



THE BIBLE TEACHER

YOUR INVITATION

Please attend our Services at :

E-10 Defence Colony (Ring Road)
New Delhi-110024

Schedule of Services :

Sunday :	Bible Study	9 : 00 A.M.
	Morning Worship ...	9 : 45 A.M.
	Evening Service ...	6 : 30 P.M.
Wednesday :	Midweek Bible Study ...	6 : 30 P.M.

विशेष सूचना !

प्रत्येक मंगलवार तथा 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 ।

“सत्य सुसमाचार”

१. सत्य सुसमाचार (भाग एक)
२. उद्धार की योजना (भाग दो)
३. क्रूस की कथा (भाग तीन)
४. खाली कब्र (भाग चार)

प्रचारक सनी डेविड के रेडियो प्रवचनों का प्रकाशन अब तक चार पुस्तकों में हो चुका है । प्रत्येक पुस्तक का मूल्य रु० २ : २५ है । परन्तु अपने पाठकों व श्रोताओं को हम यह पुस्तकें मुफ्त भेज रहे हैं । प्रत्येक पुस्तक को प्राप्त करने के लिये केवल २५ पैसे का डाक टिकट हमें भेजिए ।

नोट :—आपसे विशेष आग्रह किया जाता है, कि डाक टिकट भेजते समय उस पुस्तक का नाम अवश्य लिखें जिसे प्राप्त करने के लिये आप टिकट भेजते हैं । अपना पता स्पष्ट लिखें ।

सत्य सुसमाचार
पोस्ट बॉक्स ३८१५
नई दिल्ली-११००४६

THE BIBLE TEACHER

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EDITORIAL

Where are the Miracles

While in Bangalore a few weeks ago, a radio preacher was being advertised for some meetings. It was said that he was anointed of God and would be conducting miracle healing services. Although I was there during the time he was, I heard of no miracles being performed. No one was talking about any miracles and neither did the newspaper carry any news of such happenings. Neither did I hear anyone say anything about these meetings. Had it not been for some advertising that I saw I would have never known anything about it. Where were the miracles then? Were there any performed? Don't you know that if there had been just one miracle during this meeting then everyone in Bangalore would have known about it? Everyone would have been talking about it. But this was not the case. Therefore I know, and all other honest people know, that no miracles were done, but if so, then they are but deceived.

Likewise in Madras I saw some hand bills pasted to various walls advertising a miracle healing campaign. By that time those meetings had already come and gone but I heard no one talking about any miracles that were done during this time. Had there been any miracles then all of Madras would have been excited about the things that had happened. But

friends, this was not the case and once more we must conclude that no miracles were performed.

Again in Colombo, Sri Lanka, there was talk of Ceylon Pentecostal Church, the Assemblies of God, and various ones conducting Charisma (Pentecostal) Services. It was said that the people should come expecting a miracle. I talked to a young lady who was of the Pentecostal persuasion and she said that the Lord had appeared to a Pastor Paul and revealed to him a plan for the unity of his people. She also knew a preacher in Jaffna that I had known in years gone by and she said that God was working through him, but I happen to know that in the past he was of the Assemblies of God and had contacted me saying that he was interested in obeying the Lord to be added to his church, and he supposedly did that, but once he discovered that we were not willing to give him any financial help then all of a sudden he lost interest and returned to the Assemblies of God. He has quite a reputation in Sri Lanka for a number of things but some people think he is a servant of God and is able to perform miracles. How ridiculous !

Concerning all of this we are reminded again how easy it is for human beings to be deceived and led into false teaching. It is that way because so many are not only willing to be misled but even want to be deceived. Please think seriously concerning the things that are going to be said and consider them in light of what the Bible teaches.

It is interesting to see how different it was in the days of Christ and the Apostles. They performed miracles but they did no advertising, sent no one ahead to build up large audiences, asked for no one to come believing in miracles, or any such thing. The reason for this was because their miracles were not done merely to be popular or even to heal the sick. They did not preach that the people deserved perfect health and through their faith they could have such. Rather, they were dealing with unbelievers and the few miracles that they did were done to make believers out of them and to confirm the word. We read concerning the Apostles, "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them,

and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." (Mark 16:20). The Hebrew writer says, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him, God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" (Hebrews 2:1-4). The New Testament had not been given at that time and so the signs, wonders, and miracles were done to confirm the Apostles teaching or to prove to the people that they were indeed preaching the word of God. But what about today? We have the New Testament now. Has it been confirmed? Most certainly. Therefore, there is no purpose for miracles now. Neither does God appear to anyone today, or speak to anyone apart from his word because we have the word of God, it has already been confirmed to be the word of God. and therefore he speaks to us through that word. God speaks to us today through his Son (Hebrews 1:1,2; Matthew 17:5), it has been written down and completely furnishes man to every good work (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:3; James 1:25), we are to read and study it to know the truth and to believe it (2 Timothy 2:15; John 17:17; John 8:32; Romans 10:17), and it is not to be changed in any way. (Revelation 22:18,19). Therefore, those who claim to perform miracles today are imposters. Likewise, those who claim that God has spoken to them separate and apart from the word are false teachers. Like Pastor Paul, who said God has spoken directly to him and had given him a special plan for unity. The Lord had already prayed for such unity and the New Testament has contained the plan for unity since the days of the Apostles. (John 17; Ephesians 4:1-6). Why then would the Lord speak to him and give him a special plan? The scriptures also say that by their fruits ye shall know them (Matthew 7:16), and this Pastor Paul was but a preacher, not a scriptural Pastor

(1 Timothy 3:1-7), who promoted the Ceylon Pentecostal Church, is in opposition to the church we read about in the Bible, and contrary to God's plan for unity, and he taught that the Lord had spoken directly to him which would make the Lord a respecter of persons and also mean that the Bible is not complete. All of this marks him as a false teacher.

Listen to the inspired word of God : "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him; That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means : for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what with holdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming : Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). Again, Paul writes, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devil; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron..." (1 Timothy 4:1,2). Continuing, he says, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who

shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Timothy 4:1-4). And finally, listen to Christ himself, "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. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:21-23).

