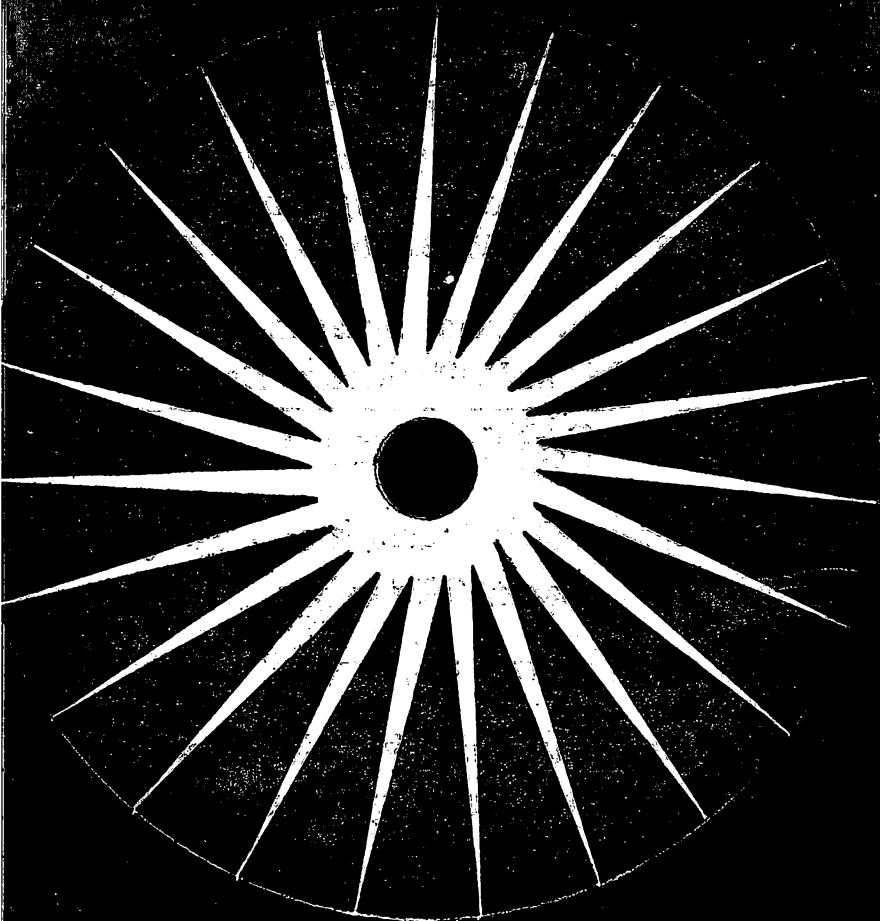


# the bible teacher



## “सत्य सुसमाचार”

हमें अपने श्रोताओं को यह बताते हुए बड़ी प्रसन्नता का अनुभव हो रहा है, कि रेडियो श्रीलंका से प्रसारित किए जा रहे “सत्य सुसमाचार” संदेशों को अब आप एक आकर्षक पुस्तक के रूप में मुफ्त प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। १७२ पृष्ठ की इस पुस्तक में १७ प्रभावशाली संदेश हैं। आज ही केवल २५ पैसे का डाक टिकट भेजकर अपनी प्रति प्राप्त करें।

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प्रत्येक शुक्रवार को रात्री ८:४५ से ९:१५ तक सुनिये

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



### A Woman's Place

Asia is a man's world. Because of religion, and old customs, the woman stays entirely in the background. She is treated more like an object, an animal, something that is to be liberated, a slave, good only for bearing children, and taking care of the house. She has been down-graded and down-trodden for so long she generally accepts this as a way of life. This is bad and wrong and needs to be corrected. Truly, she needs to be liberated.

To the other extreme, the women of the western world are promoting what they call a "women's lib movement." They say that women have been denied their rights, are not considered equal with men when jobs are given out, that they are not paid according to men who do the same job, and that women in general are only looked upon as sex objects. They are seeking recognition, jobs in those fields once held only by men, to do away with discretion when it comes to pay, to abolish the titles Mr. & Mrs., to remove from our vocabulary terms like history, newsman, chairman, fireman, and so on. They say that this exalts man's role in life and works in opposition to woman.

Somewhere between these two extremes there is a balance. It is true that some women need to be liberated and given the rights that they deserve. Others have been given their rights but that doesn't mean that they should forsake everything that is honorable, decent, and feminine. One group is reaching up and trying to find what it means to be a woman with the rights God gave her. The other group is trying to go beyond what they are, to become men, and super men at that.

Whether woman likes it or not, God created her and gave her a place, a role in life. This is not something that is to be ashamed of or to reject. In her place, woman is beautiful, productive, and powerful. But the same thing is true with man. God made him and gave him a place, a role to play in life. As long as he stays in his place and does what God has given him to do then he likewise has an important role to perform in life. But woman is not man and man is not woman and never shall they be. Each should be content with the way God made them. Neither should they want to be the other or try to be the other. Woman is beautiful as a woman but ugly as a man. Likewise, man is to be admired as a man, but is detestable as a woman.

