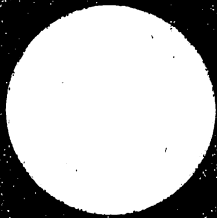


# THE BIBLE TEACHER



# क्या आप जानते हैं ?

रेडियो श्री लंका से प्रसारित प्रवचनों को अब आप पुस्तकों के रूप में प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। प्रत्येक पुस्तक को मुफ्त प्राप्त करने के लिये, डाक व्यय के लिये, केवल 25 पैसे का डाक टिकट हमें भेजिए। इसी के साथ पुस्तक का नाम भी लिखना न भूलें।

1. सत्य सुसमाचार—लेखक : सनी डेविड
2. उद्धार की योजना—लेखक : सनी डेविड
3. क्रूस की कथा—लेखक: सनी डेविड
4. खाली कब्र—लेखक : सनी डेविड
5. 15 प्रभावशाली रेडियो प्रवचन—लेखक : सनी डेविड
6. 20 लघु रेडियो संदेश—लेखक : सनी डेविड
7. सुसमाचार बोनेवाला—लेखक : जे० सी० चोट

(अनुवादक सनी डेविड)

नोट : सारी पुस्तकें एक साथ प्राप्त करने के लिये रु० 1.75 के टिकट भेजिए। आपका पता साफ़ लिखा होना चाहिए।

## कृपया ध्यान दें :

रेडियो श्री लंका से प्रसारित होने वाले हमारे कार्यक्रम "सत्यसुसमाचार" अब सप्ताह में चार बार इस प्रकार सुने जा रहे हैं :

मंगलवार	(Tuesday)	रात ६:०० से ६:१५ तक
बृहस्पतिवार	(Thursday)	रात ६:०० से ६:१५ तक
शुक्रवार	(Friday)	रात ६:०० से ६:१५ तक
शनिवार	(Saturday)	रात ६:४५ से १०:०० तक

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## Persecution

Recently while visiting with the church in Singapore I was told about a young Chinese lady who had become a Christian and as a result she was having all kinds of problems with the rest of her family. The discussion got so heated that finally several members of the church had to be called in to try to calm everyone down. The parents then visited the local preacher to ask if he would not release their daughter from being a Christian, as though he could turn her on and off like a machine. He explained that what the daughter had done was her own personal affair and it was up to her to decide what she wanted to do. Then they asked if Jesus would send some evil curse on them. They were ignorant of Christianity, holding to ancestor worship with all of its superstitions, and they didn't want to lose their daughter to this "new religion." Finally, after much discussion, they left with a smile. Evidently it didn't last long, though, because the very next Sunday the daughter was not allowed to attend worship. A sister of hers reported that the parents had locked her up in a room at home and it was not known how long she would be kept there.

About the time this was happening, reports were coming in concerning all of the trouble that was taking place in Sri Lanka. By the time the curfews were lifted my wife and I flew into Colombo to be with the local Christians and they told us many stories of all of the things that had happened across the country. Although, they had been spared, thank God, they nevertheless went through a very trying period of time, some of them had to band together to protect themselves, and they never knew when some group might come after them. I read in the paper later where thousands of Tamils were affected, with many being killed, raped, their homes burned, their possessions looted, and on the list of crimes went. One officer said that during this time he had seen the bestiality in man.

Here in India and around the world, to a greater or lesser extent, there are similar events that take place. Sometimes the problems are communal, sometimes racial, at other times they are political, but often times religion is at the root of the persecution. Those of us who live in areas where there is more freedom of religion, and where there is a greater degree of law and order, may find it difficult to sympathise with such people, but such things happen. There always seems to be someone who is ready to persecute or mistreat someone else for one reason or another. Why must this be? Are we not all human beings? Are we not all from the same roots? If we go back far enough we will find that we all had the same parents in Adam and Eve.

Who is right and wrong in these cases? There is one thing for sure, regardless of the people being persecuted—even if they are bad people—the one who is persecuting them is always in the wrong. Regardless of one's grievances against the other person, or his desire for revenge, there can be no justification for mistreating, harming, or hurting a fellow human being. Certainly one cannot take the law into his own hands and be right. In most cases, however, physical violence results when people resent, hate, and refuse to tolerate those with whom they are dealing because they don't respect the rights of others. In such cases they are full of pride and are very selfish with

what they have and perhaps feel challenged by those around them. Again this is wrong; and such people stand condemned by the law and by human decency.