One and all would do well to take note of the foregoing scriptures, and many others that could be given, that show that it is easy to be deceived and misled. This is true not only in the case of miracles but with many other points of doctrine as well. But if you will observe those who teach that miracles can be performed today, you will find that they claim to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but then they are in churches that the Bible knows nothing about, wear man-made names and titles, claim that the Lord speaks directly to them, but his message to them is always contrary to the scriptures, and so this would mark them as imposters. Furthermore, you will discover that there are many number of groups who claim to work miracles by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, yet they condemn and oppose one another. There are even some in most every denomination who make such claims. The question, therefore, would be this: Would the Holy Spirit guide and direct different ones into different groups, to teach different things, and to oppose one another? If so, then the Holy Spirit opposes himself. I think you would have to admit though that if such people have a spirit it is definitely not the Holy Spirit.

Of course these people would come back and say that we do not believe in the power of God today, since we do not believe in miracles, but this is false. We do believe in God,

and we believe in the power of God, but God does not choose to work today through miracles as he did in the past. It is not that he could not do miracles if he chose to do so. He created the first man from the dust of the earth, and he could still create human beings like that if he wanted to, but he doesn't have to prove that he is God and that he is all powerful because he has already proven himself, and furthermore he now works through the law of nature to create men and women. He could also heal the sick, restore eye sight, raise the dead, etc., if he chose to do so but there is no purpose for doing so. He works now through his word to teach, to make believers, to save, and to give hope. What would miracles prove? Even when used they were spoken of as being childish things that would cease. (1 Corinthians 13:8-12). And so they have.

Contrary to the belief of some, there are no miracles being performed today. If so, where are the miracles being performed? On whom? By whom? What is their purpose? Let me encourage you to return to God's word, study it, believe it, and obey it and you will find that there is more than enough power to save you and to give you the hope of eternal life. For what more could you ask?



**associate
editorial**

Should Christians use Mechanical Instruments of Music in their Worship

Some time back in one of my radio talk, over radio Sri Lanka, when I pointed to the fact that Christians should not use mechanical instruments of music in their worship, a man wrote me a letter in which he tried to justify its use in

Christian worship and argued that we can worship the Lord acceptably with and without mechanical instruments of music. Supporting the use of mechanical instruments of music in Christian worship he reasoned and said :

"I do not accept that Jesus has ever condemned the use of musical instruments anywhere nor any apostles said so."

But does it mean that we should use a thing because the Lord has not specifically condemned it, or that he hasn't said, "Do not use mechanical instruments of music in worship" ? Let me ask you, to make it clear what I mean, Can I use CocaCola or Fanta instead of the fruit of the vine and fried finger chips instead of unleavened bread in the Lord's Supper ? You might say, I am speaking blasphemy. But friend, Jesus or the apostles never said that we *cannot* use CocaCola, Fanta, and finger chips in the Lord's Supper, they never did condemn their use. But does this fact gives me liberty to go ahead and use them ? The fact is, that they have told us what to use in the Lord's Supper, and this should be enough to eliminate any other thing in it. Ephesians 5:19 says, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, *singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*" So we are to sing *and make melody or music in our heart* and not on a piano or guitar. The Point is that he does not necessarily has to say : "Not to use Mechanical instruments of music." There are many things that Jesus has not specifically condemned, but this does not mean that we can use them or practice them, because he did not.

Secondly, he said, *"I appreciate singing without music (Mechanical Instruments of music), and that it should be with heart, but this degree of worship can also be achieved and created while singing with music."*

But friend, one cannot worship (sing) with spirit, (John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 14:15), with mechanical instruments of music. When one sing and play an instrument he does not only concentrate on singing (or words) but he also has to concentrate on the mechanical instrument that he is playing. Is this not true ? The fact is, one cannot give his whole heart in singing, in worship, when he is playing an instrument of

music. His spirit might be in worship but his mind will be concentrating on the instrument that he is playing.

Then in the third place, he mentioned the book of Psalms, and said, *David used mechanical instruments of music in worship.*

Yes, he did. But who was David? He was not a Christian. He did not live under the law of Christ, the New Testament, but he lived under the Old Testament law of Moses. Back in the Old Testament days they used in their worship many other things also, such as animal sacrifices, burning of incense, etcetra. Now if we can bring mechanical instruments of music in Christian worship from the Old Testament, then why not bring also the animal sacrifices and the other things as well? Remember, we live today under the new Testament and not under the Old Testament. Therefore our worship should be entirely according to the New Testament teachings. God has commanded us to hear Jesus. (Matthew 17:5). We are not to hear Moses or David, but we are to hear Jesus. The question is, did Jesus or his apostles command (again not condemn) the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship? No.

Fourthly, his reasoning was, *"I think the use of mechanical instruments of music was not so popular with the early church. Now the age has advanced and with the incoming of different types of musical instruments, and to aid the worship, these are being used which should not be taken as incorrect."*

First of all, it is wrong to state that music was not popular, or not known, in the first century. Going through the various books of Old Testament one read of scores of musical instruments. Perhaps they were more popular then than now in our age. However, when it comes to the Christian worship it does not mean a thing what is popular and what is not for instance, we do not worship because worship is popular, but because we have been commanded to do so. We do not pray, give of our means, take the Lord's Supper, study the Bible, and sing in our worship just because they are popular. Again, does it mean I can use Cocacola in the Lord's Supper, because Christ

did not condemn it's use, and because it was not so popular among the early Christians? One can reason, and say, but now the age has advanced, so why not use coffee, cookies, and even liquor, in Lord's Supper, of course they weren't Popular then. But we know that in doing so we will add into what Jesus has commanded. And the same is true with Mechanical instruments of music, they are not aid, as some say, but ADD, when we bring and use them in Christian worship. And "If any man shall add unto these things, (*things written in N.T.*), God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book." (Revelation 22:18).