The Bible tells how man and woman came into existence. First, man was created and then woman. The record says, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." "(Genesis 2:7) "And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him...and the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." (Genesis 2: 18-25).

God placed man and woman in the garden of Edén where they had everything their heart could want. But God placed a fruit in the midst of the garden and explained to them that they could eat of every fruit of the garden but that one and that the day they ate of it they would surely die. But the serpent came and tempted man and woman, Adam and Eve as they were called, and Eve partook of the fruit and gave to adam and he also ate of it. With this their eyes were opened to right and wrong and they tried to hide from God.

The Genesis record says, "and the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said. The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou has done? and the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said, unto the serpent. Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and the conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. Unto

Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them. And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become one of us, to know good and evil : and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever : Therefore, the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man ; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." (Genesis 3 :9-24).

Notice that God made the man and then out of man he took a rib with which he created woman.. Man was created male and woman was created female. Man was to be the husband and woman to be the wife in marriage and as such they were to be one flesh. Man was to be the father and woman to be the mother. On sinning, both man and woman were told of the consequences of their sin and although sin is not inherited the consequences of that first sin is still being experienced by all of humanity. Those consequences include man having the responsibility of making a living for his family, the earth being filled with thorns and thistles, or the problems and difficulties in making a living on the earth, and finally physical death. The woman would experience the pain of child birth, the husband would rule over her, and she also would die physically. Are not these things with us even to this day ? You know they are.

Concerning man and woman's place, Paul says. "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ ; and the head of the woman is the man ; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head : for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn : but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman

is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman ; but the woman of the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman ; but all things of God. Judge in yourselves : is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered ? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him ? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her : for her hair is given her for a covering. But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." (1 Corinthians 11 : 3-16).

Continuing, Paul says, "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that woman adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety ; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array ; But (which becometh woman professing godliness) with good works. Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in child-bearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." (1 Timothy 2 : 8-15). Again, he said, "Let your women keep silence in the churches : for it is not permitted unto them to speak ; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home : for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." (1 Corinthians 14 : 34-35).

After discussing the woman and her place, and giving Sarah as an example, Peter says, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life ; that your prayers be not hindered." (1 Peter

2 : 7). Paul goes on to say, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church... Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." (Ephesians 5 : 22, 23, 33). "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." (Titus 2 : 3-5).

Now from the foregoing let's try to sum up what has been said. What is woman's place in relation to man? She is to be cared for, protected, and man stands as a shield between her and the world. It is not that she is inferior, but she is made in a different way for a different purpose. She is the weaker vessel and man is to be over her. Her emotional and physical makeup demands this.

What is women's place in marriage? She should marry a Christian (2 Corinthians 5 : 14-17) and the general practice is for the woman to take the name of her husband as the church (spiritual bride) takes the name of Christ. She is to go to live with her husband (Genesis 2 : 24), and to be his help meet, (Genesis 2 : 18). She is to recognize him as her head and is to be bound unto her husband as long as he lives. (Romans 7 : 2).

What is the woman's place in the home? She is to love her husband, reverence or respect him and his position. She is to be in subjection to him, bear children, and take care of them. Her place is in the home under ordinary circumstances and not out on a job. The husband is the head of the house and he is physically designed to do the outside work and to make the living for his family. The Bible says that a man that won't provide for his family is worse than an infidel. (1 Timothy 5 : 8).



What is the woman's place in the church? She is to keep silent in the church. That is, she is not to usurp authority over the man. That does not mean that she cannot be asked to teach a children's class or a ladies' class but she cannot teach adult men or preach to them. She is to be known for her godly living and good works. She can do personal work, set a good example, rear the children to be faithful to the Lord, as well as many other things. Woman can do a great work in the church and have a tremendous influence for good.

What is woman's place in the world? She should stay in the background, be quiet, be busy, but not gossiping or idling all of her time away. She should be feminine but dress modestly and watch her speech. She should not form bad habits or become worldly. She can be seen in public, visit among her friends, in some cases she can work if it is in keeping with what a woman can do, and furthermore she can visit the sick, help the needy, and engage in all manner of social activities and good works that is becoming of a lady.

The Bible tells us of some great women and the good that they did even as women. Woman today is very important and has a great role to play in every sphere of life. She has a place though and if she will stay there she can accomplish the job that the Lord has given her. If she departs from that place and involves herself in things that God did not intend for her to do she will fail and lose her self respect. Again, let it be understood that to say a woman has a place is not to belittle her or to cast a reflection on her and her role in society. Rather, to say that she has a place is but to recognize the position that God gave her in the same way that man has a place.

There are things that woman can do that men cannot do. Woman can have husbands, bear children, show beauty, have feminine appeal, care for the home, etc. There are things that men can do that women cannot do because of their physical makeup and strength. They can do manual labor that women cannot do. They are stronger, tougher, and able

to endure more. They fit into positions that women cannot. They can do jobs that women should never be called on to do.

Women are to look like women by their hair, clothes, and general appearance. Men are to look like men by their hair, clothes, and general appearance. When this is the case, then each can respect the other. As long as it is left like this then there will be no problem. The problem comes when one or the other or both become dissatisfied with the place that God gave them and they try to become something else and to do a job that does not fit them.

