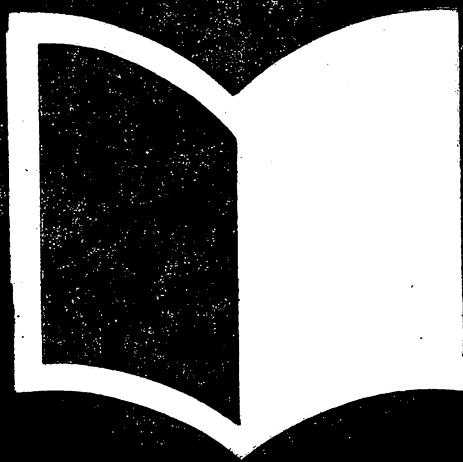


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J. C. CHOATE

Associate Editor :

SUNNY DAVID

Staff Writers :

**Vipul Rai, K. Mathew, F. David, Nehemiah Gootam,
Jaikumar Gootam, P.R. Swamy.**

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The Betrayal Of Christ

All who know the story of Christ know of his betrayal. Even though this is true we need to go back occasionally and review it so that we may be kept aware of what our Lord went through on our behalf. For those who are not familiar with this story then you especially need to be informed about it.

This is not just a tale or a fable. Rather, it is a true story. It was spoken of in prophecy long before it ever happened. David said, "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." (Psalm 41:9). Zechariah declared, concerning the price of the betrayal, "And I said unto them, if ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty picees of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord." (Zechariah 11:12,13),

These prophecies were fulfilled hundreds of years later. Not only these but many others concerning the birth of Christ, his work, his trial, and his death on the cross. This is one of the many reasons why we accept him as being the Son of God, the Saviour of the world.

To bring us to the betrayal itself, let us get some background information. We'll begin with Christ himself. Jesus had been born in the city of Bethlehem of the virgin Mary. (Matthew 2:1,2; 1:18-25). He then grew up in Nazareth as the son of a carpenter. (Luke 2:39,40; Matthew 13:55) Eventually he was baptized of John (Matthew 3:13-17) and then began his public ministry. To confirm his word, and to prove he was the Son of God, he performed many miracles. (John 20:30,31).

Because of his teaching and miracles his fame went throughout the land. Great crowds followed him wherever he went. It was said that no man ever spake as this man, that he spoke as one having authority. (Matthew 9:31; John 7:46; Matthew 7:29). Nicodemus said to him, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." (John 3:2).

At the beginning of the Lord's public ministry, he chose twelve men or apostles to train and prepare to carry on his work after his departure. (Matthew 10:1-4). Among these was one by the name of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. (John 6:71). It was he who would eventually betray his Lord.

Other than the fact that he was an apostle, and that he later betrayed Christ, not much is known about him. Among the apostles, he was the treasurer, or the one who held the money bag. On one occasion when Christ and the apostles visited Lazarus, Martha and Mary in Bethany, Mary took a pound of costly spikenard ointment and the record says, "Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein." (John 12:4-6). Later at the last supper after the Lord had said that one would betray him, different ones, including Judas, were asking if it was them: "Then said Jesus unto them, That thou doest, do quickly.

Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or that he should give something to the poor." (John 13:27-29).

Since Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were written after all of these things had happened, then they always speak of Judas as the one who betrayed the Lord even though at the time in the story it had not happened and they themselves at that point did not know that Judas would eventually do this. (Matthew 10:4; Mark 3:19; Luke 6:16; John 6:71; 13:2). Of course, as we have already noted, it had been prophesied that Christ would be betrayed and naturally the Lord himself knew that Judas was the one who would do it. That does not mean that as an individual he was predestined from the beginning to do this wicked thing, but as the scripture says, "And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him," (John 13:2). Judas therefore became a subject for the devil's use at this point.

Although Jesus went about doing good only, and living himself without sin, still he lived in a sinful world, and there were many who were very envious and jealous of him because of what he taught and the following he got. Because of this they sought ways to condemn him, and even to put him to death. On more than one occasion the Lord escaped them or silenced their criticisms by simply asking a question. Finally, it was one of the Lord's own disciples that became the instrument through which they could reach him. Some have thought that Judas was impatient with the Lord and wanted to force him to take some affirmative action in establishing a literal earthly kingdom. Whether it was this or some other impure motive, we cannot say.

The record says, "Then one of twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver (approximately Rs. 145.25). And from that time he sought opportunity to betray

him." (Matthew 26:14-16). Later, at the last supper, we read, "Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? and he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said." (Matthew 26:20-25).

The scene now shifts to the garden of Gethsemane where Jesus spent the night praying. Afterward he talks to his disciples, "And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore are thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him." (Matthew 26:47-50).

From this place they took him to the high priest and then eventually to Pilate and others of secular government. Finally, Jesus is given a false trial and he is crucified. But this is not the end. After three days and nights Jesus came forth from the dead and a few days later ascended to the Father in heaven to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is our Saviour and our hope.

But what happened to Judas? The record tells us: "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, what is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and

departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priest took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me." (Matthew 27:3-10). Also, you may read Mark 14:10-21 and Acts 1:15-20.

What a horrible thing for one to do, to betray and sell his Lord. But this has been done again and again by those who claimed to be his followers. It continues to be done. Take warning from the story of Judas and what happened to him so that you don't make the same mistake. To those of you who may not know Jesus, you are invited and encouraged to learn of him and to know all that he went through, and above all, of his sacrifice that you might be saved from your sins and have the hope of eternal life. Believe in him and obey him and make him your Lord and Master. He will never betray you or disappoint you.



