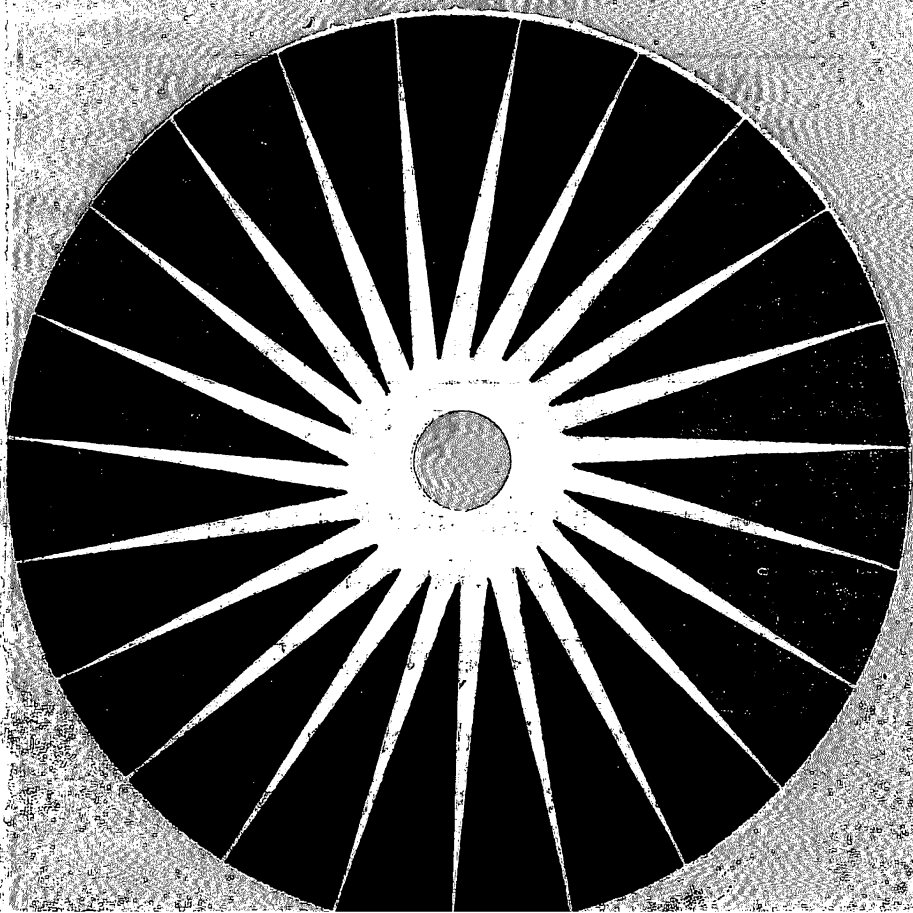


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THE BIBLE TEACHER

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EDITORIAL

The Resurrection Of Christ

In the history of mankind there have been several raised from the dead, and all through and by the miraculous power of God, but there has never been but one resurrection, that is, where one himself arose from the dead, and that person was Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In this study we will give the Bible account of that historical event and we will make some observations concerning it. It is important that we do this because our faith in Christ, and even Christianity itself, depends on the resurrection. If it could be proven that he did not come forth from the grave then it would mean that he was but a fake and an imposter, and therefore his religion and all things pertaining to him would lose their importance and significance. Although we believe in Christ, we want to know the truth and we believe that you do to. If he was not resurrected,

we want to know that. If he was resurrected we likewise want to know that. We have heard all of the arguments for the resurrection and against it, but to date we have found nothing that would disprove the resurrection. To the contrary, all of the information at our disposal clearly indicates that Christ came forth from the grave, and therefore we want to share that with you.

Secular history, the system of dating time, the millions and millions of believers in Christ, the Lord's church on this earth, and hundreds and thousands of other things testify not only to the fact that Christ lived, but that even after he died on the cross and was buried, he came forth from the grave and ascended to the Father in Heaven. For surely had he been a fake or an imposter then he would have been branded as such and forgotten long ago. We believe that other leaders of world religions lived but they died and that was the end of them. Christ died but he arose and through him there is forgiveness and hope. This is what makes Christ so different from all the rest and this is why he and his religion alone represent the true God of heaven and the one and only way to the home of the soul.

The Psalmist David prophesied long before Christ ever came into this world that he would come forth from the grave. He said, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." (Psalms 16:10). After his resurrection, and on the day of Pentecost when the first gospel sermon was preached of the resurrected Lord, the Apostle Peter said, "Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know : Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified, and slain : Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death : because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved : Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; more-

over also my flesh shall rest in hope : Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." (Acts 2:22-27).

Christ said time and time again that he would rise up again. Listen to him : "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:40). Mark wrote concerning Christ, "And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." (Mark 8:31). Again, we read : "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19). Of course, neither the disciples nor enemies of Christ understood the meaning of these statements. As to the Apostles, they couldn't picture the Lord being taken away from them, and especially by being put to death. Next, it never occurred to them that Christ could and would come forth from the death by a resurrection. With regard to the Jews, when he spoke of the destruction of the temple and raising it up in three days, they thought he had reference to the literal temple of God that existed in Jerusalem and that if it took forty-six years for it to be built, then surely he could not raise it in three days. At the Lord's trial and crucifixion they reminded him of this and counted it to be used against him as blasphemy. They also mocked him by saying that if he could do that then he should come down from the cross. The Lord, naturally, was referring to the temple of his body and indeed he would raise it up again in three days even as he promised.