May the Lord help us to respect God's wishes in these matters and to have the common sense to remain where he put us.



**associate  
editorial**

## Search The Scriptures

The Bible encourages us to search the scriptures. Christ said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (John 5: 39). Again in Matthew 7: 7 Jesus said, "Seek, and ye shall find." He also said, "and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8: 32). When Paul the Apostle entered Berea, the record says that he preached to them the word of God. However, speaking about them, the Bible says, "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17: 11). The very startling fact that we notice in this particular verse is that here was an Apostle of Jesus Christ who was preaching the word of God,

and yet these people would search the scriptures daily, that is, each time as they heard, to see whether the things preached by Paul were also written in the scriptures. The Bible says that they were more noble than the people of Thessalonica because they searched the scriptures. The word noble means illustrious, excellent, impressive, generous and magnificent. And this fact is amply shown in their character, as it says, they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily.

Today there are not many people who bear this character, receiving the word of God with all readiness of mind when it is preached to them. And if there are some then there is always the difficulty in finding such people who would search the scriptures to ascertain whether the things preached to them are also written in the Bible. Just because a person is supposedly preaching from the Bible does not necessarily mean that he is preaching only the Bible or all the Bible. He can also misquote or misrepresent a scripture. There have always been such people who pervert or change the gospel of Jesus Christ, who break and twist verses of the Bible and teach them to others in terms they think are right. Such people even existed in the times of the Apostles. (Galatians 1:6-9).

Have you ever wondered about the fact as to why there are hundreds of different churches and bodies that exist in the world today? The Bible very clearly shows that Christ established but one church. (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:18). Then have you ever thought why there are so many different kinds of "Christians" in the world today? The Bible speaks of Christians only. (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16). The fact is that they exist because different seeds have been sown. Christ said, "The seed is the word of God." (Luke 8:11). Now if from the beginning of true Christianity only the pure seed of the word of God had been sown, that is, if only the Bible had been preached without any human interpretation, then there would be no reason for so many different kinds of churches or different kinds of

"Christians" as exist in the world today. If people, from the beginning had always searched the scriptures about the things that they had heard and had stayed with the Bible only then there would have been no reason for so many different kinds of teachings, doctrines, and plans of salvation as they exist today.

Do you have a Bible? I know most of you have one. But if you do not have one then you can obtain one from a religious book store. It is available and in most languages of the world. Friend, I encourage you to go to your Bible and study and search the scriptures. Even as you read this magazine you are encouraged to open your Bible and see if its contents agree with your Bible. Do not wholly rely on your preacher or teacher. He may have more education and more degrees than you but remember you have the same Bible that he has. Also keep this in your memory that you will not be judged upon the great day of judgment by what your preacher has said but by the word that Jesus has spoken and as recorded in the New Testament. (John 12 : 48). For instance, Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16 : 16). Now you or your preacher may twist this verse and try to understand it in a different way and believe that is right (because baptism is a stumbling block to many people). But do not forget that Jesus said, "He that believeth *and is* baptized shall be saved..." And he also said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matthew 24:35). Friends, can we help you in your study of the scriptures? Write to us for a free Bible Correspondence Course and also if you have a question. God bless you as you search the scriptures to find the truth.

## God's Plan For The Home

**Mark H. Nunley**

Contrary to the belief of some that marriage and the home was first established by man, we find that God Almighty himself established the first home in Genesis 2. The man and the woman were created for one another to be the proper

companions for each other as they lived together: working, planning, raising their children, serving the Lord, playing, helping each other get to heaven, and whatever else they would be found doing in life. And the Lord God has laid down a pattern that we must follow if our homes are to be what He expects.

What pattern has God established for the husbands and fathers? In Eph. 5 : 23-33 we find these regulations: the husband must be the head of the wife; the husband must love his wife as much as Christ loved the church (even enough to die for her as did Christ for the church); the husband must love his wife as his own body: the husband must leave father and mother and all others to cleave unto his wife. Then in Eph. 6 : 4 we read, "Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord." So fathers have the main duty before God to bring their children up in the ways of the Lord. This means that fathers must lead the way to worship, that they must teach the Bible to their children, and that they must set the right examples before their children. And the reason that so many children go astray today is that their parents have not raised them properly in the ways of the Lord. Prov. 22 : 6 tells us, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it." If a child goes astray, it is because the parents did not properly raise them. And these parents are responsible before God for their failure to carry out God's pattern for raising their children.

What pattern has God established for the wives and mothers? In Eph. 5 : 22-33 we find these regulations: wives must be in subjection to their own husbands recognizing him as the head of the house; wives must respect and reverence their husbands: and then in Titus 2 : 4-5 we find these regulations: wives must be sober or self-controlled; they must love their own husbands; they must love their children; they must be discreet; they must be keepers at home which means that God expects the mother to be at home when the children are there. Ours is the day and age of the baby-sitter, and so the mother is never at home to look after and to properly train her children. The result

about us is quite obvious: far too many children grow up with no interest in the Lord; as criminals; as trouble-makers; full of ungodliness; etc. Titus 2 goes on to tell wives to be good and that they must be obedient unto their own husbands.