**associate
editorial**

The Universal Problem Of Man

(No. 2)

SIN HURTS PHYSICALLY

Sin not only hurts God and our fellowmen spiritually, but it also hurts people physically. For instance, now a days a more common and respectable practice is smoking. It has

been generally accepted in our homes and societies. Many people feel proud because they smoke cigarettes, chew tobacco, and other such things. According to scientific research, a cigarette contains nicotine and if taken or injected without mixing it with something it can kill a person. On this subject, I would like to quote Dr. Raymond Pearle of one of the reputed universities of the United States. He made the following statement : "The heavy smoker pays with 34.6 minutes of his life for each cigarette he smokes. The pack a day smoker pays with $11\frac{1}{2}$ hours of his life for each pack he smokes." This then would mean that to a heavy smoker every day a pack of twenty cigarettes would cost him around 345 hours of his life in just one month. And if he continues at this rate he would eventually have to pay with more than 172 days of his life in a year! Again, one doctor, Alton Ochsner, a pioneer in the field of showing the relation between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, has said, "Proof has been filed upon proof, associating the effect of compulsive smoking with cancer, with heart diseases, with general respiratory, and other diseases."

Then think of all the money which is spent on cigarettes and alcohol and other such things. The same amount of money if spent wisely could change the present world into a so much better world. I do not have any hesitation to say that the same amount which is being spent on such things is sufficient to establish at least two large factories daily in our country which would give jobs to many jobless and bread to thousands of hungry people, and so on. And again, it is not only that people hurt themselves by using such things but they also hurt their families and their nation in a greater way. For instance, in recent years in our country hundreds of people died because they had consumed alcohol. Such cases took place in Delhi, Bombay, South India, and in several other parts of the country. It is not only those people who died, but think of their children and dependents who suffered their loss greatly. Many homes have been destroyed and hundreds of children became orphaned. Our nation may have lost many skilled workers.

But this is not all. What about today's cinemas or movies? Today's movies are, in fact, sin—promoting agencies. Now a days people like to see movies which have been given strictly "A" certificates from the censor, or which show sex and crime. So most of the movies made today have in them such scenes. People are so crazy to watch such films that some times they see a particular film ten times or more. Recently a youth became insane after watching a film over and over. Several people were crushed to death in a heavy rush outside a cinema house as they all wanted to buy tickets for a particular movie. Our scientists say that we remember only 20% of what we hear, but we remember almost 80% of what we see. It is an open fact that today's cinemas are heavily responsible for the increasing immorality, crimes, theft, robberies, and other such things. Sometime ago, for instance, a young man robbed a Delhi museum of some valuable things. Later, when he was arrested and interrogated he confessed that he was encouraged to commit the crime by a movie which he saw more than once. Likewise, a similar instance, and a more recent case, is of a murder in which a high ranking police officer was brutally murdered and his body dismembered by his eighteen year old servant. The newspaper says, "According to the police, the servant was influenced deeply by a Hindi film to commit the crime." The paper reports that the young boy had seen the particular film several times. In this case, as in all others, not only this young boy will have to suffer the consequences, but it also includes his family, the police officer's family, and even the government, for they lost an experienced official. So, in various ways sin hurts people physically as it hurts our fellow-men and our nation.

SIN ENSLAVES

Still another characteristic of sin is that it enslaves people even before they realize it. Just like those people who now smoke heavily, or drink much alcohol, or gamble, or do any other such things, they all started these things with a little to begin with, and so gradually the quantity increased. And soon they were fully controlled by their habit. In fact, in the begin-

ning they had never intended to become such. But now they cannot get out of it because sin has enslaved them. It is just like a fish who feels sure to catch the meat from the hook, and never intended to get caught, but as she gets closer to it, she soon falls prey to it. Likewise, every sinful habit is very tempting but the end of it is destruction. A notable thing, however, about sin is that it always comes into people by their invitation or permission; it never forces its way into them. This is beautifully explained in a fable of an Arab and his camel. One night when the Arab was asleep, he was awakened by the camel, who said, "Master, it's cold out here. Will you please allow me to put my head in the room through the window?" The Arab replied, "Okay, you may do so." But after some time the Arab was awakened again by his camel, and this time the camel wanted to put one of his front feet inside the room. The Arab gave him permission to do that also. However, after a short while he was awakened again for the third time and now the camel wanted to put inside his second front foot. And to make a long story short, it wasn't long until the big camel was in the room! Now, the Arab began complaining, "Oh, its crowded in here," he said. The camel replied, "Well, if you don't like it, you can get out." Sin is that way. It enslaves people if they do not resist it.

Questions For Preachers

Preacher friend, are you a member of the same church as were Peter, Paul, and the preachers of the first century? Do you wear the same name that they wore? Do you preach the same thing they preached? If not, why not? It might be well for you to go to the Bible and compare yourself with them. If you find then that you need to make some changes, if you are honest with yourself, with God, and your fellowman, then you will make them. Also, those of you that count yourselves to be preachers of the Lord's church, you likewise need to go through these questions. You may find that you too need to

make some changes. As a preacher, you must realize the great responsibility you have to obey the truth and to teach that truth to others. That applies to things that pertain both to doctrine and to one's manner of life. If you fail to do so then not only will you be lost but many others as well will be lost through your preaching and influence.

