

# THE BIBLE TEACHER

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*Editor*

**J. C. CHOATE**

*Associate Editor*

**SUNNY DAVID**

**FREE**



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**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**YOU ARE INVITED TO  
WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY  
WITH THIS CONGREGATION :**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST  
C-22, South Extension 2  
NEW DELHI-49**

**WORSHIP TIME-10-00 A.M.  
Sunny David, Preacher**

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These are but a few of the addresses of the Churches of Christ located in India. Contact the one nearest you for information about worship services, Bible Correspondence Courses, and tracts.

## ***Have you ever heard of The Church of Christ ?***

In talking to various ones in India about the church of Christ, many seemed to have never heard about it. What about you ? Perhaps you have. Let me ask you, have you ever heard of the church of Christ ? If not, then I am asking you as I have asked others : **WHY NOT ?** Don't you have a Bible ? What church do you read about in its pages ? If you will read again you will discover that just one church is mentioned and that is the church of Christ. Why, then, haven't you heard of this church ? Why haven't all the others ? You have had the Bible through the years. Quite a number of people in this area are members of some church. But what about the Lord's church ?

The church of Christ exists around the world. It doesn't exist everywhere but it can be found where there are people who will follow the Bible and the Bible only. This church is not denominational, sectarian, or man-made. It is neither Catholic, Protestant, nor Jewish. Then what is it ? It is simply the church that you read about in the Bible, being made up of those who obey the Lord and are faithful to him.

Christ is the founder of this church. Read and see for yourself. In Matthew 16:18 Christ said, "And upon this rock I will build my church."

It had its beginning in the city of Jerusalem. Read Luke 24 and Acts 2 and you will see that this is true. It did not have its beginning in London, in Germany, in the U.S.A., but in Jerusalem.

The church was established in about A.D. 33. This means it is almost 2000 years old. Read again in Acts 2 of how the church had its beginning and thus the date is determined on this basis.

With Christ as its builder then it took the name of Christ. This was true as a church. "The churches of Christ salute you." (Romans 16:16). This was also true of its members. "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." (Acts 11:26). The Bible only will make Christians only. Remember that.

Christ established but one church. In Ephesians 4:4 it is called the one body. In Colossians 1:18 the writer says that the body is the church. Therefore one church.

Christ is the head of the church. "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." (Ephesians 5:23). The Lord's church does not have an earthly head or earthly headquarters. Christ is the head and he dwells in heaven at the right hand of God.

Christ is the saviour of the church. This is also pointed out in Ephesians 5:23. This means that if one is to be saved then he must be a member of the church.

Christ died for the church. (Ephesians 5:25; Acts 20:28). This is how much it meant to him. What does it mean to you?

The saved are added to it. (Acts 2:47). And Christ adds the saved to the right church, his church.

He is coming back for his church. (Ephesians 5 : 27). What if you are not a member of it when he comes back? Think about that.

The Lord's church is already in this area, in this city, and in this community. You can be a member when you love the Lord enough to read and study his word and do what it teaches. In so doing you will come to believe the word of God, its author, and Jesus Christ, his son. (Hebrews 11 : 6 ; John 14 : 1-3 ; Romans 10 : 17), and then you will repent of all of your sins, or turn from them (Luke 13 : 3 ; Acts 17:30 ; Acts 2:38), confess Christ as the Son of God (Romans 10 : 10; Matthew 10:32), and then be baptized (buried in water) for the remission of your sins. (Acts 2 : 38; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3,4; Galatians 3:26, 27 : 1 Peter 3:21). As a result, the Lord will add you to his church (Acts 2 : 47), and you will be a Christian only. (1 Peter 4 : 16). This...

will make you a member of the church of Christ in your area and it will remain as long as there are people who love the Lord, will obey him, and be faithful to him. This does not mean, however, that you will be a part of just another church. Neither will you be beginning a denomination, for the Lord's church is not a denomination.

For the time being, if you would like to know more about this church, read your Bible. You are also invited to contact us personally for further information and for a free home Bible correspondence course.

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Ephesians 3:21).