And lastly, he said, *"I am myself a singer and I always use musical instruments while preaching... if I leave musical instruments, I will have to leave preaching, also as I will be left alone without the party, and I feel it will not have much effect on the mob..."*

Obviously, the person who reasons so is putting more importance on the musical instruments rather than the Bible. However, I wonder, if Peter had in his hand a harp, on the day of Pentecost, when he converted 3000 souls? Or what mechanical instrument of music did Philip play when he converted the Ethiopian Eunuch of Acts chapter 8? Is there any example in the entire New Testament where a single soul was ever brought to Christ through the use of mechanical instruments of music? Remember, it is the Bible, "The word of the Lord is quick, and powerful and sharper than any two edged Sword, Piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joint and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12).

When Peter preached *the word* on pentecost, 3000 people repented of their sins and were baptized for the remission of their sins. (Acts 2). However, Stephen was stoned to death when he preached the same word. (Acts 7). No doubt, the Lord has said, "My word shall not return unto me void." (Isaiah 55:11). It will always have some kind of effect on the listeners. Remember, again, it is the Bible, the Word of the Lord, that is effective in the saving of the souls and not a

mechanical instrument of music. The man who says, "If I leave Mechanical instruments of music I will have to leave preaching also", is certainly not a preacher, he is a player.

The scripture says, "Whosoever transgresseth (goeth onward) and abideth not in the doctrine (teachings) of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." (2 John 9).

Where do you stand on these matters? If you have not yet completely yielded yourself to the Lord then you should, "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins". (Acts 2:38). Or if you have already obeyed him, but have been in errors on these matters, then you should, "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." (Acts 8:22).

Are You Sure?

H.L. Meeks

Concerning Heaven.

Probably most people expect to enjoy a happy home after this life shall have come to an end. Probably you feel that when you come to die you will have met the requirements that heaven might be your eternal home.

Are You Sure?

The only reliable source of information concerning heaven is the Bible. The Bible tells about heaven, and who is going there. The Bible also indicates that comparatively few people will ever reach heaven.

Jesus said, as recorded in the Bible, Matthew chapter 7, verses 13 and 14: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it",

Many Disappointments

In the same 7th chapter of Matthew, verses 22 and 23, the Bible tells us that Jesus said : "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name ? and in thy name have cast out devils ? and in thy name done many wonderful works ? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you : depart from me, ye that work iniquity".

Many Churches

Those who have tried to count them tell us there are hundreds of separate religious organizations claiming to be followers of Christ. Their doctrines differ widely, often conflicting. Can all these be right ? The Bible tells us that Jesus said of some worshipers : "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15 : 9). Is it not evident that hundreds of religious organizations (churches)—originated by men and women far this side of Bible times—are "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men"? Are you a member of such an organization ? Probably, you do not think so. Are you sure ? A careful comparison of your creed with the word of God is kindly suggested.

"Church of Your Choice"

Can we accept the popular opinions of many religious people that the doctrine makes little difference, and that "one church is as good as another?" Jesus said, as recorded in the Bible : "Upon this rock I will build my church ; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16 : 18). In Ephesians 1 : 22, 23, we learn that the church is the body of Christ ; and in chapter 5, verse 23, we read that : "he is the saviour of the body." In Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 4, 5, and 6, it is recorded, the apostle said : "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling ; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." This was written to "the faithful in Christ Jesus," as we learn from Eph. 1 : 1.

Jesus built one church for all the saved for all the rest of

time. What right has any man or woman ever had to build another church? The church which Jesus built, "he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20 : 28). Are you seeking the church of your choice? What would be the Lord's choice in this vital matter?

Many Doctrines

Many people think that the religious organization, the church, the "faith," makes little difference, so long as one is sincere. But the Bible tells us that Jesus said: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

The Bible also tells us that Jesus said in a prayer to God: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17 : 17). Sincerity does not change error into truth. Jesus said to His disciples: "The time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God's service" (John 16 : 2).

The Bible and Baptism

Many people think that baptism has nothing to do with salvation. But Jesus said, as recorded in the Bible: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16 : 16). Jesus said also, as recorded in Matthew, chapter 28, last two verses: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Jesus has not promised to save one who refuses, or neglects, to be baptized. And remember, dear friend, that it is not recorded in the Bible that Jesus ever used this phrase: "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," in connection with any other command than that of baptism. It is recorded in the Bible, 1 Peter, chapter 3, verse 21, that an apostle of Jesus said: "baptism doth also now save us....." No, he did not say baptism alone. Baptism alone does not save, any more than faith alone, or any other one thing alone;

but, according to the Bible, word of God, baptism is one of the things required of a sinner in order that he may be saved. No one who has a proper understanding and reverence for the word of God will speak lightly of baptism.

Much Water

Many people think that sprinkling or pouring will answer for baptism, You may be one of those who feel that immersion is not essential. Are you sure ?

The Bible shows clearly that the baptism commanded by Jesus and His inspired apostles is a burial in water, and a resurrection from the water, of a penitent believer, obeying a form of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Read in your Bible. John 3 : 5 ; Acts of the apostles, chapter eight, verses twenty six through thirty nine ; Romans, chapter six, first eighteen verses. Then turn to Colossians, chapter two, verse twelve, and read : "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." Farther down a few verses, in verse one of chapter three, read : "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Friend, if you have not been raised with Christ in baptism, when and how were you raised with Him ? The Bible says, too, that : "John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there" (John 3 : 23). Nothing short of a burial in water will fit these Scriptures. Does someone guess that immersion is not necessary ? Why risk eternity upon a guess ? Rather, open your Bible and see what God's word has to say, and do what God's word says to do. There is no promise from God outside of His word.

Faith only ?

Many think that salvation is by faith only. But the Bible tells us of Jesus that : "He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5 : 9). And 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" (Matt. 7 : 21). And in the Bible we find this statement : "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2 : 24).

Can one fall ?

