



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 ।

हमारे हिन्दी के प्रकाशन

१. सत्य सुसमाचार — लेखक : सनी डेविड
२. उद्धार की योजना — लेखक : सनी डेविड
३. क्रूस की कथा — लेखक : सनी डेविड
४. खाली कब्र — लेखक : सनी डेविड
५. सुसमाचार बोलनेवाला — लेखक : जे० सी० चोट

(अनुवादक: सनी डेविड)

आज ही प्राप्त कीजिए ! प्रत्येक पुस्तक को प्राप्त करने के लिये केवल
२५ पैसे का डाक टिकट भेजिए ।

पाँचों पुस्तकें एक साथ प्राप्त करने के लिये केवल रु० १ : २५ के डाक
टिकट भेजिए । कृपया अपना पता साफ लिखें ।

सत्य सुसमाचार

पो० बॉक्स ३८१५ नई दिल्ली-११००४६,

THE BIBLE TEACHER

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Grounded in the Faith

Paul wrote the Colossian brethren that they should continue in the faith, that they should be grounded and settled, and that they should not be moved away from the hope of the gospel which they had heard. (Colossians 1 : 23). To the Ephesian brethren, he gave a similar admonition, ".....That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height ; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." (Ephesians 3 : 17-19). To be grounded or settled or firmly established in the faith and love of God is the great need of every Christian. This is altogether necessary if one is to be faithful and in the end receive a crown of life.

The Christian begins his spiritual life as a new babe or new creature, having been born of the water and the spirit and thereby being born into the Lord's kingdom and the family of God (John 3 : 3-5). At birth all things are new and different to him. He is weak. To become stronger he begins to feed upon the milk of the word (1 Peter 2 : 2) and to exercise him-

self by attending the assemblies of the church (Hebrews 10:25), and patterning his life after Christ (1 Peter 2 : 21), doing good deeds (Romans 2 : 6-8), setting the proper example. (Matthew 5 : 16). He is encouraged by having fellowship with his brethren, through reading God's word, and by asking for the Lord's help. He makes mistakes, he stumbles and falls, but as he gets up and tries again and again, gradually he becomes stronger.

There are so many things said in the New Testament that would emphasize the importance of the Christian being grounded in the faith so that it will be possible for him to become strong in the Lord and the power of his might. To begin with, it is through a knowledge of God's word that one is able to have faith and to build thereupon. Paul wrote to the Romans that faith comes by hearing the word of God. (Romans 10 : 17). As one learns the truth, and comes to accept it as the truth, then one not only obeys the gospel, is added to the church and becomes founded upon the rock which is Christ (Mark 16 : 15,16 ; Acts 2 : 47 ; 1 Corinthians 3 : 11), but that word begins to lead and direct him in the paths of righteousness. (James 1 : 25). The Psalmist David wrote in the long ago, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalms 119 : 105). As one continues to be led by the word through reading and studying the holy scriptures and by submitting to it then this is making it possible for him to grow and develop into a strong and mature Christian. With such growth there comes added strength and ability to be worth more to the Lord and his cause. Also with such study and development one learns to put more faith and trust in God's word. He begins to rely on it more. He feels knowledgeable, confident, and happy that he is standing squarely on the truth of God's word. This gives him courage, zeal, and determination to go on to ultimate and final victory in Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote the Ephesian Christians, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not

against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness ; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace ; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God....." (Ephesians 6 : 10-17). Again, Paul wrote the Corinthian brethren, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15 : 58). According to these verses, and others that could be given, we are going to have to be Christians, founded firmly upon the truth, and living and practicing that truth, if we are going to be strong enough to survive in this wicked world. We need to know who we are, what we are, where we stand, what we believe, what our job is, and why we are doing what we are doing. If we are not sure, if there are questions in mind that are not answered, if we are not really sold on what we believe and what we are doing then we are in serious danger. If we are blown about by every wind of doctrine ; if we are ever learning and never coming to a knowledge of the truth (Ephesians 4 : 14 ; 2 Timothy 3 : 7), then these are signs that something is wrong. The Lord wants us to make up our minds for him and then stand with him to the very end. Only through loyalty and faithfulness can we hope to receive the crown of life. (Revelation 2 : 10).

To be grounded in the faith means to believe solely in the Lord and his word, to be fully convinced, to take stand on it, to speak up for it, to defend it, to live by it, to live for it, and to even be willing to die for it. It means to accept the one true faith, the one true religion of Christ, to "earnestly contend

for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3). It means to take delight in the truth and with joy preach and teach it to others. It means to remain where you are, to not slip or slide backwards, to always be dependable and faithful to the Lord and his teaching.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, are you grounded in the faith? Are you sure of what you believe? Do you feel free and at ease with what you have? Do you find satisfaction in the fact that you are a Christian and a member of the church of Christ? Are you faithful to your calling? The Lord needs faithful followers. He need strong and mature Christians who can go out and do the job that needs to be done. He needs those who can preach and teach the word by their example and by word of mouth in a convincing way so as to convert the lost. Again, my brothers and sisters in Christ, are you grounded in the faith? If not you cannot be what the Lord would have you to be. In that case you need to continue to read and study God's word until you are fully convinced. Remember you can know the truth and you can know that you are saved and what the Lord would have you to be when you obey the truth. Then on knowing that, and remaining faithful to the Lord, you are able to go out and help others to reach this place in their life. The Lord wants you to be a Christian, and a faithful Christian. In so doing you can be grounded in the faith and placed in a position where you can really be worth something to Christ and his cause.



