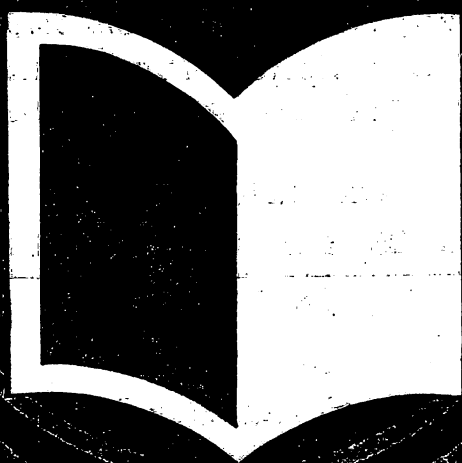


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हमारा विशेष कार्यक्रम

**“सत्य सुसमाचार”**

यह कार्यक्रम रेडियो श्रीलंका से २५ तथा

४१ मीटर बैंड पर सुना जा सकता है ।

# THE BIBLE TEACHER

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## EDITORIAL



### The Death of Christ

The most publicized event in the history of mankind, and the one that has had the most far reaching impact on all of humanity, was the death of Jesus Christ. It was one of the most horrible deaths that a person could experience, and yet one that he humbly accepted. It was cruel but it was endured because of the Lord's love for mankind. It was wicked and sinful yet through it came forgiveness.

The death of Christ is recognized as fact and not myth. This is based on historical evidence of a secular nature. We, however, will turn to the divine record as given in the Bible as a basis for this study. In previous lessons we have considered the betrayal and trial of Christ, which actually led to his death, but now we want to consider and relate the story of his death. We as Christians need to keep this fresh in our minds lest we

forget what our Lord did for us and to those who are not knowledgeable of his death, we want to take this opportunity to familiarize you with it.

To begin this story we will go back to the Old Testament and show that the death of Christ was prophesied long before it actually took place. There is not one such prophecy of this, but many. This is one of the reasons that we know that Christ is the Son of God because he fulfilled those prophecies. We'll not, however, at this time try to give you all of the prophetic utterances concerning his death but enough to clearly establish the point at hand. The prophet Isaiah said, "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth". (Isaiah 53: 1-9). The Psalmist David said, "I am poured out like water and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my

tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me : the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me : they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones : they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture". (Psalms 22 : 14—18). For the fulfilment of these you may read Matthew 27 : 12—14; Matthew 27:57—60; 1 Peter 3:18; John 20:27; and John 19:24. For other prophecies and fulfilments you may read Isaiah 53:9—12; Luke 23:39—43; Psalms 22:6—8; Matthew 27:39, 43; and Psalms 69:21; Matthew 27:34,38.

For the actual story of the death of Christ we will turn to the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We will not have the space to give the entire account as given by all four writers but you may turn and read these for yourself from Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 24; and John 19.

To give you a little background on this story, the scriptures tell us that there is one true God and that Jesus his Son was with his Father in the beginning. (Genesis 1; John 1:1—5). With man's sin, God decided to send his Son to this world to become a sacrifice for the sins of the world through which man could be redeemed and brought back to himself. Since God knew the nature of man then he knew that his Son would eventually be put to death and in spite of his love for his Son, he loved man also, and he loved man so much that he was willing to allow his Son to die on the cross that man might be saved. (John 3:16,17; Hebrews 5:8,9).

Therefore Christ was born into this world by a miraculous birth to take upon himself the likeness of man and to walk among men. He lived approximately thirty-three years and during this time he went about doing good, living a sinless life. But men were in darkness and they loved darkness more than the light. (John 3:18—21). Because of this there were those, even those who were religious, who sought to kill him. Finally, through one of his own apostles, Judas Iscariot, the enemy found a way to reach him. Christ was betrayed by Judas for

thirty pieces of silver, was given a false trial, and was sentenced to the death of the cross.

The Romans were in control of that part of the world at that time and they used the cross to kill law breakers. It was a slow, agonizing type of death and no doubt was for the purpose to warn any and all that if they decided to break the law then the cross would be waiting for them. Pontius Pilate was the governor at that time and even though he found no guilt in Jesus, and neither did King Herod, nevertheless, he had to try to keep the local people happy and contented and therefore he thought of offering to give them a choice by releasing either Christ or Barabbas, a murderer. The people cried out for Barabbas to be released but that Christ should be crucified. Therefore, he gave in to their wishes and the record says, "Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him. And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross. And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of skull, they gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. And sitting down they watched him there; and set up over his head his accusation written, **THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS**. Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another

on the left. And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, and saying, Thou that destroyest the temple and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priest mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth. Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all of the land into the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, la'—ma sa bach'—tha—ni? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God". (Matthew 27:26—54).

But really that is not the end of the story. We'll take that part up in our next study, but it goes on to tell how Jesus was removed from the cross, was buried, and then after three days and nights, as he had promised, he came forth from the grave. Then after being with his disciples a few days he returned to his Father in heaven to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to this very day. You can read about that in Matthew 27 and Acts 1.