What pattern has God established for the children? In Eph. 6 : 1-3 we find, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Our homes can never be the places of refuge and security and love and companionship and training and happiness that God intended them to be if we ignore His pattern. The Lord must be exalted as the supreme ruler of our lives and our homes. Then we must all serve the Lord together, following all of His commandments and patterns, or our homes will not be pleasing in His holy sight.

Easy divorce is one of the greatest threats to the home today. Far too many men and women break their marriages for little or no reason. But Jesus Christ in speaking about this very thing said, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put assunder." The Lord authorizes ONE reason and one reason ONLY for divorce. Jesus said in Matt. 19 : 9, "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whose marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." Unfaithfulness on the part of one of the marriage partners is the only grounds that the Lord recognizes for divorce. May we recognize that God does not approve of and will not tolerate in the judgement the divorcing and the marrying of the divorced that so many people are doing.

Home after home is being broken. Children find themselves being caught in the middle and torn by the desire to be with both of their parents. Parents many times don't even want the children that they brought into the world. They enter into violent court cases over who shall have the possessions, and who will get or get stuck with the children. Then

they run out to marry someone else for a time, but when the going gets rough another divorce becomes their solution. GOD FORBID that we should continue to tolerate such ungodliness !

May we always be following the patterns and commandments of God in our lives and in our marriages so that we might truly be able to have the Christians homes and be the Christians that the Lord would want us to have and be.

## Tell It Like You Were There

Gary Dennis Jones

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life" wrote the apostle John (Jno. 3 : 16) Though this is true, certainly] it is a fact that Christ's death is neither emphasized often enough nor vividly enough.

It is stated quite often that Christ is our Savior, that He came to live among men and die for our sins, but I fear many times that we speak of this as if it was a mere historical fact, strangely remote from us in the reality. We hear it, we accept it, and we let it go at that. But it would be so much better, if we could actually hear the Lord's death spoken of as if "you are there" when it is taking place.

We have undoubtedly heard the story of Christ's trial and crucifixion so many times that we can recite the account entirely from memory and it fails to move us. This certainly is not good. His sacrifice was the most important that could have been made for us and it should move us greatly when we hear the story, as if we were actually walking with the Master each step of the way.

The shame and humiliation of it all must have been heart rending. Why, then, can we not tell it with such feeling that we understand in some small part what the Lord must have gone through? To know how another feels or must feel

at a certain time is one giant step to ward understanding him. Thus, it is of the utmost importance that we get the truest picture we can of our Lord as He was mocked and spat upon and beaten, when He was all alone... facing certain death on the cross.

To better understand some of the suffering involved we should attempt to journey with the Lord as He stands before Pilate; is beaten then forced to carry His own cross until He falters. Then, on reaching the place of execution, He is nailed, not tied, but literally nailed, to the cross. Being placed in an upright position. He is then left there to die, pain racking His physical body. His suffering of untold, assuredly uncalled for, insults, even asking of the Father at one point, "My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Surely this was the utmost in suffering and shame and pain, of physical and mental anguish. Is it any wonder that one who went through all this can understand the afflictions that beset us?

Have you ever cut your finger or stepped on nail with your full weight? Have you ever felt the sting of unfair accusations? If so, then you have just a very small idea of what the Savior was made to suffer.

All this should help us realize just how great the sacrifice of Jesus must have been. Perhaps our small minds will never be able to fathom the depth of love that made this death of the cross possible, but we do not have to understand it fully to take advantage of that precious gift.

So, after all, what is the point that I have been trying to make? It is simply this at all times we should strive to teach and explain the death of Christ in terms that will give us all a greater appreciation of it, that we will thereby attempt to show, by our word pictures, just how great a price was paid that we might have the hope of eternal salvation. It is so very easy merely to repeat something as a fact, especially when it has been heard so many times. It is more than easy to pay lip service to an ideal; but to really show the meaning of this through our words and actions, that is work. And in this case, *that is service.*





## Who Will Go to Sikkim

Sikkim has been very much in the news during the last year or two. Because of the uprising there, India has had to go in to help maintain the peace. Being a protectorate of India, this has not been surprising at all. Things seem to be near normal now.

Being a small land-locked himalayan kingdom, with Gangtok as its capital, the people are a mixture of Chinese, Nepali and Indian. Religiously, it is both Hindu and Buddhist.

Very few outsiders have been allowed in even for the purpose of tourism. However, being so dependent on India, it is only natural that the people of this country can go in at will. The main problem is to make the long trip up to Darjeeling to proceed to Sikkim itself. Very few feel a need for going except perhaps for political, business, and other such reasons. Most Christians would have no motive for going except to share the gospel with these people.

Sikkim is another place where Indians can go and a place that is dependent on the Christians here in this country to bring the gospel to them.

Will you go to Sikkim? Think about it, pray over it, and do what you can.

## What Does It Mean to Be Non-denominational?

**Jhon Hudson Tiner**

The Church of Christ is non-denominational. This fact is stated on printed invitations to revival meetings, on church

buldetins, and as a part of the literature such as Bible courses. Many members of the Church of Christ repeat the phrase with pride, "*My Church is non-denominational.*" However, when pressed for an exact explanation of the meaning of the term, many are unable to reply. Some people shrug as if to say, "It's not really important."