**associate
editorial**

Is Family Planning Wrong?

There are some who believe that the Bible speaks against birth control or family planning. Recently a letter came to me, writer of which wanted me to write back and tell him all the

verses from the Bible which teach against family planning. However, there is not a chapter or a verse in the Bible which command family planning or the use of contraceptives, neither there is a verse which forbid family planning or the use of contraceptives for limiting the size of ones family.

It is wrong to argue, however, that the Bible does not teach that one can use contraceptives, or sterilization, for practicing birth control. There are thousands of other things which we use or practice today and they are not commanded in the Bible too. For instance, blood transfusion, heart transplantation, etcetra. They are not right or wrong just because the Bible does or does not teach about them.

Man is a intelligent being. He is not like animals who cannot reason, think, or plan for their future. Suppose, if I have a debt that demands all of my present income, it would be wrong for me to go and buy more things until I can afford them. No one, in fact, has right to bring a child into the world and then leave him to starve, beg, or suffer physically and mentally. It is likewise not right for any parent to bring a large number of children into the world and then expect the government, or a church, or an organization, to feed, clothe, and educate them.

The Bible strongly says, " But if any provideth not for his own, and specially his own household, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever." (1 Timothy 5 : 8). Of course, the main thought of this verse is to rebuke a person who is lazy and the one who refuses to accept his responsibility toward his family. However, it also suggests that one should seek to keep his family to a limited size that he can adequately provide for their needs.

Let us, therefore, not make a law where the Bible does not make one. God is not against family planning. He has blessed man with the ability to reproduce, but He has also given man intelligence to control reproduction. For instance, I like winter, and I thank God that he has blessed us with all kinds of seasons; I surely like when it gets real cold. However,

if I decide to freeze to death outside in a freezing winter night, in spite of the fact that I have all the best facilities available in the world to protect myself from being freezing, you'd say that was a foolish decision. And the same is true of the people who continue to bring masses of children into the world, and then suffer in various ways physically, economically, and otherwise.

Why Every Christian Should Be Involved In Evangelism

Ricky Brooks

Every Christian in India should be working in a personal evangelism program. Those who have been participating have accomplished great things for the Lord. There is no reason why everyone cannot do at least something to help,

Every Christian should be involved in trying to save souls because of the **value of souls**. Every person we know has a soul, And that soul is very precious. In Matthew 16 : 26 Jesus explained that the soul of man is more precious than the whole world. Its more precious then, than that cinema picture we had rather watch, or that cricket game we had rather see, or those rupees we had rather have, or any form of recreation and pleasure which would keep us from doing our part of soul-winning. we should be involved in evangelism because of the great value of a soul.

Every Christian should be involved in personal evangelism because **souls are lost**, and we have a love for lost souls. In Ezekiel 18 : 20, God said "the soul that sinneth it shall die". Paul wrote in Romans 3 : 23, "All have sinned". Thus we are surrounded by a world of lost souls. The souls will remain lost until they are taught and obey the gospel of Christ. Every day, hundreds of lost souls die. If this doesn't grieve our hearts then something is wrong with our spiritual life. Our Lord loved lost souls enough to die for them. Romans 5 : 8 ;

Luke 19 : 10. If we truly are His disciples, then we should have this same love and compassion for souls.

Every Christian should be involved in evangelism because of the **terrible punishment that awaits lost**. (2 Thessalonians 1 : 7, 8 ; Matthew 25 : 46 ; Matthew 18 : 8 ; Matthew 25 : 30). Paul said "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men....." (2 Corinthians 5 : 11). After a study of God's word we know the eternal hell that will be the destiny of every lost soul, and this should instill within us a burning desire to bring souls to Christ.

Every Christian should be involved in saving the lost because **lost souls can not be saved unless someone teaches them**. In John 6 : 45, Jesus said, "It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." Note also Romans 10 : 13-17. It is plain to see that souls must be taught, and Christians are the ones who must do the teaching. Christians are the only messengers used by God today to sound forth His Word.

Every Christian should be involved in evangelism in order **to save his own soul**. If we do not strive to reach the lost, God will hold us accountable. (Ezekiel 3 : 17-19). Jesus commissions all of His disciples to preach the Gospel to every creature. (Mark 16 : 15 ; Matthew 28 : 19,20).

Are you involved in evangelism ? If not, why not ?

Why Must All Men Die ?

