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THE BIBLE TEACHER

Editor, J. C. CHOATE Associate Editor, SUNNY DAVID

Staff Writers, Vipul Rai, K. Matthew, F. David

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EDITORIAL



The New Pharisees And Sadducees

Christ lived and died under the law of Moses. He said that he had not come to destroy it, but to fulfill it. (Matthew 5:17, 18). He therefore kept it perfectly. The same could not be said of the others of his day, for the followers of that law had become divided into various sects. Two of the most popular were the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees were the conservatives, believing in a resurrection and angels. The Sadducees were the modernists who denied these truths. Jesus was neither.

The Pharisees and Sadducees had corrupted the law to the point that it amounted to no more than a series of customs and traditions. They had mixed the teachings of men with the teachings of God so that the Lord's will was hardly discernable any more. As a result, Christ did not ignore them, compromise with them, or endorse them, but instead he condemned them for the things they did and for what they taught.

Let us read, now, of some of the experiences that he had with these people and of some of his statements to them: "And as he spake a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him :

and he went in, and sat down to meat. And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner. And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter: but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also? But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and behold, all things are clean unto you. But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees hypocrites: for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them." (Luke 11:37-44).

Reading on, "Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." (Matthew 16:6). In Matthew 23 beginning with verse 13, Jesus says, "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against me; for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." (Matthew 23: 13-15). Reading further, he says, "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all

uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous. And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matthew 23:24-33). Because of all of this, Jesus said to the disciples, "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:20).

Although the Pharisees, Sadducees, and others represented different groups, and therefore ordinarily opposed one another, when it came time to oppose Jesus joined forces. We read where "The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven." (Matthew 16:1). On another occasion, "And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him." (Mark 3:6). "But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" (Matthew 22:34-36). Eventually, through their persistence, and with the help of one of the Lord's disciples, they succeed in taking custody of Jesus and bringing him before the high priest. (Matthew 26:56). Later, we read, "When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor." (Matthew 27:1,2). Afterwards, Jesus was given a false trial, was crucified, and was resurrected, and then the

chief priests bribed the soldiers that were watching his tomb to say that his disciples had come and stolen him away while they slept. (Matthew 28:12,13). You will note that it was these religious groups, and their banding together to oppose Jesus, that led to his betrayal, and later these same religious leaders of the day were responsible for his crucifixion.

We read all of this in the scriptures and we think how sad it was but surely that could never happen today. But it is happening. We have a new breed of Pharisees and Sadducees on our hands and the body of the Lord is suffering once more with Christ being crucified afresh. Who are these modern day Pharisees and Sadducees? They are the denominational churches all around us. They represent those who have replaced the teachings of Christ with the teachings of men but all the while claiming to be followers of Christ. They have polluted, adulterated, corrupted, stagnated, and divided Christianity, thus making a mockery of that for which Christ died. They go their separate ways, even oppose one another most of the time, but they quickly unite to oppose the Lord's church and his way.

You would be surprised to know how much the denominational churches know about the church of Christ and how much they resent it. They claim that one church is as good as another until it comes to Christ's church. They will say it doesn't matter what church you are a member of, except when the Lord's church is under consideration. They look upon it as a threat to them and therefore they are constantly warning their people against it.

Not long ago one of the young men of the church here was told that he should be very careful about associating with the church of Christ. He asked why and was told, "Because those people are so exclusive; they pull away from all others and think they are the only ones that are right and that only their church will go to heaven." He was being warned and put on guard against the church. An attempt was being made to prejudice his thinking. No encouragement was made concerning

teaching the members of the church, or studying with them, or investigating to see if they might not be right ! Of course he explained to the person that he thought the warning strange, because he had been with the church for two years and he had never noticed the members to be like that.

I was talking recently to a printer about a tract and he explained to me that those who owned this particular press were opposed to this tract being printed because it contained material that they did not accept. I explained to him that if they would show me in the Bible where it was not the truth then I would write another tract to denounce what I had said in this particular tract. I pointed out, however, that I would not do this unless they would present the evidence from the Bible. To date there has been no evidence presented to me.

Here in New Delhi all of the religious groups may differ on many things but there is one thing that they agree on and that is that they are opposed to the church of Christ. But why ? Are we teaching things not taught in the Bible ? Do we wear an unscriptural name ? Can there be more than one church ? If one obeys God, will the Lord not add him to his church ? Is there anything wrong in following the Bible only ?

