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EDITORIAL

In Whose Name Should We Pray?

It is not uncommon to hear some one close his prayer by saying, "In Him. Amen", or by using some other similar expression. In these instances the name of Christ is never mentioned. Sometimes young men are guilty of this, but the practice is not always limited to them. This is a sign of a lack of teaching and it should be corrected as soon as possible. More often than not, though, it is overlooked and the practice continues.

Our religious friends pray in the names of men, their leaders, saints both dead and alive, idols, and such like. Most of us have heard prayers in mixed audiences where the one leading the prayer omitted the name of Christ lest it offend the non-believers who are present. Such people pray to themselves like the Pharisee (Luke 18:11) and they pray to be seen and heard of men (Matthew 6:5). All of this is sickening to us because the Bible tells us plainly that we are to pray to God in the name of Christ.

Christ said, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." (John 14:13, 14). He also assured the apostles, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain : that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." (John 15:16).

Praying in the name of Christ is further emphasized in these ways :

1. Christ is our advocate. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous : And he is the propitiation for our sins : and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (I John 2 : 1, 2). An advocate is one who pleads the cases of others. As children of God, Christ is our advocate, and he takes our case before God to ask for his mercy and help on our behalf.

2. Christ is our mediator. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (I Timothy 2 : 5, 6). A mediator is one who intercedes between two parties. He may take a message from one to deliver it to another. Christ takes our prayers to God since our Father is so much greater than we.

3. Christ is our reconciliator. "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." (Hebrews 2 : 17, 18). Read also 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. A reconciliator is one who brings two parties together to bring about the acceptance of each other, peace, and unity. We were the enemies of God but Christ came to bring us back to the Father so that we might be counted as His friends once more.

4. Christ is our high priest. "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16). Read also Hebrews 9:11, 12.

Under the law there were the priest and the high priest. Only the high priest could go into the Holy of Holies, and into the presence of God, to offer up sacrifices for the sins of the people. Under the law of Christ every Christian is a priest (Revelation 1:6 ; 1 Peter 2:5,9), and Jesus Christ is our high priest. He has gone into the very presence of God to represent us and through him we are able to speak to God.

5. All is to be done in the name of Christ. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Colossians 3:17). Notice that all that we say or do is to be done in the name of Christ with the ultimate end that the praise is offered to God by him.

In these various positions that Christ holds we can see that he stands between us and that the only way we can reach God is through him. This is why we are to pray in his name. We are asking him to convey our message to God. In so doing we are recognizing his authority, power, and position as our Lord.

ASSOCIATE EDITORIAL

Beware of Adulteration!

Recently I read an article in the Hindustan Times newspaper under the title, "SLOW POISONING SOLD IN FORM OF FOOD STUFF." The article states that turmeric contains lead chromate which doctors say causes abortion, anemia, and sometimes paralysis. Gram flour has that poison "kesari dal", which causes lythyrism--paralysis of the limbs. Colouring and additives in bright green peas and sweets can cause cancer. The article further states that adulteration has become a flourishing business all too well known. It says the Director General of health services once described its seriousness as like "sitting on a volcano that could erupt anytime." Adulteration is a great problem with which nearly everyone of us is faced today. To adulterate means to debase, falsify, by mixing with something inferior or spurious.

Adulteration, however, is not only in the things that we require physically but this evil has also crept into the true religion of God. While there are many false religions in the world, there are also several human teachings which have found their way into Christianity and are being accepted and practiced even by many sincere people who believe in Jesus Christ.

When we turn to the Bible, the only source of information, it tells us about God, Christ, and his true religion. We find that Christ promised to build his church, and that is the only ONE (Matthew 16 : 18), and accordingly he established the church (Acts 2), which wears the name of Christ its founder (Romans 16:16). Although the church is not the saviour, the Bible teaches that one must be in the church to be saved, because Christ is the Saviour of **the church**. (See Ephesians 5:23; Ephesians 1:22, 23; Colossians 1:18).