W. A. Bradfield

"For since by man came death by man also came the resurrection of the dead." (I Corinthians 15:21)

A. What is Death ?

1. Death is a departure. (2 Timothy 4:6)
2. It is a separation. (James 2:26)

3. It is a release. (2 Corinthians 5:1)
4. It is a rest. (Revelation 14:13)
5. It is a sleep. (John 11:11)
6. It is a going home. (John 14:1-4)

B. Some Figures used to Describe Death.

1. Death is referred to as "a grim reaper". (Psalms 90:6)
2. It is like "a king of terrors." (Job 18:14)
3. It is "a thread cut by the weaver." (Isaiah 38:12)
4. It is "fleeing as a shadow." (Job 14:2)
5. It is like "sleeping in the dust." (Job 7:21)
6. It is a "flower of the grass." (1 Peter 1:24)
7. Death is "man's last enemy." (1 Corinthians 15:26)
8. It is a "man on a pale horse." (Revelation 6:8)

C. Life is very Brief Here.

1. Life is a few days (Job 14:1)
2. It is a sleep (Psalms 90:5)
3. It is like a flower (Psalms 103:13)
4. It is as grass (Isaiah 40:6)
5. It is a vanishing vapor (James 4:14)

D. Five Grim Facts all must Face.

1. We must live. (Romans 14:7)
2. We must die. (Hebrews 9:27)
3. We must be raised from the dead. (John 5:28, 29)
4. We must stand in judgment. (2 Corinthians 5:10)
5. We must live eternally somewhere. (Matthew 25:46)

E. Why Must Man Die ?

1. It is a consequence of sin. (Romans 5:12).

"Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin ; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned."

2. It is a divine appointment. (Hebrews 9:27)

"...it is appointed unto man once to die and after this cometh the judgment."

3. It is not an end but a means to an end-a stepping stone, a spring board, a higher plateau, an opportunity to live in a mansion in heaven. (John 14:1-4)

F. Why is Death Naturally Fearful ?

1. It is an adventure clothed in mystery.
2. It is an untried, lonely journey. (Psalms 23:4)
3. It is fearful because of our attachment to things and people.
4. It is a sting caused by sin. (1 Corinthians 15:56)

G. The Christian should not fear Death.

1. Better is the day of death. (Ecclesiastes 7:1)
2. To die is gain. (Philippians 1:21)
3. Blessed are the dead. (Revelation 14:13)
4. Precious is the death of a saint. (Psalms 116:15)
5. The Christian has hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

H. What is the Christian's Victory ?

1. Through Christ we conquer the fear of death. (1 Corinthians 15:51-58)
2. Through His resurrection from the dead we have the blessed assurance of being raised also. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)
3. This hope of victory over death brings joy unspeakable to the Christian. (Philippians 4:4)

I. How can Man Prepare for Death ?

1. Accept the love, grace, and mercy of God. (John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9 ; Hebrews 2:9)
 2. Obey the gospel of Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Romans 1:16)
 - a. **Facts** to be believed—the death burial, and resurrection of Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
 - b. **Commands** to be obeyed—believe, repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:38)
 - c. **Promises** to be enjoyed—remission of sins, gift of the Holy Spirit, and the hope of heaven. (Acts 2:38)
- Live a faithful Christian life. (Revelation 2:10; Titus 2:11, 12)

“Returning To God”

By Paul Cantrell

“Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, said the Lord of hosts.”—Malachi 3:7.

As men turn from keeping the Will of God, their religion becomes outward, and powerless (II Tim. 3:5). Religious groups will begin to stagnate and signs of decay set in. Strange new voices begin to appear - only to lead further from the Will and Way of God. A RETURN TO GOD, A RESTORATION of His Will in our lives is called for.

Return to God Not Easy

The way back to God, to Christ as Lord, to the Bible as the only Infallible Guide is not an easy way! It will require doing away with, rejecting turning loose of all that is not Truth. It requires going back beyond Denominationalism, the Reforms, Councils, Popes, Patriarches, etc. all the way back to the ORIGINAL PLAN OF GOD. For a return to God demands a return to keeping His ordinances, HIS truth, HIS will. Doctrines and Commands and Ordinances of men must be set aside (Matt. 15:7-9) and the Word of God have supremacy in our lives (Matt. 7:21-23).

Specific Requirement

A return to God needs to take place in all areas of our relationship to Him. Here are some specifics :

1. **To become a Christian as God directs in His Word** It is to recognize the deed of God's grace (Eph. 2:8-9) to be saved for we have no power of our own to take away our sins. Our faith in God and in Jesus must be strong enough to lead us to “repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). We come into a relationship with Christ (Gal. 3:27) as a new creation of God (II Cor. 5:17) happily and joyfully wearing only the name of Christ who saved us (Acts 11:26).

2. To become a member of the "one body" of Christ.

Christ is not divided, neither is His body. He has made it one by his death on the cross (Eph. 2:14-17). Upon our obedience to his gospel, he adds us to His church (Acts 2:47). We will have no need nor desire to affiliate with any religious group but the "one body" of Christ.

3. To let Christ truly become Lord in our lives. He is King over His kingdom. Head over His church, Master over His willing Servants. (Lk. 6:46; Eph. 1:20-23; Rom. 6:16-18). He is the ONLY Head over His people and refuses to share that honor with any other. He rules and regulates the lives of His servants, citizens, people by His Infallible Word that has been left for us. (John 12:48-50). The Creeds, Disciplines, Confessions, etc., of men must go - if we are to return to God! All things must meet the test of a "thus sayeth the Lord!" We uncompromisingly turn our hearts and ears from any message that is not based on God's truth. More and more our lives will take on the holy characteristics of God.