God's word has much to say on this subject. Let's begin in the book of Matthew. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus said "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matthew 5: 10-12). Notice that Jesus pronounced the blessing upon those who are persecuted—but persecuted for **righteousness** sake—and those who have been accused falsely. In such cases they must suffer, not for wrong, but for right. The Lord says that these are the kind that will make up the kingdom of heaven and because of their patience, their willingness to suffer even when it is not justified—and that without seeking revenge—then their reward will be great in heaven. The Lord also reminds His followers that they should not think it is so strange that they are being so persecuted because the prophets before them had been persecuted in the same way. You will note though that the Lord did not pronounce his blessing upon the persecutor but on the persecuted.

Again, Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." (Matthew 5:38, 39). Under the law it was the customary thing that if one hurt you then you had the right to hurt him, or "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" type of thing. But Jesus is teaching here that under his law this kind of revenge-seeking-type policy will not hold true. Rather, he says, that if one slaps you on one cheek then you should turn and allow him to slap you on the other cheek. Some have seen in this the idea that **after** you turn your cheek, the Lord didn't say **what** to do, as though to say that you are then free to slap him back. But I

don't believe that is the thought here. While the Lord is not saying that one cannot defend himself, let it be emphasized again that he is speaking out against the age-old principle of seeking revenge.

Speaking to the Apostles just prior to His sending them out on the limited commission, Jesus said to them, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come." (Matthew 10: 16-23). As far as persecution in our time is concerned, there would be none any worse than mentioned here. As a matter of fact, there is no form of persecution or mistreatment that one man can put on another man that is any worse than that which is done in the name of religion or that which is done in opposition to religion. Just think about the horrible and cruel things that are mentioned in this passage. You just wonder how anyone could do that to another human being, regardless of the reasons or regardless of their relationship. But notice these points:

1. Jesus said he was sending them forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. He didn't mean to say that they were sheep but they were to be as sheep, meek and gentle. Neither did he mean that he was sending them in the midst of literal wolves but they would be dealing with

those who would have the disposition of wolves—mean, vicious, and cruel people.

2. He then exhorts them to be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. They should use good common sense in dealing with different people in different situations. Even when being persecuted, if possible, they should flee from it.
3. The Lord assured them that he would be with them and help them as they spoke for him and that only those who endured to the end would be saved. It is not easy to endure persecution but it is far better to endure it and be saved than it is to turn from the Lord and be lost.

When we think of some in the New Testament who were persecuted we think first of all of Christ Himself. All through His short life there were those who were constantly out to get Him. Finally, He was betrayed by one of His own, turned over to the High Priest, and through him and his insistence, alone with those who stood with him, He was turned over to the Romans who whipped Him, gave Him a false trial, and then crucified Him on a cross. After Christ, we think of the Apostles like Peter and John and others who were warned, beaten, and put in prison, but who counted it all joy that they could suffer some for Him who had died for them. They also declared that they must obey God rather than men.

Then we read of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Going on to Acts 8 we are told about a great persecution that came against the church and as a result the Christians were scattered everywhere. Still they were not stopped but went everywhere preaching the word. Although Paul was one of the Apostles, he stands out on both sides of this question. Before becoming a Christian he was a great persecutor of the church, and he said later that he did it in all good conscience. (Acts 26 : 9). This means that he was sincere at the time he was doing it, but after he became a Christian, one of the things that hurt him most was the fact that he couldn't forget that he at one

time persecuted the Lord and his cause, and because of this he spoke of himself as the chief of sinners. But as a Christian, now he was being persecuted. He was beaten, stoned, faced wild animals, was put in prison, and finally was taken to Rome as a prisoner to go before Caesar. Secular history tells us that Paul, and all of the other Apostles, except John, died as martyrs for Christ. But again, this did not slow up the Lord's cause, which only proves that persecution never accomplishes anything for those promoting it, because persecution just caused the Lord's cause to grow and spread that much faster through Asia, Europe, and the world.

In Romans 12 : 17-21 the Apostle Paul gives us some advice on how to deal with those who would persecute us. Listen to him : "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath : for it is written, Vengeance is mine ; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him ; if he thirst, give him drink : for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Paul is saying here that we should not join the persecutor and match each evil deed with an evil deed. This is what the wrong-doer expects, and this does not solve anything. Again, Paul is speaking out against seeking revenge, but he says that we are to handle it in the opposite way, that is, by returning good for evil. This will surely throw such a person off-guard and will make him ashamed for having been so mean and ugly. Remember, Paul says that the Lord will take care of the evil doer. He may get away with his actions for the time being but in the end the Lord will settle accounts with him.