Many think that a child of God cannot fall and be lost. Is this true ? The Bible answers. The word of God warns : "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10 : 12). The apostle Paul also wrote : "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law ; ye are fallen from grace" (Gal. 5 : 4). Paul wrote also : "If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die : but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Rom. 8 : 13). And Paul wrote of himself : "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection ; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Cor. 9 : 27). And he said, as recorded in Rom. 11 : 22 : "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God : ~~on~~ toward them which fell, severity ; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness : otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." And the Bible tells us that Jesus said : "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered ; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15 : 6).

Faith or Opinion ?

My dear friend, why risk your eternal salvation upon the opinions of men ? The Bible tells us of some that ; "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 Bible tells us that : "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing the word of God" (Rom. 10 : 17). Then let us learn what the word of God says, and have enough faith to accept the salvation offered by Jesus, upon His terms. There is no other salvation promised. We should have enough faith to repent of sins, (Luke 13 : 3), to confess Jesus Christ before men, (Matt. 10 : 32), and be bap-

tized into Christ, (Rom. 6 : 3 ; Gal. 3 : 27). Those who do these things from the heart are saved from past sins to live for God. They are added by the Lord, (Acts 2 : 47), to the other obedient believers, baptized into the one body, (1 Cor. 12:13), which is the church. (Col. 1 : 24), the one you can read about in your Bible. The church of the New Testament is not a denomination. Jesus said of it : "I will build my church" (Matt. 16 : 18). It is the body of Christ, (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1 : 18). In one instance the apostle Paul, concerning local congregations of the Lord's church, used the term "churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16). The Lord's church is also called "the church of God" in the New Testament, as in 1 Cor. 1:2; and other terms are used denoting ownership, location, or certain characteristics of the church; but usually it is referred to simply as the church, there being only one. It is the Lord's church. It is the church of Christ. (Rom. 16 : 16).

Be Faithful

Then, having become obedient to the Lord, through faith, repentance and baptism ; let us be faithful in the Lord's church "unto death," (Rev. 2 : 10), and look forward to a home with Him in that place which He has gone to prepare, (John 14:1-3). The Bible tells us of this home : "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain : for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21 : 4). But the Bible tells us of a lake of fire. It is recorded in the Bible that Jesus will say to some : "Depart from me, ye cursed, into ever lasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25 : 41). And near the close of the New Testament we find this prophecy : "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20 : 15).

Man's ways are not God's ways

(Isa. 55:8)

Dear friend, this little article is presented to you because someone cares, and so very much desires that heaven should be

your eternal home. Will you be there? You probably think the way in which you are today is the way to heaven.

Are you Sure?

Can you find it in the New Testament of the Bible, all the way,—church organization, church worship, private worship—living for Jesus every day? The ways of men will surely fail. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14 : 12). “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination” (Prov. 28:9).

The Unbelieving Companion

Monroe E. Howley

How can I win my companion to Christ? This question has been asked by countless Christians married to unbelievers. Regardless of how happy it may be, a religiously divided home can never enjoy the happiness that it could if that condition did not exist. Furthermore, the chances are better than even that the division in the home is a source of chronic discord between husband and wife.

The Christian married to a non-Christian is naturally concerned about the harmony in the home. But he is even more disturbed about the spiritual condition of that loved one out of Christ. A child of God who places real trust in the divine promises realizes that the eternal destiny of his mate depends upon that one's obedience to the gospel.

A divided home sometimes results when one of the marriage partners in a non-Christian home is converted. More often, however, it is the consequence of a child of God marrying out of Christ. In thousands of cases the faith of the Christian has not proved equal to the will of his companion. The result is that the disciple of Christ has been lost to Him, to the church—and to heaven. The very least that can be said is

that the Christian who marries out of the Lord jeopardizes his chance of eternal life. Certainly he lessens his value to the kingdom of God. The unhappy experiences of those who have married unbelievers should serve as a grave warning to all young Christians contemplating marriage.

We ought not to suppose, however, that it is impossible for one to win his companion to the Lord. Some of the most consecrated Christians are those who have been converted through the efforts of their mates. Many more could be won if their Christian companions only understood and practiced a few basic principles necessary for their conversion. The following suggestions are offered to Christians married to unbelievers in the hope that they may aid in the salvation of their companions :

1. **You cannot drive one to accept Christ.** The power of the gospel is a drawing force, not a driving one. Jesus taught. "No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him." (John 6:44.) Some Christians are so filled with concern for the spiritual welfare of their mates that they use poor judgment and exert too much pressure. The non-Christian may revolt and bring out the stubborn nature that all of us possess to some extent. Furthermore, you surely would not want your companion to go through the form of obeying the gospel just to please you. Not only would his action not help him, but it might well hinder his genuine conversion at a later date.

2. **Don't be dogmatic.** Over-positiveness which fails to consider the thinking of the other person often does more harm than good. How many people have remarked. "I can't believe the way you do because you think only members of your church are going to heaven." The chances are that the one teaching him overstated his case. The best way to answer this objection is to say. "Let's let the Lord decide who will be saved. The important thing for us is to be sure that we do what He commands us."

3. **Study the Word of God.** Some unbelievers are never

won to Christ because their husbands or wives are not equipped to teach them. A preacher or elder can do much to help, but there is no adequate substitute for what you can do yourself in teaching your companion, provided that you are acquainted with the Bible. Be "ready always to give answer... concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear." (I Peter 3:15.)

4. You will never win your companion by staying away from the place of worship. Regardless of how much opposition you may receive at home, your mate will not respect your religious convictions unless he sees you regularly and faithfully worshipping with other Christians. If you forsake such assembling with your brethren, you will not only fail to win his soul, but you will also lose your own.

5. The best way to win an unbeliever is to set a chaste example. "In like manner, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that even if any obey not the word, they may without the word be gained by the behaviour of their wives; beholding your chaste behaviour coupled with fear." (1 Peter 3:1, 2.) Many wives have won their husbands, and husbands their wives, by the examples of pure Christian living they have shown.

6. Be patient. Many companions have been converted only after months of work and prayer. If you do not win your mate immediately, do not become discouraged and quit trying. That soul is too important for you to give up. He may in time accept Christ. "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

7. Pray. You will need help in winning your loved one to Christ, help from your brethren, and especially, help from God. Never forget to entreat the Father in your prayers for that one who means more to you than any other earthly soul. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Matt. 7:7.)