But contrary to the facts of the Bible teaching upon this subject, there are several hundred different churches (denominations) in the world today, each wearing different names and titles which are not even hinted in the Bible, and have come into existence several hundred years after the church that Jesus built around A. D. 33.

Likewise, the Bible states that the followers of Christ were called **Christians**. (Acts 11:26). But people in denominational churches are called by several different names which are absolutely foreign to the Bible, but, in fact, the Bible condemns them. (See 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Acts 4:12.) There are also many doctrines and teachings being believed and practiced by the people in denominational churches of which God never gave authority in his word, the Bible. Some of them are: Salvation by prayers or by faith only, infant baptism, use of sprinkling for baptism, human creeds, use of mechanical music in worship, celebrating of a number of festivals or traditions, etc.

Not only were the disciples of Christ in the first century in the **one** church and called by **one** name, but they were also one in doctrine, practice, preaching and teaching. They were,

in fact, exhorted, "that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Through the centuries many false teachings and practices have crept into Christianity and thus it has become adulterated. It is just like someone beginning to sell pure milk but after some time starts to add a little quantity of water and gradually increases it until the quantity of water surpasses the quantity of milk. But if one is careful about his health he will certainly try to investigate and when it is found to be adulterated he will reject it and will search for the pure and accept only the genuine.

If one is so careful for his physical health, why should he not be more careful with his soul which Jesus said is worth more than all the world? If we hope to be saved and thus go to heaven by following an adulterated form of religion then we are deceiving our souls, and heading for eternal destruction. The inference is that we should investigate our religion and the church of which we are members to see whether it is pure, genuine, and the one that has its origin with God, or if it is man-made, spurious, and adulterated. And then if we find that it is not the one which has its origin with God then we should reject it and accept the one of which God gives authority in His word, the Bible.

Don't Let Your Bible Gather Dust!

Vipul Rai

As a Christian you must realize the importance of studying your Bible daily. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2 : 15). This is what God through His inspired word says! Can we Christians dare do any thing less? Often we're on the front line trying to encourage others to read the Bible so that they too may learn and obey the

truth, yet I wonder how much of it we know ourselves. Satan's cleverer than you think. If you think that Satan flees from you the moment you become a Christian, you are sadly mistaken. He'll try and win you to his side in one way or another. After all, what greater victory would he want than to make a Christian fall? So you've got to be prepared. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (I Peter 5 : 8).

How can you be prepared unless you "Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil?" (Ephesians 6 : 11). And how can you "put on the whole armour of God" unless you KNOW what it is? As a fellow brother in Christ let me exhort you to pick up your Bible from its shelf, shake off the dust and study it. See what God is saying to YOU.

The Bible is the only Word of God we possess and we are His only children. Is it not our duty to know what our Heavenly Father says? How can we know His will for our daily lives unless we read the Bible daily? Not only read-- but **study** it! Dear co-soldier in Christ, don't let a day pass without you training yourself to use the weapon your Commander has given you. Be ever ready to unsheathe your sword and enter into battle. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4 : 12).

Can you efficiently use and rightly divide the word? You should be able to. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workmen that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2 : 15). Do you have the answer to the questions people put before you? "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts : and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." (I Peter 3 : 15). If you are unable to do this, then I think you are letting your Bible gather dust.

Don't you know that "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Psalms 1: 1, 2). Don't you know what God's law for us today is? A *study* of the Scriptures will make this clear to you. You have got to first read and know God's Word before you can meditate day and night on it. Why not make a start today? Fix a time and resolve to daily spend that time prayerfully reading your Bible. Don't let it be a closed book any more but let its light guide you along your daily path. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalms 119 : 105).

Dear Christian, another thing too. It is possible you may be somewhat in error regarding your Christian life. You may be doing some thing wrong without even knowing it. Saul of Tarsus was absolutely sincere when he was persecuting the Church, but was he right? I'm not judging you, but I am only asking you to re-examine your life, especially if you're not in regular touch with God's word. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8). It's best to make a start and get to know God's thoughts before it's too late and we hear Jesus say "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:23). It's safest to stick to the Bible, and to the Bible **only**, as we shall be judged by its words on the last day. (John 12:48).