1. **Where do you preach ? Are you professional and only preach when you have to, and that in a designated meeting house, or do you preach anywhere and everywhere that you have the opportunity ?**
2. **When do you preach ? Do you preach every Sunday ? Do you preach every Sunday morning and every Sunday evening ?**
3. **Why do you preach ? Do you preach because you are converted to the truth, you really believe it, and you feel that you must preach ? Or do you preach merely for a salary ?**
4. **What do you preach ? Do you preach God's word or do you preach the creeds, philosophies, and doctrines of men ?**
5. **How do you preach ? Do you preach with sincerity, humility, and love for souls ? Or do you preach with indifference, coldness, and bitterness ? Are you gentle or ugly in your presentation ? You can draw people to Christ or drive them away according to the way you preach.**
6. **Who supports you ? Do you support yourself through secular work or does the local church supply you with a salary ? Or do you get your support from some foreign source ? Are you worthy of this ?**
7. **How do you dress ? Are you clean and neat or are you sloppy and dirty, having no respect for yourself ? Do you dress according to the local dress or do you wear the gowns, robes, and religious dress to get attention and to seek the praises of men ?**

8. How are you greeted ? Are you spoken to as Mr., Bro., or some other non-religious title ? Or do you wear unscriptural titles like Reverend, Pastor, Most Reverend, Bishop, etc ?
9. What are you called ? Are you just a Christian or are you wearing the names of men ?
10. How are you living ? Do you practice what you preach or do you preach one thing and practice something else ? Remember that you can fool part of the people part of the time but you can't fool all the people all the time.
11. Do you have any bad habits like smoking, chewing betel nut, and so on ? Don't you know that through such things people will lose respect for you ?
12. Are you full of pride ? Does it express itself in a haughty way ? Do you find yourself to be boastful and prone to exalt self ? This is a bad sign for you.
13. Do you pray as much as you should ? How often do you pray ? How much do you pray ? A preacher needs to do a lot of praying. It will show up in his spirituality.
14. How much do you study the Bible ? Even preachers need to study, although you wonder sometime if they ever do. How can you expect your brethren to respect you and come to hear you preach unless you adequately prepare your lessons. Any one can talk, but a good preacher is one who is well prepared for every occasion that he speaks.
15. Do you love souls ? Does it show up in your preaching and in your work as a whole ? Are you trying to reach the lost because of your love ?
16. Are you able to lead your own family ? Do they attend worship ? Each worship service ? Are they members ? How are you bringing up your children ? Both members and non-members are watching you and your family very closely.

17. Do you pay your debts? That means, are you honest? If not, this will destroy you as a preacher.
18. What kind of worker are you? Do you spend your time working for the Lord, studying, visiting, preaching, doing good works, or do you spend all of your time sleeping, sitting around, killing your time?
19. What kind of leader are you? Do you do all the preaching, teaching, lead all the prayers, direct the singing, etc? Or do you encourage others to participate? A real leader will be training the other members and will give the young men an opportunity to preach.
20. Do you set a good example? If you are going to lead then you need to get to worship on time, have your family at each meeting, and lead the way in all that is good and right.
21. How much do you give? Do you give ten percent of your earnings? Do you give more or less? Do you give only enough to say that you are giving? Are you the type that is always receiving but never giving? It will be hard for you to preach on scriptural giving if you do not give scripturally yourself. You know what you are giving and so does God and so does most of the congregation in all probability.
22. Do you have the ability to work with others? Can you get along with people without having problems to erupt? Or do you have the kind of personality that drives them away? Do you find yourself opposing anyone who has any potential leadership because you feel that they represent a challenge to your position?
23. Do you have the ability to convert souls and to build a strong congregation? How many have you converted? Is the church growing where you preach?
24. Are you pessimistic? Do you always look on the negative side? Do you always frown on everything, expect everybody and everything to turn out bad? Do you always wear a frown? You need to decide to

became a Christian and learn to believe in people. You should look on the bright side, love people, enjoy working with them, and learn to be happy and show it by putting a smile on your face.

25. Are you evangelistic? Do you work to spread the gospel or are you willing just to keep things as they are?
26. What are you worth to the Lord? Are you producing anything worth-while for God? How is the cause of Christ being helped because of you?

Are you sure now that you have been honest with yourself and God in answering these questions? Be assured that others are asking them about you. Do they agree with your answers? God needs preachers, but only those who are converted, who are godly, and who are dedicated and who are hard working. If you can't measure up to God's expectations, then please don't be a hypocrite.

Be A Christian

Ernest D. Duncan

"And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26) "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (Acts 26:28)

Why Should You Be A Christian?

1. To escape the wages of sin. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)
2. To escape the eternal home of wicked. (Rev. 21:8; Matt. 25:41; Rev 14:10-11)
3. To obey God. (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Exodus 19:5)
4. To be saved. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47)

"For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4:17)

How Does One Become A Christian

1. A person must believe that Jesus is the Son of God. "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (John 8:24)
2. A person must repent of sins committed. "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)
3. A person must confess Jesus as the Son of God. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my father which is in heaven," (Matt. 10:32) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)
3. A person must be baptized (Mark 16:16) in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost (Matt. 28:19) for the remission of sins. (Acts. 2:38)

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

Become And Remain A True Christian

After Becoming A Christian You Should

1. Attend all services of the church. (Heb. 10:25)
2. Seek the fellowship of other Christians.
3. Study the Bible every day. (2 Timothy 2:15)
4. Pray to God daily for yourself and others. (1 Thes 5:17)
5. Dedicate yourself to God. (Romans 12:1)
6. Love Your fellowman. (1 Peter 1:22)
7. Lead another person to the Lord. (Matt. 28:19,20)
8. Grow in the "Christian Graces." (2 Peter 1:4-9)
9. Put on the Christian armour. (Ephesians 6:11-20)
10. A Christian must live like Christ; must follow him. (1 Peter 2:21)

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mat 16:26)

If You Fail to Become A Christian Whom Can You Blame

1. Not God. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)
2. Not Christ. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." (Ephesians 1:7)
3. Not Holy Spirit. He guided men into giving us the Bible (2 Peter 1:21) which meets our needs. (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

"And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation." (Acts 2:40)

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." (Acts 17:30)

Attend All The Services Of The Church Of Christ In Your Community

You Are Invited To Be A Christian

1. By Christ. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30)
2. By the Spirit and Bride, "And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17)
3. By other Christians. God has given man the choice of choosing Him or Satan to serve. You are making your decision at this present time. Will you and your house serve God?