Read back through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and see how many times the Lord is confronted with the Pharisees and Sadducees and observe what he had to say about them. Then also read in Acts 9 how Paul persecuted the church but in so doing he was in reality persecuting Christ. I would be very careful if I were you before I opposed the Lord's church, lest I be found opposing Christ himself.

Would you please forget about what man says, even religious men, and investigate the church of Christ ? Visit with us, talk to us, study with us, go to the Bible to see if we are not the church that you read about there. This is all that we ask that you do. Then if you find that we are not the one true church, come and tell us about it, and show us in the scriptures why we are not. If you will do that we will count you as our friend. However, if you find that we are genuine, that we are real, that we are the church of Christ as set forth in the scriptures, then we invite you to become a member of that church. Even then, the decision is yours to make. Is there anything wrong with making such suggestions to you ?

ASSOCIATE EDITORIAL

Things You Must Face

YES, there are things that you and I, all of us, need to face. There is no escape. Let us now take this opportunity and see them briefly one by one. The first thing that all of the living beings have to face is the physical birth. All people have to be born according to the law of nature, as God planned it. Even in physical birth there are certain things involved that all have to experience.

Secondly, there is a second birth. And all who would want to enter into heaven must experience this second birth. This birth is not a re-birth in a physical sense, as we have discussed above, but this second birth is of a spiritual nature. Emphasizing this birth, Jesus the Saviour said in John 3:3, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Thus, it is very important for one who wishes to see or enter the kingdom of God or heaven to be born again or anew. This new or second birth is not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, neither of the will of man, but of God. This birth is of the spiritual nature and therefore its relation must directly be with God, the Spirit. Explaining this birth more plainly, Christ in John 3:5 declared, "Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Thus, there are two different and obvious things, Christ said, by which every person must be born, in order to enter into God's kingdom or heaven as a saved person. Obviously, water means water. And according to the New Testament teaching water is only used for baptism, which is a command of Christ necessary unto or for salvation. See Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38. Likewise, Spirit means Spirit. And there is but one Spirit (Ephesians 4:4), and God is the Spirit (John 4:24). Now, all scripture has been written by the guidance or inspiration of the Spirit. Thus, when a person hears what the Spirit says in the written word, the Bible, and obeys his command to be saved, he is then born of

the Spirit. But, remember, Christ said, "Except a man be born OF WATER, and OF THE SPIRIT, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Thirdly, there comes a time when a person leaves behind this physical body and mortal world. By this, of course we mean death. As sure, friend, as we are living today, it is that sure that we will all die some day. In death "the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it." (Ecclesiastes 12:7). The fixed order for all men everywhere is to die once only (Hebrews 9:27). And all have to die, needless to say. However, one can die either of the two kinds of death, i.e., one can die the death of the righteous or the death of the unrighteous. Since all the commandments of God, as revealed in the Bible, are righteousness (Psalm 119:172), therefore we can die the death of the righteous only if we do and obey God's command. (Hebrews 1:1,2).

Fourthly, the Bible teaches, "As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). The inference is that as it is appointed or fixed, by God, for all men to die once, so also it is appointed for all men to face the judgment after death. The Bible is full of such verses which warn us of the coming judgment. Paul, the Apostle, in Romans 14:10, said, ".....for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ". He again warned, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10). He again exhorted, and said, in Acts 17:30-31, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent : Because he hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; where of he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Thus, it is an established fact that all must stand before Christ on an appointed day to be judged by Christ. There is no escape.

Fifthly, and finally, all must face eternity. That is, a state in which all souls will enter after the judgment. Eternity means that which is unending, everlasting, unchangable, ceaseless. In Mathew 25th chapter Christ was describing the day of judgment, and in verses 31-33 he said, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory : And before him shall be gathered all nations : and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats : And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left." Sheeps here represent the righteous and the goats represent unrighteous people. Then the following verses of the chapter (34-45) shows Christ passing on the judgment. And in the last verse (46) speaking of unrighteous he declared, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment : but the righteous into life eternal." Are you ready to face the things you must face ?

Bible Questions and Bible Answers

QUESTION : Please explain this scripture: "For the scripture saith, Thou shall not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the Labourer is worthy of his reward." (1 Timothy 5:18).

ANSWER : The practice of India in harvesting grain is the same as it was in Bible days. They would take wheat or some other type of grain and use their oxen to tread it out. Those who so used these animals were told not to muzzle them but allow them to eat at will. This, then, would be the reward for their labor. Being allowed to eat, they would have regular food to sustain them, but being kept busy they would not eat to the point of waste.