You are likewise encouraged to take the time to read the other accounts of the Lord's death as recorded in Mark 15,

Luke 25, and John 19. You will observe that God did not just have one witness to write this story down but four. All four give the same story much as four witnesses would write the true facts of a wreck as they might have seen it from different points. For example, in the death of Christ, one may bring out a detail that the other writers did not mention. But having four to report on it adds to the overall information on it and shows God's wisdom in so arranging it in this way.

But why did God allow his only Son to die there on the cross? Why didn't he spare him? Because God knew that this was the only way for man to be saved, that is, through the sacrifice of his Son and likewise with Christ aware of this he was willing to suffer even the death of the cross. For a moment God deserted his own Son and for that time Christ had all of the sins of the world resting on him. What a heavy burden, but he bore it and thereby through him we can be saved and have the hope of eternal life. Thank God for that death on the cross because through it we can live, even live on after death.

Whether you, as a reader, realize it or not, Jesus Christ went through all of the pain, suffering, abuse, and finally death itself upon the cross, that you might be saved. Christ represented you there. He went through all of that because of your sins. He wanted to provide you with a way to have the forgiveness of your sins. You might not be aware of that, and you might not accept it, but it is true nevertheless. For the sake of your soul, and for him who died for you, will you not take the time to seriously consider the death of Christ and how it affects you? Please do because it can be the beginning of a new life for you.

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## **associate editorial**

# **The Universal Problem of Man**

(No. 4)

### **So What Is The Answer ?**

Having thus accomplished the nature and the consequences of sin we must now strive to find out the right answer to the tragic universal problem of sin. No doubt there are many people upon this earth who believe there is a God. Likewise there are enough people in the world who realize the problem of sin and the need of God. In this world of sin there are also hundreds of religious organizations, there are several so called religions, gurus, teachings and doctrines. And all of these are trying, in one way or another, to fight sin in fact, the bondage & slavery of sin is making people to realize the need of freedom, as did the Israelites when they were in the bondage of Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. Through various ways and means people are trying to find God and salvation from sins. But the Bible describes them as people "who are holding the truth in unrighteousness". In Romans 1:21—25 the Bible says, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever".

People have not believed the testimony of the true God, but professing themselves to be wise, they have made for themselves their own gods in the form of idols, for they think they would reach the true God through them. Others worship various things of nature, such as the sun, moon, rivers, stones, etc. Still others are trying to perform good or meritorious works from the human point of view, for they think they will be forgiven of their sins if they serve others. Then there are those people who are praying and pleading to God to forgive them of their sins and to accept them back into His fellowship. But Isaiah, the prophet, as he was informed of God, tells us that all their efforts, though sincerely made, are all in vain and they are futile and of no use at all. Hear him, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear". (Isaiah 59:1,2). Thus, all of the human efforts to reach God have been in vain, not because He has any pleasure at all that the wicked be left to die. But because of the presence of sin and iniquity in human beings, His face is hid and he cannot hear and save them. No, there is no fault in God, but there is something between man and God which is responsible for this estrangement. Just as there is no fault in the sun when it is hid from us, but a thick cloud is responsible for it being hid from us. So are our sins, as a great thick wall, hiding our Creator God from us. Therefore, before one makes any efforts to reach God, one must first get rid of his sin, the great wall which is separating human beings from God.

### **The Cause of Enmity Must Be Removed**

Thus, the question now arises, "How can this great separating wall of sin be abolished?" However, before we set out to find the answer to this question, there are two basic things that deserve our attention. First, the offender must be made to see his own guilt. For how can a person realize the need for forgiveness unless he is convicted of his guilt? And second, the cause of enmity should be removed. For instance, if a man

offends his father by stealing his money, this creates enmity between them. Now, for the peace to be established between both of them, it would be necessary that the son should realize his wrong, and either bring back the stolen amount to his father or submit himself to his father's judgment, so that the cause of enmity might be removed.

Now as we realize the problem of sin, and what it has done to us in our lives, and we wish to come back to God, and for our peace to be established with Him, the cause of enmity must be removed first. As already discussed, the cause of enmity between man and God is sin. Therefore, it should be removed or taken away, so that man may come back to God and have fellowship with him as a saved person. But since all human beings are sinners, therefore, there is none among them who is capable of removing the sins of any one. No doubt there are many good men and women in the world who are trying to live good moral lives, but yet it does not mean that they are sinless. In God's holy eyes they are still sinners. God does not look upon a person as we do. We try to determine a person's character on the basis of our limited knowledge. But God in his word says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts". (Isaiah 55:8,9). The inference is, we look upon a person but omniscient God's penetrating eyes can look inside the human heart and soul, and upon the basis of his holy judgment he can declare, "They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one". (Psalms 14:1—3). Thus, the question does not need to arise for any man to be capable for saving himself or other human being spiritually.

No doubt we are limited in our efforts and we cannot at all do enough to merit our salvation and trying to do so in any way would be in vain. So, we may ask again, what is the answer? How can the cause of enmity between man and God be

removed? The thing that we should know is that we have sinned against God, and actually speaking, all sins whether committed in deed or thought are primarily committed against God. For sure, therefore, only God can forgive us of our sins. We need to realize our sinful, helpless situation. We must turn to God and completely humble ourselves before Him. Since there is no other source for our salvation, and since we cannot in any way earn or merit our salvation, therefore the only hope for us is in the grace of God.