But turn with me now to Matthew 27 and we'll see what actually happened. We know from previous studies that the Lord was betrayed by one of his Apostles, Judas, given a false trial, and then mercilessly crucified on a cross between two thieves. Immediately after his death, the record says, "And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him : Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children. When the even was

come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple : He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock : and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre. Now the next day, that followed the day of preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead : so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch; go your way, make it as sure as you can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch." (Matthew 27:55-66). Continuing in the next chapter, we read: "In the end the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake : for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow : And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye : for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here : for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him : lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word." (Matthew 28:1-8). Then we read concerning the enemies of Jesus : "Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken

counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught : and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day." (Matthew 28:11-15).

Now according to the foregoing story, whose story would seem to be very weak? If you will recall at the time of the betrayal of Jesus, and when he was taken before the high priest, the record says, "Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? What is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said : nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy, what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death" (Matthew 26:59-66). Later at the trial of Jesus we are told that Pilate found no fault in him at all and sought to release him because he knew for envy they had delivered him (John 18:38; 19:12; Matthew 27:18). Next, pilate thought of offering them a choice of releasing Barabbas, a murderer, or Jesus, "But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus." (Matthew 27:20). Then after the crucifixion and burial, note that "they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch." (Matthew 27:66). Then at the resurrection it says, "And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men." (Matthew 28:4). Now these were the ones who were guarding the tomb to see that Jesus was not taken away, and neither was he taken away, but

rather he arose. Then what did these men do? Did they go and tell the truth? They did, but when the chief priests assembled the elders, "and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, saying, Say ye, his disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught : and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day." (Matthew 28:12-15). Now, can't you see all the way through this that the enemies of Jesus were using every evil method at their disposal to rid themselves of Jesus? There were false witnesses, stirring up the people until they had a mob spirit, bribing the soldiers to lie, and so on. Now if Jesus had actually been guilty, there would have been no need for all of this. Had Jesus not been resurrected then there would have been no reason to bribe the soldiers. Surely any person that will read this story and will be honest with himself will admit this.

But let us go back and take another look at what happened at the resurrection. It is said that the disciples of Jesus stole away the Lord's body. There are serious objections to this argument. In the first place, those who truly believed in Jesus would have reasoned that the Lord will keep his promise and come forth as he said he would. On the other hand, many were disappointed and had become disillusioned at the death of Christ because they had thought he was going to become literal king over Israel and deliver them from their oppressors, but now he had been crucified. (Luke 24:21). Many of them went on back to their homes feeling that all had been lost. (Matthew 28:10). And of course those who find the tomb empty thought that the soldiers had taken the Lord away (John 20:13-15), and when they finally saw him they were as surprized as anyone else (John 21:1-4). Thomas even doubted to the point of not believing until he had the opportunity to see and touch the wounds of Christ for himself. (John 20:24-29).

As for the enemies of Jesus, they put forth every effort to guard the body of Jesus. Their reason for doing this was

supposedly that the followers of Jesus would steal his body away. Then on seeing what actually happened at the resurrection, and reporting it to the High Priest and the chief priests, and then on counseling with the elders, it was decided that they would not tell the truth, but would bribe the soldiers to tell the story that while they were asleep the friends of Jesus stole his body away. But to any intelligent person this wouldn't make a good story because what kind of soldiers would go to sleep and allow the very thing to happen that they have been placed there to prevent? So it is very plain and obvious that the whole thing on their part was an evil scheme to try to rid themselves of Christ in any way they could. There was no end to what they were willing to do in order to accomplish this.

In spite of all of their effort, they did not succeed. They managed to crucify Christ, but he arose from the grave. With that, he appeared before many, ascended to the Father in heaven (Acts 1), and lives on even to this day with his presence being felt around the world. With regard to those who crucified him, their problems were just beginning because his disciples began to preach Christ and within a short time his gospel was taken to all the world. The more they tried to put it down the more it grew and spread. The same is true today. The gospel of Christ is being preached throughout the world. It cannot be stopped. To oppose it or to persecute the Lord's cause is only to fan it and to cause it to spread. Yes, Christ lives and his kingdom or church lives. Moreover, because of Christ, and because the church is the body of Christ it cannot be destroyed but will stand forever. (Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 12:28).

You are invited to learn of Christ, to believe in him, to obey him, and to live for him. He will save you, make you his, be with you and give you hope. He is resurrected and through him one day we too will be resurrected to live with him forever more.



associate editorial

Wise Or Foolish ?

The books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes in the Bible are full of words of wisdom. In the book of Proverbs chapter 30:24-28, we read, "There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces."