In 1 Timothy 5:17 Paul states that elders that rule well should be counted worthy of double honor and especially

those that labor in the word and doctrine. Elders are appointed by the church to give leadership to the local congregation based on the fact that they are able to meet certain specified qualifications. (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1). This is a great honor. But if there be one or more who are giving their full time to this work and to preaching the word, which is also a great honor, then such individuals should be supported by that congregation. The illustration that Paul uses concerning the oxen supports this. He shows that even the ox should be rewarded for his labors. So should the elders, or preachers, be supported by their brethren when they give their full time to the Lord's work.

QUESTION : Explain this scripture briefly : "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken : but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." (Matthew 21:44).

ANSWER : The individual who falls or stumbles on Christ and his church because of unbelief or as a result of prejudice and hatred will be broken and destroyed. Those who fight the Lord and his way will be defeated in the end. Remember how Saul persecuted the church and the Lord told him, ".....it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." (Acts 9:5). That is, in persecuting the church Saul was only hurting himself. He was wise enough to realize this and he obeyed God. There are those who fight the church today but they will finally be destroyed by that which they are trying to destroy, for in seeking to destroy the church they are opposing Christ. In the end Christ will deal with them.

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Keep Up Your Interest :

1. Who was the first person in the Bible to say : "I was afraid", and on what occasion ?
2. What was the angel who announced to Mary the glad tidings that she would be the mother of Jesus ? Give the verse.
3. Who ate "the little book", and found it sweet in the mouth, but bitter in the stomach ? Give the verse.
4. Who asked God to "blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book," if he could not forgive the sin of the people ? Give the verse.
5. Does the Bible say that money is the root of all evil ? If so, where ?

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUIZ, NO. 10

1. True, Acts 21:40; 22:2. 2. F, Acts 28:30-31. 3. Ananias, Acts 22:16. 4. Disciples prayed on the shore, Acts 21:5. 5. No, Paul said that Jesus had said this, Acts 20:35. 6 F, to Simon, Acts 8:23. 7. Praying unceasingly, Acts 12:5. 8. Acts 16:5. 9. Athenians and the strangers there, Acts 17:21. 10. Felix the governor. Acts 23:35.

Winners of Bible Quizzes

No. 1,2,3 in Vol. 4, No 7

No. 4 : Award—"Church Studies"

R. Samuel Dorairaj, D. Elisha, R.P.K.G. Isaiah, C. A. Tius,
Desmond E. Samuels, V. Raju, V. S. Devanandam, Lawrence

Raj, Boddu Prakasam, Ginzam Gwite, Ngulkhapao, Joseph J. Karoor, P. T. Zalian Gwite, Lkjaines Gwite, G. Kamkhaw thawng, Lianchinthang.

No. 5: Award—"The New Testament Church"

C. P. Jacob, R. Samuel Dorairaj, D. Elisha, I. D. Singh, D. Peter Danies, T. Ngulkhopao, M. Nenghozam, Lianchinthang, R. P. K. B. Isaiah, C. A. Titus, I. Vijaya Ratna Kuwat, C. A. Thomas, E. Balachendram.

No. 6 : Award—"The Sufficiency of the Scriptures"

Ngulkhopao, G. Liankhawzam, B. Vijaya Kumar David, Thangchinkhup Guite, M. Nengkhosam, Zenzathang Guite, R. Samuel Dorairaj, Miss Tebarani Wilson, R. D. K. B. Isaiah, P. T. Zalian Gwite, Peter B. Daniels, S. Prem Doss, I. D. Singh, Polson R. Sangma.

No. 7-12 : In future issues.

Only One Thing Is Important

Barbara Oliver

Most of us are familiar with the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10: 38-42. Jesus had stopped to spend some time with Lazarus and his sisters, and Martha was probably in the kitchen fixing the rice or chapatis, and maybe even something special for this special friend. She needed some help, but Mary was not there to help her. Instead, she was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to him as he talked to Lazarus and maybe some of the disciples. Now Martha had had a hard day, cleaning and washing and preparing for Jesus' visit and she was probably a little aggravated to find Mary sitting down visiting rather than helping. She asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." Luke 10:40. That was a reasonable question, and a reasonable

request. But listen to His answer. "Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things ; but only a few things are **necessary**, really only **one** : for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41-42 (NASV)

What was Martha leaving out of her life ? Oh yes, she was trying to be hospitable, making sure Jesus was fed properly. But Martha was "worried and bothered over **many** things." But were they necessary things ? Was it **necessary** that the food be prepared right then ? Was it a matter of life and death that Jesus eat his lunch at one rather than at two or three o'clock ? No. Christ said that only one thing was necessary.