Put Away Childish Things

Mark H. Nunley

The apostle Paul wrote in I Cor. 13:11, "when I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child; now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things." And this is what supposedly is to take place in each person's life. As we grow older, we are to start acting, thinking, and feeling like adults instead of like children.

But far too many times the case exists where people who are adults in body are still children in disposition. They wear their feelings on the outside just looking for something to become offended at. If someone does or dose not do, says or does not say, etc. exactly like they think he or she should, then they are all offended and out of sorts with that person. But this is not the way that God wants us to live. Paul said he put away the childish things when he became a man.

You are not on the earth to totally submit to the opinions of others, neither are they on the earth to submit to your opinions. We are upon the earth to please God. And each of us must be about the business of studying the Bible and knowing what it says and obeying it to the very best of our ability.

The way that a lot of people act today reminds me of a man in the Old Testament. One day king Ahab decided that he wanted the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, and so Ahab asked Naboth for the vineyard and offerd him his choice of a better vineyard or of the money it was worth in exchange for the vineyard. But Naboth refused because the vineyard was the inheritance of his fathers.

Now notice how king Ahab reacted— I Kings 21:4 : "And Ahab came into his house, heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him : for he said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers.

And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat not bread."

Can you imagine ! The king pouting like that ! He laid upon his bed, turned away his face, and refused to eat anything. But do you know what ? I have seen a lot of "adults" act in the same kind of way when things did not go exactly like they wanted them to go. Isn't it high time that we began to speak, feel, and think as adults as we put away the childish thing ? Especially in the Lord's church ?

HE IS COMING!

Joe R. Barnett

THAT CHRIST is coming again is said more frequently than anything else about him. One of every thirteen verses in the New Testament refers to it. In fourteen of the twenty-one epistles there is no mention of baptism ; in twenty there is no mention of the Lord's Supper. But on almost every page there is reference to his second coming.

References to the second coming are so numerous that if you were to blot out those lines in your New Testament which speak of it, the Book, in many places, would be meaningless and unintelligible.

In his last visit with his disciples Jesus said, "I will come again." No wonder he said to them, "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming" (Matthew 24:42).

To that event we are summoned ever to look forward. The Apostle Paul said, regarding the Lord's Supper, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death untill he comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

This eager expectation was the master light of hope for the early church. This anticipation warned them in their temptations, sustained them in their sorrows, armed them in their

conflicts, and assured them of the final victory of Christ and his church.

Nothing provides greater motivation to live a life of purity than the promise of his coming. John said, "Beloved, we are God's children now ; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure" (1 John 3:2-3). He had earlier said, "And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming" (1 John 2:28)

James wrote, "You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." Then he said "...the Judge is standing at the doors" (James 5:8,9).

Jesus is coming. Every shadow may be his shadow. Every knock may be his knock. Every shout may be his shout.

Jesus is Lord, my Redeemer ; How he loves me, how I love him ; He is risen ! He is coming ! Lord, come quickly. hallelujah !

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मूर्ति-पूजा का पाप

एक मूर्ति, लकड़ी, पत्थर या किसी अन्य वस्तु के द्वारा बनाया गया एक स्वरूप है, जिसे किसी “देवता” या “देवी” का प्रतीक समझा जाता है। इसे किसी मनुष्य के रूप में, या सृष्टि के किसी एक भाग के रूप में, या किसी अन्य ऐसी वस्तु के रूप में भी, जिसके लिये मनुष्य अपना समय दे और, जिसकी वह उपासना करे, पाया जा सकता है। उपासना में मूर्तिपूजा का स्थान उतना ही पुराना है जितना कि प्राचीन-काल और उतना ही नया है जितना की आधुनिक-काल। इसे कई प्रकार से व्यवहार में लाया जाता है, परन्तु क्योंकि यह मूर्तिपूजा है इसलिये यह पाप है, क्योंकि मूर्तिपूजा करके लोग एक ऐसी वस्तु की उपासना करते हैं जो सच्चा व जीवता परमेश्वर नहीं है।

मूर्तियों के विषय में बाइबल कहती है, “तू अपने लिये कोई मूर्ति खोदकर न बनाना, न किसी की प्रतिमा बनाना, जो आकाश में व पृथ्वी पर, वा पृथ्वी के जल में है। तू उनको दण्डवत न करना; और न उनकी उपासना करना, क्योंकि मैं तेरा परमेश्वर यहोवा जलन रखने वाला ईश्वर हूँ।” (निर्गमन २०: ४, ५)। “सो इस्त्राएल के घराने से कह, प्रभु यहोवा यों कहता है, फिरौ और अपनी मूर्तों को पीठ के पीछे करो; और अपने सब घृणित कामों से मुंह मोड़ों।” (यहेजकेल १४:६)।

इसी विषय पर नए नियम के लेखक आगे कहते हैं: “इसलिये मेरा विचार यह है कि, अन्य जातियों में से जो लोग परमेश्वर की ओर फिरते हैं, हम उन्हें दुख न दे। परन्तु उन्हें लिख भेजें, कि वे मूर्तों की अशुद्धताओं और व्यभिचार और गला घोटें हुआओं के मास से और लोह से परे रहें। (प्रेरितों १५:१९-२०)। “हे बालको, अपने आप को मूर्तों से बचाए रखो।” (१ यहन्ना ५:२१)।

पवित्र लेखक मूर्तों तथा उनकी उपासना की मूर्खता को इस प्रकार कहकर दर्शाते हैं: “उनका देश मूर्तों से भरा है; वे अपने हाथों की बनाई हुई वस्तुओं को जिन्हें उन्होंने अपनी उंगलियों से सवारा है, दण्डवत करते हैं।