## *The Anti Christ Day*

Christianity is a Bible subject. It originated with Christ and the Bible, especially the New Testament. All Christians are commanded to abide in Christ and in his words, because each one of us will be judged according to the words Christ hath spoken. (John 12 : 48). Therefore, it is necessary that whatsoever we believe or practice it must be supported by the New Testament. However, in the religious world today there are many things being believed and practiced which are absolutely foreign to the New Testament as well as to the whole Bible. This time we will consider only one of them : "Christmas", the so-called birth day of Christ. Each year on December 25th millions of people celebrate Christmas. They do so because they are told by their parents, forefathers, and religious leaders that Christ was born on this day, i.e., December 25th. But the question is, does the Bible teach this ? If not, then how did it come into existence ?

As a matter of fact, even the word Christmas is not found in the pages of the 66 books of the Bible. Nowhere does the Bible say that Christ was born on December 25th. Nowhere in the New Testament do we have an example of the disciples of Christ ever celebrating Christmas, or that the Apostles ever taught to do so. It is not probable that Christ was born on December 25th. as the Bible says that shepherds were out in the field watching their flocks by night when Christ was born. (Luke 2 : 8). There was not likely any reason for this in the winter. During December the climate in and around Bethlehem is cold.

What is commonly called "Christmas" is not the birth day of Christ. The word Christmas is from 'Christes Masse' which means Mass of Christ, and it originated with the Catholic church. As the Catholic church observes lots of masses of many different saints, and since they had no

mass for Christ, they therefore planned to have a Christ's Mass. After some time it was decided by the Catholic church to observe the Mass of Christ each year on December 25th. Later in the 11th century the Catholic church divided in two different groups, i.e., the Roman Catholic and the Greek Orthodox church. However, the Roman Catholic church kept celebrating Christmas on December 25th but the Greek Orthodox church began to celebrate it on January 6th. which they do till this time. Now, all of the modern day denominations have come out of the Roman Catholic church since the fifteenth century, and with them they brought many man-made teachings and practices, such as Christmas, infant baptism, sprinkling for baptism, the use of mechanical music in the church, etc.

Now, if God had wanted his people to celebrate, in any special way, the birth day of Christ, He certainly would have authorized such a celebration. The Scriptures contain all things which pertain to life and godliness. (2 Peter 1 : 3 ; 2 Timothy 3 : 15-17). Christmas, since it is not divinely authorized, is an addition to the word of God, and is a doctrine and commandment of men, and is vain worship. (Revelation 22 : 18,19 ; Matthew 15 : 9).

Moreover, in many different churches, and as well as in homes, on the Christmas day people make an idol, or a doll, and lay it in a manger as to show baby Christ. Please just think : Is it not a great insult to the Son of God ; Christ who is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, they compare him with a doll ! Each year they bring him down from heaven that he might be born annually, each year they crucify him, and each year they make him resurrected. How absurd ! Again, the majority of people get drunk, dance, and do many other unchristian things in the name of Christmas. On this day hundreds of people die because they drink much liquor to celebrate Christmas. Is this what Christ requires from his followers ? Certainly, it is an anti-Christ day and not Christ's birth day.

# UNITY IN CHRIST

by

**OWEN COSGROVE**

The subject of religious unity should be of great interest to every person who considers himself a Christian. Unity is one of the great themes of the New Testament. The Lord Jesus taught its importance and fervently prayed for it, (Matthew 12:25; John 17:14-26).

## Unity or Union ?

Many in the modern world want religious "Union" but not "unity." If steel is glued to wood, there is union. But if steel is melted together with other steel, it represents unity.

The pleas of many for union try to ignore the vast differences in religion caused by human dogma. They reject all petitions for unity declaring it impractical, impossible, and perhaps even undesirable.

The Bible forbids Christians to ally with false religions. (II John 8-11 Romans 16:17-18; II Corinthians 7:14-18) In Paul's plea to the religious parties or factions at Corinth, he did not urge them to continue in their denominational beliefs ignoring their differences and justifying their division by a superficial show of union. Rather he commanded them to put away their denominational beliefs and, on the basis of God's word to unite spiritually.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you; that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (I Corinthians 1:10).



The churches of Christ plead for this unity that Paul enjoined. Two cannot walk together except they be agreed. (Amos 3: 3). Men propose union. God demands unity.

### **Bases of Unity**

The New Testament tells people HOW to be united in Christ. May it be recognized that God wants more than mere unity. People can be united in error and wrong doing. The Lord wants all to be united in truth and righteousness.