4. To meet and worship as God directs each week with his people. We will sing from the heart (Eph. 5:19), pray sincerely (1 Cor. 14:15) study diligently His Word (Eph. 2:6-8), meet around the Lord's Table in Memory of His death for us (1 Cor. 11:17-34; Acts 20:7), and freely give of our prosperity (1 Cor. 16:1-2, II Cor. 8:8). All is to be done with Simplicity, Order and Sincerity. There must be a complete rejection of all additions, changes, & forms of entertainments.

Not Partial Return

God does not want a partial return, but a return ALL THE WAY!! Many people are breaking away and forming independent churches with a desire to return to God. The grave danger is in not going all the way back! Many tend to bring over with them some of the teachings and practices originated by man. To go all the way back to God, one must do away with, reject, turn loose of all that is not taught in New Testament.

A Challenge

Dear friend, we want you to know about the independent "churches of Christ" in your neighbourhood that are making a valiant effort to restore Christianity as it was in the first century to go all the way back to God's original teaching. If this effort makes sense to you, you are encouraged and invited to make contact with one of these congregations close to you.

By Way of Answer

Some Answers to Some Questions We've been Asked

We think you deserve an answer! Sometimes our friends are interested in things which they observe about the churches of Christ, but are hesitant to ask questions lest they cause embarrassment. Since Peter admonishes Christians to be "ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3: 15), we are happy to have our friends inquire as to our faith. The following are questions that we have actually been asked. We hope our answers will promote understanding of our practices and the thing for which we stand.

"What Religion are You?"

We seek to be simple, undenominational Christians, accepting the New Testament as our sole guide in religious matters. Congregations usually known as churches of Christ are independent in the operation of their affairs, although they cooperate with one another in advancing the cause of Christ. They should not be confused with the United Church of Christ, the Church of Christ Scientist, or the Federal Council of Churches of Christ.

"Who Founded the Church of Christ?"

We do not use the expression "church of Christ" in a denominational sense. In the Bible it is applied to the undenominational body of Christ, as in Romans 16: 16, in which

Paul says. "All the churches of Christ greet you." The church we read of in the New Testament is composed of all who are truly Christians. In this sense, Christ's church, or the church of Christ if you prefer, was established by Jesus himself upon the foundation of divine sonship. It was he who said.. "On this rock I will build my church." (Matt 16: 18.) We owe a debt of gratitude to a number of men in the early nineteenth century who called men back to the simple plea of apostolic Christianity. From these efforts independent congregations of "Christian *only*" number in the thousands in several nations of the world.

"Do You have Rules in your Church " ?

Every organization has rules; otherwise it could not exist. However since we accept the New Testament as our sole guide in religious and moral matters, we do not have a creed book with a list of do's and don'ts. When we have a problem we go to the scriptures to find the answers. Often the answer is in the form of a principle that must be individually applied. Two Christians may not always apply the principle in the same way, and mutual respect must be granted when honest differences occur. But only the word of God can guide us in such matters. When a command applying to us is clearly stated in the Bible, we are not at liberty to change it because we think we have found a better way.

"Why Doesn't the Ministry have a Religious Title, such as Reverend ? Why Doesn't he wear Clerical Garb ?"

Jesus told his disciples not to wear titles of distinction. "But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven." (Matt. 23: 8, 9.) In stating that his followers should not be known as "Rabbi" or "Father" (spiritually speaking). Jesus condemns any title of distinction that would elevate one Christian above another in point of honor. "Reverend", derived from "rever", suggests that the one to whom it is applied is worthy of veneration.

ration or worship Only God deserves this. For the same reason ministers of the gospel do not "turn their collars around" or dress distinctively to set them apart from other Christians.

"Why Don't you use Musical Instruments in Worship?"

We seek in all things to follow the teachings and examples of Christ and his apostles. As such we strive to speak where the scriptures speak and to be silent where they are silent. For this reason we do not change the elements Christ placed in the Lord's supper (bread and fruit of the vine) by adding or substituting other foods. With respect to music in worship we find that the New Testament specifies the kind of music we should use. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Col. 3: 16.) "But be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart." (Eph. 5:19.) Note that the kind of music—singing or vocal—is specified. Therefore we do not feel at liberty to substitute a different kind in our worship. Historically, it was 600 years after Christ before congregations first began to use instruments of music in worship.

"Why Don't you have a Christmas Service?"

The New Testament does not teach us to celebrate the birth of Christ. We do not know when the birthday of Jesus was, although it is fairly certain it was not in December. Christmas is literally "the mass of Christ." We do not celebrate mass as some groups do. We do not find a biblical reason to celebrate the birth of Christ in a religious way.

"What is your Belief Regarding Baptism?"