There is, of course, only one Church of Christ. It is a universal church. The members come from all lands of the earth—and from across time as well. This church was founded by Christ. It is the Lord who adds to the church. There is also a local congregation. The two churches, universal and local, sometimes become confused. A person may claim to be a member of the Church of Christ but he may mean that he attends the local church. Christ, not, man, adds members to the church.

The name "Church of Christ" is not copyrighted or protected by law. Any religious group can call itself by that name.

Why then is the Church of Christ (local and universal) non-denominational?

First, what does the term mean? Sometimes it is used loosely. For example, a business group or ladies club may call itself non-denominational, meaning that members from all religions are accepted. At other times the term may be used as a synonym for non-religious.

Strictly speaking, however, a denomination is a religious group sponsored or controlled by some religious sect. To be a denomination a religious group must have a central authority and a creed or code of conduct for the members.

Denominationalism began with the reformation. Groups broke away from the established churches and formed splinter groups. In order to clearly present their positions they wrote a creed. The creed set their beliefs in relief and showed their differences from other groups. The usual creed began with the words "We believe," and continued to give the main points of the religious convictions of that group.

A denomination has a central office. From this headquarters ministers must be certified or ordained. They are assigned to churches. Foreign missionaries receive aid from the general treasury, church literature in harmony with the religious creed is printed and distributed.

But the chief characteristic of a denomination is the creed which states the central principles of belief of the organization. Denominational groups provide their creed in printed form. Some groups hold this creed second to the New Testament. Others set it equal or superior to the New Testament. (This is justified by stating that the Bible may be interpreted incorrectly by a lay reader.) A person who departs from the tenets of the group may find himself expelled from the religious body and his name removed from the rolls.

Clearly this is not a minor matter. The overpowering difference in the Church of Christ and denominational groups is the Church of Christ has one and only one authority for proper behavior—the New Testament. Christ is the head of His church—and no one else.

The Church of Christ is non-denominational because the New Testament is the sole judge of Christian responsibility. There are no other artifacts to judge proper conduct. Each person must search the scripture to find safe road to salvation. If anything less than the New Testament, could have been used as a foundation to eternal life, then the inspired writers would have written less. And nothing else is needed, otherwise the Scripture would be incomplete.

The Church of Christ has no formal hierarchy. There is no "central governing body." This creates some problems. Without a central governing body it is difficult to plan and instrument large scale programs involving an entire city or state.

Sometimes minor problems arise. Once an encyclopedia needed simple statistics about the Church of Christ in the United States. (Number of members, date established, and main beliefs.) A church member would hesitate to write such

an article. There would be the fear of others thinking him presumptuous, as well as the danger of crystallizing church beliefs.

But the problems are minor when compared with the rich reward. A member of the Church of Christ who says that his church is non-denominational is saying, in effect, that his church abides by the New Testament on matters of eternal life—and upon nothing else.

## Who Is A Christian ?

**E.K. Halbert**

Outside the new Testament this question, "who is a Christian?" cannot be satisfactorily answered. Men have a number of ideas as to who may be rightfully called a Christian. Some define a Christian as one who professes to be a disciple of Jesus. Others insist that only baptized disciples may rightfully be called Christians. This discussion will be confined to these two views concerning disciples of Jesus.

First, let us begin with a definition of the word disciple. Cruden's Concordance defines the word as follows :

Literally, a scholar, a learner; especially one who believes in the doctrine of his teacher and follows him. In the New Testament the followers of John the Baptist were called his disciples. (Mark 2:18; John 3:25). Also the followers of Moses, in distinction from the followers of John or Jesus. (Mark 2:18; John 9:28). Most often the word is used with reference to believers in Christ, both those who believed during his life, and later those who joined the early church, (Matt. 27:57; John 19:38; Acts 9:36). The twelve Apostles, also, are frequently called by this name, (Matt. 10:1; John 20:2).

The word "Christian" is used three times in the New Testament. It is not found in the Old Testament. Following are the three quotations in which the word "Christian" is found:

Acts 11

26 the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Acts 26

28 Agrippa said unto Paul, With but little persuasion thou wouldest fain make me a Christian.

I Peter 4

16 If a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but

let him glorify God in this name.

Here we have no formal definition of the word Christian, but there is an implied definition in Acts 11:26.

We must first know and accept the definition of the word disciple if we would arrive at the meaning of the word Christian. We must understand that there are all degrees of discipleship, from secret discipleship, such as Joseph as Arimathaea, and unfaithful discipleship such as Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus, to the most faithful followers, such as the Apostle Paul.

When our Lord gave the great commission he commanded that men first be made disciples, after which they were to be baptized.

Matt. 28

19 Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and

of the Son and of the Holy Spirit : teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even, unto the end of the world.

The word disciple, taken alone, does not indicate whose disciple one may be. In modern times it might mean a disciple of Mohammed or Budha, or any number of other religions. The word Christian simply indicates one is a disciple of Christ. One who is called a Christian cannot be confused with other disciples, but wearing the name does not necessarily prove fidelity to Christ. There are unfaithful disciples; there are unfaithful Christians; there are unfaithful churches.