READ your Bible, PRAY every day,

It will make you GROW.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Does the kingdom of God exist today?

With reference to the kingdom of God and its king, it should be pointed out that the kingdom does exist at this time. The Hebrew writer says that we have received this kingdom. (Hebrews 12:28). Paul talks about the Colossians having been translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son. (Colossians 1:13, 14). Paul preached the

kingdom of God (Acts 28:23 ; Acts 19:8) and that it is through much tribulation that we enter into the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22). But what is this kingdom? It is the church. (Matthew 16:18, 19). Speaking of the kingdom, Christ is described as its head. (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18). If you are therefore a member of the Lord's church then you are a citizen of his kingdom. As a member of his body, the church, Christ is your head and as a citizen of his kingdom, Christ is your king.

2. Is the law of Moses still binding ?

Christ did not come to destroy the law but to fulfil it. (Matthew 5:17, 18). Please note that it was to pass away but not until it had been fulfilled. Christ fulfilled it when he died on the cross-- as he was dying he said, "It is finished." At the same time the veil of the temple was rent, or torn, which signified the end of the law. Christ said after his death, burial, and resurrection, "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." (Luke 24:44). Did Christ fulfil them? Certainly so. What did he fulfil? All the things written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning him. (Read also 2 Corinthians 3 ; Hebrews 8 : 13 ; 9: 16, 17; 10 : 9 ; John 1 : 17). No, we are no longer living under the law of Moses but we live under the law of Christ. The law of Moses was on the other side of the cross of Christ. We cannot go back to that any more than the people living then could come to this side of the cross. We should accept the law that we live under and not try to hold on to both the law of Moses and the law of Christ which is impossible to do any way.

NOTE-- Please send your Bible questions to The Bible Teacher so they can be answered in future issues. Only those that are considered to be genuine and sincere will be answered.

'Win A Prize' Bible Quiz

Vipul Rai, Quizmaster

NO ENTRY FEE - ALL THOSE WHO SEND IN ALL CORRECT ANSWERS WILL WIN A PRIZE, A BOOK ENTITLED "SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES" BY J. WADDEY. ALL ANSWERS MUST ALSO HAVE BIBLE REFERENCES PROVING YOUR ANSWER.

1. Have the scriptures been written by the inspiration of God ?
2. Does God today continue to inspire men to write more scripture or give new revelations or change the gospel that Peter, Paul and the others preached.
3. Underline correct answer. Saul of Tarsus was saved (cleaned from his sin)
 - (a) When Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus
 - (b) After he fasted and prayed
 - (c) After Ananias laid his hands on him
 - (d) After he was baptized
 - (e) After he ate food
4. Which law do we live under today - the Old or the New Covenant or some other ?
5. At what age did Adam die ?
6. Who said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"?
7. Paul the apostle was not qualified enough to be called "Reverend" or "Father". True or false. Give references.
8. How many churches did Christ say he would build ?
9. According to the Bible what are the followers of Christ called ?
10. Give the place where the "ant" is mentioned.

Send Your Answers To :

The Quizmaster,
C-22, South Extension-2,
New Delhi—110049.

"Evolution"

Jess Willis

This is the first of four articles on "evolution".

The word "Evolution" simply means "Change" or "an unfolding." "Evolution may properly picture a good speech that produces a line of thinking and leads to a definite end." Yes the word has a very large and wide scope of legitimate uses.

However, as I use it here and in the future statements I will be referring to the Darwinian theory of evolution which is highly imaginative and speculative. As commonly taught in textbooks on biology, botany, zoology, and other subjects, "evolution" means that all life on earth developed from one or a few simple forms of life.

The figment of the imagination that teaches that dust accidentally happened and then through a long span of time it grew, changed forms, produced different kinds of life, and finally grew into this great world by accident with all the planets going in their orbits and man and the lower creatures on earth, is in direct opposition to God, the Bible and the laws that govern this world.

