquake. However, God's power to save lost sinners is in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### LESSONS IMPLIED

There are several lessons that one can observe from a consideration of the text.

In the first place, it is implied that man is lost. The apostle Paul gives further emphasis to this truth when he declares that both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin. (Romans 3:9, 10.) Paul again states that "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23.) This same truth is taught when the Bible says that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. (Matthew 1:21; Luke 19:10.)

Secondly, it is implied that there is a God. The secular humanist, Communist and atheist deny the existence of God. God said that those who say that there is no God are fools. (Psalm 14:1.) The evidence, when properly considered, cries out loud and clear that there is a God, and that he is the creator of this vast universe, and the earth that is the habitation of man. (Genesis 1:1-31; Psalm 19:1-3.)

Thirdly, it is implied that God is greatly interested in man. Isn't it wonderful to think that the God who is all-powerful, who created the world, takes notice of man? The Psalmist David stood in amazement, wonder and awe at this great truth. (Psalm 8:3,9.)

Paul, in our text, implies as much when he declares that "therein (in the gospel) is revealed the righteousness of God from faith to faith." (Romans 1:17.) Paul does not mean that the gospel reveals the fact that God is righteous, but, rather that the gospel of Christ is the means by which God brings righteousness to man. The word "righteousness" is a synonym for justification or salvation. (Philippians 3:8-12; Romans 10:1-3; Romans 5:1.)

### WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word "gospel" simply means good tidings or good news. (Luke 2:10.) It is good news about what God, through the death of Christ, has done to make salvation from sin available to all men.

The gospel of Christ has elements that must be taken into consideration by all men.

(1) There are the facts of the gospel. They are three in number. They are: the fact that Christ died for the sins of man; that he was buried; and that he arose on the third day. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4.)

(2) There are the commands that must be obeyed. These commands involve faith in Jesus Christ (John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6); repentance because of past sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19); and upon the confession of one's faith in Christ, baptism in water for the remission of sins. (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 2:38, 22:16.)

(3) There are the promises of the gospel. They are the forgiveness of sins; which occurs when one obeys the gospel, and then the promise of eternal life in the world to come. (1 John 2:25.)

(4) The gospel also has its warnings. All men are warned not to pervert, wrest, and neither add to nor take from the word of God. (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Peter 3:15, 16; Revelation 22:18, 19.)

(5) The gospel has its threats. These have to do with those who do not obey it, or fail to live as the word directs. "The



furnace of fire," "The lake of fire" and/or "eternal destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power." (Matthew 13:41, 42; Revelation 20:14; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.) These are some of the statements that are made in the truth of God depicting the dire consequences if one fails to obey the word of God.

## **THE INSPIRED BOOK**

The gospel of Christ, for a time, was in the inspired men. (2 Corinthians 4:7.) Now it is in the inspired Book. The Bible is the greatest treasure known to man. It is the inspired, infallible word of the living God.

The truth of the gospel is brought to bear upon the heart of man through teaching. It appeals to man's intelligence. God understood the impact one human soul would have upon another with the powerful gospel message. God, therefore, planned from the beginning that the gospel should be made known to man through preaching or teaching. (John 6:44, 45; Titus 2:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 1:21.) Yes, the gospel is a precious treasure, and it appeals to the heart of man through teaching. One should give diligent attention to it as it is taught.

## **WHAT DOES IT OPERATE UPON?**

Someone may raise the question as to what God's power to save operates upon. Physical power operates upon matter. One may have observed this being done as the bulldozer moves great mounds of dirt in the building of a road. Moral or spiritual power operates upon the mind. Isaiah said, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18.) Thus, argument, reason and persuasion are used as well as fear and love by the gospel of our Lord. They are used to get one to apply the power of the gospel to oneself.

The gospel appeals to the intellect of man to get him to believe that Christ is the Son of God. (John 20:30, 31.) It appeals

to the will by pointing out the coming judgment to induce man to repent. (Acts 17:30, 31.) The gospel reaches the conscience of man by revealing to him the fact that he is guilty of sin (Acts 2:37), and by making known the conditions that must be met to have such guilt removed. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21.) The New Testament appeals to the emotions by telling of God's love for fallen man as it is seen in the cross of Calvary (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:19) thus, awakening in man a loving response. Finally, heaven is held out to man as a reward for his obedience and life-long service to the Lord. (John 14:1-4; Revelation 2:10.)