Fasting

Edward Short

Recently several people have asked about fasting and the place of fasting in the Christian life. This article should be of interest to all Christians who are interested in leading a richer, more spiritual, Christian life.

Jesus discussed fasting on several occasions. Two examples of his teachings on fasting are recorded below.

Matthew 6:16-18 : In v. 16. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. In v. 17. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face. In v. 18.—that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Mark 2:18-22 : In v. 18. Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" In v. 19. And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast." In v. 20. The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. In v. 21. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; if he does, the patch tears away from the old, and a worse tear is made. In v. 22. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but new wine is for fresh skins. The reader should also read Matt. 9:14-17 and Luke 5:33-38.

The passage in Matthew as quoted above is simple to understand. It simply tells us that Christians should fast, and when we do fast we should not let others know about it.

The passage quoted from Mark is more difficult to understand, so we will discuss it here at length and use it for the basis of our considerations on fasting. But first let us consider fasting in the Old Testament.

Fasting had a very definite place in the Old Testament. The Jews were required to fast on the day of atonement; they also fasted at various other times. Fasting in the Old Testament usually was connected with repentance: it was an outward expression of repentance (which is inward).

The Jews were used to fasting. Actually many people fasted for the purpose of letting others see them. They would go around looking dismal and their hair would be undone, etc. Others would see them and praise their piety. Of course people who did this were wrong and Jesus condemned them in Matthew 6:16-18.

Now consider Mark 2:18-22: In v. 19. Jesus says he (Jesus) is the bridegroom, his disciples are the wedding guests. A wedding, then as well as now, was a time of merriment and happiness, feasting, etc. At a wedding no one would fast; that would be inconsistent and contrary to the whole idea of a wedding. Jesus said I am here! Why should my disciples fast? The Pharisees had reason to fast: they were acting according to their traditions. Furthermore they knew not the Christ. John's disciples had reason to fast: he was about to be put in prison and taken away from them. Jesus' disciples had no reason to fast at that time. In v. 20. The days would come when the bridegroom (Jesus) would be taken away.....Jesus is speaking of his crucifixion. After I leave, Jesus says, my disciples will fast.

After Jesus died, was resurrected and went back to heaven his disciples fasted.

Should we fast today? Certainly. It is very useful. But we must do it according to Matt. 6:16-18, and that is not always easy. Modern society makes it difficult for us to fast without others knowing about it. But if we really want to do it we can do it! We can fast for a few hours, or a whole day,

or several days. During the time we are fasting it is good to spend the time we would ordinarily spend eating in Bible study and prayer. **Fasting is good:** In the first place it is good for the body; it cleans it out. In the second place it is good for self-discipline; it helps us learn to say "No" to desire. It helps us to keep our desires from being our master. It helps us to learn to do without things; helps us to learn that not all things are essentials. In the third place it is good for the soul. It helps us to learn to rely on God. Helps us to draw closer to God (and gives us more time to draw closer to him).

I might mention that some people fast with religious purpose in mind (3 above); some people fast without any religious purpose in mind (only 1 and 2 above).

In vs. 21, 22 of Mark 22, Jesus says do not combine the old and the new. If you put new (unfermented) wine in an old (dry and stiff)-wineskin (made of leather) it will burst it. If you put a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment it will shrink the first time it is washed and will pull away from the garment and make an even larger tear.

Jesus says if you put my New teachings along side the Old teachings of the Pharisees they will not go together. They are different. The Pharisees do not understand my teaching because it is different from their traditions; the two will not go together.

Jesus also says: Just like it is ridiculous to put new wine in old wineskins, just like it is ridiculous to use new cloth and patch an old garment, it is also ridiculous for the wedding guests to mourn and fast at a wedding feast. Even so, it is ridiculous for my disciples to fast while I am here with them; after I go away they will then fast.

Too often people today think that fasting is out-dated. People who say this are obviously people who have never fasted; they know neither the scriptures, the power of God, nor the usefulness of fasting. Let us each consider the teachings of our Lord in these passages and determine to follow them that we may draw nearer to God and may be more pleasing in his sight.

Compromising The Truth

Mark H. Nunley

At the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of the Bible (Duet. 4:2, Prov. 30:5-6, and Rev. 22:18-19), we have warning from God not to add to or take away from His law. This tells us that God does not approve when men and women take it upon themselves to alter or change or compromise the teachings or commandments of God. However, down through history, as well as in our present age, mankind has continually been changing God's plan for us to live by. And Rev. 22:18-19 lets us know that God shall some day punish those that change His teachings and commandments.

In the Old Testament we find an excellent example of a man that tried time and time again to change or alter or compromise the commandment from God but was finally forced to comply with God's will. The man was king Pharoah of Egypt that held the Isrealites in captivity. We find this account in the book of Exodus. The Lord God told Moses that Israel was supposed to pack up all of their possessions and to go a three days journey into the wilderness to worship God. It was made clear by the Lord that He expected every person to go and that they were to also take everything including their flocks and herds. But when Moses went in to see Pharoah and said, "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast unto Me in the wilderness.", Pharoah replied, "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord; neither will I let Israel go."