The evolutionist makes many assumptions but will he discuss either of the following? 1. The first assumption is that there was a little matter that accidentally came into being. Where did it come from? 2. They assume a spontaneous generation occurrence. If non-living things had enough ability to produce living things then why does not intelligent man do it today? 3. Why is it that spontaneous generation occurred only once? 4. They assume that viruses, bacteria, plants, and animals are all interrelated. 5. They assume that the invertebrates gave rise to the vertebrates. These and other assumptions made by the evolutionists are in direct conflict with what the scientists know to be the facts of science.

If you want to know how this world came into existence then begin with the first words of the Bible. It says, "In the beginning God created ..."

Eternal Life

BY E. S. Smith

Eternal life! How sweet the sound to the believer's ear. For we know that though "The wages of sin is death" we are also sure that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Life is the longing of the soul of man and has been throughout the ages. The fountain

of youth, a way of prolonging life has been the quest of man in every age. "In Christ" that desire is satisfied and fulfilled.

Moreover, this life is free to every man. There are no such classifications in the mind of God as "elect" and "non elect." God, through Christ, says, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22 : 17). This is the fountain of life for all who will come to it that they may drink.

In God's Presence

As eternal death is separation from God and His presence, so eternal life is enjoyed in his presence. In that beautiful city of God where sorrow and sadness are unknown we can enjoy the favour of God's smiles while the ceaseless ages roll on and on. Abraham sought this city and this state of blessedness for the word says of him, "he looked for the city which hath the foundation, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11 : 10).

God is well pleased with every one who will, like Abraham of old, seek for that city. He was pleased with Abraham and the writer of the Hebrews letter further says, "Wherefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God ; for He hath prepared for them a city (Heb. 11 : 16). So, if we seek for that city and desire that fellowship with Him He will not be ashamed of us but will in that city own us as His children.

Likewise, Moses, looking into the future, could see the joys of eternal life with God. It was through faith in God and his promises for the future that he could live as he did and do the things for which all the world must thank him. The record says of this "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season ; accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt : for he looked unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:24-26). He looked to the reward and realized that was worth any sacrifice that he might obtain it. Likewise to-day eternal life is worth any price we may be called upon to pay for it.

Eternity in the presence of God ; freedom from care and from all the things of sin that have cursed our lives in this world. Surely it is worth any price that might be set upon it.

It is the Gift of God

However, this eternal life is the gift of God. He offers it to us if we will but accept it. It is ours for the taking but how few there are who will take it. Some fail because they do not contemplate it seriously enough to know its value. Others fail to lay hold upon it because they have thought it a gift to be forced upon them. Still others in procrastination wait a more convenient day but alas, this will never come.

For those who have not contemplated seriously we must say, Stop! Look! Listen! Stop, that you may have time to look. Look, that you may know the glories of this celestial home and be impelled to listen. Listen, to the Word of God that in this word you may find the life which your soul desires. Christ is the Word and in Him and through Him there is life for evermore.

For those who think that this gift will be forced upon them we must say "You are mistaken." God has never forced His goodness upon any man or woman. He has left us free to choose and it is you who must make the choice. It is a gift, true indeed, but still you must accept this gift. This gift is accepted through our obedience to the will of God.

For an example of such a gift and its acceptance will you turn with me to the sixth chapter of Joshua. Here we read : "Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel : none went out, and none came in. And Jehovah said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thy hand Jericho, and the king thereof and the mighty men of valor" (Josh. 6:1, 2). However that gift was not forced upon them as are none of the gifts of God. They were commanded to do certain things and when they had done these it was said to them in verse 16, "Shout for Jehovah hath given you the city." Moreover the writer of Hebrews says, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been compassed about for seven days" (Heb. 11:30). Therefore the gift of God was received by faith through their obedience.