### **God's Grace Is The Answer**

Sin not only caused man to be separated from God, and to suffer other consequences, but it also caused God, the Creator, to move in His love to send His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth so that sinners might be cleansed from their sins through him. And not only did sin cause Jesus to leave his heavenly abode, and to become like man, but He even suffered physically, mentally, and spiritually many things upon this earth all because of the sins of men and even when they were not his own. Finally, he died upon a cross, not because he deserved that, but because it was the will of God that through his righteous death a perfect sacrifice might be made for the sins of the world.

By sending Jesus Christ into the world, God did not only reveal His immense love for mankind, but He also proved Himself to be the God of justice. God loves man, but hates sin. If God had only loved man, then he would have to compromise with sin. And if He only hated sin then man would have no hope of coming back to God and to be saved from his sins. But God did both. To show His love for all mankind he emptied Himself and sent his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to bear our sins, so that through him people may be reconciled to God. The demand of the law is that sin should be punished. In the death of Christ the requirement of the law was fulfilled. God, instead of punishing every individual person for his own sins, punished His own Son on behalf of every person. Thus showing His perfect love and perfect justice at the same time. Jesus, who being in the form of God but yet took upon him

the form of a man, God gave him to be hanged upon a cross as a sacrifice for the sins of all people. Jesus, who did not know sin, who was a perfect being, offered himself to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. God punished him, in our stead, for our sins. The scriptures bear witness concerning him in the following words, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all". (Isaiah 53:4—6). Thus, the manifestation of God's perfect love and His perfect justice was made through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. While we were helpless, with no hope, and yet sinners, Christ died for us. Therefore, we can be saved from our sins by the grace of God, which has appeared unto all men through Jesus Christ.

Grace means unmerited favour. It cannot be earned by one's efforts. But it is a benefit bestowed upon one who does not deserve it. Grace means a favour which is offered without any compensation. Since all people are sinners, therefore they all in fact deserve to have God against them because of sin. But instead destroying or obliterating the real offenders, God demonstrated His animosity toward sin by the cross. Thus when man was unable to reach God, God Himself came down through Jesus Christ to help man by providing him with a way whereby a sinner can return to his Maker. But all of this would have been impossible if Christ had not satisfied the requirement of God's divine justice. Christ has removed the cause of enmity between man and God. Therefore we can have peace with God through Jesus Christ. This is the answer of God for the greatest universal problem of man.

Friends, thank God, that he "hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ". (1 Thessalonians 5:9). "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men". (Titus 2:11). After the death,

burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, when his chosen disciples began to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ, they exhorted people, as they were told by Christ, saying, "REPENT (change your views and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves, instead of rejecting it), AND BE BAPTIZED EVERY ONE OF YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, AND YE SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST". (Acts 2:38). Will you trust in Him and obey Him ? So that you may be able to say, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ". (Romans 5:1).

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## Parallels of The Coming of Christ

**Mark H. Nunley**

(1) JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD THAT WE MIGHT ENTER INTO HEAVEN. In Matt. 20:28 we read, "Even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." Jesus did not come down to the earth, build a palace, and have a great host gathered around Him to praise Him. Rather, Jesus came into the world to serve the needs of other people. While upon the earth Jesus washed the disciples, feet teaching them humility and service to their fellow man ; He healed the sick ; He raised the dead ; He taught men the will of God that could save them. He left all of the glory that He had in heaven to serve our needs so that some day we might live in heaven.

(2) JESUS WAS BORN IN THE FLESH THAT WE MIGHT BE BORN OF THE SPIRIT. In John 1:1-2 we find, "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." Then verse 14, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth." Jesus in coming to the earth was born of a virgin mother and

took on the same body of flesh that we wear. And because of this we can be born again. By the new birth of the Spirit we can be taken out of Satan's kingdom to be added to Christ's kingdom. In John 3:5 we read, "Jesus answered, Verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

(3) JESUS BECAME POOR THAT WE MIGHT BECOME RICH. In II Cor. 8:9 we find, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that through He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye might though His poverty be rich." Jesus lived as a poor man when He dwelt upon the earth for some 33 years. But because of His poverty all spiritual blessings are now available to us through Christ which makes us extremely rich spiritually speaking. And we have the promise that if we will put the Lord first in our life He will see to it that we have enough physical things to get by on. See Eph. 1:3 and Matt. 6:33.

(4) JESUS WAS REJECTED OF MEN THAT WE MIGHT BE ACCEPTED OF GOD. Let's note 3 passages concerning this. Isa. 53:3 "He is despised and rejected of men : a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief ; and we hid as it were our faces from Him ; He was despised and we esteemed Him not." John 1:11-12 "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not, but as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." Eph. 1:6 "To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved." By obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ, we find acceptance before the Almighty Jehovah.

(5) JESUS WAS PUT TO DEATH THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE ALIVE. In Eph. 2:1, 4-7 we read, "And you hath He quickened (or made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins ...but God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love where-with He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved :) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus ; that in the ages to come He might

show the exceeding riches of His grace and His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." How are we made alive in Christ? In Col. 2:12-13 we find the answer, "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened (or made alive) together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses."

### **Was his Coming Vain As Far As You Personally Are Concerned?**

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." And the Apostle Paul wrote by the guidance of the Holy Spirit in Gal. 3:26-27, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."