In his epistle to the Ephesians, chapter 4, the apostle Paul gives a marvelous and simple plan for unity in Christ. Along with various personal and spiritual qualities so important to peace and understanding, he mentions seven DOCTRINAL bases of Christian unity. These are the bare essentials of religious harmony. True concord cannot be achieved without them. As men reject one or several of these bases of unity, they frustrate the plea for oneness in Christ.

Note carefully these seven items that Paul mentions in Ephesians 4:3-6 :

- ONE BODY**—In this same epistle, chapter I, verse 22 and 23, and in chapter 5, verse 23, Paul makes it very plain that the body to which he refers is the church of the Lord.
- ONE SPIRIT**—Paul speaks here of God's spirit which helped in creating the world, which guided the writing of the Bible, and which dwells in Christians.
- ONE HOPE**—Our great hope in life is life eternal with God.
- ONE LORD**—This is Jesus Christ the Son of God.
- ONE FAITH**—This is the system of belief revealed in the New Testament. (Jude 3).
- ONE BAPTISM**—The baptism commanded in Christ's Great Commission is a burial (Romans 6:4-5) in water (Acts 8:36; 10:47) for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Galatians 3:27-29).
- ONE GOD**—The only true and living God is Jehovah, the Creator of the universe, and the One who shall judge all men.

## How many is one ?

At this point, let it be stressed that "one" does not refer to 3 or 40 or 300. It is a specific number referring to "I"—no more and no less.

It is not difficult for most people to determine the meaning of this word in the expressions "one Spirit" "one hope," "one Lord," and "one God." If someone should attempt to teach that there are many Lords or many Gods; Christendom would arise in a storm of protest at such heresy.

But there are many today who deny vehemently that there is only one body, only one faith, or only one baptism. The most frequent criticism of the Church of Christ is that it believes that there is one true church, that all people should accept the one faith of the New Testament, and that all people should submit to the one baptism commanded in Christ's Great Commission. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). Churches of Christ do not believe these things just to be cranky or harsh. They believe them because the Bible so teaches.

## Let us Unite

We are not ashamed to exhort all men to be truly one in Christ. When men would deride and discourage this plea, we think of Christ in His agony in Gethsemane praying that all men might be one in Him.

The time is already short for attaining real unity in Christ. Those who cling to human opinion and doctrine are delaying the process. Those who speak in great platitudes and generalities about unity, but who hold to their divisive human names and creeds are impeding progress toward the unity for which Christ prayed.

Are you willing to do your part to obtain unity in Christ? If so, we urge you to worship the one God to obey the one Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to obey the one baptism, and thereby to be a member of the one body, living by the one faith, and pressing on toward the one great hope of life. (Galatians 3:27-29).

# IS BAPTISM ESSENTIAL ?

RAYMOND C. KELCY

Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned." (Mark 16:15, 16). This is not my statement; it is not something of which any man in the world is the author; it is not the decision of any human conference. These are the words of the Lord. And what did he say? "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." He did not say, "He that believeth shall be saved." Nor did He say, "He that is baptized shall be saved." But He said "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

In Luke's record of the Great Commission, (Luke 24:46, 47), we find the words "remission of sins" instead of "saved" as in Mark's record. This is the meaning of salvation, then, as here used...forgiveness. In Mark's record the Lord places two items before salvation. The two items are belief and baptism. According to this, baptism comes *before* salvation and salvation comes after baptism. How could any person claim to be saved before he is baptized?

In the famous passage before us Jesus names two conditions with which one must comply to be forgiven. The absence of either of the two stipulated conditions will condemn. It has been objected that Jesus did not say, "He that believeth not and is not baptized shall be condemned," No, Jesus did not say that. He merely said, "He that disbelieveth shall be condemned." It would have been foolish to say "He that disbelieveth and is not baptized shall be condemned" since it is impossible for the disbeliever to be baptized. In another passage Jesus said, "He that believeth not is condemned already." (John 3:18). Both conditions must be complied with before the blessing can

rightfully be claimed, but failure to comply with either of the conditions would forfeit any right to the blessing.

In striking contrast we have the teaching of modern theology which insists "He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved. Let every one be certain to see the two statements in contrast :

*"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."*  
(Jesus).

*"He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved."*  
(Modern Theologians).