Because of Pharoah's rejection of God's commandment, the Lord sent some plagues upon the land of Egypt: the water became blood, and then frogs, lice, and flies covered the land and got into everything. And so knowing that something had to be done about the situation, Pharoah called in Moses and offered his first compromise of the Lord's commandment. He said, "Go ye, and sacrifice to your God in the land." Pharoah consented for them to go and to worship God in Egypt, but of course, God had said to go into the wilderness. Then Moses

told king Pharoah that they would go a three day's journey into the wilderness just as God had commanded. Then Pharoah offered his second compromise of God's commandment. He said, "I will let you go that ye may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness, only ye shall not go very far."

But once again Moses said that this wasn't good enough for it wasn't what God had commanded. So Pharoah became angry, and his heart became hardened again, and he sent the Israelites back to work. Because of this God sent some more plagues upon Egypt: much of the live stock died, boils came upon the people as well as upon the animals that had been spared, and then hail and fire and thunder rained upon Egypt from heaven. So upon this Pharoah called in Moses again and admitted that he was guilty of sinning against the Lord. And then Pharoah made his third compromise of God's commandment. He said, "Go now ye that are men, and serve the Lord; for that ye did desire." Pharoah was content for the men to take their three day's journey into the wilderness without their families and possessions. But once again, Moses was not willing to accept the compromise. So Pharoah once again got disgusted and sent the Israelites back to work.

The Lord God then sent two more plagues upon Egypt: locusts came and ate up all of the plants, and then a thick darkness came over the land for three days. So once again Pharoah became afraid and called Moses in. Then Pharoah offered his fourth compromise of God's commandment. He said, "Go ye, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you." But once again Moses would not accept the alteration for God said to take their possessions with them. Upon this Pharoah had it, and he told Moses that he would not be permitted to come into the palace to see Pharoah again. Then the Lord sent the last of the ten plagues upon Egypt. This was the plague that would bring Pharoah to his knees before God. All of the first born children (including Pharoah's oldest child) died that night in the homes of the Egyptians. This shook Pharoah up so much that he sent messengers to Moses to plead with Moses to go and to take Israel and worship God in the exact way that God had commanded.

Moses had continually been unwilling to change or alter or compromise the commandment of God, and as a result Moses was abundantly blessed. Pharaoh had been continually willing to change and alter and compromise the commandment of God, and as a result Pharaoh was punished. Now the question that we must ask is this, Am I a Moses, or am I a Pharaoh?

"Christ, The Borrower"

By Ann Lea Engle

HEAVEN TO EARTH, NO CHILDISH FABLE,
 BIRTHED WITHIN A BORROWED STABLE,
 BORROWED PARENTS (JOSEPH'S NAME),
 LITTLE FROM EARTH HE EVER CLAIMED,
 SPIRIT O' ER SHADOWED BORROWED WOMB,
 MUST HE LIE IN A BORROWED TOMB ?
 BORROWED LOAVES, BORROWED FISH,
 OFT HE ATE FROM BORROWED DISH,
 BORROWED GARDEN, BORROWED BED,
 BORROWED PERFUME TO ANOINT HIS HEAD,
 WORLD'S GREATEST SERMON FROM BORROWED
 BOAT,
 TRIUMPHAL ENTRY ON BORROWED COLT,
 SEAMLESS ROBE FOR GAMBLER'S TOSS,
 CLAIMED; UNSHARED; HIS OWN; THE CROSS !
 HEAVENLY COINS; UNFAMILIAR RING,
 FOR PENNILESS, PAUPERED; "KING OF KINGS" !

Do Not Question The Potter

K. Matthew

When children are corrected by their parents, they feel very bad. They want to have their own way. They want to be free. They are unable to see the wisdom in the instructions which their parents give them because they are very young.

Even some times the parents will beat their children. Actually, they love them very much and they want their children to walk in the right path. Still the children feel that this should be done their way. They should not question their parents because they know what is good for the children.

In the 18th chapter of Jeremiah, verses 1 to 4, there is the parable of a potter. The Lord said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Arise and go down to the potter's house and there I will cause you to hear my words.....behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the hand of the potter; so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it."

The Israelites were God's people. God brought them out of the land of Egypt and brought them to the promised land. But they disobeyed God and murmured against God. So God sent the prophet Jeremiah and spoke to them, "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter?" (Jeremiah 18:6). What does the potter do? He moulds the clay himself and shapes it. Not according to what the clay wants, but the potter. He is the maker. He can shape it any way he likes. The pot is nothing and is very simple in the hand of the potter. The Lord is the maker of all mankind. If we submit to him he will mould us and make us as his will. You know what will happen if the pot murmurs against the potter? He will break it and throw it out. So there is no place for a question, "Will you make me as I desire?"

This is a very good lesson for our present day Christian life. We should realize that all vessels are not used for the same purpose. Some are for more worthy and honorable use and some for lowly use. We Christians are the vessels or pots, doing different work to fulfill the great ministry the Lord has given us. We are put in different corners. Let us do the work without murmuring and questioning. You should be aware of what will happen to us poor vessels when we complain. The potter is Almighty God and he will break us and throw us from our respective place.

Dear reader, if you are not yet a vessel for the Lord, our maker, submit to him in obedience. He will mould you and shape you as new. You can be a good vessel in your corner. If you are a complaining and murmuring vessel, leave that behind and be more steady and faithful. Shine in your corner as a good vessel. Be a useful pot for the maker, our Lord.