Ants. Although they are very small and weak, they are very wise. Their wisdom is seen in the fact that they prepare their meat before the hard time come, when they will not be able to collect food. In his parable of the ten virgins Christ taught the same wise principle. He said, "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I

say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 25:1-13). Continuing his exhortation to learn wisdom through ants, the wise man said, "Go to the ant, thou slug gard; consider her ways, and be wise : Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer and gathered her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep O sluggard? When will thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep." (Proverbs 6:6-10). Friends, the lesson is evident. Christ is coming and he is coming to judge all people. (Acts 17:30, 31). Will you be ready when he comes? Have you prepared yourself to meet the Lord on that great judgment day? The Bible says that God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7); and again, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9). Friends if you have not yet prepared yourself, then now is the time. Believe in Jesus Christ, repent of your sins; confess Jesus as the Son of God, and be baptized to wash away your sins and be ready always to meet the Lord. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 22:16).

Conies. They are like rabbits, very weak and feeble. But though they are very low in stature in comparison to other animals, they are very wise in that they make their houses in the rocks, where it is safer for them than any other place. Their wisdom is seen in the fact that danger does not befall them because of their preparations, having built their houses in the rocks ! Showing the importance of building one's house on the rock, Jesus taught, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand : And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the

winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell : and great was the fall of it." (Matthew 7:24-27). Friends, where does the house of your soul stand? Is it upon the rock? And if not then it must be upon the sand. Remember, the fearful day of the Lord is coming. (2 Corinthians 5:10, 11). Where will you be found on that day? In the house built upon the sand or in the house built upon the rock which is Jesus Christ? (1 Corinthians 3:11; 10:4). Jesus says that whosoever heareth his words and *doeth* them, or *obey* them, he is a wise person because in doing so he is building his house upon the rock. (Mark 16:16).

Locusts. The locusts have no king or ruler or guide to lead them, but they are wise. They are wise because of the unity that they have among them. Although they have no king, yet they go forth all of them by bands. Christians sing a song, "Onward Christian soldiers marching as to war..." Can soldiers conquer when they are going to fight the same war, but marching individually, planning and fighting individually? Christ said, "Every Kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." (Matthew 12:25). Unity is important since it produces power and strength. United coals make a great fire, much light, and much warmth. Just before his death Jesus prayed for the unity of all his believers. (John 17). The writer says that locusts are wise because even though they do not have a king or leader, yet they stay together united and march in bands. However, Christians have a king and leader, that is, Jesus Christ, and they would be wise if they would be united under the leadership of Jesus Christ and his New Testament, believing and practicing the same thing, worshipping and working in the same way as the New Testament teaches. Jesus said that this would be the effect of unity among Christians, that is, that the people of the world would believe in Him.

Spider. She is also weak and feeble, who taketh hold with her hands, showing that she can choose to be anywhere. Her wisdom is revealed in the fact that she chooses to live in kings' palaces. Here it is noteworthy that while the writer has used plurals in speaking of ants, conies, and locusts, he uses the

singular in speaking about the spider. The fact is that not all spiders choose to live in kings' palaces, but the wise ones do. Later, Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21). The lesson is that any person can speak, Lord, Lord, or can mentally believe in Jesus, but only they who DO the will of God as revealed in the New Testament through Christ will enter into the kingdom of heaven. (See also again Matthew 7:24-27). The church of Jesus Christ represents the kingdom of heaven upon earth. (Matthew 16:18, 19). It is not of the world, but is in the world, and one day Jesus is coming back to take her and submit her to God. (1 Corinthians 15:24). Christ is the saviour, and the Bible says that he is the saviour of the church. (Ephesians 5:23). Now, when Christ comes will you be found in his church, the kingdom? Remember, he is the saviour of his church, he is coming back to receive his church, his kingdom. The spider lives in many different houses but the wise ones live in kings' palaces.

Friends, be wise. There is no time left now to slumber and sleep. Be active, prepare yourself by believing in Jesus and repenting of sins and by being baptized. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). Build your house upon the rock. And then as a Christian soldier march onward with other Christians in unity under Christ so then when the Lord comes back you may be found in his kingdom.

Reasons For Marital Failure

(1)

Mark H. Nunley

Back at the very beginning of time when God created the world and the universe and all that is in existence by speaking it into existence in six days time, we find that God Himself established the home. God created man both male and female and God decreed in Gen. 2:24. Therefore shall a man leave

his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife : and they shall be one flesh." God's plan from the very beginning of time is that people live in the home relationship. God ordains that one man and one woman will commit themselves to each other in marriage, thus becoming one in the sight of God instead of two, which is to endure to the death of one of the mates.

God recognizes one reason and one reason only for divorce, and that is fornication (one of the mates committing sexual relations with someone else). In such case the innocent party has the right before God to put away or to divorce the unfaithful mate. But this is the only reason that God recognizes. Jesus in Matt. 19:3-9 sets forth these things very plainly. But yet, God's plan is ignored and spurned as countless thousands and even those many times who claim to be Christians, divorce their mates to marry another. And that is tragic and appalling for at least four reasons :

(1) The union that God ordained and recognized is chucked for a union that God does not recognize. (2) Children are left scarred for life with the knowledge that either daddy or mommy or both does not love them, and that either daddy doesn't love mommy or mommy doesn't love daddy. (3) Those people who do such things will someday be in hell if they do not set out to make things right in the sight of God, which means in many cases that the two living together as husband and wife must leave each other either to live alone or to be restored to their lawful and God-recognized mate; and (4) It proves that sinful lusts and passions mean more to them than the Lord's will does, especially in the case where a mate is divorced so that another can be married, and I use the word married in the legal sense of the word for in the Biblical sense they are not really married but just living together. Or in the other case, if a couple just breaks up and no one else is involved, it still shows that what they want means more to them than what the Lord wants.