## **Who Will Go To Kerala?**

Kerala is one of India's most beautiful states. It is located in the south along the western coast extending to the very tip end of the country. The weather is warm and tropical the year around. It is noted for palm trees, canals, tea plantations, and fishing.

This State has a very high literacy rate and the people are leaders in various fields.

According to secular history, the Apostle Thomas came to South India and probably landed at one of the ports of Kerala. Even to this day there are to be found there those called the Syrian Christians, who claim to date back to the time of Thomas. Of course they do not even come close to resembling pure New Testament Christianity as set forth in God's word, which only indicates how easy it is to drift into error. Also in the Cochin area there is a Jewish Community dating back for perhaps hundreds of years.



There are many in Kerala who believe in Christ and they have distinguished themselves as being very zealous people who are willing to go throughout India and even to neighboring countries to spread the message of Christ.

Bro. K. V. George, Bro. Carl Johnson and others have worked some in this State and there are a number of congregations of the Lord's church already there. However, very little has been done in comparison to the need. For instance, as far as we know, the church has not yet been established in the capital of Trivandrum. This needs to be done. Also, other prominent cities are Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam, Cochin, Ernakulam, Trichur, Palghat, Calicut, Tellicherry, and Cannanore.

Who will go to this paradise State to preach the gospel and to work for the Lord? Perhaps you can. Maybe someone in the South India area can go over and help in this effort. It is believed that if this could be done, good results would follow.

Remember, we cannot send you or help you financially, but we can provide literature and pray that you are the one to go and that you can do the job that needs to be done. We pray that Kerala can soon be evangelized and that it can become a power house for the cause of Christ and in spreading the gospel to the rest of India.

## Behold, We Are The Sons Of God

**K. Mathew**

It is a great privilege for men to be a members of a good family or a well known society. People respect them because they know that these people are from such a group. This is a very common thing in our country. These people have more opportunities than others do. They have a wider choice in society. But this is only in this world and for this world. According to the Apostle John in 1 John 3:1: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we

should be called the sons of God." Here is the real thing that matters. God so loved us, even us, that he gave his only begotten Son to die for us to make us his children. Once we were away from his face, on our own ways, enemies of our heavenly Father, but still he loved us and sent his Son Jesus Christ. While we were yet sinners Christ died for our sins. Realize the love of God. So now we are a chosen people, God's own people. His children we are in the world but not of this world. We do not run after the passions of this world but to live a good life.

We are the sons and heirs of his eternal kingdom prepared for us. Not like the worldly pleasures because these worldly things are only for a season. After that they will pass away. But our home is forever. There is no end. For that very purpose only God called us and Christ shed his blood. Many people often say that "I own this much money and land." At the same time they are lost and do not have hope of that eternal home. What profit is there if a man owns the world but loses his soul? He can enjoy the worldly pleasures only for a season but the eternal home, everlasting life, heaven—how wonderful it is! Really heaven is a wonderful place, a home prepared for us over there.

For this reason many have suffered and died. They knew that they were going to that home eternal. Dear reader, are you in this family today? Are you striving to be a better son or daughter in this family? If you are not, this is the acceptable time. Come unto Jesus. He is calling. The almighty God of heaven loves you. He sent his only begotten Son for you, Do not think about the worldly pleasures. Do not run after the world. This is only for a season. The world may mock you or even try to persuade you to live for the world. Above all, consider God and his love by sending his Son. Through him all can become the children of God. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and obey his blessed commandments. Be born again into a new family. Be a good example. Suffer for the blessed name. What can a well known society or a good family of this world do for you? But if you are a son or daughter of the Lord's family or kingdom, it can give you everlasting life.

May the Lord give you an opportunity to come to his family and to live for him.



**QUESTION :—**A question comes from a preacher of the church : "Dear Brother, 'And these signs shall follow them that believe ; In my name shall they cast out devils ; speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.' Mark 16:17,18. I am receiving many criticisms and comments from denominational people regarding the above verses. They are stressing on miracles and healing and tongues. I explained to them that the healing and miracles were in the days of the Apostles. We are not heirs of the Apostles. In this regard I request you to help me to give a proper and direct answer to the denominational people."

**ANSWER :—**Thank you so much for your letter and for your question. Let me say in the beginning, however, that you are faced with a problem that many are faced with all over the world. The problem is not that we cannot present the truth to these individuals but rather the problem is that of getting them to accept the truth. There are those who love darkness rather than light (John 3:19,20), who love the praises of men more than the praises of God (John 12:42,43), and who claim to be able to cast out devils, etc., but the Lord does not know them. (Matthew 7:21-23). It is hard to teach someone the truth when his mind is made up and closed to the truth.

But concerning Mark 16:17-18, all you need to do is to remind these people that they need to read the entire setting which begins with Mark 16:14 and goes on through the remainder of the chapter. The Lord begins by speaking to the eleven Apostles. This was after Judas had betrayed him and before Matthias was chosen to take his place. He is speaking to them and each time he speaks of "them" and "ye" he is speaking to the Apostles. These are the ones to whom he promised to

send the Holy Spirit to give them miraculous power. (John 16:7,13). Later in Acts 2 it was the Apostles who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. All others received the gift of the Holy Spirit which carried no miraculous power with it. If it is claimed that all received the baptism of the Holy Spirit then why was it necessary for the Apostles later on to lay their hands on certain ones that they might have the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit? Even then they did not lay their hands on all Christians to give them this power. Read Acts 8.