This word Christian did not come into use for almost a decade after the beginning of the church. It was at the dominantly Gentile church at Antioch that disciples of Christ were first called Christians. Some think it was given by enemies of the church as a sort of disrespectful salutation. However it may have been given it proved to be a great blessing. Now the thought is, were these disciples called Christians before or after they were baptized? At that time unbaptized believers were called disciples for Jesus commanded that men first be made disciples, after which they were to be baptized. (Matt. 28 : 19). This being true, unbaptized disciples were being taught in the Antioch church. What church does not have unbaptized disciples? Few, indeed, and when this is true it is not usually a spiritually healthy indication.

But, these disciples at Antioch came to be known as Christians. What disciples, may I ask, baptized or unbaptized became known as Christians? The scripture states, "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Now some would paraphrase this by supplying a few words, such as, "The disciples, (after they were baptized) were called Christians first at Antioch." A tradition has grown up in churches of Christ that only baptized believers may be called Christians. This tradition is so strong that one may suffer persecution at the hands of his brethren if he so much as expresses his views in opposition to this tradition. Traditions die a slow and painful death. This is just one of a number of true traditions embraced by the church. Sometimes we hear it said that we have a tradition of singing three songs followed by a prayer at our worship services. This is usually spoken factitiously. This is not a true tradition. Men have to follow some order in public worship and this is only a custom. I have never been in a church where this custom is traditionally followed. To seriously suggest it is a tradition indicates a misunderstanding of true traditions.

Another tradition closely related to the above is the tradition that one is born of both the water and the Spirit at

the same time. I will only use two references concerning this, for it is a subject with itself. We read,

1 John 5

1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is begotten of God.

Again we read concerning Jesus :

John 1

11 He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name : who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, but of God.

One who is begotten of God is born of God, but he is not yet in the family of God. The only way one may be born of God is in a Spiritual begetting, which happens when one believes, as stated above. Now there are many believers who have been begotten or born of God, including most denominational people and our own little children who believe but have not been baptized. Although they have been begotten they have not exercised their right to become children of God through baptism. Having been begotten of the Father they have the right to address God as their Father, whether it be a child or an adult; and no one has the right to tell such a disciple they are not a Christian, even if they do need more teaching. Don't we all need more teaching?

## Reasons For Marital Failure (4)

(7) SOME MARRIAGES FAIL BECAUSE EITHER THE HUSBAND OR WIFE DO NOT FULFILL THEIR PROPER ROLE—In every relationship that God has placed men and women in down through time, God has made the place of both the man and the woman clear. Whether it be

in the church, the home, or wherever else God has outlined the role that men and women are to fill. And as long as both men and women properly fulfill their role, not stepping over the limits, and not leaving undone what is required in that role, there have been the needed accomplishments as well as peace and harmony. But when either men or women begin to ignore their God given role and begin to step over the line or they refuse to carry out their functions, then problems and discord and failure result. And many marriages have problems because either the husband or wife or both do not recognize their place, and they do not stay in it.

Let's notice some verses in the Bible that set forth the role of husbands and wives. Eph. 5:22-25 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church : and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it." I Cor. 7:1-4 "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me : It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence : and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband : and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife".

I Tim. 6:8 "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel." Titus 2:4-5 "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed." Eph. 6:4 "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath : but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord". I pet. 3:1, 7 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands... Likewise ye



husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered". And in I Pet. 3:4 the point is made that a woman is to be adorned with a meek and a quiet spirit which is of great worth in the eyes of God—and I cannot keep from saying that in our day and age of women's lib, materialism, and professionalism women that are adorned with a meek and quiet spirit are few and far between.

These are just some of the verses that set forth the role of husbands and wives, but they teach us that we need to stay in it.

(8) FINALLY WE NOTICE THAT MANY MARRIAGES FAIL BECAUSE OF LEAVING GOD OUT OF THE HOME—And this is actually at the root or the base of many of the other problems that we have discussed in this series of articles. Even though a divorce may not end in divorce, it still cannot be the success that God intended without both mates being faithful Christians. If both mates are not involved in the greatest thing on earth together, and that is serving the Lord God and His Son Jesus Christ, how could they possibly find in marriage the meaning and purpose and happiness that God intended? They may enjoy some amount of happiness, and may be even more than some supposed Christians do, but something is lacking.

What about the case of the Christian and a non-Christian being married to each other? Obviously, this presents problems. What about the marriage of a Christian and a denominational person? Obviously again, this presents problems. What about the homes where both parents are New Testament Christians but do not really put the Lord in the lead in their marriage, that do not worship the Lord together, that do not study the Bible together, that do not pray for the Lord's guidance in their home, that do not do everything that is done seeking to do it in the way that God intended and expects? Obviously again, that home cannot be the success that God intended it to be and there will be problems. If God is not the center of our homes, if both mates are not faithful, dedicated

Christians, members of Christ's church, that home cannot be the success and refuge and training center and place of joy that God wants it to be. It's just that simple.

Even if a home does stay together, even if there is no divorce, the home is still a hopeless failure if God is not in that home when it comes to fulfilling the functions that God intended for the home. Thus it behoves all of us that are married and those of us that are thinking about marriage to exalt God to the number one place in our own life and to exalt Him to the number one place in our marriage or in our prospective marriage.