Going over to Hebrews, we have the writer listing all of those great heroes of faith, and he finally gets to the point where he has time only to briefly mention a few final characters of those who suffered so much for the Lord. But listen to him : "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of



Jephthae ; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets : Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions; Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again : and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection : And others had trial of cruel mockings and yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment : They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword : they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins ; being destitute, afflicted, tormented ; (Of whom the world was not worthy :) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise : God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." (Hebrews 11 : 32-40).

Peter writes, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happend unto you : But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of; Christ's sufferings ; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye ; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you : on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God : and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God ? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear ? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator." (1 Peter 4 : 12-19). There are so many things said here, but let's note a few of them :

1. Don't think it strange if you have to suffer some for Christ but rejoice that you can be tried and tested through partaking of the sufferings of Christ.
2. Be happy when you are reproached for the name of Christ, knowing that God's approval is on you. While there are those who speak evil of that name, through you his name may be glorified.
3. Suffer not as a murderer or as a thief, etc., because there is no honor in this. In this case you would only be receiving that which is expected. As a matter of fact, you would be ashamed for anyone to know that you are guilty of such crimes and sins. On the other hand, if you have to suffer, let it be only because you are a Christian because in this case you have the satisfaction of knowing that you have done no wrong and therefore you can glorify God in this name.
4. Judgement is coming and only those who have been faithful to the Lord will be saved. Those who have suffered have a faithful creator to look for a reward. But those who are evil—the persecutor and the sinner—will be lost.

Finally, Paul says to Timothy, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Timothy 3: 12). While some may suffer mistreatment, pain, and even death, others may lose a job, be refused admission to a school, or may be discriminated against in some other way. Others may be talked about, mocked, and laughed at. Some may live in an area where they are in a minority and others may be where they are in the majority. There may be some who find it easy to be a Christian and others who find it very difficult to be a follower of Christ. Some may be physically persecuted while others may be abused only by word of mouth. But regardless, Paul says, "that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." So, don't be surprised at all when this occurs.

While we should not deny the Lord because of persecution,

neither should we purposely bring it on ourselves. We should allow it to serve its purpose to try and test us and to prepare us to be worth more to the Lord. We should remember again that the Lord will be with us and bless us and enable us to survive it, and if we are faithful to him unto death he will give us a crown of eternal life. When the way gets hard we should remember that the Lord himself paid the supreme price on the cross with his very life and that he did not do that for **his** sins but for **our** sins. Surely, then the least we can do is to be willing to suffer some for Him who suffered so much for us.



**associate  
editorial**

## The Way of Cain, Balaam and Korah

Religiously today we do not live under the Old Testament law of the Bible, for God has given us a new law through His Son Jesus Christ, The New Testament. (Hebrews 1:1,2). However, all things written in the Old Testament are for our learning. We learn from it, for instance, the creation record, human history, how God dealt with them who lived before Christ came on earth. Also there are a number of people mentioned in the Old Testament scriptures from whom we learn many great lessons for us today. We should remember that man basically has not changed inasmuch as his physical and spiritual needs remain the same. Pointing to the fact that there are lessons for us to learn from the Old Testament, apostle Paul states: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning....."(Romans 15:4).

Jude, in his epistle to Christians, in the New Testament, and verse eleven, reminds to his readers of three such persons who lived before Christ had come upon earth, and tells that many today have gone in their way. He said, "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core (**Korah**)." What was then the way of Cain, Balaam and Korah?

We learn from the book of Genesis that Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam and Eve. Once when they both went to worship the Lord and offered their offerings unto Him, the scripture says, while God accepted Abel's offering, the firstling, from his flock, He rejected Cain's offering, which was the fruit of the ground. (Genesis 4:1-5). Evidently, the thing that Abel offered unto God in His worship was according to His will, while Cain's offering was contrary to God's will. For we read: "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." (Hebrews 11:5). Now, since Abel offered his sacrifice by faith, and since faith cometh by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17), therefore, Abel worshipped God according to His will as He had revealed. But Cain, although wanted to worship God, however, he wanted to worship God in his own way, he wanted to have his own way. And not only that, but seeing his brother's worship was accepted and his own was rejected by God, instead of correcting himself and doing according to God's will he attacked his brother. So we see, in stead of repenting from his sin Cain got angry over his brother and killed him and thus committed another sin. (Genesis 4:6-8).