Now of course, the reason, or should I say excuse, that people so many times end up getting divorces is that certain hard and seemingly unbearable situations and problems deve-

lop at home. And with the relaxed regulations and opinions about divorce that exist in our world today many times where people get divorces for any reason or for no reason, divorce becomes the simple solution. But those who love the Lord and love His Word realize that divorce is not the simple solution, but rather they understand that the solution is to learn to deal with, and to cope with, and to solve, and to make better the problems and situations by using the Word of God as our guide and blue-print.

In light of these things, then, it would seem that there is need of some teaching on this subject that would help people to overcome their problems which sometimes seem to become almost unbearable and insurmountable problems in order to keep their marriages together. So that is what we are wanting to do. The "experts", those who are marriage counsellors and even a preacher or elder that counsel with people having marital problems, give to us a list of several reasons why marriages sometimes break up. So we are wanting to think about these reasons in light of what the Word of God would teach us about them.

Now—a word of caution: Just because one or more of these situations may be true at your home or at my home, DOES NOT mean that divorce is the inevitable result! Divorce is not even considered as a possible alternative by true Christians, except of course in the case of fornication. The reason that we bring these things out is to set forth what the experts tell us and what we can do about these situations in the light of the Word of God to make our homes more what they should be and to avoid the temptation to take the "easy-way-out-of-divorce".

So many people when having troubles decide that they don't really love their mate anymore. Have you ever heard anyone say, "I just don't love my husband (or wife) any more"? Have we ever said things like that? I certainly hope not! Do you know what that is an admission of? It is an admission that I have disobeyed the Lord! Eph. 5:23-25 makes it clear that God expects husbands to love their wives. And

Titus 2:4 makes it clear that God expects wives to love their husbands. To say then that you do not love your mate anymore is to admit that you openly rebel against the commandment of God—it's just that simple. Love is something that is developed and cultivated, and husbands and wives must be about the business of nurturing and developing their love towards each other continually. Love must be at the basis of every marriage if that marriage is to be happy and to be what God expects it to be.

With these things in mind in way of introduction, be sure to look for our second article in this series on marriage problems as we get into some of the problems and solutions in the Bible.



Who Will Go To Tripura ?

Here is a State somewhat isolated not only from the main body of India but also from the eastern section of the country in that it is almost entirely surrounded by Bangladesh except for the east part and there it is bordered by the States of Mizoram and Assam. Its capital, Agartala, is on the border of Bangladesh. Because of its strategic location it is off limits to foreigners. Therefore, it is up to the Christians here in India to take the gospel to this State, and indeed the responsibility rightfully belongs to you.

Who will go there to live and work for the Lord? Will you accept this challenge? We cannot send you or support you but we can encourage you and pray for you, that is, if you can and will go.



QUESTION :

A reader writes from Rajasthan : "Dear Sir, Thank God for the wonderful magazine, 'The Bible Teacher'. It helps me to understand the Bible and especially such subjects as the one on 'The Work of the Holy Spirit.' I agree with the points you referred to here. But I am often confused when I see people who speak in tongues and the wonderful ministry the so-called spirit-filled people do. I know seven people who speak in tongues and most of these people were quite against these doctrines and belonged to established churches like the Methodist, etc., and these churches have a different doctrine about tongues and the Holy Spirit. I know several 'Brethren' people who speak in tongues and as you know these people have never believed in tongues. Also, in foreign countries like the U.S.A. I have heard of Roman Catholic people (most of them are priests, nuns, etc.) who received this tongue speaking experience in large numbers. I am sure also you know about the 'Jesus people' in America. Several Hindus have been wonderfully healed and saved. What does all of this mean? Can we say that the work of the Holy Spirit and tongues were finished as the Apostles died? Also, in Acts 2:17, 'I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh...shall prophesy...' etc. When was this fulfilled? On Pentecost? If the Apostles spoke in tongue or were filled by the Holy Spirit, then what about 'all flesh', 'daughters and sons shall prophesy', etc., etc. mean? These are my sincere and personal questions that often confuse me. I hope you don't mind to clear my confusion up as much as possible. Praying for your ministry."

ANSWER :

Although we have dealt with the question of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, and other such matters,

we are nevertheless happy to have this letter and to make further comments on this subject.

Let me say in all seriousness that none of the people, that you have referred to, have actually spoken in tongues as the Bible teaches. No doubt they are sincere about it but they are sincerely mistaken. They have, however, been deceived. They have heard of others speaking in tongues, have been taught that it is possible to speak in tongues, have attended services where such supposedly took place, have had a desire to be more spiritual, and have therefore been led to believe that this is the way to do it. But let me repeat, these people have been deceived. They have not spoken in tongues and neither can they or will they. They may have made some sounds, and probably in imitation of those that they have heard, but this means nothing whatsoever. According to the Bible this is further evidence that they are deceived.

When you go to the scriptures you will find that only the Apostles, Cornelius and his household, and those whom the Apostles laid their hands on, were the only ones to have ever spoken in tongues. Read Acts, chapters 2, 10, and 8.