Questions :

We have a nice letter from a Bible Student in Guntur, A. P. After expressing appreciation for our Bible Course, he goes on to say: "I accept that many of the doctrines followed by Christ's church are more correct when compared to the denominational churches except in one respect of forbidding music in devotions; I mean instrumental music. The main reason put forth in support of such forbiddance is that in the New Testament no evidence of the practice was followed by the Apostles. The Apostles never carried with them even the most essential garments and much less the musical instruments: also whether any of them knew how to play on the instruments is doubtful. The Bible records instrumental music in Rev. 15:2; 14:2; Psalms 98:5,6; 150, etc. God never expressed his displeasure about this when King David time and again followed the practice. A melodious instrumental music played in a modest way enhances the spiritual inspiration. In those days the Apostles could not organize music bands, teach instrumental music, etc., and there was no evidence of their having any such talent. It is therefore too much to expect of them or follow them in that respect which they could not help. In our practice we close our eyes in prayers, but nothing is recorded in the Bible that the Apostles followed the same. As these matters do not come in the way of one's salvation, fanaticism should not be allowed to establish rigid laws and doctrines on minor matters. Please let me have your opinion on this which might be of help to me."

Answer :

Thank you for this statement and even though it is lengthy and many points are raised we will do our best to give you an answer. We will likewise attempt to show you from God's word the reason why we do not and cannot have mechanical music in our worship to God.

May I suggest to you in the beginning that the church of Christ takes its stand entirely on the word of God. It is not a matter of our having some appealing teaching on some matters and the denominational churches having their appeal on other matters. If we represent the church as set forth in the Bible, and we believe we do, then this is the one and only true scriptural church of our day. The denominational churches, on the other hand, represent the teaching of men and are therefore false and unscriptural.

On the kind of music we have in our worship, let it be understood that there are two kinds of music. One is vocal and the other is mechanical. We therefore believe in music, even instrumental music, because the human voice is an instrument, and it produces instrumental music, and we have this kind of music in our worship services. With each Christian having a voice then each Christian is to participate in worship through the use of his voice as he sings praises to God. (Colossians 3:16, 17). Paul says, in speaking to Christians, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19). It is therefore a personal matter, something that each Christian is to do. Note, first, Christians are to speak or to teach one another through singing. Second, psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are the type of songs that are to be used in our singing. Third, each Christian is to sing and make the melody in his heart, not on some mechanical instrument. And fourth, it is to be done unto the Lord or to his glory, and therefore, it would have to be according to his will. Now suppose God was including mechanical music in this verse, but of course he is not, then it would necessitate that each one not only sing but play as well. But this verse, and others, never speaks of playing but always singing and thus the kind of music God wants is clearly stated.

Going on, mechanical music represents that which man has devised. It is lifeless, cold, and artificial. It may be reasoned that there is nothing wrong with it in worship, but the fact is God has not commanded it and therefore it cannot be used by his authority. Such as the example of closing one's eyes in prayer, and with no Bible example for it, does not compare with this at all. Mechanical music is an addition in that it takes a public active part in the worship itself. There is nothing wrong with mechanical music in its proper place, and certainly there is no harm in mechanical instruments within themselves. In the home, as a form of entertainment, as a part of our culture, they have a role to play. However, God has not endorsed them for present day worship and therefore we must respect God's wishes in the matter.

It is true that David used mechanical music to praise God, and speaks of various mechanical instruments that were used for that purpose, but we must realize that David lived under the law of Moses and under that law many things were permitted that are not permitted under the law of Christ. For example, under the law they were to tithe, offer animal sacrifices, go to Jerusalem once a year to worship, remember the sabbath day to keep it holy, etc. We do not have to do those things now since we are living under a better law. (Hebrews 9:16,17; 10:9, 10). The same is true with mechanical music. God accepted it in worship at one time but no longer permits it. Now he wants us to worship him from the heart rather than to worship him with the use of mechanical instruments of music. In other words, he wants his creation to worship him instead of our detouring our worship through mechanical music, our creation. (Hebrews 13:15).

The Apostles did not use mechanical music in their worship to God, and neither did they form musical bands, etc., not because they didn't have the time or that they had no musical ability, but because God had not commanded them to do so. Remember, too, that the Lord had sent the Holy Spirit upon them to guide them into all the truth, to give them ability to speak in other languages, and such like, so if God had wanted them

to teach and play mechanical music then they not only could have done so but they would have done so.

Passages like Rev. 14:2; 15:2 do not refer to literal mechanical harps but rather figurative language is being used to describe what was heard. For sure, there will be no mechanical music in heaven. Great musicians of the world affirm the fact that the most beautiful music made is that of the blending of human voices. Through a range of voices you can get tones and sounds that mechanical instruments cannot produce. Actually, many will tell you that mechanical music hindered their worship to God, and especially here in India where so many homemade instruments are used.

These matters may not seem to be important to us but that is where we are mistaken. We cannot afford to add to God's word and include something in our worship to the Lord that he has not authorized. If we do so then we stand to lose our souls for having gone beyond God's will. It is not a matter of being fanatical, but it is a matter of being scriptural. Certainly we are not to make laws and doctrines where God has not spoken but in this case he has spoken in that he has commanded us to sing praises to him. That is the music that he wants.

Mechanical music was added to worship by the Catholic Church hundreds of years after the church of our Lord was established. Because of its introduction that church was divided into the Greek Orthodox Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church. The Greek Church refused to have it and do not use mechanical music in their worship to this day. The Roman Church, however, insisted that it be used and they continue to use it. But during the Reformation movement, and with the birth of Protestantism and denominationalism, since the many denominational groups came out of the Roman Catholic Church, then they brought many of their practices along and one of them was the use of mechanical music. There is no record available that indicates the church of our Lord ever used mechanical music in its worship. We therefore invite you to return to God's word for the truth on this subject.