The scripture teach that baptism is to be performed by immersion. "We were *buried* therefore with him by baptism into death." (Rom 6:4.) Baptism is intended to forgive personally committed sins. "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of

your sins.” (Acts 2:38.) This is because baptism is always to be preceded by faith. Jesus teaches, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:16) Since infants cannot believe, we reject infant baptism as without biblical basis. There is neither command nor example in the Bible in support of infant baptism.

“How Old Must a Person be before he can take Communion?”

Communion, or the Lord’s Supper is intended for Christians, those who have been baptized into Christ. Therefore, any person who has been baptized according to the scriptures may participate in this memorial feast.

“Why Don’t you Take a Collection at Every Service?”

The new Testament principle of giving is that Christians should give according to their prosperity. Paul, when making up a collection for the needy, enjoins Christians to do this on the first day of the week, the time of their regular assembly. (1 Cor. 16:2.) If we give ourselves completely and without reservation to Christ, we will also give as we are prospered, and repeated collections will not be necessary to get us to increase our giving.

Can Our Parents Religion Save Us?

Steve Brown

Jesus says, “He that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.” (Mt. 10 : 37). From this simple statement we learn that our trust should be in Christ, not in our parents. Although they may be good people and we should love and obey them, Jesus demands that we love him MORE.

Again Jesus says, “For I come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother and a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.” (Mt. 10 : 35,36). This happen because some follow the Lord and some refuse to follow him. If we want to be saved, Jesus demands that we follow him.

The Bible also says that we all will be judged based on what we do while we are alive. (2 Cor. 5 : 10).

This means that no one can help us in the judgment neither father, mother nor any other. We will all be judged by what we have done ourselves.

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Phil. 2 : 12).

The Victory That Overcometh

Robert H. Martin

SAVING FAITH : Genuine faith in Christ will lead to salvation. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16 : 31) John 3 : 16 has been called the Golden Text of the Bible. "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."

Faith includes : 1. belief of testimony, and 2. confidence or trust. We believe God is and that He rewards those who seek him. (Heb. 11 : 6)

Faith is seen in every realm of life. We take our physician's prescription by faith. We have never seen many places on earth, but we believe they are there because of the testimony of those who have been there.

God cannot be demonstrated as a mathematical formula, but we have evidence to believe that He exist and we believe the Bible as His Word. In order for our faith to save, it must be an active faith which would remove mountains, but without love it would profit nothing. (1 Cor. 13 : 2)

James taught that faith without works is dead (James 2 : 17). In Jesus' day some believed on Him, but were afraid to confess Him. (John 12 : 42-43) Every example in the great chapter on faith, Hebrews 11, is an example of faith which is active. According to Paul the faith which works through love. (Gal. 5 : 6) Every act of obedience in becoming a Christian and living the Christian life is a showing of faith.

Are You A Christian ?

By Jack Harriman

Sometimes people refer to themselves as being Christians because they live in a nation in which the predominant religion is a form of Christianity. Others refer to themselves as Christians because they have been born of parents whose religion is Christianity. Still others wear the name Christian because they are associated with a religious group that claims to be Christian. As one reads the New Testament it becomes quite obvious that being a Christian is far more than any of these relationships.

Being A Christian Involves Two Things

First, it involves establishing a FATHER-CHILD relationship with God. One must become a member of God's family. The Bible calls this the new birth (John 3 : 5). Of the thousands of children in Napier, I enjoy a father-child relationship with only four. With these four I have a special relationship. I'm their father and they are my children. This relationship was established as a result of their being born into my family. Other children in Napier may be more intelligent, better looking, and better behaved than these four, but that does not change the fact that they have never been born into my family. Being born into God's family means that one believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son, that he repents of past sins, and that he is baptised for the remission of his sins (Acts 2 : 38).

Second, being a true Christian involves maintaining that FATHER-CHILD relationship with God. This relationship is maintained in three ways. First, by following the teaching or doctrine of God given through Christ. The Bible says, "Any one who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God, the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9). Second, by imitating the life of Christ (1 Pet. 2 : 22). He gave himself in service to others (Mark 10 : 45). He kept His life pure (John 8 : 46). Third, by displaying the spirit or attitude

of Christ. The Bible says, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2 : 5).

A true Christian, then, is one who has established a **FATHER-CHILD** relationship with God by being born into His family, and who maintains that **FATHER-CHILD** relationship by following His Son's doctrine, imitating His Son's life, and displaying His Son's attitude. **ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN ?**

Following in the Steps of Jesus

Clem Thorman

What is our purpose in life ? We read it in 1 Pet. 2 : 21, "For even hereunto were ye called : because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps." It is in the book we call the Bible that Christ's way is revealed, And if we are to make His way our way and follow in His steps, we must turn to that word to find the kind of life He lived. As we view His life, we can then "follow in his steps." We can make His way our way.

The Way of Christ is the Way of Obedience

When Jesus walked this earth, He constantly pointed to man's responsibility before God. He said in Jno. 4 : 34, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to accomplish his work." Again in Jno. 6 : 38, "I am come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me." This was the theme of His life : doing the will of the Father.