In the next place, speaking in tongues had to do with speaking in other languages. In other words, the Lord gave the Apostles, and those on whom they laid their hand, the ability to speak in other languages so they could proceed to preach the gospel regardless of the language the people spoke. One of the reasons for this was because at that time the New Testament had not been given in written form, and therefore, the Lord gave them the power to speak in different languages so they could more quickly spread the gospel and at the same time that within itself was a sign that they were teaching God's word. For example, when the Apostles preached on the day of Pentecost the record says that they began to speak in other languages and that every man heard in his own language. (Acts 2:4-6). This made it possible for the gospel to be preached to a large number of people on the spot in their own language, or languages, and as a result about three thousand people obeyed the Lord and were added to the church on that very day. (Acts 2:41, 47).

Please note that the Apostles did not get off somewhere to themselves to have a tongue speaking service with no one understanding what the others were saying. That is, what they, would have done if they had done like people do today. But they had the truth instead of error and so they could speak in various languages without being embarrassed and having to explain why do one could understand what they were saying. Indeed the people could understand what they were saying and that was the purpose of speaking in tongues. Furthermore, it was not for the believer but for the unbeliever. Today it is just the opposite. We are told that tongue speaking is not for the benefit of the unbeliever but for the believer. But let's see what the scriptures say. Paul says, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?...If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God." (1 Corinthians 14:18-27).

Now you will observe that Paul says that he spoke in tongues. That is, he had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit as an Apostles and therefore by the power of the Holy Spirit he could speak in different languages. He goes on to show that he had rather speak five words that could be understood than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. An

unknown tongue was where an individual spoke in his own language with his audience being unable to understand him. Later Paul explains that where this is true, then he should keep quiet unless there is someone present who has the power to interpret or translate. In the course of this discussion you will note that he specifically says that tongues (the ability to speak in other languages as given by the power of God) are for a sign, not to the believer but to the unbeliever. In other words, the Lord gave the Spirit to the Apostles and a limited number that they laid their hands on, so that they could speak in other languages to reach the unbeliever and to convert him to Christ. Such is not for the believer because he is already converted. To support this, he says that if the church gathers and all begin to speak miraculously in tongues, then if unbelievers comes in they will think that they are mad.

And so from that day to this there has been no miraculous tongue speaking. There have been imitations, deceitful attempts, but they have not been genuine. Those that claim to do these things are divided into different churches, wear different names, teach opposing doctrines, and fight one another. Even if it was possible to have the Spirit, which would enable one to do these miraculous things, surely the Spirit would not be working in all of these different groups, leading one to do one thing and another to do something else, leading one to teach one thing and another to oppose it, etc. In that case the Spirit would be working against himself. Surely this cannot be and the religious division that these people are in tells the story. Jesus said by their fruits ye shall know them and truly this is the case with these people.

The Spirit was poured out upon all flesh. Through the Apostles, all have been blessed. The Spirit guided the Apostles and others in writing the New Testament and it has come down to us. All have been blessed through this. The gift of the Holy Spirit (non-miraculous) has been given to all who have obeyed the Lord and so all have been blessed in this sense. With reference to sons and daughters prophesying, this has to do with teaching God's word. So Peter says that

Joel's prophecy concerning the Spirit was on this day (Pentecost) being fulfilled and the world has been blessed by the Spirit since that time. The Spirit lives and works and blesses even to this day. Just because he doesn't enable people today to perform miracles, speak in tongues, and do all the things that false teachers claim, that does not mean that he does not live. He does live and we therefore need to listen to the Spirit's word and do what he says. Once we do this then we can be saved, be members of the same church, the Lord's church, worship together, work together, and teach the same thing because then and only then can we truthfully say that we are being guided by the Holy Spirit and that we are bearing the fruits of the Spirit.

Christian Giving

No. 1

Vipul Rai

The Lord's church is pleading to restore New Testament Christianity and claims to go back to the Bible, yet sad to say, individual members of Christ's body have not yet learned to give according to the New Testament pattern. Usually we resent preachers who seem to be after our money as they continually preach that we should give more. But we need to take this more seriously, because we give to the Lord and not to the preacher. Christ's law does not tell us *how much* to give, but it shows us *how* to give. I hope this article will help you give more.

Turn with me to Exodus 35, concerning the building of the tabernacle. "Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, 'This is the thing which the Lord has commanded. Take from among you an offering to the Lord; whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the Lord's offering: gold, silver and bronze;...' (Ex. 35:4-5). "And they came, every one whose heart stirred him, and every one whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord's offering to be used for the tent of

meeting,...So they came, both men and women; all who were of a willing heart brought broaches and earrings and signet rings and armlets,...And all women who had ability spun with their hands, and brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet stuff and fine twisted linen; all the women whose hearts were moved with ability spun the goat's hair.... All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work which the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done, brought it as their freewill offering to the Lord... And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every able man in whose mind the Lord had put ability, every one whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work; and they received from Moses all the freewill offering which the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, so that all the able men who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, and said to Moses, 'The people bring much more than enough for doing the work which the Lord has commanded us to do.' So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, 'Let neither man nor woman do anything more for the offering of the sanctuary.' So the people were restrained from bringing; for the stuff they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more" (Exod. 35:21-36:7).