**who
will go?**

Who Will Go To Uttar Pradesh?

There has been some work done in the Capital of Lucknow, and perhaps in a few other places, but as a whole, here is a large important State of India that is in need of the gospel of Christ. In addition to its Capital, it claims many important cities like Agra, Varansi, Allahabad, Kanpur, Aligarh, and Dehra Dun.

With her millions, Uttar Pradesh has many assets such as her agriculture, hill stations, educational institutions, railroads, rivers, tourist attractions, and so on. While cities like Lucknow are known for their Islamic culture, Varanasi and other cities along the Ganges are recognized as being holy cities of Hinduism. Catholicism and Protestantism has also made their presence felt throughout this State.

Who will rise up to meet the challenge to go to this State to live, work, and to preach and teach God's word? Actually, many are needed but everyone that goes will be able to make a contribution toward the eventual task of completely evangelizing this vast area.

Remember, we cannot send you nor offer you any support. We are raising the question, Who will go?, with the hope and prayer that someone can and will go.

कलीसिया का संगठन

यीशु मसीह ने कलीसिया को बनाया (मत्ती १६ : १८) । कलीसिया समस्त संसार में से बुलाए हुए लोगों से मिलकर बनी हुई है (कुलुस्सियों १ : १३, १४) यह उद्धार पाए हुआ की मंडली है (प्रेरितों २ : ४७) । यह मसीह की आत्मिक देह है (कुलुस्सियों १ : १८), व केवल एक ही है (इफिसियों ४ : ४) ।

यद्यपि कलीसिया स्वभाव में सार्वदेशिक है, यह सैकड़ों व हजारों स्थानीय मंडलियों से मिलकर बनी हुई है, और प्रत्येक मंडली अनेकों सदस्यों से मिलकर बनी हुई है । इसका तात्पर्य यह हुआ कि कलीसिया का नियंत्रण राष्ट्रीय अथवा अन्तरराष्ट्रीय नहीं है परन्तु स्थानीय है । दूसरे शब्दों में, प्रभु की कलीसिया का पृथ्वी पर न तो कोई प्रधान है और न ही कोई प्रधान कार्यालय ।

पवित्रशास्त्र शिक्षा देता है कि मसीह कलीसिया का सिर (प्रधान) है । इन पदों पर ध्यान दें : "और सब कुछ उसके पांवों तले कर दिया : और उसे सब वस्तुओं पर शिरोमणि ठहराकर कलीसिया को दे दिया । यह उसकी

देह है, और उसी की परिपूर्णता है, जो सब में सब कुछ पूर्ण करता है।” (इफिसियों १:२२, २३)। “क्योंकि पति पत्नी का सिर है; जैसे की मसीह कलीसिया का सिर है; और आप ही देह का उद्धारकर्त्ता।” (इफिसियों ५:२३)। “और वही देह अर्थात् कलीसिया का सिर है; वही आदि है और मरे हुआ में से जी उठने वालों में पहिलौठा कि सब बातों में वही प्रधान ठहरे।” (कुलुस्सियों १:१८)। अब यह पद क्या शिक्षा देते हैं? जैसे कि पहले कहा जा चुका है कि मसीह देह का सिर है, व देह कलीसिया है। सिर कितने हैं? केवल एक, और वह मसीह है, इस पदवी में उसने किसी को भी सांभी नहीं बनाया।

जैसे कि कलीसिया अनेकों स्थानीय मंडलियों से मिल कर बनी हुई है, व जबकि मसीह कलीसिया का सिर है, तब इसका अर्थ यह हुआ कि वह प्रत्येक स्थानीय मंडली अर्थात् स्थानीय कलीसिया का सिर है, और इसी प्रकार से कलीसिया के प्रत्येक सदस्य का भी। इसी बात को ध्यान में रख कर, पौलुस ने कहा, “सो मैं चाहता हूं, कि तुम यह जान लो, कि हर एक पुरुष का सिर मसीह है : और स्त्री का सिर पुरुष है : और मसीह का सिर परमेश्वर है।” (१ कुरिन्थियों ११ : ३)।

फिर, हर एक स्थानीय मंडली का अपना निजी संगठन होना चाहिए। अर्थात्, इसका सिर (प्रधान) मसीह, सदस्यों में से अध्यक्ष तथा सेवक नियुक्त करने चाहिए जो कलीसिया की आत्मिक और भौतिक आवश्यकताओं की देख-भाल करें। अध्यक्षों का कार्य सदस्यों की आत्मिक चौकसी करना है (प्रेरितों २०:२८), जबकि सेवकों का कार्य भौतिक आवश्यकताओं की ओर ध्यान देना है (प्रेरितों ६)। यह भी ध्यान में रहे कि पवित्रशास्त्र हमें बतलाता है कि मंडली का नियंत्रण एक अध्यक्ष अथवा एक सेवक के पास नहीं होना चाहिए, इसके विपरीत प्रत्येक मंडली में एक से अधिक अध्यक्षों और एक से अधिक सेवकों को होना चाहिए। ऐसे ही एक मंडली के अध्यक्ष और सेवक दूसरी मंडली या मंडलियों पर अधिकार नहीं रखते। मंडलियां आपस में सहभागिता रखती हैं परन्तु एक दूसरे के ऊपर अधिकार नहीं रखतीं।