Do you accept the one that says "*Is baptized*" or the one that says "*Is not baptized*?" Jesus said one; men say the other. Which do you accept? Jesus said on another occasion, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9). Those who teach "He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved" are teaching the doctrines of men.

Some maintain that we can't all understand this statement of Jesus alike. Read the book of Acts and see how the apostles understood it. Baptism was a part of every case of conversion. Can it be that in some cases it is not lack of understanding but a lack of faith? It may be that a person does not believe this simple statement of Jesus but surely he doesn't misunderstand it.

# Is It Wrong To Change ?

**WALLACE ALEXANDER**

Of what church are you a member ? Have you ever seriously thought about why you are a member of it ?

“Do I have a reason based on the Word of God for the religious beliefs that I hold ?”

“Perhaps I just inherited my religion from my parents and have never seriously considered my beliefs in the light of God’s Word.”

“Could it be that I am affiliated with a religious group because of its position of respect in the community or because of its elaborate rituals and beautiful structures ?”

\* \* \*

These thoughts naturally come into the minds of people when seriously considering reasons for their beliefs. And many, even though realizing these are true, try to justify themselves by the Word of God—they turn to the Bible to justify themselves instead of letting God plainly speak to them. One’s attitude in studying the Bible should be, “Speak Lord, thy servant heareth.”

## **The Solution**

The honest person will, of course, go to the Bible and let it speak to him. Now, suppose he finds that he has been wrong in his religion : what should he do ? It is easy to see that all conflicting groups cannot be right unless the Bible is a book of confictions and confusion.

The Bible tells of many who were in the same position of people today who are sincere, yet mistaken. There have been people like that, perhaps since the time sin entered into

the world. Notice two examples of such people and what they did.

The apostle Paul formerly was an honest murderer and persecutor of Christians. He plainly stated that he had lived this kind of life with a good conscience before God. On the road to Damascus, the Lord appeared to him convincing him he was wrong. He gave up power, fame, popularity, and the favour of his own people in order that he could serve the true God (Phil. 3:4-8). Paul changed his life; he changed his religion.

Notice also the example of Cornelius (Acts 10). Cornelius was a good man—a man with whom very few could favorably compare today. But he was wrong religiously. He changed. He believed in Christ and was baptized.

Paul and Cornelius learned they were wrong and they changed. They did not believe they could be pleasing to God while continuing in their former ways. They had the courage to change.

### **Why Do People Not Change Today ?**

People today must be just as noble if they please God. God placed His Book in men's hands for them to study, to learn His will, and to pattern their lives after what He says. One cannot please God and continue in a religion that cannot be supported by God's Word.

But changing religion in the 20th. century is not usually looked upon as an act of nobility. Indeed, it is not good, if the change is from one error to another. However, the wisest step a person could take would be to forsake a religion unauthorized by God and accept pure New Testament Christianity.

Suppose you change your religion in order to live closer to the Word of God : You may be scorned in many circles. You will be considered a traitor, perhaps, by many of your former associates. The one who taught you the truth may be considered a "sheep-stealer" or be accused of trying to "build up his church by tearing down another." But regardless of this, follow after truth !

Will you not study the will of God—not to justify your belief, but letting the Lord speak to you? Then accept what you learn, free from the ideas and opinions of men, and obey it immediately. God will be pleased. Your soul will be saved—that is all that really matters!

## THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE AND ITS ORIGIN

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Founder</i>
Church of Christ (Romans 16:16)	Jerusalem (Acts 2)	A.D. 33 (Acts 2)	Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18).

## ORIGIN OF DENOMINATIONS

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Founder</i>
Adventism	Massachusetts	1831	William Miller
American Baptist	Providence R.I.	1639	Roger Williams
Assembly of God	Hot Springs, Ark.	1914	Group
Baptist Church	London, England	1607	John Smyth
Brethren (Dunkards)	Schwarzenau, Germany	1708	Hochmann & Mack
Catholic Apostolic Church	England	1830	Group
Christian Church	Midway, Ky.	1859	Group
Christian Science	Boston, Mass.	1879	Mary Baker Eddy
Church of England	England	1534	King Henry VIII
Church of God	United States	1880	D.S. Warner
Church of living God	Wrightsville, Ark.	1889	Williams Christian
Congregational Church	Massachusetts	1684	Group
Cumberland Presbyterian	Dickson County, Tenn.	1810	Group
Evangelical Church	Pennsylvania	1803	Jacob Albright
Evangelical and Reformed	Cleveland, Ohio,	1934	Group
Foursquare Gospel	Los Angeles, Calif.	1917	Aimee S. McPherson