Now getting back to our text, you will note that it was the Apostles who would cast out devils, speak with new tongues, take up serpents and drink deadly poison without it hurting them, and to heal the sick by laying their hands on them. Furthermore, they had the power to even raise the dead. But who was it that was given this power? The apostles. Anyone else? No one else except those the Apostles laid their hands on to give them such power. Now are there any Apostles living today? Are there any people living that can say that the Apostles laid their hands on them? If not, then there are no people today who can do these things. Why can't they do them? Because the Lord hasn't baptized them with the Spirit and he has not done so because he has not promised to do so. That doesn't limit the Lord's power, but rather his power is demonstrated when men do what he says.

People love to be deceived. They like to think they have power. But who today can cast out devils? Those who claim to cast out devils are in religious error. They are in churches that they cannot read about in the Bible. They wear names that are unknown to the Bible. Therefore they are of Satan. Now then, can Satan cast out Satan? If these people should come across someone with an actual devil in him, as in the days of the Apostles, they would be like the seven sons of Sceva, when they tried to cast out an evil spirit in the name of Jesus, "And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." (Acts 19:15,16).

Who today can speak with new tongues or languages ? When their preachers come from England or America, without any former study, can they preach in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, or some other local language ? Certainly not. They have to have a translator to help them to convey their doctrine that those who have been baptized with the Holy Spirit can speak with new tongues but they cannot do so themselves. They are fakes and imposters. Why can't intelligent people see that ? When the Apostles preached in new tongues on the day of Pentecost, all heard and understood in their own language. (Acts 2:6). Wake up people ! Don't allow these imposters to deceive you.

Can these people pick up serpents ? Some of their Pentecostal friends in America have been trying this and they have found out that these snakes can kill them. Several have already died. Oh yes, they claimed to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, to speak in tongues, etc., but when bitten by a poisonous snake they died nevertheless. The snake didn't know that they were supposed to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Of course the problem was that God didn't give it to them. So God was not on trial but their doctrine was and it failed them.

Where are those who can drink a deadly poison and survive ? My advice to you would be ; don't try it to find out. The Apostles, however, could have been given poison to drink and it wouldn't have hurt them. Why ? Because the Lord gave them the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to do the work that he sent them to do. We do not need that Power because we have the word of God to guide us and so do all others who will accept it.

Are there any today who can miraculously heal the sick ? Not one. Oh yes, there are many claims made, but no evidence whatsoever. Sai Baba also claims to perform miracles, but do you believe that he can ?

Now going back to the text, you will note that the "He" that the Lord speaks of is the individual that hears the gospel preached by the Apostles and therefore it is that he that believes and that he that is baptized and consequently that he that is saved, but that he was not given any miraculous power.

The Lord did not say "he" shall do these things but rather "they" shall do them. Therefore, the Apostles could do them but "you" can't.

That means then that we are not recipients of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and as a result we cannot do any miraculous deeds today. To say otherwise is to make a liar out of Christ and to reject his word.

## Waiting on the Lord

Among those who claim to be believers in Christ there is always someone talking about waiting on the Lord. To be more exact, there are many who offer this as their reason for not being more active. They say that they are waiting on the Lord to reveal his will to them, to tell them what to do, so they will know the right course to take. They mean by this that the Lord is going to speak to them or in some way reveal his will to them separate and apart from his word. If you should be one of these, and you may well be, since we have many readers, and this is the usual concept of the majority here in India as to how the Lord works, but if you are one of them then you are waiting in vain. Instead of you waiting on the Lord he is waiting on you to do his will. You remember how Saul was waiting but the preacher came to him and said, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord". (Acts 22:16). Also, as you read through the story of Saul's conversion in Acts 9 and 22 you will note that it was not Christ who told him what to do but a preacher of the gospel. Of course in this case the Lord did appear to him but this was in the time of miracles and prior to the time that the new Testament was given in written form.

The God of heaven has given his will to man and through this he reveals his teaching and gives instructions as to what he wants man to do. It is not necessary for any man to wait for the Lord to reveal his will to them because the only will that he has for man has already been revealed. He has not pro-

mised to, and neither will he, speak directly or in some other way to any man. He will not speak directly or indirectly, that is, apart from his word, to make known or to convey any message of any kind to any human being anywhere in this world. To do that would make him a respecter of persons, unless he dealt with every man in the same manner, and since he is no respecter of persons then you can be certain that he is not involved in such a practice. (Acts 10:34,35).

In the next place, why should the Lord have to speak to any man? Why should man have to wait on the Lord to speak to him? What would be the purpose of it? He has already given his word to the world and he has asked his disciples to go to all the world, to all nations, and even to every creature to preach its message. (Mark 16:15, 16; Matthew 28:19,20). On reading the word, or hearing it taught, faith is produced (John 20:30, 31; Romans 10:10), and then it is up to the individual to either accept it or to reject it.