Even so today the gift of God, eternal life, will be secured through your obedience to the will of God. As you thus walk in the path of obedience the blessing of faith can come to you and you can receive the gift of God. Christ commands you to (1) Believe in him (John 14:1), (2) Repent of sins (Luke 13:3), (3) Confess your faith in Him (Math. 10:32), (4) Be baptized into Him (Mark 16:16; Rom 6:3), and (5) Walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4). If you will by faith walk in this way of obedience to the Lord you can receive the gift of God, which is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Then finally, for those who wait a more convenient time we will say, "Today is the day of salvation." "What is your life? For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (Jas. 4:14). Today you have, tomorrow may never be and if there be a tomorrow you may not be here to use it. Eternal life is the pearl of great price. For it you should gladly give up all that you have and are that you may secure it.

Will you then before it is too late lay hold upon eternal life? Throughout the ages of eternity you will rejoice in the beautiful city of God and will thank God you have escaped, through Christ, the penalty and the consequence of your sins. There is no other way of escape. In Christ is light and life and outside him is death and darkness. Will you walk in the light of God's word today and find eternal life in Christ?

Christ has become "unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:9). Let him then be your king and in your obedience to him find the greatest treasure of the universe. Believe him, obey him, be a member of his church and walk with him so that in the end he may take you home to God and the beautiful city of God.

The Lord Is the Sinner's Only Hope

Leslie G. Thomas

"And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved." (Acts 4:12; cf. 2 Tim. 2:10.) The angel, before the birth of Christ, said to Joseph, "And thou shalt call his name JESUS; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins". (Matt. 1:21). "And the angel said unto them," on the night of his birth, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10, 11.) And Jesus himself said, "For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10).

The Lord does not want any one to be lost, and he has, accordingly, made provision for the salvation of any one who will accept his offer. "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2: 3, 4). "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Pet. 3: 9). "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that heareth, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22: 17). "But we behold him who hath been made a little lower than the angels, even Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God he should taste of death for every man." (Heb. 2: 9).

And then, after making salvation possible for all men, Jesus charged his people to see to it that the news of this wonderful offer is made known to every one who is in need of the Lord's saving grace. "And he said unto them, 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.) "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28: 19, 20.) "And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Tim. 2: 2.) But in studying this subject, let us begin by looking at

Some Inspired Pictures of Salvation

1. *Life from the dead.* "And you did he make alive, when ye were dead through your trespasses and sins,.....and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus." (See Eph. 2: 1-6.) This is the same power which was employed by God in raising Christ from the dead: "And what the exceeding greatness of his power to

us-ward who believe, according to the working of the strength of his might which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places." (Eph. 1: 19, 20.) People are raised from their death in sin, when they, through faith, respond to God's gracious offer of salvation. (See Eph. 2: 8, 9; cf. Luke 15: 24; Rom. 11: 15.)

2. *A new creation in Christ.* "Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature [there is a *new creation*, margin]: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new." (2 Cor. 5: 17.) "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2: 10). "See that ye have put off the old man with his doings, and have put on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him." (Col. 3: 9, 10.) This new creation is accomplished by the Holy Spirit, "But when the kindness of God our Saviour, and his love toward man, appeared, not by works done in righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit"—"effected by the Holy Spirit, Tit. 3: 5," (Thayer). Thus again, the new creation is accomplished, or, which is the same thing, the new life is imparted, in response to our obedience to the gospel. (Cf. Rom. 6:3, 4; Col. 2:12; 3: 1-4.)

3. *Born from above.* "Jesus answered and said unto him. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3: 3-5.) The term "born" (*gennaō*) is a comprehensive word; it includes both the "begetting" by the Word and the "bringing forth"; both the bringing into being of a new life, and its deliverance into a sphere or place, suited to its growth, development, and function, as God intends that it should. Thus, the life which is imparted by the Spirit (Tit. 3: 5), is

ushered into the kingdom of God, or the church, by baptism (cf. Gal. 3: 26, 27 ; Eph. 1: 22, 23). Paul's statement in Gal. 2: 20 is a good commentary on what it means to live as a new creation in Christ. But, as in the other instances, we get into the kingdom or church by complying with the conditions imposed by the Lord. (Cf. Acts 2: 36-39.)