If we "follow in his steps," we must also walk in the path of obedience. Solomon wrote in Eccle. 12 : 13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter : Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Too many have been deluded into thinking that obedience is not really important, Some even argue, "Following a set of rules will

not save !” And that is true. But following Christ will ! And what is His way ? Read it in Heb. 5 : 8-9, “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered ; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” Christ obeyed. And he expects the same of us. If we are to make His way our way, we will do His will.

The prayer of Jesus just before he was taken to be crucified shows a pattern of living that ought to be an example for us. “Not my will, but thine, be done.” (Lk. 22 : 42). When we can pray that, and mean it we will truly be following in the steps of Jesus Christ. But as long as we are determined to have our way, we are not really following Him at all.

The Way of Christ is the Way of Love

It was love that sent God’s Son into this world of sin and trouble : “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.” (Jno. 3 : 16). That He loved the world is wonderful ; that He loved us even when we were sinners is divine. But Paul writes in Rom. 5 : 8, “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Jesus Christ “came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1 : 15). He was willing to die on the cross to accomplish that salvation. Love moved Him : “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (Jno. 15 : 13).

If we will make His way our way, we must love as He did. “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children ; and work in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God.” (Eph 5 : 1-2). Love is to be our motive for doing His will to become a Christian, and love is to promote every intention and deed as we live the Christian life. Jesus said, “If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments.” (Jno. 14 : 15).

When we love God, we will also love one another. As John wrote it, “He that loveth him that begat, loveth him also

that is begotten of him." (1 Jno. 5 : 1). In other words, if we love the Father, we will love His children ! This is the command Christ gave in Jno. 13 : 34. He placed a special emphasis on this command when He said, "A new commandment give I unto you, That ye love one another ; I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Paul summed it up for Christians when he wrote, "Let all you do be done in love." (1 Cor. 16 : 14). When love is our motivation (for the Lord and for one another), we are making His way our way and following in His steps.

The Way of Christ is a Way of Separation

There is constant pressure from the world to try to make Christians conform to the world. But we dare not. Christ didn't. He refused to allow the society in which He lived determine the kind of life He would live ! That is still His way. We read in Heb. 7 : 28 that He was "separate from sinners." That is surely one reason He was "despised and rejected of men" (Isa. 53 : 3). He told the disciples in Jno. 15 : 18-19, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love its own ; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

For Christians today the pressures are still there to conform to the world. Worldly people want us to pattern our speech, dress, habits, desires and morals after the world. As Peter wrote, "They think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you." (1 Pet. 4 : 4). We must dare to be different. Our function must be to change the world, not be changed by it. If we would follow in the steps of Jesus, we will "Come out from among them, and be ye separate." (2 Cor. 6 : 17).

The Way of Christ is the Way of Happiness

For too long, for too many people, following Christ has meant a life without joy. But that is just not true. The

Christian life is the happiest life possible ; and if one is miserable trying to follow Christ, it is because he is not making the way of Christ his way. The first miracle of Jesus was at a wedding feast: a time of joy and merry-making (Jno. 2 : 1-11). When He told a story to illustrate one coming back to God, the scene was that of a father throwing a party of his returning son ! (Lk 15 : 22-24).

In the long ago God said, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine : but a broken spirit drieth the bones." (Prov. 17 : 22). Have you ever pictured God as laughing ? Well, read Psa. 2 : 4 ! Picture the humor in the passage of Isa. 44 : 9-20. God writes a satire on idolatry, to show how foolish it is. The scene is one of man carving a god from a piece of wood, building a fire with another part on which to cook his food. God declares, "He feedeth on ashes" (v. 20). But he still worships the stick carved from the other part of the same wood ! Read the entire passage, and you'll see where man got his sence of humor : we are made in God's image !

Paul wrote in Phil. 4 : 4, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice !" The standard response of those who became Christians was, "They rejoiced greatly.....He went on his way rejoicing." (Acts 16 : 34 ; 8 : 39). So it should be with us. When we belong to Christ, we walk in His way following His steps, there is reason for rejoicing. Jesus stated in Lk. 15 : 7, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." When we have the assurance of salvation in Christ, our hearts will also be filled with joy.

Our purpose ? "Follow in his steps." When we obey God, walk in love, separate ourselves from the world in dedication to Him—then we can rejoice that He is our Saviour ! That is our purpose : making Christ's way, walking in His steps.

The Crossroads Of Life

Johnny Ramsey

Our eternal destiny hinges upon decisions we make in life. We often come to the crossroads that propels us, in one direction or the other, on a journey that eventually takes us to heaven or to hell. Should we chose the spiritual route over the road of carnality, we will be exceedingly happy at the end of the way. It may have been easier to take the lane of least resistance, but the only safe way is to follow the steps of Christ (1 Pet. 2 : 21-22). The broad way that leads to perdition (Matt. 7 : 13) demands nothing of its travellers. It is no marvel that such a path is so popular because millions traverse it with the theme song : "Doing what comes naturally."