Please note the following phrases : *generous heart, whose heart stirred him, whose spirit moved him, willing heart, spun with their hands, freewill offering, still kept bringing him freewill offerings, the people bring much more than enough for doing the work which the Lord has commanded us to do, for the stuff they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.* Beloved brethren, would not the Lord be thrilled with us if we gave like those Israelites gave. They gave *more* than was required, yet they gave *willingly*. I need not say any more, as the scriptures speak for themselves.

Next let, us have a look at II Corinthians 9. Paul thought it "superfluous" for him to write to the Corinthian Christians about the "offering for the saints", for he knew their "readiness" to give for the Lord's work. Could Paul say the same

about us? He continues, "The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind; not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work" (II Cor. 9:6-8). Let us make up our mind as to how much we are going to give each week and let us give it cheerfully, not reluctantly or under compulsion. Let us give because we want to give; not because we have to.

Turn with me now to II Corinthians 8. Here Paul commends the Macedonian brethren for their liberality and their willingness to help the needy brethren at Jerusalem (I Cor. 16:1-3). Read what he says. "We want you to know, brethren, about the grace of God which has been shown in the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of liberality on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but first they gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. Accordingly we have urged Titus that as he had already made a beginning, he should also complete among you this gracious work. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in your love for us—see that you excel in this gracious work also. I say this to you not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I give my advice: it is best for you now to complete what a year ago you began not only to do but to desire, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a man has, not according to what he has not. I do not mean that others

should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality. As it is written, 'He who gathered much had nothing over, and he who gathered little had no lack' " (II Cor. 8:1-15).

Please note the following phrases : *in a severe test of affliction, extreme poverty, wealth of liberality, gave according to their means, beyond their means, of their own free will. begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints, first they gave themselves to the Lord, excel in this gracious work (giving) also, if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a man has, not according to what he has not, your abundance at the present time should supply their want.* Brethren, do we beg our elders earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints? Or do the elders have to beg from us.

Recently our government has been threatening to put a stop to foreign money that is coming in to support Indian preachers. Are we going to wait till the Bill is actually passed and *then* start giving as we should? Are we preparing ourselves for the blow? Will all the work that is being done for the glory of Christ just fall apart when foreign support stops?

I hope this article will help you to prepare yourselves adequately. Please take this seriously and do not just *read* through this but *do* something about it. I have taken great pains in preparing this article and I would not like it all to have been in vain.

Foreign support has been a curse to the work in India in many ways. It has resulted in insincere converts and 'workers for the belly.' Perhaps the passing of this Bill will be for the ultimate good of the Church in India. For only then will we know who was genuine and who was not. Brethren, the Church in India *is* capable of supporting its own workers, building its own buildings, printing its own tracts and doing great works for the Lord—*without* outside help. We *can* be self-supported, *if we want to.*

It is only scriptural to support our workers (Read Gal. 6:6; II Thess. 3:8-9; Tit. 3:13; III Jno. 5-8). Paul said, "The Lord

commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (Read 1 Cor. 9:3-14). Paul himself was supported by the Church (II Cor. 11:8; 1 Cor. 16:6), but he earned his own living when he needed to (Acts 20:34). We need 'full-time' workers that are supported and 'sent out' by the Church in India. There is alot that needs to be done. We need men who can afford to spend all their time translating good Christian (not denominational) English books into our many Indian languages. We need more personal workers. We need men to look after correspondence courses. The Church needs men who have the time to diligently study the Scriptures and thus exhort and upbuild her members. A 'part-time' worker may not have all the time that he needs. So it is up to you and me to see that we make this possible. We simply must give more. Consider this : If only ten men decided to give ten percent of their earnings regularly, they could easily support one full-time worker and pay him the average of their own earnings. Can we not do this, Brethren? If you cannot preach, why not help others preach? If you cannot do personal work, why not help others do so? If you cannot afford the time to go out and distribute tracts, why not help someone else do so? Why not help pay for literature that needs to be printed? Why not help pay for the postage that keeps correspondence courses going? Why not 'give of your abundance' to help brethren 'in want'?

Principles For Christian Conduct

1. Does it violate my conscience? Romans 14:22, 23.
2. Will it be a stumbling block to others? Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 6:12; 8:1-13; and 10:23-33.
3. Can I glorify God in my body? 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.
4. Does it put me under evil influences? 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 23; Romans 12:9; 1 Corinthians 15:33; and 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.
5. Does it conflict with my duty? Matthew 6:33; and Hebrews 10:25.
6. Will it bring reproach on Christ or the church? 1 Peter 4:14-16.
7. Does it defeat my efforts at self control? 1 Corinthians 9:27 and 6:12; and Galatians 5:22-24.
8. Is it a work of the flesh? Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 26:41; and Romans 13:14.
9. Does it arouse the indecent in me? Philippians 4:8.
10. Does it weaken my influence as a Christian? 1 Corinthians 9:18-23 and 10:33.
11. Is it legal and honorable? Romans 12 and 13.
12. Does it violate my parents' wishes? Does it nurture and admonish my child in the Lord? Ephesians 6:1-4.

Taken from the backside of a calling card.