In this series of articles we have engaged in a discussion of these light reasons for marriage failure in the light of the Bible with the hope that such teaching will help all of us to have better, happier, more Christ-like homes that will not some day end in divorce. May God help us then to recognize these things and to act accordingly.

## How to Study the Bible

Gary Dannis Jones

### Chapter-By-Chapter Study

"Trying to read the Bible straight, chapter by chapter, is the most boring thing in the world," said a veteran gospel minister. And if you don't believe that this really is a hard thing to do, then try it that way. And be honest with yourself as to how much effort is necessary to keep this up day by day.

Why is this such a hard thing to do? I thought that all Christians would be interested enough in the Bible to read it through from cover to cover with undying concentration.

"Continuity" is the key word here, for there is little of it, in the strict sense, to be found if you take the chapter by chapter approach. The basic theme runs all through the Bible of course, but the topics and time periods may change from verse to verse; there may be several such changes in a chapter. Thus enters part of the difficulty of maintaining close attention when using the chapter-by-chapter method of study.

Likewise, there are often quick changes in the characters spoken of in the Old and New Testaments. Perhaps they are not as quick as the changes in topics but fast changes may be noted, nevertheless. And this makes it yet all the harder to retain a deep interest when trying to study the Bible chapter by chapter.

True Christians are always interested in the contents of the Bible, yes, but be fair, Christians are neither more nor less human than anyone else. They are in no way superhuman, though people may at times seem to require superhuman efforts of us.

So, should one read the Bible straight through, from cover to cover? Sure, go ahead. If you can concentrate well on it that way, then more power to you. But there is, I believe, a better way.

### **Topical Study**

The topic is the most palatable unit of Bible study for the simple reason that no matter how many references one has to run or how much "digging" one has to do, any given topic hangs together much better through this type of approach than is true when the chapter-by-chapter or verse-by-verse method is used. And for this very reason, the topic at hand both demands and commands more attention than it would otherwise be able to do. Therefore, one should certainly learn more, and in a shorter time, from making a study of homogeneous topics than by using the heterogeneous, as well as more time-consuming, chapter-by-chapter approach.

### **Aids to Study**

After selecting the topic one wishes to study, the next step is to look up all the reference on this subject. And in doing this, of course, the use of a good concordance or a topical Bible is almost indispensable,

Copying the references verbatim is a good idea when an indepth study of the topic in question is desirable. This serves

two purposes : (1) to help one to remember the Bible teachings contained therein and (2) to give one a ready listing of these references for future use.

When this has been done, one should next look up all key words in a good dictionary and make a note of the meaning or meanings of each word pertinent to the scriptures. Though merely looking up the meanings of words won't assure one of correctly understanding Bible passages, surely it will be of considerable benefit if used wisely.

One can also get invaluable help when referring to various translations of the Bible. I know that translations have been berated, and with some justification without doubt, but I for one cannot bring myself to believe that all translations are all bad, that any one of them might be without its good point—at least not any that I have seen.

Meanings of words are relative things—about this there can be no doubt. They are relative to the time during which they are spoken or written and to the context thereof.

First of all, meanings change from generation to generation, from one time to another—we all know this. Some of the words used in the authorized King James Version of the Bible have much deeper meanings for us than they did for the people of the early seventeenth century. The word "hate" means to us "a very strong and intense dislike" for something or someone. But some Bible scholars tell us that the word used by Jesus meant "to love less".

On the other hand, it has been stated that the term "thou fool" has a far deeper meaning in the King James Version than it does to us to day. And so on.

Just as one must use some judgment in making use of the various Bible translations, as also must one use some caution when using Bible commentaries. Now there is certainly nothing wrong in using Bible commentaries. As a matter of fact, there is much to recommend this practice, along with the use of topical Bibles, concordances, various translations, a dictionary, and other study aids. But to follow blindly the teachings of any such aids is to invite disaster.

In order to get the most out of a topical, or any other, study of the Bible, one should either write an article or prepare a talk on the subject at hand. This is, of course, especially good for a Bible class teacher or a gospel minister.

Before beginning to write, however, one must do the hard work of research. It would be well to search for anecdotes to

fit the topic under study. For example, the subject of idolatry might lead one to think how almost anything can be made into an item of worship, or idol, as money, prestige, power, education, and so forth. From here it's merely a matter of finding specific incidents to reinforce the point, as "One fellow seems to live just to see how much power he can attain....." I'm sure that no one would have very much trouble finding some such anecdotes to illustrate whatever material he happened to be studying at any given time.

Once suitable anecdotes have been found, one can then start putting the material together to form a synthesis of it, trying to make it fit together in a neat, orderly fashion. And in so doing, always remember to start at the most appropriate place—the beginning. First write a brief statement about what you hope to prove; then go ahead and prove it with the help of the relevant scriptures and the help of anecdotes that are pertinent to the subject.