Why would the Lord reveal his will to man and then find it necessary to speak directly to man concerning his will for him? As pointed out, that would make him a respecter of persons if he spoke to you in that manner and didn't speak to me in the same way. But should he find it necessary to do that, then what was the purpose of giving his word if it is not complete and final? Also, why should any man have to wait on the Lord and why would the Lord make any human being wait if it is up to the Lord to speak directly to him?

Next, the question arises if that means that the Lord cannot directly speak to man. He cannot speak anything that would be contrary to his will, if so that would make him a liar, and the Bible says on the one hand that his word is truth (John 17:17), that it is complete and perfect (James 1:25), and that it completely furnishes man to every good work (2 Timothy 3:16, 17), and on the other hand we are told that God cannot lie. (Hebrews 6:18). Therefore, he cannot and will not speak directly to you about any matter. If you are waiting for him to do so then you are wasting your time.

The foregoing does not mean that God is dead, that he cannot see or hear, or that he is not with us. Neither does it

mean that he does not lead us or guide us. He does so but through his word and by his providence. He is with us and in us, hears us and answers our prayers if they are according to his will and for our good. You remember that Paul revealed that all things work together for our good if we love the Lord and are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28).

The important thing to remember, therefore, is that we should hear God's will for us as revealed through his word, act on it, and be assured that the Lord will take care of the rest. Don't worry about having to wait on the Lord. He is more than aware of your needs, has already provided for them, and will more than adequately care for you. Are you waiting on the Lord? If so, don't wait any longer—he is waiting on you. Will you not hear him, arise and obey his teaching by believing in Christ (John 3:16), repenting of your sins (Acts 17:30), confessing your faith in Christ (Matthew 10:32), and being baptized (buried in the water) for the remission of your sins? (Acts 2:38). If you will the Lord will save you and add you to his church. (Acts 2:41, 47). Regardless of who you are or where you are, the Lord invites you to obey him. You may be a preacher, teacher, and a great sinner, but God's word applies to one and all since all have sinned and therefore all stand in need of salvation.

Even as a Christian you will not have to wait on the Lord. Instead he has revealed his will so the Christian will know his duty and can therefore go forth to discharge it. Again, don't wait on the Lord because he is waiting on you to act. Right now! May God bless you as you so do.

## Praise The Lord

All of the Pentecostal type meetings, and even some of the other religious groups who have been influenced by them, are well known for their verbal expressions like "Praise the Lord", "Hallelujah", "Amen", "Thank you Jesus", and so on. Per-



haps the reason they use these terms so freely is that they feel in this way that they are participating, that they have the freedom to express themselves, and it also may be a means of reducing tension and formality. For whatever reason they use them, however, it soon reaches the point where they become vain words, with little or no meaning except for the fact that it just amounts to a lot of unnecessary noise and confusion.

When people constantly use these expressions then they soon begin to shout "Amen", "Praise the Lord", and so on out of habit and therefore giving no thought whatsoever as to why they are praising the Lord. Believe it or not, but someone may proclaim "Praise the Lord" at a point when it is entirely out of place to so do. The preacher may be talking about the sin of drunkenness and someone may be heard to say, "Thank you Jesus." What is the point therefore of all of these verbal expressions during a religious meeting? It would seem that they are not used wisely, result in a lot of nonsense, and consequently end in making mockery of God and the worship that is being offered to him.

Pentecostals are famous for drawing people not so much for the purpose of hearing what they have to say in their preaching and teaching but to see and hear the show that always goes along with their meetings. They have so indulged in this kind of thing for so long they seem to think that this has to be done for it to represent true worship. It is just the opposite in that it indicates that it represents false and vain worship.

Words and expressions like "Amen", "Praise the Lord", etc., are not bad words. They are good and may be used at times if done so in harmony with God's will and in a sensible way. But just to keep repeating the same words and phrases over and over all the way through a religious service is boring and disgusting to intelligent human beings. This kind of thing usually appeals to the poor unlearned type of people who attend them. It is not that it is a sin necessarily to be poor and unlearned, at least in the things of this world, but it is a sin when one deliberately remains ignorant of God's will.

The Bible teaches, "Let all things be done decently and in order." (1 Corinthians 14:40). It also teaches that "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11).

The Lord will be praised when he is worshipped according to the teaching of his word. Yet, if you don't follow the New Testament pattern of worship, it doesn't matter how much you clap your hands, holler, shout, jump up and down, run around, say praise the Lord, Amen, and all of the other things that could be added to that, it is not going to impress the Lord to the point that he will accept it as true worship.

May God help us not to be carried away by such deceitful practices but let us hold true to his word and do what he teaches. Only then can we truly praise the Lord. Then the Lord can see it in our lives, not just hear it in empty words.

## Anyone...A Teacher ?

Gary Dennis Jones

ANYONE CAN BE A BIBLE TEACHER, but to be a good one, he must have the proper qualifications. Though they may be stated in several different ways, the basic qualifications for a Christian Bible teacher who is to be effective are knowledge, curiosity, and enthusiasm.

Certainly the Bible teacher needs a good knowledge of the Bible: not a perfect one, for this is not possible, but a basic insight into its teachings. And through constant use, one's knowledge will grow ever keener or sharper.