Proof Readers

When printing this magazine, or tracts, or booklets, first of all we turn the manuscript over to the printer and then he sets up the type. After that he brings the proofs to up and we carefully read over it and make the necessary corrections. Again it is returned to the printer and he re-sets the type of those words or sentences that have been marked for correction. He brings it to up for the second time and once more we read over the material to catch any additional errors that we might have overlooked the first time. Finally, it is sent back to the printer, he notes the errors and properly re-sets the type, and then it is printed, assembled, stiched, delivered to us, and then we send it on to you. This makes a lot of work on the part of a number of people and needless to say we do the very best job we possibly can to get out quality work. In spite of that, we allow some errors to slip through and the printer doesn't always make the corrections that have been noted. We regret this very much but all we know to do is to keep trying to do better. Naturally, we do not intentionally allow any errors to pass through and we are usually aware of them before it is sent to you. Still, we are human and no matter how we try to do better no doubt some errors will continue to go by unnoticed. I do but seriously if it would be any different if some of our readers were in charge of the proof reading and the printing because they are human too. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't try to do better but when a printing error is spotted the individual should ask himself the question, "Could I have done any better?" Sure, that particular error might have been caught, but what about all the other errors that might have been allowed to go by. And so it goes.

It is a little discouraging to have some of our readers to go through the material, pick out every error, and then write us about it. Do they think we are not aware of these errors and therefore it is necessary for them to inform us about them? Did we not write the material, proof read it, and then read it when it finally came from the press? Do they think that we cannot spell, that we cannot see the errors that are there? Do

they think that we put them there intentionally? Perhaps we need to have such individuals to become our proof readers. If we did, however, I would predict that there would be many more errors.

It is amazing that such people are giving more attention to the printing makeup than to what is actually being said. To be plain with you, if these people are reading this material for the sole purpose of finding errors then it is a waste of our time to send it to them and it is a waste of their time to go through it. As pointed out, we are already aware of the errors before they write in to point them out. Therefore we don't appreciate at all such critical letters.

Now if these people find some objection to the subject matter, can point out some error in the teaching being presented, or have questions relating to the material, then we would be most happy to hear from them. We feel that in this case that their letters of criticism or correction would have to do with their faith instead of just finding fault for the sake of finding fault.

This literature, and all literature that we send out, is sent to one and all for the purpose of teaching God's will. We are sending it in the interest of souls. We would hope that the ones who receive it would take it in that spirit and would therefore read and study it in light of what the Bible teaches. Don't read it to see how many printing errors you can find, because this indicates absolutely no interest at all, and neither it show any intelligence, but rather read it carefully, and prayerfully for the content. Then and only then will it accomplish the purpose for which it was sent to you.

“Weighed In The Balances And Found Wanting”

Mark H. Nunley

In Daniel 5 we find an Old Testament account that gives so much in the way of valuable instruction to us. King Belshazzar,

who was the king of the Chaldeans, had prepared a great feast for the nobles of his country. At this feast as they worshipped their idols, we find Belshazzar, his wives, his concubines, and his nobles drinking wine from the vessels that they had seized from the temple of God when taking Judah captive. And during this feast, a hand appeared and wrote a message on the wall: "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin." The message meant: "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. The kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." And the Bible says that Belshazzar was so afraid that his knees knocked together. Belshazzar had lifted himself up against God, so God stepped in to bring him low. That very night the Chaldeans were overthrown in battle, and king Belshazzar was killed.

The particular part of the message that has so much to say to us is the second part, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." It is a terrible thing, but a great many people today are wanting or deficient in God's sight as He weighs them on His righteous scales of justice. What are some ways that we can be found wanting or lacking or deficient as we are weighed in the balances?

- (1) By refusing to become a Christian. See II Thes, 1:7-9 and Mark 16:16.
- (2) By trying to become a Christian in some other way than God's way. What is God's way? Faith in Christ (John 3:16); Repentance of our sins (Acts 17:30); Confession of our faith (Rom. 10:9-10); and Baptism for our sins to be washed away which is a burial in water (Acts 22:16 and Romans 6:3-4).
- (3) By failing to faithfully attend all of the services of the church of our Lord. (Heb. 10:24-26).
- (4) By worshipping in ways that God does not authorize. What is God's pattern for our worship on the Lord's day? Partaking of the Lord's Supper *every* Sunday (Acts 20:7 and Matt. 26:26-30); Singing praises to God from the heart *without* mechanical instrument of music accompanying the singing (Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16-17 and Rev. 22:18-19); Giving of our money as God has prospered us (I Cor. 16:1-2); Praying to God the Father through or in the name of Jesus (Eph. 5:20 and I Thess. 5:17-18); Preaching or teaching the word of God (Acts 20:7).

- (5) By failing to try to lead others to be Christians. See Matt. 28:18-23 and Eph. 3:10-11.
- (6) By failing to set righteous example for others to follow. See Matt. 5:16.
- (7) By failing to have a loving, forgiving attitude...have one holds grudges. Matt. 6:14-15.
- (8) By entering into sinful recreation (such as: drinking, dancing, smoking, gambling, committing fornication, etc.). See II Cor. 6:17-18 and Col. 3:1-17 and Gal. 5:19-21.
- (9) By failing to use our time, money, and abilities for the Lord. See Matt. 25:14-30.
- (10) By failing to remain faithful as a Christian. See Mark 13:13 and Rev. 2:10.
- (11) By failing to help those around us that are in need. See Matt. 25:31-46.