### Word of Caution

However, a word of caution : Never ever try to force your conclusions from such a study into a preconceived mold. If your beliefs can be proved by the Bible, then that's just fine. But you should never try to prove the Bible by your beliefs. This is inherently unfair to all concerned. Draw some conclusions from this study yes, but be absolutely sure that they are fair ones. In other words, when studying the Bible, always keep an open mind that you may learn more and cling to the truth.

At the same time one seeks to find the true meaning in the word of God, he must also of necessity seek for the everyday applications of this truth if he is to get the full benefit of his diligent study.

I know that "faith alone" is a very prevalent belief today, but "faith alone" has not, and will not, ever be of benefit to any one. It's just not possible. For more on this, see the second chapter of James. We must have faith, yes, but we must also show the works thereof if we are to please God.

## रोटी

लेखक : एफ० डेविड

अधिकतर लोगों को यह कहते हुये सुना गया है कि यदि हमें रोटी खाने योग्य पैसे मिल जायें तो हमारा जीवन आराम से व्यतीत हो जाएगा। रोटी

... रोटी... रोटी। क्या इस जीवन के लिए रोटी ही काफी है? मैं नहीं जानता कि आपके पास इस प्रश्न का उत्तर क्या होगा।

हाँ, यदि मैं इस प्रश्न का उत्तर देना चाहूँगा, तो मैं चाहूँगा कि आप मेरे साथ परमेश्वर के वचन में से इस प्रश्न के उत्तर की खोज करें। जहाँ तक मैं सोचता हूँ, परमेश्वर का वचन ही इस प्रश्न का उत्तर दे सकता है। परमेश्वर का वचन कहता है "... मनुष्य केवल रोटी ही से नहीं परन्तु हर एक वचन से जो परमेश्वर के मुख से निकलता है जीवित रहेगा" (मत्ती ४:४) शायद आप यह सुनकर चकित हों। परन्तु यह कतई सत्य है।

मनुष्य का आरम्भ से ही यह स्वभाव रहा है कि वह रोटी, कपड़ा और मकान को ही अधिक महत्व देता रहा है। मेरा अर्थ यह नहीं है कि मनुष्य को इन वस्तुओं को महत्व नहीं देना चाहिए। अवश्य देना चाहिए, क्योंकि इन वस्तुओं के बिना जीवन असम्भव है। परन्तु बात यह है कि जब हम इन वस्तुओं को परमेश्वर से अधिक महत्व देने लगते हैं। परन्तु विशेष बात यह है कि मनुष्य शारीरिक वस्तुओं को तो प्राप्त कर लेता है, किन्तु आत्मिक वस्तुओं से अनजान रहता है। किसी न किसी प्रकार से मनुष्य की शारीरिक रोटी तो प्राप्त हो जाती है, लेकिन वह आत्मिक रोटी के विषय में अनजान रहता है। आप शायद सोचें कि आत्मिक रोटी क्या है? आत्मिक रोटी अथवा जीवन की रोटी प्रभु यीशु मसीह है। देखें प्रभु यीशु ने अपने शिष्यों से एक बार बात करते हुये क्या कहा : हमारे बाप-दादा ने जंगल में मन्ना खाया जैसा लिखा है; कि उसने उन्हें खाने के लिए स्वर्ग से रोटी दी यीशु ने उनसे कहा, मैं तुमसे सच-सच कहता हूँ कि मूसा ने तुम्हें वह रोटी स्वर्ग से न दी, परन्तु मेरा पिता तुम्हें सच्ची रोटी स्वर्ग से देता है। क्योंकि परमेश्वर की रोटी वही है जो स्वर्ग से उतरकर जगत को जीवन देती है। तब उन्होंने उस से कहा, हे प्रभु, यह रोटी हमें सर्वदा दिया कर। यीशु ने उन से कहा, जीवन की रोटी मैं हूँ जो मेरे पास आएगा वह कभी भूखा न होगा... (यूहन्ना ६:३१-३५)। प्रभु यीशु मसीह एक ऐसी रोटी है जो मनुष्य की आत्मा की तृप्ति कर सकती है। यह बात बिल्कुल सत्य है, यदि हमारे पास जीवन की रोटी नहीं है तो हमारी आत्मा भूखी है। यदि हम अपनी आत्मा के लिए भोजन की खोज नहीं करते तो हमारी आत्मा एक दिन भूखी मर जायगी। हिन्दी में एक गीत है जिसके बोल इस प्रकार से हैं "जीवन की रोटी यीशु मसीह है, वही आकाश से उतरकर जग में जीवन लाये।" वास्तव में जीवन की रोटी यीशु मसीह है। आपको अवश्य ही जीवन की रोटी की आवश्यकता है।

आज आपके सम्मुख एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। क्या आपके पास जीवन की रोटी है। अथवा आप शारीरिक रोटी को ही काफी समझते हैं। जरा सोचिये। अनेक बार हम अपने नाशमान शरीर को अधिक महत्व देते हैं। याद करिये उस पांच हजार की भीड़ को जिसे प्रभु यीशु ने केवल पाँच रोटी और दो मछली से तृप्त किया था। उन लोगों की तो प्रभु यीशु ने उस समय पेट की भूख-मिटाई थी। आज वह आपकी भूखी आत्मा की तृप्ति कर सकता है, यदि आप जीवन की रोटी की खोज करें।



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