### POWER MUST BE APPLIED

The boiler on a train may have enough steam to move ten trains, but until it is applied to the pistons the train will not move one inch. The gospel, according to Paul, is God's power to save the believer. (Romans 1:16.) John said that those who believed on Christ were given the power or right to become sons of God. (John 1:11, 12.) Thus, the believer is not saved by his faith alone. Neither is one saved at the point of faith apart from works of obedience. (Galatians 5:6; James 2:14-26; Romans 16:26.) The power of God to save that is in the gospel is applied when the believer obeys the commands of the Lord, and not before. (Matthew 7:24-27; Hebrews 5:8, 9; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16.)

## The Burial Of Jesus

### John Temples

"Now I make known unto you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also ye have received, wherein also ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye hold fast the word which I preached unto you, except ye believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received; that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **and that he was buried**; and that he hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures . . . ." (1 Corinthians 15:1-4, ASV.)

In this grand summary of the gospel, Paul says there are four cardinal facts: (1) Christ died for our sins; (2) he was buried; (3) he rose from the dead the third day; and (4) his resurrection was confirmed by eyewitnesses.

Why mention his burial? It seems to be a tautology or truism, relatively insignificant and not on the same level of importance as the other facts. To us, it is crucial that he died, and marvelous that he arose; but the Lord's time in the tomb is not often in our thoughts.

But Christ's burial should be important to us! Here, we believe, is why Paul put so much emphasis on it.

### **THE BURIAL EMPHASIZES CHRIST'S HUMANITY**

That which was buried was completely human. It was not just the FORM of a human. Some in the first century (called Gnostics) taught that human flesh was inherently evil, and that deity could never inhabit human flesh. Therefore, according to them, Christ only **appeared** as Jesus but was not really human. The apostle John dealt with this heresy in 1 John. He asserted Christ's humanity as "that which we beheld, and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life." (1:1.) Cautioning against false prophets (the Gnostics) he said, "... every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God." (4:2.)

Christ shared, literally, every human experience from womb to tomb; birth, pain, joy, fatigue, death . . . and burial.

### **THE BURIAL PROVES MAN'S DUAL NATURE**

For part of three days, our Lord's body lay in a tomb, sealed and guarded. But he was not there! In Luke 23:43, just before his death, Jesus declared to the penitent thief his destination: "And he said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise." Paradise is the temporary place or state of rest for the righteous dead. And in a passage that directly affirms the dual nature of man, Peter said, "Neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption." (Acts 2:31.) Paradise, then, is a part of Hades, the unseen world. The spirit of Jesus was in Hades,

but his body was on earth; yet it did not lie in the grave long enough to "see corruption," or decay.

A part of us is buried at death, but it is only the house we live in.

### **THE BURIAL SHOWS THAT CHRIST WAS LITERALLY, ACTUALLY AND COMPLETELY DEAD**

Pilate carefully determined through his soldiers that our Lord was dead before releasing his body to Joseph of Arimathea. (John 19:31-38.) Why is this important? "**Christ died for our sins.**" (1 Corinthians 15:3.) This is the heart of the gospel. If he only **appeared** to die (per the Gnostic idea that he only appeared to be human), or if he only swooned and later revived (as some modernists posit), then **WE HAVE NO SACRIFICE FOR SIN!**

His burial is testimony to the fact that we do have that precious sacrifice. The burial, along with the spear wound in the side, the three days in the grave and the testimony of the soldiers all combine to preclude the possibility that he was only unconscious.

### **ONE DAY YOU AND I WILL BE BURIED LIKE CHRIST**

Burial is an essential transition between death and eternal life, for "... flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 15:50.) Therefore, we should not loathe or fear it.

Seed must die and be planted to produce new life. (1 Corinthians 15:36.) Burial completely separates and hides us from this world of suffering and sin.

Remember this: the burial of Christ assures us that (1) he was completely human, and shared all our experiences; (2) man is not just flesh—he is spirit and lives after death; and (3) Jesus actually and literally died, and therefore we have a sacrifice for sin.

Christ died and was buried for you. What is your response to him?