The eleven areas by no means cover all of the ways that we can be found deficient or lacking or wanting in the Lord's sight, but they give to us much to think on. ARE YOU FOUND WANTING IN GOD'S EYES?

“क्या मैं फिर से बपतिस्मा लूं” ?

लेखक—एफ० डेविड

अधिकतर लोग बपतिस्मे के विषय में सत्य को नहीं जानते। लोग बपतिस्मे के विषय में अपने भिन्न-भिन्न विचार प्रगट करते हैं। अनेकों लोगों का विचार है कि बपतिस्मा मसीही धर्म का एक साधारण चिन्ह है। बहुत से लोग बपतिस्मा शब्द के अर्थ तक को भी नहीं जानते। यदि हम सत्य में बपतिस्मे के अर्थ को जानना चाहते हैं तो हमें पूर्ण रूप से पवित्र बाइबल की ओर फिरना होगा। बाइबल का दूसरा भाग अर्थात् नया नियम जो कि विशेष रूप से मसीहीयों के लिए है सबसे पहले यूनानी भाषा में लिखा गया था। यूनानी भाषा में बपतिस्मे को “बैपतीजो” कहते हैं। तथा बैपतीजो शब्द का अर्थ है गाड़े जाना। एक मसीही बनने के लिए बपतिस्मा लेना एक बहुत बड़ी आज्ञा है। आज लोगों ने बपतिस्मा शब्द के अर्थ को विपरीत कर दिया है। उन्होंने इसके अर्थ को छिड़काव करना अथवा पानी उंडेलना समझ लिया है। परन्तु बपतिस्मे का अर्थ छिड़काव तथा पानी उंडेलना नहीं है। अतः बपतिस्मा शब्द

का अर्थ है गाड़े जाना। (रोमियों ६:४, कुलुसिस्सियों २:१२)। बपतिस्मे के लिए काफ़ी पानी की आवश्यकता होती है (यूहन्ना ३:२३)।

बहुत से लोग बच्चों का बपतिस्मा करवाते हैं। परन्तु बाइबल में हम कहीं भी नहीं पढ़ते कि किसी बच्चे का बपतिस्मा हुआ हो। यह सब इसी लिए है कि हम बपतिस्मे शब्द के अर्थ को ठीक से नहीं समझते। प्रभु यीशु ने कहा “जो विश्वास करे और बपतिस्मा ले उसी का उद्धार होगा, परन्तु जो विश्वास न करेगा वह दोषी ठहराया जाएगा (मरकुस १६:१६)। एक छोटा सा बच्चा कैसे विश्वास कर सकता है। फिर बपतिस्मा पापों की क्षमा के लिए लिया जाता है (प्रेरितों २:३८)। एक मासूम बच्चा तो बिलकुल पाप रहित होता है। वह पाप के विषय में कुछ जानता ही नहीं। तो इसका अर्थ हुआ कि बपतिस्मे से छोटे बच्चे का कोई सबन्ध ही नहीं है। पापों को धोने के लिए बपतिस्मा लिया जाता है (प्रेरितों २२:१६)। उद्धार पाने के लिए बपतिस्मा लेते हैं (१ पतरस ३:२१)। बपतिस्मा हमें कलीसिया में सम्मिलित करवाता है। बपतिस्मे के द्वारा हम यीशु मसीह की मृत्यु को दिखाते हैं कि जिस प्रकार से वह मारा गया, गाड़ा गया तथा जी उठा। उसी प्रकार से बपतिस्मा लेते समय हम पानी की कब्र में गाड़े गये तथा अपने पापों के लिए मरकर एक नये जीवन की सी चाल चलें (रोमियों ६:१-५)। एक छोटे बच्चे को जो कि इन बातों को जानता ही नहीं बपतिस्मे से क्या संबंध होगा? कुछ भी नहीं।

आज हमारे लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यह है कि क्या मैं फिर से बपतिस्मा लूँ? अनेक लोग हैं जो हमसे यह प्रश्न करते हैं। अधिकतर का ये ही कहना होता है कि मैंने तो बचपन में ही बपतिस्मा ले लिया था। परन्तु हम उनसे पूछते हैं कि क्या आपको उस समय मालूम था जब आपका बपतिस्मा हो रहा था। हमें उत्तर मिलता है—“नहीं हमें तो मालूम नहीं था, किन्तु हमारे माता पिता को मालूम था।” अब प्रश्न यह उठता है कि क्या हमारे माता-पिता के द्वारा हमारे पाप क्षमा होंगे? कदापि नहीं। पवित्र बाइबल कहती है कि “हम सबने अलग-अलग अपना लेखा परमेश्वर को देना है। बाइबल तो कहती है कि बपतिस्मा लेने से पहले विश्वास करना आवश्यक है। परन्तु जब आप एक मासूम बच्चे थे आप यह जानते भी नहीं थे कि विश्वास किसको कहते हैं।

प्रिय मित्रो मैं आपको यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि यदि आप यह जानते हैं कि आपका बपतिस्मा उस प्रकार से नहीं हुआ जिस प्रकार से बाइबल कहती है अथवा आप यह बात स्वीकार करते हैं कि आपका बपतिस्मा अनुचित प्रकार से हुआ है तो क्यों देर करते हैं? आज ही निश्चय कीजिये। (पढ़िए प्रेरितों १६:१-६)।



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