"What Doth Jehovah Require of Thee?"

"Wherewith shall I come before Jehovah, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Mic. 6: 6-8.)

The lesson to learn here is that no kind of ceremony, not even the most elaborate, can take the place of genuine character; and the only thing which will suffice, in this respect, is (1) for the individual to manifest the right attitude and conduct toward (2) his fellow man; and (3) to manifest the proper reverence for, and obedience to Jehovah.

"He had showed thee, O man, what is good". This was done through the ordinances of the law of Moses, as, for example, (1) sabbath observances—the claim on man's time; (2) the law of the tithe—the claim on man's possessions (3) the law of the first-fruits—the claim on man's increase; (4) the law of thank-offerings—the claim on man's attitude; (5) the law of whole burnt-offerings—the claim on man's all.

The Grace of God which saves and Instructs

"For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world." (Tit. 2: 11, 12).

Here we have the same threefold responsibility, which was urged by Micah. After denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, the child of God must (1) live soberly, or, which is the same thing, practice self-control; (2) live righteously, that is, treat one's fellow man right; and (3) live godly, or, which is the same thing, manifest the proper attitude toward, and render acceptable obedience to, God.

People who have been raised from the dead; created anew; and born again, do not belong to themselves; they are under continuous obligation to their Saviour and Redeemer. (Cf. 1 Cor. 6: 19, 20.)

क्या मसीह बट गया ?

लेखक : सनी भाई

उस समय क्रिस्तुस में कलीसिया के अन्दर फूट पड़ा होने लगा। उन में से कोई अपने आप को पौलस का कहने लगा, कोई अपुल्लोस का, औरों ने कहा हम कफा (पतरस) के हैं, फिर वहाँ पर कुछ ऐसे भी थे जिन्होंने मनुष्यों के नामों का विरोध किया व कहा कि हम तो मसीह के हैं। इस तरह से क्रिस्तुस में कलीसिया चार अलग-अलग पक्षों अर्थात् समुदायों में बट गई। अर्थात् पौलसी, अपुल्लोसी, कफा, तथा जिन्होंने अपने आपको मसीह का कहा। इस विवादग्रस्त कलीसिया के सामने प्रिंस पौलस ने ये प्रश्न रखे: "क्या मसीह बट गया ? क्या पौलस गैन्टारे लिये क्रूस पर चढ़ाया गया ? या गैन्टारे पौलस के नाम पर बपतिस्मा मिला ?" क्योंकि उनमें कुछ ऐसे भी थे जो अपने आप को पौलस के समुदाय का बना रहे थे, इसलिए उस ने आगे कहा: कि मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि मैंने स्वयं गैम में से किसी को भी बपतिस्मा नहीं दिया, कहीं ऐसा न हो, कि कोई कहे, कि गैन्टारे मेरे नाम पर बपतिस्मा मिला। प्रिंस पौलस ने उन्हें एकता बनाए रखने के लिये कहा, और उपदेश दिया, "हे भाइयो, मैं गैम से यीशू मसीह जो हमारा प्रभु है उसके नाम के द्वारा विनती करता हूँ, कि गैम सब एक हो जाते कहो; और गैम में फूट न हो, परन्तु एक करना है।" (पहले १ क्रिस्तियानो ४:६-१७)

अब, यदि पौलस आज इस संसार में होता, तो वह निश्चय ही जानता होगा कि गैम पर बपतिस्मा मिला ? या गैन्टारे लिये क्रूस पर चढ़ाया गया ? या गैन्टारे लैथर या किसी और व्यक्ति के नाम पर बपतिस्मा मिला ?