But Jude says that there are people today who have gone in the way of Cain. And rightly so. While they want to worship God, but they would worship Him as they want to worship, not as God want them to worship Him. (John 4:24). Their worship is according to man-made teachings and doctrines. (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7). For instance, they would use books written by men, and not the Bible, in worshipping

God, in the first century, Christians met upon the first day of the week, (On Sundays), to partake of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7), but they would have it once in a month or whenever convenient; Christ Commanded to meet in His name (Matthew 18:20), but they meet in different names.

And not only that, but when such errors are brought to their attention then in stead of correcting their false way, they, like Cain, attack back on them who are trying to teach and follow the truth. For example, when it is brought to their attention that to be saved, according to the New Testament teaching, one must not only believe in Christ, but also repent of his sins and confess the Lord Jesus unto salvation, and be baptised for the remission of sins (Romans 10:9,10; Acts 2:38), then they immediately attack by saying, "You're teaching water salvation." Well, was the Lord teaching water salvation when he proclaimed: "HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED"? (Mark 16:16). Thus, by not repenting from their error they continue in their false doctrine. This is the way of Cain.

But the writer of the scripture says that some have ran greedily after the error of Balaam. What was then the error of Balaam? From the book of Numbers, chapter 22, we learn that Balaam wanted to force his own will upon God's will. He was commanded by God not to go to King Balak and curse the Israelites, as Balak wanted him to do. But since Balak had promised him high position and great wealth, he wanted God to change his desicion and let him go to curse the very people whom God had blessed. However, a few hours later, when God revealed unto him his error he confessed and said, "I have sinned." (Numbers 22:34).

But, true, many today are running after the error of Balaam. God has revealed to us His will today through His Son Jesus (Hebrews 1:1,2). He has also said concerning Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." (Matthew 17:5). Yet, however, many today are guilty of doing the same thing what Balaam did. They are trying to change God's command concerning the plan of salvation,

concerning the worship, concerning the church, as revealed to us in the New Testament. But Balaam did not confess his sin until he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way and his sword drawn in his hand. (Numbers 22:31-34). And most of those who are today running after the error of Balaam might not confess their sin of forcing their own will upon God's will until the day of judgment, when they will hear the Lord saying, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:21-23).

The writer, Jude, alongwith Cain and Balaam also mentioned Korah, and said, many are going to be perished like Korah, because they are going in his way. Concerning Korah we learn in the book of Numbers, chapter 16, that he with several other men rose against Moses and Aaron whom God had given authority to lead the Israelites to the promised land. In doing so Korah, in fact, was opposing God himself, he was rejecting His authority. And rightly so, for Moses said, "For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the Lord.....?" (Numbers 16:11). We learn from the Bible that God had chosen Moses to reveal His will to his people, and God had given Aaron to Moses to be his spokesman. (Exodus 4:16). So both of them were God's authorised men, and therefore, to oppose them would mean to oppose God. And this is exactly what Korah and his group did. But the next verses tell us, "And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them; And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation." (Numbers 16:31-33).

Are there not people today who are opposing God, like Korah and his men did, when they do not hear or care what His Son and his apostles command us to do? The writer of the scripture warns, when he says, ".....When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming

fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). The inference is, that those who does not believe in the fact that they need to be reconciled with God through Jesus Christ by obeying his gospel, which was delivered to us by his apostels, are thus opposing God, and will therefore face eternal destruction.

The wiseman said, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 16:25). Cain, and Balaam, and Korah walked on this way. What way will you choose? "I am the way", said Jesus, "the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6).

## What About Faith Only ?

Homer Putnam Reeves

Faith is conviction and assurance. "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." (Heb. 11 : 1.)

Faith only is **only faith**. Repentance, good works, baptism—everything else is excluded.

Faith only renders the Christian religion a theoretical system. Visualize one being a Moslem in faith only; or a Democrat in faith only. Equally impotent is faith only in Christian profession. The religion which enjoins **faith alone** is a devitalized religion, entirely impractical.

One is saved by faith, but not faith only. The dogma of justification by faith only is a cardinal error in Christendom.

Faith only is barren-dead. "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith apart from works is barren?" (Jas. 2 : 20.)

Faith only will not justify one. "Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith." (Jas. 2 : 24.) If one

could be justified by faith alone, the demons would be justified. "Thou believest that God is one ; thou doest well : the demons also believe and shudder." (Jas. 2 : 19.)