इस से मनुष्य झुकते, और बड़े मनुष्य प्रणाम करते हैं, इस कारण उनको क्षमा न कर ।” (यशायाह २:८, ९) । “जो मूरत खोदकर बनाते हैं, वे सब के सब व्यर्थ हैं और जिन वस्तुओं में वे आनन्द ढूँढ़ते उन से कुछ लाभ न होगा ; उनके साक्षी, न तो आप कुछ देखते और न कुछ जानते हैं, इसलिये उनको लज्जित होना पड़ेगा । किस ने देवता वा निष्फल मूरत ढाली है ? देख, उसके सब संगियों को तो लज्जित होना पड़ेगा, करीगर तो मनुष्य ही हैं ; वे सब के सब इकट्ठे होकर खड़े हों ; वे डर जाएंगे ; वे सब के सब लज्जित होंगे । लोहार एक बसूला अंगारों में बनता और हाथीड़ों से गढ़कर तैयार करता है, अपने भुजबल से वह उसको बनाता है ; फिर वह भूखा हो जाता है और उसका बल घटता है, वह पानी नहीं पीता और थक जाता है । बढ़ई सूत लगाकर टांकी से रेखा करता है और रन्दनी से काम करता और परकार से रेखा खींचता है, वह उसका आकार और मनुष्य की सी सुंदरता बनाता है ताकि लोग उसे घर में रखें । वह देवदार को काटता वा वन के वृक्षों में से जाति-जाति के बांजवृक्ष चुनकर सेवता है, वह एक तूस का वृक्ष लगाता है जो वर्षा का जल पाकर बढ़ता है । तब वह मनुष्य के ईंधन के काम में आता है ; वह उस में से कुछ सुलगाकर तापता है, वह उसको जलाकर रोटी बनाता है ; उसी से वह देवता भी बनाकर उसको दण्डवत करता है ; वह मूरत खुदवाकर उसके सामने प्रणाम करता है । उसका एक भाग तो वह आग में जलाता और दूसरे भाग से मांस पकाकर खाता है, वह मांस भूनकर तृप्त होता ; फिर तापकर कहता है, आहा, मैं गर्म हो गया, मैं ने आग देखी है ! और उसके बचे हुए भाग को लेकर वह एक देवता अर्थात् एक मूरत खोदकर बनाता है ; तब वह उसके सामने प्रणाम और दण्डवत करता और उस से प्रार्थना करके कहता है, मुझे बचा ले, क्योंकि तू मेरा देवता है ! वे कुछ नहीं जानते, न कुछ समझ रखते हैं ; क्योंकि उनकी आखें ऐसी मूंदी गई हैं कि वे देख नहीं सकते ; और उनकी बुद्धि ऐसी कि वे बूझ नहीं सकते । कोई इस पर ध्यान नहीं करता, और न किसी को इतना ज्ञान व समझ रहती है कि कह सके, उसका एक भाग तो मैं ने जला दिया और उसके कोयलों पर रोटी बनाई ; और मांस भूनकर सोया ; फिर क्या मैं उसके बचे हुए भाग को धिनौनी वस्तु बनाऊँ ? क्या मैं काठ को प्रणाम करूँ ? वह राख खाता है ; भरमाई हुई बुद्धि के कारण वह भटकाया गया है और वह न अपने को बचा सकता और न यह कह सकता है, क्या मेरे दहिने हाथ में मिथ्या नहीं ? (यशायाह ४४:९-२०) ।

इसी बात की मूर्खता के विषय में दाऊद ने यूँ लिखा: “हे यहोवा हमारी

नहीं, हमारी नहीं, बरन अपने ही नाम की महिमा, अपनी कथण और सच्चाई के निमित्त कर । जाति-जाति के लोग कथों कहने पाएँ, कि उनका परमेश्वर कहाँ रहा ? हमारा परमेश्वर तो स्वर्ग में है ; उसने जो चाहो वही किया है । उन लोगों की मूर्तों सोने-चांदी ही की तो हैं, वे मनुष्यों के हाथ की बनाई हुई हैं । उनके मुँह तो रहता है परन्तु वे बोल नहीं सकतीं ; उनके आँखें तो रहती हैं परन्तु वे देख नहीं सकतीं । उनके कान तो रहते हैं, परन्तु वे सुन नहीं सकतीं ; उनके नाक तो रहती है परन्तु वे सुंघ नहीं सकतीं । उनके हाथ तो रहते हैं, परन्तु वे स्पर्श नहीं कर सकती ; उनके पांव तो रहते हैं, परन्तु वे चल नहीं सकतीं ; और अपने कंठ से कुछ भी शब्द नहीं निकाल सकतीं । जैसी वे हैं वैसे ही उनके बनाने वाले हैं ; और उन पर सब भरोसा रखने वाले भी वैसे ही हो जाएँगे ।” (भजन ११५:१-८) ।

इसके अतिरिक्त, नए नियम में, हमें यूँ मिलता है : “जब पीलुस अपने में उनकी बात जोह रहा था, तो नगर को मूर्तों से भरा हुआ देखकर उसका जी जल गया ।” (प्रेरितों १७:१६) । और आगे लिखा है “तब पीलुस ने अरियुपुगस के बीच में खड़े होकर कहा ; हे अपने के लोगो मैं देखता हूँ, कि तुम हर बात में देवताओं के बड़े माननेवाले हो । क्योंकि मैं फिरते हुए तुम्हारी पूजने की वस्तुओं को देख रहा था, तो एक ऐसी वेदी भी पाई, जिस पर लिखा था, कि “अनजाने ईश्वर के लिये सो जिसे तुम बिना जाने पूजते हो, मैं तुम्हें उसका समाचार सुनाता हूँ ।” (प्रेरितों १७:२२, २३) । और वह उन्हें आगे बताते हुए कहता है कि जिस परमेश्वर की सेवा वह करता है, वह सब वस्तुओं का बनाने वाला है, और वह मनुष्य के हाथों से बनाए हुए मन्दिरों में नहीं रहता, और न उसे भोजन वा जल इत्यादि की आवश्यकता होती है । एक अन्य स्थान पर वह कहता है, “सो मूर्तों के सामने बलि की हुई वस्तुओं के खाने के विषय में—हम जानते हैं, कि मूर्त जगत में कोई वस्तु नहीं, और एक को छोड़ और कोई परमेश्वर नहीं । यद्यपि आकाश में और पृथ्वी पर बहुत से ईश्वर कहलाते हैं, (जैसा कि बहुत से ईश्वर और बहुत से प्रभु हैं) । तीभी हमारे निकट तो एक ही परमेश्वर है : अर्थात्-पिता जिसकी ओर से सब वस्तुएँ हैं, और हम उसी के लिये हैं, और एक ही प्रभु है, अर्थात् यीशु मसीह जिसके द्वारा सब वस्तुएँ हुई, और हम भी उसी के द्वारा हैं ।” (१ कुरिन्थियों ८:४-६) ।