सांप्रदायिक कलीसियाएँ प्रभु यीशू मसीह की प्राथमता का खूना विरोध कर रही हैं। उसने सब विरोधियों के लिये प्राथमता की ".... कि वे सब एक हो जायें। जैसा मैं है पिता मुझ में है, और मैं गैम में हूँ, वैसे ही वे भी हम में हों, इसलिये कि जगत प्रतीति करे, कि मैं ही ने मुझे भेजा।" (गैन्टारे १७:२०, २१)।

प्रिंसों के दिनों में किसी के लिये पढ़ी कहना कि "मैं एक मसीही हूँ" काफ़ी था। किन्तु आज जो कहें कहना है कि वह एक मसीही है, तब एकदम यह पूछा जाता है, "कौन से ? कौन से ? कौन से ?" उन दिनों में किसी के लिये यह कहना कि वह मसीह की सम्प्रदाय से है ?

कलीसिया का सदस्य है पयॉल था। परन्तु आज ऐसा नहीं है। अब तो तरह तरह के बर्ग के प्रश्न पूछे जाते हैं जैसे, "कौन सी कलीसिया ? कौन से कौन से ?"।

सांख्यदार्शनिक कर्त्तव्यशास्त्रों के विद्यमान होने के बहुरीरे कारण हैं। किन्तु एक सबसे बड़ा कारण यह है कि लोग परमेश्वर के सर्व्व आदेशों से भटक गए हैं। नए नियम की सरल व सहूलि शिक्षाओं को मानने के विपरीत, आज लोग मनुष्यों के धर्मशास्त्रों तथा शिक्षाओं को मान व अपना रहे हैं। "मूल के बन्ध में आत्मा की एकता रखने का यत्न" (इतिहासिका ४:३) करने के विपरीत, लोग आज मनुष्यों की परस्पर-विरोधी शिक्षाओं के बन्ध में सांख्यदार्शनिक कर्त्तव्यशास्त्रों में एकता लाने का यत्न कर रहे हैं। मनुष्यों के बनाए हुए धर्म-सिद्धान्तों तथा आज की अधिकांश नकली मसीहियत ने मसीह के विश्वव्यापियों में खिड़कनक व धर्मशास्त्रद फूट पूरा कर रखी है। परिवर्त्तनी देशों में हिन्दू तथा यिष्णु जैसे मनों का आरम्भ होना व बर्द्धना आज की बढी हुई मसीहियत का फल है। जो हों, आज की दिखलवटी मसीहियत में जो फूट और गडबडी पाई जाती है उस से लोग यहाँ तक निराश तथा व्यथ हो चुके हैं कि बहुरीरे नास्तिक व धर्मनिन्दक बन रहे हैं। निःसंदेह, इस सब के लिये प्रभु जवाबदेह नहीं है, और न ही वह ऐसा चाहता है। सांख्यदार्शनिक मसीहियत वह फसल काट रही है जिसका बीज उद्देतिन बोया है। बलों ने पहली शताब्दी में असीसी बीज, परमेश्वर का वचन, बोया था, (लूका ८:११), और फलस्वरूप उन दिनों में मसीही व मसीह की चाहता है। सांख्यदार्शनिक मसीहियत वह फसल काट रही है जिसका बीज उद्देतिन बोया है। बलों ने पहली शताब्दी में असीसी बीज, परमेश्वर का वचन, रोमियों १५:१६)। बिना बीज के फसल नहीं होती, और बीज अपनी जाती के अनुसार पूरे उत्पन्न करता है। शताब्दियों से कई तरह के बीज बोए जा रहे हैं और परिणामस्वरूप आज की बढी हुई मसीहियत में सैकड़ों तरह की फसल पाई जाती है।