Faith only cannot insure salvation. There are many unsaved believers : John spake of believing Jews-unsaved, believing rulers : "Nevertheless even of the rulers many believed on him ; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogues : for they loved the glory that is of men more than the glory that is of God." (John 12 : 42-43.)

Disobedience is tantamount to unbelief. Moses sinned in the wilderness. God said, "Because ye believed not in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this assembly into thy land....." (Num. 20 : 12.) When Moses refused to obey, God said, "Ye believed not in me."

The only faith that avails is the faith that works through love. (Gal. 5 : 6.)

## Repentance, The Will Of God

E.S. Smith

As Jesus heard of the terrible calamities befalling certain people of his day, some having their blood mingled with their sacrifices and others being crushed by a falling tower, he said to those who stood by and to all who should ever after live in sin : "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13 : 3-5). Again, Paul speaking on the subject of repentance said, "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked ; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent." (Acts 17 : 30).

These scriptures show the necessity of repentance in all men. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". (Rom. 3 : 23). Therefore all are under the condemnation of sin, not because their forefathers have sinned but because of



their own sin. Sin or those upon whom is the stain of sin cannot enter heaven for Jesus said, "I go away and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sin : whether I go ye cannot come." (John 8 : 21) It is therefore clear to all that man in sin must repent, must turn from sin, if he is to enter heaven.

Having seen the necessity of repentance we now desire to know just what it is. Many people are confused just here, for some think that it is sorrow, others think it a reformation of life, and still others have no idea at all what repentance is. First of all, let us know that sorrow is not repentance. Godly sorrow produces repentance but the sorrow itself is not repentance. Likewise, reformation of life is not repentance but is the fruits of repentance. Godly sorrow precedes and reformation of life follows repentance but neither of these are repentance. What then is repentance ?

Repentance is a change of the mind or heart of man. I say mind or heart for the heart of man as referred to in the Bible is the mind. It is with the heart (mind) that man purposes (2 Cor. 9 : 7), thinks (Prov. 23 : 7), believes (Rom. 10 : 10), and out of the abundance of his heart he speaks, (Matt. 12 : 34). Therefore, it is evident that the Bible "heart" is the mind or the seat of the intelligence in man.

This heart therefore must be changed from evil purposes, thoughts and beliefs before it can be acceptable in the sight of God. This change of the heart is repentance. The heart that has purposed to do evil must be changed so that it will purpose to do good. The heart that has thought evil things must be changed to think good things. The heart that has disbelieved in Christ must be changed to belief. The tongue that has spoken words of cursing to the dishonor of God must be changed to speak from a new heart the words that honor and magnify God.

This change of heart is produced in man by the goodness and the love of God. Paul says, "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance". (Rom. 2 : 4). As we contemplate the realities of hell ; as we learn of the place of refuge in Christ who leads us to the eternal city ; as we know that all of God's

provision has been made because of his love and goodness we are impelled to change our way of thinking about him. It is in this way that God gives repentance unto us today.

Some have thought that God gave repentance unto man in a direct and miraculous way but this is not the case. If so, then God would become a respecter of person, giving to some and withholding from others. Therefore it could not be for the Bible declares over and over that, "God is no respecter of person". He has placed before all men, in his word, the impelling motives for repentance and thus all men can be brought to the change of heart that will make them acceptable in the sight of God.

Viewing repentance from another angle it is a death to the love and practice of sin. It is here that the love for evil things is taken out of the heart. It is here that the love for the things of the world dies. It is in this change of heart that the heart is transformed and made new ; holy and acceptable in the sight of God. Thus dying to the love and practice of sin the life of the individual is henceforth to be free from sin. "We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein ?" (Rom. 6 : 2). The change of the life that makes it pure in the sight of God.

Because of this fact there are many who have supposed that one is saved the very moment that he repent. This does not follow however, for it matters not what resolutions may be made for the future, the sins of the past are still upon our souls. These must be washed away in some manner before we stand justified in the sight of God. God's way of washing these sins of the past away is clearly revealed in the word.

In Acts 2 : 38 Peter said to the believing Jews as they cried out, "What shall we do ?" "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, unto the remission of your sins." Believers were commanded to repent (in this we see the scriptural order ; that faith precedes repentance) and by baptized (something more) unto the remission of their sins. It is therefore apparent that they were not saved, their sins were

not forgiven at repentance but this forgiveness awaited the further obedience of the believer in baptism.