The next priority for the leader of a Bible-study class is curiosity, which could also be termed "good scholarship". This person should be both willing and anxious to study his lesson well before class. And more than this, he should have a desire to learn much more about the subject at hand than is absolute-

ly required so that he will be even better prepared to share with others his knowledge and insight into the matter.

Enthusiasm is very important to any teacher, but to the Christian Bible teacher it can literally be "the spark of life". If the Bible teacher lacks this quality, then he should not have been given the class in the first place. He will invariably do much more harm than good. His knowledge of the subject, however great it may be, will not be enough to overcome his weakness.

On the other hand, one who shows much enthusiasm for a Bible class, though he may be somewhat lacking in knowledge, may be considered a great asset to that class. For in this instance, enthusiasm is enough to offset the person's other disadvantages as a teacher. That is, a heart-felt enthusiasm for the Bible as well as the Bible class will cause this person to seek and find much information on all the subjects which confront him (thus, his scholarship, curiosity, preparation) and he will therefore gain the knowledge that he needs.

So we see that the Christian Bible teacher may be qualified by means of (1) knowledge, (2) curiosity (or scholarship), and (3) enthusiasm. With these things going for him he will not, he cannot, fail.

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## "The God-Man, Jesus Christ"

**Ann Lea Engle**

No money, arms, or war song,  
 With Righteousness His goal,  
 Into men's minds projected  
 New horizons for the Soul.  
 More light He shed than scholars,  
 Without school's eloquence,  
 Such words were never spoken  
 For Spiritual defense.  
 More pens were set in motion

Orations, sermons spoke,  
 Than all the army of ancient men  
 Who human minds awoke.  
 Effects beyond the poet's reach  
 (Imprint He not a page)  
 Yet He, eternal love and hope  
 Upon men's souls engraved.  
 His sinlessness, impressive,  
 Ne're lived more harmless being,  
 No single stain nor shadow,  
 Who stands such scrutiny?  
 Never an improper word,  
 Wrong action, evil look,  
 Never injured anyone,  
 Advantage never took.  
 Holy, separate and apart,  
 Above all, consecrate,  
 Demonstrated what He preached,  
 His purpose, sin abate.  
 Positive, His acts of good,  
 Absent moral blemish,  
 Merciless, their testing,  
 More perfect, none could wish.  
 The revolution in men's hearts;  
 Tremendous impact felt,  
 Unique, unfathomable His love,  
 "Behold, How God Hath Dealt!"  
 "Bleed to Bless", Christ's motto,  
 Our escape from harm,  
 Self-renunciation  
 Is Jesus, "Coat of Arms".  
 Incomparable His influence,  
 Upon the human race.  
 Two thousand years have come and gone  
 He has not been replaced.  
 My soul in wild rebellion  
 Would truth and justice flee  
 But Christ, while conquering millions  
 Has even conquered me.  
 All the brilliant genius  
 Of philosophers, the highest!  
 Can't touch the "Garments Hem"  
 Of the "God-Man, Jesus Christ".

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# क्या आपको डाक्टर की आवश्यकता है ?

लेखक—एफ० डेविड

संसार भिन्न-भिन्न बीमारियों से पूरी तरह भरा हुआ है। जिधर भी देखें ती तरह-तरह की बीमारियाँ देखने को मिलती हैं। अनेकों बीमारियाँ तो इतनी भयानक होती हैं कि वे मनुष्य के प्राण तक ले लेती हैं। परन्तु बीमारी से पीछा छुड़ाने के लिए यह अति आवश्यक है कि किसी अच्छे डाक्टर को समय पर दिखा दिया जाये। डाक्टर की यह पूरी कोशिश रहती है कि वह बीमार मनुष्य को बचा ले। यदि बीमार मनुष्य अपनी वैसे ही अवस्था में रहे तथा डाक्टर के पास न जाए तो उसके लिए यह बड़ी मूर्खता की बात होगी।

एक बहुत ही भयानक बीमारी है जो कि पूर्ण संसार में फैली हुई है। यह बीमारी मनुष्य की आत्मा को लग जाती है। इस संसार में जितनी भी भयानक से भयानक बीमारियाँ हैं उन सब में सबसे भयंकर यही बीमारी है। इस बीमारी का नाम है तो बड़ा छोटा, पर है यह सबसे भयंकर। इसका नाम है पाप। जब हम इस बीमारी के विषय में सुनते हैं तो हमारे मन में एक प्रश्न उठता है। और वह यह कि इस भयानक रोग से बचने के लिए क्या किया जाए ? कौन सा ऐसा डाक्टर होगा जो इस बीमारी से हमें बचा सके ? अनेक लोगों के लिए तो यह एक बहुत कठिन समस्या बन जाती है। परन्तु घबराईए नहीं जैसे सब बीमारियों का इलाज है वैसे इसका भी इलाज है। मैं आपको एक बहुत ही महान तथा अनुभवी डाक्टर के विषय में बताऊंगा। संसार के जितने भी डाक्टर हैं उन सबसे बड़ा डाक्टर यह ही है। इससे पूर्व कि मैं आपको उस डाक्टर के विषय में बताऊँ मैं आपसे एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। क्या आप इस बात को स्वीकार करते हैं कि आप पाप की बीमारी से ग्रस्त हैं ? क्योंकि बीमार, को ही डाक्टर की आवश्यकता होती है। यदि आप यह स्वीकार करते हैं कि आपको पाप की बीमारी लगी हुई है तो आपको अवश्य ही डाक्टर की आवश्यकता है। हाँ तो लीजिये उस डाक्टर के विषय में सुनिए—