बाइबल स्पष्टता से बताती है कि केवल एक ही कर्त्तव्यशास्त्र है, तथा एक विश्वास व एक बर्त्तव्यशास्त्र। (पहिले मत्ती १६:१८; कर्त्तव्यशास्त्रों १:१८; इतिहासिका १:२२, २३ तथा ४:४, ५)। परन्तु सांख्यदार्शनिकता का समर्थन करनेवाले कई कर्त्तव्यशास्त्रों, कई विश्वासों तथा बर्त्तव्यशास्त्रों की शिक्षा देने व प्रचार करते हैं। सांख्यदार्शनिक कर्त्तव्यशास्त्रों में आपसी भेद-भाव कई विषयों पर है, अर्थात्, उद्धार की योजना, विश्वास, परब्रह्मात्म, अर्थात्कार, बर्त्तव्यशास्त्र, धार्मिक-उद्देशना, कर्त्तव्यशास्त्र का नाम, कर्त्तव्यशास्त्र के सदस्यों का नाम, कर्त्तव्यशास्त्र का कार्य, कर्त्तव्यशास्त्र का संगठन, कर्त्तव्यशास्त्र की उत्पत्ति, इत्यादि। परमेश्वर, यीशु मसीह, और परिवर्त्त-आत्मा के स्वभाव तथा व्यक्तित्व के बारे में भी उन में बहुरी भेद है।

नहीं, मसीह बढा हुआ नहीं है, और न ही उसकी है, जो उसकी कर्त्तव्यशास्त्रों का नाम है। वास्तव में प्रभु ऐसे लोगों से धर्मशास्त्रों करती है जो भला या फूट पूरा करते हैं। (नीतिवचन ६:१६)।

प्रेरित पौलुस के साथ मिलकर, आज मसीह की कलीसियाएं हर जगह सब लोगों से निवेदन कर रही हैं कि मेल के बन्ध में आत्मा की एकता रखने का यत्न करें और मसीह के सब अनुयायी एक ही बात कहें, और एक ही मन व एक ही मत होकर मिले रहें। बाइबल की ओर फिरिए, इसकी शिक्षाओं पर विश्वास कीजिए व उनको मानिए।

सही कलीसिया कौन सी है ?

संसार में बहुतेरी कलीसियाएं हैं, परन्तु परमेश्वर के वचन, बाइबल में केवल एक ही कलीसिया का वर्णन मिलता है। (इफिसियों ४:४; कुलुस्सियों १:१८)। इसलिये, केवल एक ही सही हो सकती है। वह कौन सी है ?

१. वह जिसे यीशु मसीह ने बनाया। (मत्ती १६:१८)।
२. जिसका आरम्भ यरूशलेम में हुआ। (लूका २४:४७; प्रेरितों २)।
३. जिसकी स्थापना लगभग ३३ ई० स० में हुई थी। (प्रेरितों २)।
४. जो मसीह के नाम को अपने ऊपर रखती है। (रोमियों १६:१६; १ कुरिन्थियों १२:२७; इफिसियों १:२२, २३)।
५. जिसका सिर अर्थात् प्रधान मसीह है। (कुलुस्सियों १:१८)।
६. जिसे मसीह ने अपने लोहू से मोल लिया है। (प्रेरितों २०:२८)।
७. जिसके लिये मसीह ने अपने आप को दे दिया। (इफिसियों ५:२५)।
८. जिसका उद्धारकर्ता यीशु मसीह है। (इफिसियों ५:२३)।
९. जो यीशु मसीह पर बनी हुई है। (मत्ती १६:१८; १ कुरिन्थियों ३:११)।
१०. जिसके सदस्य मसीही कहलाते हैं। (प्रेरितों ११:२६; प्रेरितों ४:१२)।
११. जिसे बाइबल में मसीह की आत्मिक देह कहा गया है। (इफिसियों १:२२, २३)।
१२. केवल एक ही देह है। (इफिसियों ४:४)।
१३. जिसमें उद्धार पाए हुए लोग मिलाए जाते हैं। (प्रेरितों २:४७)।
१४. जिसके लिये यीशु मसीह वापस आ रहा है। (इफिसियों ५:२७)।

क्या आप उस कलीसिया के सदस्य हैं ? यदि नहीं, तो आप कैसे कह सकते हैं कि आप प्रभु की कलीसिया के सदस्य हैं ? यदि आप उस कलीसिया में नहीं हैं जो कि सही है, तब आप अवश्य ही किसी ऐसी कलीसिया में होंगे जो कि गलत है। इस विषय पर विचार कीजिए, खोजिए, जांचिए, तथा सही कदम उठाइए।

मसीह की कलौसिया

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तथा

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