अध्यक्ष, पास्टर, बिशप, और प्रेजिबिटर शब्द एक ही प्रकार का कार्य करने वाले व्यक्ति को संबोधित करते हैं। इसलिये एक अध्यक्ष, एक पास्टर, या बिशप इत्यादि भी है। १ तीमुथियुस ३ : १-७ में प्रेरित पौलुस ने बहुतेरी योग्यताओं का वर्णन किया : “यह बात सत्य है, कि जो अध्यक्ष होना चाहता है, तो वह भले काम की इच्छा करता है। सो चाहिए, कि अध्यक्ष निर्दोष, और एक ही पत्नी का पति, संयमी, सुशील, सम्य, पढ़नाई करनेवाला, और सिखाने में निपुण हो। पियक्कड़ या मारपीट करनेवाला न हो, वरन् कोमल हो, और न भगड़ालू, और न लोभी हो। अपने घर का अच्छा प्रबंध करता हो, और लड़के बालों को सारी गम्भीरता से आधीन रखता हो। (जब कोई अपने घर ही का प्रबंध करना न जानता हो, तो परमेश्वर की कलीसिया की रखवाली क्यों कर करेगा)। फिर यह कि नया चेला न हो; ऐसा न हो, कि अभिमान करके शैतान का सा दंड पाए। और बाहरवालों में भी उसका सुनाम हो कहीं ऐसा न हो कि निन्दित होकर शैतान के फंदे में फंस जाए।” इन्हीं योग्यताओं के विषय में तीतुस १:५-९ में भी हम पढ़ते हैं। इसलिये कलीसिया में हर एक

व्यक्ति अध्यक्ष नहीं हो सकता। केवल योग्य व्यक्ति ही नियुक्त किए जाने चाहिए, और तीसरी, प्रत्येक मंडली में एक से अधिक अध्यक्षों तथा सेवकों को होना चाहिए। उन मंडलियों में जहाँ कि ऐसे व्यक्ति न हों जो अध्यक्ष बन सकें, कलीसिया में पुरुषों को सब कार्य की देखभाल उस समय तक करनी चाहिए जब तक कि वहाँ पर ऐसे योग्य पुरुष न हों जो कि अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किये जा सकें।

अध्यक्षों के साथ सहायक कार्य करने के लिये सेवकों को भी नियुक्त करना चाहिए। सेवकों को चाहिए कि वे स्थानीय अध्यक्षों के निर्देशन में कार्य करें। इनकी योग्यताओं का वर्णन भी पौलुस ने यूँ किया : “वैसे ही सेवकों को भी गम्भीर होना चाहिए, दो रंगी, पियक्कड़, और नीच कमाई के लोभी न हों। पर विश्वास के भेद को शुद्ध विवेक से सुरक्षित रखें। और ये भी पहिले परखे जाएँ, तब यदि निर्दोष निकलें, तो सेवक का काम करें। इसी प्रकार से स्त्रियों को भी गम्भीर होना चाहिए; दोष लगाने वाली न हों, पर सचेत और सब बातों में विश्वासयोग्य हों। सेवक एक ही पत्नी के पति हों और लड़के बालों और अपने घरों का अच्छा प्रबन्ध करना जानते हों। क्योंकि जो सेवक का काम अच्छी तरह से कर सकते हैं, वे अपने लिये अच्छा पद और उस विश्वास में, जो मसीह यीशु पर है, बड़ा हियाव प्राप्त करते हैं। (१ तीमुथियुस ३ : ८-१३)।

यह कलीसिया का ईश्वरीय संगठन है। यीशु मसीह सिर (प्रधान) है, व प्रत्येक मंडली में मंडली के अपने अध्यक्ष और सेवक हों। इनके आधिपत्य में प्रचारक, शिक्षक तथा सदस्य हों। प्रभु द्वारा दिए गए संगठन अनुसार, यदि एक मंडली सत्य से फिर जाए, तो दूसरी मंडलियाँ विश्वासी बनी रह सकती हैं। अथवा एक के अतिरिक्त सारी मंडलियाँ सत्य से फिर जाएँ, तब यह सम्भव है कि वह एक विश्वासी बनी रहे। प्रभु की योजना अनुसार प्रत्येक मंडली का संगठन स्वाधीन है, अर्थात् दूसरी मंडलियों से स्वतन्त्र है। उनका आपसी संगठन मनुष्यों द्वारा बनाए हुए नियमों के अनुसार नहीं है, परन्तु प्रेम के द्वारा है। इसलिये वे एक-दूसरे के साथ सहभागिता रखती हैं, और साथ मिलकर कार्य करती हैं, क्योंकि वे सब मसीह में एक हैं। परमेश्वर की इच्छा में बदलाव नहीं लाया जा सकता।

पवित्रशास्त्र में हम कहीं भी नहीं पढ़ते कि पतरस अथवा कोई अन्य व्यक्ति कलीसिया का सिर (प्रधान) रहा हो। हम कहीं भी नहीं पढ़ते कि एक अध्यक्ष (बिशप, पास्टर) या प्रचारक एक से अधिक मंडलियों पर अधिकार रखता हो। इसी प्रकार से क्लेरजी (पादरी लोग) और लेइटी के विषय में भी हम बाइबल में, कहीं नहीं पढ़ते। वास्तव में, कलीसिया के परमेश्वरीय संगठन से अधिकांश लोग फिर गए हैं और इतनी अधिक फूट व विभाजन का यह एक मूल कारण है। इसलिये, आईये हम बाइबल के पास वापस जाने का निश्चय करें और कलीसिया के संगठन के उस सच्चे आदर्श अर्थात् नमूने को स्वीकार करें जो पवित्रशास्त्र में मिलता है।



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