इस डाक्टर का नाम संसार की सबसे महान पुस्तक पवित्र बाइबल में मिलता है अर्थात् "यीशु मसीह"। आश्चर्य की बात तो यह है कि इस बीमारी का इलाज केवल यीशु मसीह ही कर सकता है। केवल वह ही एक मात्र ऐसा डाक्टर है जो इस भयानक बीमारी से हमें बचा सकता है। यीशु मसीह परमेश्वर का पुत्र है। परमेश्वर की यह इच्छा थी कि उसका पुत्र यीशु मसीह दुःख उठाए, मास जाए तथा अपना लहू बहाए। यीशु मसीह ने अपने पिता की इच्छा को पूरा किया और इसीलिए ही वह संसार, का सबसे बड़ा डाक्टर बना। आज यदि हम पाप की बीमारी से ग्रस्त हैं तो हमें इस महान डाक्टर के पास जाना चाहिए।

अनेक बार बहुत से लोग बीमार होने पर भी किसी डॉक्टर के पास नहीं जाते । वे डाक्टर के पास न जाकर इस बात को टालते रहते हैं और ऐसा भी हो जाता है कि इस प्रकार की टालमटोली से कई बार उन्हें अपनी जान से हाथ धोना पड़ता है । इस प्रकार से बहुत से पाप के बीमार भी करते हैं । यह जानते हुए भी कि वे पाप के भयानक रोग से ग्रस्त हैं । पता नहीं लोग क्यों इस महान डॉक्टर के पास नहीं जाते, जबकि वह बिलकुल मुफ्त इलाज करता है । परन्तु यह अवश्य है कि जो नुस्खा वह बताता है उसे उसी प्रकार से अमल में लाया जाए ।

एक बहुत ही अच्छा उदाहरण है जिससे हम एक बहुत बड़ा पाठ इस विषय से सबन्धित सीख सकते हैं । एक बार की बात है कि एक डॉक्टर थे । यह डाक्टर एक प्रचारक भी थे । जब यह डॉक्टर इतवार को प्रचार किया करते थे तो एक जवान लड़का उनके प्रचार को हर बार बड़े ध्यान से सुना करता था । डॉक्टर साहब उपासना समा के पश्चात् इस जवान लड़के से पूछा करते थे कि तुम मसीही कब बन रहे हो । लड़के का प्रत्येक बार एक ही उत्तर होता था कि मैं इसके विषय में विचार कर रहा हूँ । ऐसे ही कई दिन बीत गए । एक दिन यह जवान लड़का बहुत सख्त बीमार पड़ गया । डाक्टर को बुलाया गया । उन्होंने उस लड़के की दशा को देखा तथा उसे दवाई दे दी । डॉक्टर ने कहा इस दवाई को छः महीने के पश्चात् लेना । परन्तु लड़के ने कहा, डॉक्टर साहब यह तो बहुत ही लम्बा समय है । शायद मैं इससे पहले मर ही जाऊँ ! डॉक्टर ने कहा यह तो सच है । परन्तु हो सकता है शायद तुम जब तक जीवित ही रहो । लड़के ने बड़े ही रोने के स्वर में कहा नहीं, नहीं । डॉक्टर ने कहा अच्छा चलो एक महीने के पश्चात् वे लेना । लड़के ने कहा, जब तक शायद मैं जीवित ही न रहूँ । डॉक्टर ने कहा यह सच है । पर हो सकता है तब तक तुम जीवित ही रहो । लड़के ने जोर से चिल्लाकर कहा डॉक्टर साहब नहीं । डॉक्टर ने कहा एक सप्ताह के पश्चात् ले लेना । लड़के ने फिर इन्कार किया । डॉक्टर ने कहा यदि कल लो तो कैसा रहेगा । लड़के ने उत्तर दिया हो सकता है कल का दिन आने से पहले ही मैं मर जाऊँ । लड़के ने डॉक्टर से कहा मुझे आज ही लेने को क्यों नहीं कहते । डॉक्टर ने कहा अच्छा आज ही ले लो । इस काफी देर की बातचीत के पश्चात् डॉक्टर ने लड़के से कहा कि मैं तुम्हें केवल यह ही दिखाना चाहता था कि तुम अपनी बिमार आत्मा को यीशु मसीह के सम्मुख लाने में कितनी टालमटोली कर रहे हो । आज संसार के अधिकतर लोग ऐसा ही करते हैं । क्या आपको डॉक्टर की आवश्यकता है ? यदि हाँ तो शीघ्र करिये । बाइबल कहती है...देखो, अभी वह प्रसन्नता का समय है देखो अभी वह उद्धार का दिन है । “महान डॉक्टर प्रभु यीशु कहता है” हे सब परिश्रम करने वाले और बोर से दबे हुए लोगो, मेरे पास आओ, मैं तुम्हें विश्राम दूंगा (मत्ती ११:२८) ।



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