Instead of being "dead unto sin and alive unto God" (Rom. 6 : 11), those doing "their own thing" are very proficient in the art of iniquity. Nibbling on the Devil's dainties they become "fat cats" in the arena of error and evil. They made their choice, pitched their tent toward Sodom and have become "the bondslaves of iniquity." (2 Pet. 2 : 18). The road they chose has become a snare and a pit of evil. It will be difficult to get off this pathway because it is so crowded (Ex. 23 : 2) with multitudes living in sin (Rev. 21 : 8). Since "evil companions corrupt good morals" the loathesome disease of apostasy soon overwhelms the sojourners. The road that looked so fair has deteriorated quickly and briars and thistles (Heb. 6 : 1-9) loom everywhere ! What a barren land is the desert of sorrow and sin.

The other choice, as we stand at the crossroads, is demanding, challenging and rewarding. No false hope or vain promises can be found there. It is a narrow and exacting (Matt. 7 : 14). It cries for sacrifice (Rom. 12 : 1), surrender (Lk. 14 : 33), submission (Eph. 5 : 24) and unselfishness as Jesus stated in Lk. 9 : 23, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me." That takes stamina, fortitude and spiritual dedication.

Many are not willing to pay the price of discipleship. Some try to "water down" the commands of Christ and suddenly find themselves walking that other path. We all stand at the crossroads. The choice we make could separate us from the Lord or bring us nearer to Him. May we be wise enough to choose the road that demands more of us and blesses our journey. That other path looks appealing, but there is no fruit on the tress and the grass soon dies (1 Pet. 1 : 24 ; Lk. 13 : 1-8).

Can One Be Saved Outside of the Church?

L. O. Sanderson

The idea that men are saved from sin and then join the church of their choice is long standing yet of human origin. we grant that one can be saved without joining a sectarian body, since denominationalism is no part of the divine plan of redemption; and if one depends on human opinions to attain his change, he would likely reserve the right to join the church that he likes best. However, this cannot make it right and pleasing to God. The real question is: Can one be saved from sin without becoming a member of the Lord's church? We shall show that it is impossible, and that the Bible process unto remission of sins is one and the same thing as becoming a member of the Lord's church.

Consider the new birth. Practically all religious bodies urge that one must be born again or be lost forever. Moreover, there is general agreement that to be born again and to be saved from sin are co-equal and exact experiences. Equal processes attain like results. So, if to be saved means to be born again, what are the results? One born again must be in God's family—he does not have to join the family sometime after birth, for he is in it the moment he is born. What is

God's family? It is God's household (Eph.2:19) or house (1 Tim. 3:15), the church, and named for the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:15). To be saved, hence born again, is the divine process by which we enter the kingdom or church (John 3:3-5), by which we enter God's family, the church (Gal. 3:26, 27), by which we become members of the body, the church (1 Cor. 12:13). Hence, one cannot be saved without becoming a member of the Lord's church.

Note also what happens when one is saved. Christ so plainly taught, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16: 16.) But what occurs when one is saved? The saved are "added to the church" by the Lord himself! (Acts 2:47.) Hence, the process by which one is saved is one and the same with meeting requisites to membership in the Lord's church. If a man claims he is saved and still outside the Lord's family, he makes God a liar, for divine truth says the saved are added, and daily, to the church. The only alternatives are: If not in the church, then not saved; or if saved and still not in the church, the Lord does not keep his promise. Who would want to meet Christ in the judgment on either basis?

Ponder the relationship of the church and salvation. Paul declared the blood of Christ was shed "that he might reconcile both [Jew and Gentile] unto God in one body." (Eph. 2: 16.) The body is the church (Eph. 1:22, 23), and therefore, reconciliation to God is in, not out of, the church. Moreover, in the same epistle (Eph. 5 : 23), Christ is set forth as "the Saviour of the body" the church. Christ is the only available Saviour of the world—he came to save! He would be the Saviour of all who allow him to be so. But how can he be the Saviour, present tense and in reality, of those who are unsaved? He is the Saviour of the church; and the kingdom, or church, is the only body of people to be delivered by him unto the Father in the last day. (1 Cor. 15: 24.) One, therefore, must be a member of his church to be saved eternally!

Finally, remember the heavenly membership roll. It is admitted that one may have his name on an earthly membership list without having it written in heaven; and it is no doubt

possible for one to have his name in the Lamb's book of life without having it on church books here. However, be it ever remembered that those who compose the Lord's church "are written in heaven" (Heb. 12: 23) and all those whose names are not written they are worshippers of the beast (Rev. 13:8). Here God recognizes but two groups—the kingdom of Christ, whose citizens are enrolled in heaven, and the kingdom of darkness, whose members are worshippers of the beast. There is no middle state or condition. What will happen to those who worship the beast? "If any man worship the beast and his image...the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God... and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone." (Rev. 14:9,10.) What happens if our name is not in the Lamb's book in heaven? He shall be "cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:15.)

We cannot be saved outside the church of our Lord!

BOOK OF THE MONTH

YET another excellent book on the great fundamental of the Christian religion "THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS." This little book, written by Henry E. Pipkin, deals with the subject of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and provides answers to several logical questions on the subject. It states: "The great fundamental of the Christian religion is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Resurrection bears directly upon whether or not He is God's Son, and thus upon His claims that he came from heaven. The doctrine concerning the resurrection of Jesus is so basic and strategic that some serious Bible scholars suggest that the resurrection of Christ is the proper subject to begin a study of Christianity, rather than to begin with the life and teachings of Jesus."