सो बाइबल मूर्तीपूजा की निन्दा करती है और यह भी कहती है कि सब मूर्तीपूजक, भूठे इत्यादि नरक की आग में डाले जाएँगे । (प्रकाशितवाक्य

२१-८) । दूसरी ओर बाइबल हमें बताती है, तथा सृष्टि, ज्ञान, और वृद्धि भी हमें सिखाते है कि केवल एक ही परमेश्वर है । (इफिसियों ४:६) । और वह आत्मा है (यूहन्ना ४:२४), तथा हमें केवल उसी की सेवा करनी चाहिए । (१ थिस्सलुनीकियों १:९) ।

मसीह की कलीसिया क्या है ?

संसार में आज अनेकों कलीसियाएं विद्यमान हैं । कई तरह से उन में बहुत समानता है । उन्हें मनुष्यों ने स्थापित किया है । उनका कोई विशेष महत्त्व नहीं है, क्योंकि उनके सदस्य भी यह मानते हैं कि उनका एक सदस्य हुए बिना भी मनुष्य स्वर्ग में पहुंच सकता है । यद्यपि वे बहुतेरे सम्प्रदायों में बटी हुई हैं परन्तु उन सबका एक ही कहना है कि सभी सम्प्रदाय अपने-अपने स्थान पर उचित हैं । वे विभिन्न प्रकार के नामों से कहलाती हैं और उन सब के पास अपनी-अपनी विशेष पुस्तकें हैं जिनके द्वारा वे अपनी उपासना इत्यादि करती हैं । परन्तु केवल एक ही कलीसिया है जो इन सभी संगठनों से बिल्कुल भिन्न है । उसका इनसे किसी भी प्रकार का सम्बन्ध नहीं है । और वह है मसीह की कलीसिया ।

मसीह की कलीसिया एक सम्प्रदाय नहीं है । यह बहु-साम्प्रदायीक नहीं है । यह कैथलिक नहीं है, प्रोटेस्टैन्ट अथवा ग्रहदी नहीं है । यह एक पंथ नहीं है । इसका आरम्भ किसी मनुष्य ने नहीं किया । कोई मनुष्य इसका सिर (प्रधान) नहीं है । पृथ्वी पर इसका कोई भी प्रधान-कार्यालय नहीं है । यह मनुष्यों के नामों द्वारा नहीं कहलाती । यह किसी मनुष्य की लिखी हुई पुस्तक का अनुसरण नहीं करती । और न ही स्वभाव में यह राजनीतिक अथवा समाजिक है । तब यह क्या हो सकती है ? आईए, इस विषय में देखें ।

कलीसिया शब्द को यूनानी भाषा के “एक्कलीसिया” शब्द से लिया गया है, और इसका अर्थ है “बुलाए हुए” । दूसरे शब्द में, कलीसिया उन सब लोगों का एक झुंड है जो प्रभु की सेवा में संसार में से बुलाए गए हैं । पौलुस इस विषय में कहता है, कि वे लोग अंधकार के वश से छुड़ाए जाकर परमेश्वर

के राज्य अर्थात् प्रभु की कलीसिया में मिलाए गए हैं। (कुलुस्सियों १:१३, १४)।

कलीसिया के विषय में बाइबल दो भाव से बताती है। सबसे पहले, इसका उल्लेख सार्वदेशिक भाव से हुआ है। यीशु मसीह ने इसी अभिप्राय से कहा था, कि “मैं अपनी कलीसिया बनाऊंगा (मत्ती १६:१८)। इस स्थान पर उसका उद्देश्य कलीसिया के बारे में एक विशाल सार्वदेशिक मण्डली के रूप में बताने का था यहां उसका अभिप्राय कलीसिया की स्थानीय मण्डलियों से नहीं था। दूसरी ओर, कलीसिया का उल्लेख स्थानीय रूप से भी हुआ है, अर्थात् विभिन्न स्थानों पर कलीसिया की अनेकों मण्डलियां। इसके बारे में हम अनेकों स्थानों पर पढ़ते हैं, जैसे कि कलीसिया जो कुरिन्थुस में है, तथा थिस्सलुनीकियों की कलीसिया, इत्यादि। (१ कुरिन्थियों १:२:१ ; (थिस्सलुनीकियों १:१)। फिर अनेकों मण्डलियों को विचार में रखकर पौलुस ने कहा, “तुम को मसीह की सारी कलीसियाओं की ओर से नमस्कार।” (रोमियों १६:१६)। इसी दृष्टिकोण से प्रकाशितवाक्य की पुस्तक में आसीया की सात कलीसियाओं का वर्णन हुआ है।

पृथ्वी पर कलीसिया मसीह की आत्मिक देह के रूप में विद्यमान है। यह उन सब लोगों से मिलकर बनी हुई एक मण्डली है जिन्होंने उसकी आज्ञाओं को माना है तथा उसकी सेवा में लगे हुए हैं। इस देह में अंग तो बहुतेरे हैं परन्तु इसका केवल एक ही सिर है। (१ कुरिन्थियों ४:४)। और वही देह कलीसिया है। (इफिसियों १:२२, २३)।