Did you know that there are some women who don't go to worship God because they think they have to stay home and make sure the lunch is cooked on time ? How many women leave prayer completely out of their lives because there are simply too many other cares and duties to worry about ? How many women don't study their Bibles because they just don't have time ? Have these women chosen the better part ?

Christ wants us to be hospitable and to care for our families, but we must put first things first. We must put Christ first. That is the one thing that is necessary. And if we do that one **necessary** thing, we will not neglect the other things. If Christ is first in our lives, we will work harder for Him, for our families and for our guests and neighbors because of our love for Him. If Christ is first, we will not neglect worship, prayer and Bible study. Rather, we will seek those moments of communion with Him, and our lives will be fuller because of it.

Are you like Martha, "worried and bothered about so many things", or like Mary, who chose the necessary thing—Christ ?

A Vision For Souls

How many of us are aware of the fact that we have a soul? Do we know what it is? Do we know its value? Do we know that it is lost? If so, what are we doing to save it and to prepare it to meet God?

If we are concerned about our soul we will be concerned about the souls of others. We must love the souls of all. This includes those of our family, relatives, and friends. It also includes those with whom we work, do business, and live. What about those that we go to school with, the people around us, over the city, and throughout the country? What about Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Catholics, Protestants, and all other religious people? What about the rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate, the city and village people, and so on and so on. Don't they have souls? Shouldn't we love them, too?

The Christian must have a vision for souls. He must be concerned about souls so much so that he will do all that he can to teach them, and convert them to Christ. This requires a great deal of love. That kind of love can be seen in his life, heard in his speech, and demonstrated by the kind of results he gets from his work.

Those who have no vision for souls are empty and hypocritical. They are deceiving themselves but not those around them. They are losing because they are not concerned about the lost. They are religious but their religion is unprofitable.

Christ loved the souls of men so much that he gave himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. That means that he gave himself for you and me. What are we giving him in return? Are we giving him our souls? Are we giving him the souls of others? What kind of vision do we have?

Attention Please

If your name and address is not complete, please send the correct one immediately. Print it clearly. If we can't read it then we cannot write it as it should be. We are interested in collecting all of the names and addresses of the preachers, evangelists, and teachers of the churches of Christ throughout India. If you know of any that we do not have we would appreciate it if you would send them to us. We want to add them to our mailing list to receive **The Bible Teacher** and other literature.

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Examine Yourself

1. Do you believe in God ?
2. Do you believe the Bible to be the word of God ?
3. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God ?
4. Do you believe that you have a soul ?
5. Do you believe that there is a Devil ?
6. Do you believe in a resurrection ?
7. Do you believe that there will be final judgment ?
8. Do you believe in heaven ?
9. Do you believe in hell ?
10. Do you believe that all must spend eternity somewhere ?

Four New Books Available

Back to the Bible by Harvey Childress, 88 pages, Rs. 2.00.

This book covers the subjects of truth, church, unity, preaching, authority, creed, doctrine, organization, names, worship, music, salvation, and baptism. It approaches each one of these on the basis of how it was originally, then it shows how there was a departure from the Lord's will on these matters, and finally how there are those who have gone back to the Bible for the teaching of God as it as in the beginning.

First Principles by J. C. Choate. 76 pages, Rs. 2.00.

There are twenty-five titles in this book and they are as follows: The Word of God, Back to the Bible, The Two Covenants, The Broad and Narrow Ways, The Alien Sinner, Things That Save, Hearing God's word, Faith in Christ, Repent or Perish, Confessing Unto Salvation, Baptism for Remission of Sins, What is the Church of Christ?, "Is Christ Divided?", A Christian only, "In Christ", True worship, Holy Things, Daily Religion, "I love God", Your Temperature, The Erring Christian, The Dead, Prepare to Meet God, The Great Judgment Day, and Where Will You Spend Eternity? These titles speak for themselves as to the importance of the book.

The Never Failing Scriptures by L. R. Wilson, 167 pages, Rs. 3.00.

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Here is a book that has been prepared especially for the new Christian. It points out his duties, responsibilities, and blessings. Every Christian needs to have it to help him realize that there is more to the Christian life than merely becoming a Christian.