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Can a Child of God Fall From Grace?

Roy Deaver

"Now these things happened unto them by way of example: and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. 10: 11, 12.)

These verses : (1) set before us the fact of the possibility of apostasy; (2) relate directly to an example of apostasy; and (3) issue a *warning* with reference to apostasy.

Let it be noted as a basic proposition: The Scriptures teach that a child of God can so sin as to be lost.

This fact is clearly *taught* in such passages as 1 Cor. 10: 12. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 9:27: "I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected." Gal. 5:4. "Ye who would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace." And James 5:19, 20. "My brethren, if any among you err from the truth, and one convert him know, that he who converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins."

This fact is *illustrated* by the *rock soil*: "These on the rock are they who when they have heard, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away." (Luke 8: 13); the *thorny soil*. "And that which fell among the thorns, these are they that have heard, and as they go on their way they are choke with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." (Luke 8: 14); and *Old Testament Israel*: "And fell in one day three and twenty thousand... Now these things happened unto them by way of example." (1 Cor. 10: 8, 11).

This fact is *exemplified* in *Simon the sorcerer*: "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right before God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray the Lord, if perhaps the thought of thy heart shall be forgiven thee. For I see that thou art in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8: 21-23); *Demas*: "Demas forsook me, having loved this present world" (2 Tim. 4: 10); and *the incestuous man*: "There is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not even among the Gentiles, that one of you hath his father's wife." (1 Cor. 5: 1).

Clearly, therefore according to the Bible passages, illustrations and examples, a child of God can so sin as to be lost. Let every child of God "take heed lest he fall."

What Is the Battle of Armageddon ?

By Dayton Keesee.

FOR a term found only once in the New Testament, "Armageddon" has been given an amazing amount of attention.

When did (will) it occur ?

Armageddon has been affixed to the destruction of the apostate harlot, Jerusalem, in 70 A.D., to some event yet future, and to many events in between the two. In 1851 Albert Barnes saw the evil forces in this battle as "a rallying of the declining powers of heathenism, Mohammedanism, and Romanism." But while Barnes looked to the future, others have understood it as a reference to the fall of the Roman Empire centuries earlier. In 1814 Adam Clarke gave an interesting expression of the views.

"Within the last twenty years this battle has been fought at various places, according to our blind seers and self-inspired prophets ! At one time it was Austerlitz, at another Moscow

at another Leipsic, and now Waterloo ! And thus they have gone on, and will go on, confounding and being confounded"

(A Commentary and Critical Notes, V. 6).

Mr Clarke was correct in his prediction. Some such "seers" now declare the Anglo American World Power to be the false prophet and one of the beasts to be the United Nations. Another current and popular view is that Armageddon will soon occur, bringing together "the combined forces of the Western civilization united under the leadership of the Roman Dictator and the vast hordes of the Orient probably united under the Red Chinese war machine" (**The Late Great Planet Earth**, Lindsey).

With much more consistency, many scholars have understood the term as the "last and final battle" between God and the forces of evil.

Who will be in the conflict ?

Confusion also reigns when specific participants of the battle are discussed. Named in Revelation (chapters 13, 16, and 19) are the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. Also mentioned are "the kings that come from the sunrising" and "the kings of the whole world."

Regarding the three unclean spirits there has been much diversity related both to nations and influences involved. About the only agreement has been that the scene depicts a great conflict between the forces of evil and the forces of righteousness. But this is not new to God's people.

What is Armageddon ?

While speculative answers to this question fill many volumes, the vital and obvious message related to Armageddon is often ignored ! Because the Lord will come as a thief, a promise is made for perceptive and prepared people : "Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" (Revelation 16 : 15).

The Bible teaching that the second coming of Jesus will mark a great day of God should give us a directive for living. (1 Thessalonians 5 : 1-10). Adam Clarke connects this phrase

(Contd. on back cover)

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to the conduct of a temple overseer who, upon finding any Levite sleeping on his watch, had authority to beat that man with a stick and burn his clothes. The Levite had to face the dual shame of nakedness and public knowledge of his incompetence.

Armageddon means "the city of Megiddo." It is rendered "Harmagedon" in some versions, meaning "the mountain of Megiddo." The Bible record tells of many battles being fought here. But to devoted pages to theories about a literal battle to end all battles, while ignoring the obvious need for God's people to be prepared for the second coming of Jesus, is a poor interpretation and application of God's Word.

The wife of the Lamb "should array herself in fine linen..... the righteous acts of the saints" (Revelation 19 : 6-8). The Lamb is Christ (John 1 : 29). and his wife is the church (Ephesians 5 : 22-33). Each one in the church, and thus married to Christ, should be busy "in righteous acts" to keep "his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" (Revelation 16 : 15). This is the vital message today for all students of Armageddon.

What is the battle of Armageddon ? it is a time for God's people to be prepared !

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole Matter : fear God, and keep his commandment : for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Ecclesiastes 12:13,14.