यदि आप मनुष्यों द्वारा बनाई हुई कलीसियाओं के बारे में जानना चाहते हैं, तो अवश्य है कि आप इतिहास इत्यादि की पुस्तकों को पढ़ें। उनके विषय में जानने के लिये आप बाइबल में से नहीं पढ़ सकते क्योंकि प्रभु से उनका कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है। इसके अतिरिक्त, यदि आप मसीह की कलीसिया के बारे में जानने के इच्छुक हैं तो इसके बारे में आपको केवल बाइबल ही उचित जानकारी दे सकती है। बाइबल केवल कलीसिया के इतिहास तथा कलीसिया से सम्बन्धित हर एक अन्य बात के विषय में ही हम नहीं बताती परन्तु पूर्ण रूप से कलीसिया की अगुवाई भी करती है। (२ तीमुथियुस ३:१६, १७; याकूब १:२५)।

इस कलीसिया को स्वयं मसीह ने स्थापित किया है (मत्ती १६:१८), यरुशलेम नगर में, ३३ ई० स० में। (प्रेरितों २)। इसका अर्थ तब यह हुआ

संसार में विभिन्न स्थानों पर पाई जानेवाली हजारां मण्डलियां मिलकर एक कलीसिया है। यद्यपि इनमें से प्रत्येक मंडली व्यक्तिगत रूप से एक दूसरे से स्वतंत्र है वही भी वे सब आपसी प्रेम तथा उद्देश्य की एकता के कारण एक साथ में बंधी हुई है। मसीह सिर है। (इफिसियों ५:२३)। बिना स्थानों पर मण्डलियां व्यक्तिगत संख्या में बड़ी तथा आत्मिक दृष्टिकोण से पूर्य है, और उन में योग्य पुरुष उपलब्ध है तो बड़ी उन्नति अपने-अपने अध्यय, सेवाक तथा प्रचारक व शिक्षक इत्यादि होते हैं। (१ तीमोथ्यूस ३: वीरस १)।

(प्रितियों ४:१२)।
है। मसीह का सम्मान यह उसके नाम को अपने ऊपर रखकर रखती है।
लेखक का अभिप्राय मसीह की कलीसिया से था जो कि मसीह की आत्मिक देह ही कलीसिया है (कूलिसियों १:१८), इसलिये इसका अर्थ यह हुआ यहां भी इसे मसीह की देह कहा गया है (१ कुरिन्थियों १२:२७), और क्योंकि देह परमेश्वर की कलीसिया कहलाते थे। (रोमियों १६:१६; (प्रितियों २०:२८)।
१६), और वे सब मिलकर एक कलीसिया की नाई मसीह की कलीसिया या इसके सदस्य केवल मसीही कहलाते थे (प्रितियों ११:२६; १ पतरस ४:

लिये जाते थे (प्रितियों २:४७)। आज भी प्रभु ठीक यही करता है।
३८), परलौकिक स्वरूप उनका उद्धार होता था और वे कलीसिया में मिला (जल के भीतर दफन होते थे) अपने पापों की क्षमा के लिये (प्रितियों २: मसीह का आंगिकार करते थे (रोमियों १०: १०), और बपतिस्मा लेते थे करते थे (इब्रानियों ११:६), अपने पापों से मन फिराते थे (प्रितियों १७:३०), मानकर। वे जो सुसमाचार को सुनते थे (रोमियों १०:१७), इस पर विश्वास इस कलीसिया के सदस्य बनते थे और वह था यीशु मसीह के सुसमाचार को प्रितियों के दिनों में केवल एक ही ऐसा माना था जिसके फलस्वरूप लोग उन्नीसवीं वर्ष पूर्व हुई थी।

था। न ही यह कोई नई व आधुनिक कलीसिया है क्योंकि इसकी स्थापना कलीसिया नहीं है। परन्तु इसका आरम्भ यरुशलैम नगर, एशिया में, हुआ है। यह अमेरिका से आरम्भ नहीं हुई और इस कारण यह एक अमेरिकन आरम्भ इनालेन्ड में नहीं हुआ और इसलिये यह इनालेन्ड की कलीसिया नहीं कि कलीसिया न तो मेरी है, न आपकी और न किसी अन्य मनुष्य की। इसका

प्रत्येक सप्ताह के पहिले दिन उपासना सभा की जाती है (प्रेरितों २७: ७) । सदस्य अध्ययन करने के लिये (२ तीमोथियुस २:१५), प्रार्थना करने के लिये (१ थिस्सलुनीकियों ५:१७), सज्जन गाने के लिये (इफीसियों ५: १६), प्रभु-भोज में भाग लेने के लिये (१ कुरिन्थियों ११), तथा चन्दा देने के लिये (१ कुरिन्थियों १६:२), एकत्रित होते हैं ।

परमेश्वर चाहता है कि उसके लोग संसार से अलग होकर निष्कलंक तथा उसके प्रति भक्ति पूर्ण बने रहें । (इफीसियों ५:२७) । कलीसिया का उद्देश्य सारे संसार के लोगों को सुसमाचार प्रचार करना (मरकुस १६:१५,१६), तथा आवश्यकता से पीड़ित लोगों की सहायता करना है । (याकूब १:२७) । वे जो अब तक विश्वासी बने रहेंगे उन्हें जीवन का मुकुट प्राप्त होगा । (प्रकाशितवाक्य २:१० ; मत्ती २५) ।

यह मसीह की कलीसिया है—प्रभु की कलीसिया—यह एकमात्र वह कलीसिया है जिसके बारे में आप बाइबल में पढ़ सकते हैं । इसके विषय में और सीखिए, और इसके सदस्य बनिये । केवल तभी आप मसीह की कलीसिया के सदस्य होंगे ।

एक नई रचना

खाली कन्न तथा १४ अन्य प्रवचन प्रचारक सनी डेविड की नई रचना है । आज ही केवल २५ पैसे का डाक टिकट भेजकर अपनी प्रति प्राप्त कीजिए । डाक टिकट भेजते समय यह अवश्य लिखें कि यह टिकट "खाली कन्न" के लिये भेजा जा रहा है ।

सत्य सुसमाचार

बॉक्स ३८१५, नई दिल्ली-११००४६

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