Is The Church Important

1. Christ built one. (Matthew 16:18).
2. It belongs to him. (Matthew 16:18).
3. He loved it. (Ephesians 5:25).
4. He shed his blood for it. (Acts 20:28).
5. He died for it. (Ephesians 5:25).
6. He is the saviour of it. (Ephesians 5:23).
7. He adds the saved to it. (Acts 2:47).
8. He is the head of it. (Colossians 1:18).
9. It wears his name. (Romans 16:16).
10. It is his bride. (Romans 7:4).
11. It is his body. (1 Corinthians 12:27).
12. He is coming back for it. (Ephesians 5:27).

All of this would make the church important. If not, what would ?

Refusing Pardon

In 1829 George Wilson was convicted in Pennsylvania of mail robbery and murder. He was tried and sentenced to die. Andrew Jackson, who was president at the time, after considering Wilson's case, granted him a pardon. The granting of pardon is not strange but there is a stranger part to this story. George Wilson refused the pardon. The law making bodies were baffled. What could they do with a man, under sentence of death who had refused a pardon, choosing to die on the gallows instead ? John Marshall, chief Justice of the Supreme Court, ruled.: "A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the parties implicated. It is

hardly to be supposed that one under sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon. But if it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must hang."

After a few weeks George Wilson was hanged one morning as a solemn crowd stood in the prison yard to watch.

This is a true, unusual and sad story, but I know a story that is even sadder. It is the story of lost man, who continues to be lost and refuses the pardon offered. Jesus Christ came into the world to save the lost sinner. He gave His life upon the cross. His blood was shed for the redemption of mankind. God's wrath was appeased and the road to heaven which had been barricaded for generations by sin, was thrown open. Now, men could approach with boldness the throne of God. Now for the first time men could have their sins forgiven through the blood of Christ by responding with an obedient life to the grace and mercy of God? You may ask, how does one respond to the love and mercy of God? The initial response comes out of a confession of this faith in Christ as the son of God (Romans 10:9-10), and baptism into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-4). This puts one in a saved relationship with God.

For George Wilson to be pardoned two things were involved. First, the pardon had to be offered and second, he had to accept the pardon. According to **Ephesians 2:8-9** there are two parts to salvation. God's and man's. "For by **grace** are ye saved through faith;..." Grace is God's part and the responsive, obedient faith is man's part. God in His love and grace sent Jesus to die for us. We, in turn respond to this love and grace by accepting salvation, on God's terms. These terms include an obedient faith, repentance, confession of faith and baptism for the remission of sins. This initial response to the love and mercy of God must be accompanied with a faithful and dedicated life (Revelation 2:10, Romans 12:1).

Benny L. Stephens

The New Birth

Jess Willis

Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, died to save lost and sinful men. "He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:9). Thus, Christ has the authority to stipulate the requirements for us to obey that we may enter His kingdom. Christ said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

The vital new birth is of (1) Water and of the (2) Spirit. Paul tells us, "The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph.6:17). And Christ says, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). Two things are necessary in any kind of birth: (1) is the "begetting" and (2) is the "Birth." "Beget" means "to cause." "Born" means "Brought into existence. Act of bringing forth." The spiritual "new birth" is caused by the Spirit (God's word) entering as a seed into an honest heart (cf. Luke 8:11-15). The seed (word of God) or "sword of the Spirit" must develop in the inner part of man and grow in faith (John 8:24) and in repentance (Luke 13:3), then it can come forth a new creature in the new birth by being "buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Rom. 6:4-5).

James said, "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth" (James 1:18). And of this new birth, Peter said, "Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit ... Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the word of God" (1 Peter 1:22-25).

From these Scriptures we can understand that one is born anew and enters the kingdom of God when he is born in the watery grave of baptism which is the natural results of being begotten by the Spirit. We plead for the word of God to have its way with everyone.

यदि मेरी मृत्यु हो जाए ?

लेखक-एफ० डेविड

मृत्यु एक भयानक शब्द है। यह शब्द, सुनने वालों में एक डर सा उत्पन्न कर देता है। इस संसार में प्रत्येक दिन अनेक लोगों की मृत्यु हो जाती है। अर्थात् मृत्यु के पश्चात् वह इस संसार को छोड़कर चले जाते हैं। परन्तु सत्य तो यह है कि एक न एक दिन हमें भी जो जीवित हैं इस संसार को छोड़कर चले जाना है। यह विनाशी संसार तो दो दिन का ठिकाना है, यहाँ सदा किसी ने नहीं रहना। मृत्यु के पश्चात् हमारा शरीर और आत्मा अलग हो जायेंगे। अतः इस प्रकार शारीरिक रूप से हम मर जायेंगे।