<i>Institution</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Founder</i>
Freewill Baptist	New Durham, N.C.	1780	Benjamin Randal
Greek Orthodox Church	Greece	1053	Group
Holiness Church	Chicago, Ill.	1907	Howard Hoople
Jehovah's Witnesses	Pennsylvania	1874	Charles T. Russell
Lutheran Church	Ausberg, Germany	1530	Martin Luther
Mennonite Church	Zurich, Switzerland	1525	Group
Methodist Church	London, England	1729	John Wesley
Mormon Church	Seneca, N.Y.	1830	Joseph Smith
Mormons (Reorganized)	Wisconsin	1852	Joseph Smith II
Moravian Church	Kunwald, Bohemia	1457	Group
Nazarene Church	Los Angeles, Calif.	1895	P.F. Bresee
Pentecostal Holiness	Anderson, S.C.	1898	Group
Plymouth Brethren	Dublin, Ireland	1829	Group
Presbyterian Church	Switzerland	1535	John Calvin
Quakers	England	1650	George Fox
Roman Catholic	Rome, Italy	606	Boniface III
Salvation Army	London, England	1865	William Booth
Seventh Day Adventism	Massachusetts	1846	Ellen G. White
Spiritualist Church	United States	1848	Andrew J. Devis
The Unity School	Kansas City, Mo.	1889	Charles Filmore
The United Church of Canada	Canada	1925	Group
Unitarian	Poland	16th.	C. Faustus Socinus
Universalist Church	Greece	1053	Group

# It Does Matter What You Believe

“It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere”

That’s what a plumbing salesman told me one day—and so many people have said the same thing that it is almost a proverb.

This popular saying puts a premium on sincerity and sincerity is a rare thing in this age of sham and superficial things. We all admire the man who is sincere and despise the hypocrite. We have great respect for the man who is so sincerely in earnest in his convictions that he is willing to die for them.

But sincerity is not enough.

Mr. Monrie sincerely believed that the rail-road tracks were clear or he wouldn’t have been caught on the tracks in his automobile and hurled into eternity.

Mrs. Jones sincerely believed it was a dose of medicine she was taking from the bottle in the medicine cabinet. It turned out to be poison and she died.

Joe Brady felt sincerely that he was doing the right thing to rid the community of the man he hated. But the law court did not think so, and the electric chair awaited him.

Sincerity is a fine thing—one of the noblest of virtues—and yet it didn’t save these people and countless others from an untimely end.

Nor will sincerity save your soul if you believe the wrong thing. In fact, it is far more deadly to believe the wrong thing than to drink poison.

The statement, “It doesn’t matter what you believe,”

assures that any faith is all right and will get you to Heaven if you follow it sincerely.

But that isn't so !

The heathen are in great earnest as they worship their images of wood and stone and gold and silver. The Hindu fakirs that go on long pilgrimages or lie for years on beds of spikes are utterly sincere—but they are lost. The Mahammedans stop work and drop on their knees wherever that may be and pray to Allah five times daily. - Many of them are sincere too, but they are lost. The Jews with unquestioned sincerity go through a careful ritual of feasts and days, but multitudes of them have rejected the Christ and so they too are lost.

Not even all so-called Christians are saved. If you place your entire hope of salvation in a pope or in the intercession of priests and departed saints you are lost. If you rest your faith in religious ceremonies, you are lost. If you think the pearly gates of Heaven will swing open for you because you are a good moral man or because of the good deeds you have done that merit eternal life, you may be as sincere as the day is long, but you will certainly be lost. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven ; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven," said Christ.

It is the Devil's lie that it makes no difference what you believe. It makes a world of difference what you believe! A person can be saved only by coming as a needy, helpless sinner to the Lord Jesus Christ and accepting his pardon—a pardon made possible because Christ died on the cross the death we deserved to die. Christ alone can save us and keep us saved. "Neither is there salvation in any other" cried the Apostle Peter, "for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

**BOOK POST**

*From :*

**Church of Christ  
C-22 South Extension 2,  
New Delhi-49 (India)**

*To*