अब हम एक और मृत्यु के विषय में देखेंगे। यह मृत्यु है आत्मिक मृत्यु। अर्थात् हमारी आत्मा का परमेश्वर से अलग होना। और जब हमारी आत्मा का परमेश्वर से सबन्ध टूट जाएगा तो इसका अर्थ हुआ कि हमारी आत्मा को नरक का दण्ड भोगना पड़ेगा। क्योंकि परमेश्वर ही है जो हमारी आत्मा को बचा भी सकता है तथा नाश भी कर सकता है। (मत्ती १०:२८)।

आज अधिकतर लोग हैं जो बिना यीशु मसीह के मर रहे हैं। और जबकि वह बिना यीशु मसीह के मर रहे हैं तो वह अपने पापों में मर रहे हैं। पाप क्या है? पाप से हम सब परिचित हैं। परमेश्वर की आज्ञा का उल्लंघन करना ही पाप है (१ यूहन्ना ३:४)। हम यह भी जानते हैं कि पाप की मजदूरी मृत्यु है (रोमियों ६:२३)। यदि अभी तक हमने प्रभु यीशु को अपना उद्धारकर्ता स्वीकार नहीं किया तथा उसकी बताई आज्ञाओं को नहीं माना है तो हम अपनी आत्मा को अनन्त विनाश का दण्ड भोगने नरक की ओर ले जा रहे हैं।

हमारी आत्मा को इस नरक की मृत्यु से बचाने के लिए एक ही साधन है यीशु मसीह। परमेश्वर ने अपने पुत्र यीशु मसीह को इस संसार में इसी लिए भेजा था ताकि वह पापियों को नरक के दण्ड से बचा सके (यूहन्ना ३: १६)। आज हम स्वयं यह प्रश्न करें कि यदि मैं बिना यीशु मसीह के मर जाऊँ तो इसका परिणाम क्या होगा? इसका परिणाम हम पहले ही देख चुके हैं कि यदि कोई बिना यीशु मसीह के मर जाए तो वह आत्मिक रूप में मर जाएगा। तथा परमेश्वर का उसकी आत्मा से कोई सबन्ध नहीं होगा अर्थात् उसकी आत्मा परमेश्वर के वचन-अनुसार नरक के दण्ड के योग्य होगी।

परमेश्वर का वचन बाइबल कहता है सब पापी हैं (रोमियों ३:२३) यदि कोई अपने को यह स्वीकार कर ले कि वह पापी है तो उसे पाप से बचने की आवश्यकता है। पाप से बचने का एक मात्र साधन यीशु मसीह है। क्योंकि जब हम सब पापी ही थे तभी मसीह हमारे लिए मरा (रोमियों ५:८)। पौलूस लिखता है यह बात सच तथा हर प्रकार से मानने योग्य है कि यीशु मसीह पापियों का उद्धार करने के लिए जगत में आया (१ तीमुथियुस १:१५)। अनेक लोग यीशु मसीह के विषय में विचार करते-करते तथा उसको अपना उद्धारकर्त्ता स्वीकार करे बिना मर जाते हैं। परमेश्वर का वचन बाइबल सत्य है (यूहन्ना १७:१७)। ये वचन ही हमें बताता है कि यीशु मसीह के द्वारा ही उद्धार है। जब हमें सत्य पता है तो इसके विषय में देर करने की क्या आवश्यकता है। यह याद रखिये कि दुर्भाग्यवश यदि मैं बिना प्रभु यीशु के मर जाऊँ तो मेरी आत्मा का क्या होगा।

प्रिय मित्रों बिना यीशु मसीह के हमारी आत्माएं पाप में मरी हुई हैं। मृत्यु के पश्चात् एक ऐसा दिन होगा, जिस दिन सबका न्याय होगा। क्योंकि न्याय का भी एक दिन निश्चित है (इब्रानियों ९:२७)। क्या आप ने प्रभु यीशु को अपना उद्धारकर्त्ता स्वीकार किया है उसकी उन आज्ञाओं को माना है जो उसने पवित्रशास्त्र बाइबल के दूसरे भाग अथवा नये नियम में बताई हैं। जिनको मानने से प्रत्येक व्यक्ति प्रभु यीशु का अनुयायी या एक मसीही बन सकता है। यदि नहीं तो यह निश्चय आपका है। यदि इस विषय पर कोई अन्य जानकारी प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं तो हमें सूचित करें।

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