Thus, repentance is the death to the love and practice of sin ; as repentance is the cessation of sinning, so there must be a burial into Christ and his atoning blood that the sins of the past may be remitted. Ananias said to Saul of Tarsus, "And now why tarriest thou ? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name." (Acts 22 : 16). In this we see that our sins are washed away and we call upon God to fulfill his promise in our salvation as we are baptized.

Paul later shows the connection of baptism with the cleansing blood of Christ when he says, "Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death." It is in, by and through baptism that the believing penitent reaches the cleansing blood of Christ which was shed in his death. Therefore repentance must be followed by baptism for the washing away or remission of past sins.

Repentance is a commandment of Christ. It is the will of God that all repent and lead lives that are holy, acceptable in the sight of God. Will you then let the goodness of God, manifest in the sacrifice of his Son, so touch your life that you will turn unto Christ and eternal life.

## Identify yourself Christian !

**Mac Layton**

The day you became a Christian the Lord added you to his church universal. (Acts 2:41,47.) Membership in this Divine Body carries with it all the spiritual blessings, rights, and privileges God has to offer man in this Christian age.

Along with these precious and exceeding great blessings you have the responsibility to be a working member of a local congregation of the Lord's church. (Rom. 12:4-5.) To please the Heavenly Father you must be subject to the elders in a local church. (Heb. 13:17).

## WHAT ABOUT PLACING MEMBERSHIP

Countless Christians have lost their souls, and the church their usefulness, because they did not find and associate themselves immediately with the body of Christ in their new location.

God has given the church of the first century as our Divine example. When the Christians moved from one city to the other they "identified" themselves or "placed membership" by several ways: (1) Sometimes one in the church who knew the new member introduced him orally to the congregation, as Barnabas did Paul. (Acts 9:26-27). (2) Often there were letters written, like the one from Paul commending John Mark and Phoebe. (Col. 4:10; Rom. 16:1-2.) Paul declared that some need "epistles of commendation," and from this passage of 2 Corinthians 3:1-3 it is obvious that this was a common practice of the day. (3) Then it was the practice of some to introduce themselves as faithful members of the Lord's church and express the desire to go to work for Christ.

In some decent and orderly way it is urgent that you promptly identify yourself with a loyal congregation of the Lord's people.

Membership is where the member is. When moving to a new community we change our membership in civic, social, or literary clubs from one local chapter to another. How can we do less for the Lord and the greatest institution on earth, His Church? Should a doctor move into a community and refuse to practice medicine, if so, what is he worth as a doctor? Should a lawyer move into our town and refuse to practice law, what is he worth as a lawyer? Should a capable preacher move into the city but refuse to preach, what is he worth as a preacher? Just so, when a Christian moves into a new location and refuses to become identified and go to work for the Lord he is like salt that has lost its savor and a light that has been put under a bushel. (Matt. 5:13-16.)

Jesus is the head of each congregation, and Christians are all members of the body, that is, a foot, eye, ear, depending on

abilities. (1 Cor. 12:12-27.) But if you have left one congregation and have not become associated with another you are a "disjointed" member of the body, and you need to "get into a socket" of the body of Christ and start working! (Eph. 4:16.)

Too many claim their membership is still "back home" where they grew up or worshipped for several years. Yet they do not give there, attend there, or work there, and the elders of that church do not watch for their souls, so this claim cannot be true. Given half a chance the Christians in any new locality are just as friendly, the fellowship as dear, and the church as spiritually strong as it is "back home." Probably even better! Besides, there is no such thing in the Bible as "honorary membership," "member-at-large," "spiritual nomads," or perpetual visitors who do not identify themselves with the work and worship of a single congregation where they live.

### HOW SHALL WE IDENTIFY OURSELVES ?

Although the Bible is specific in declaring every Christian must be a working member of a local church, how the membership is to be changed from one congregation to another is not prescribed. The wisest and quickest way for you to become known is to answer the invitation of Christ by going to the front of the building at an assembly of the church. There is no shame attached to going to the front during the invitation any more than enrolling your children in a new school. If you have not been faithful to Christ where you formerly worshipped, you should repent, make confession of sins, ask for the prayers of the church, and begin anew. (Acts. 8:18-24:1 John 1:19.) But if you are a member in good standing, an identification and introduction is all that is necessary. Or you may simply indicate to the elders your desire to work with them and it can be announced.

### HOW ABOUT YOU ?

Have you placed your membership with the local church? Even though you may not plan to be in the city for but a few weeks or months you should identify yourself and work in the

Lord's Kingdom while you are here ! A sure guarantee for the eternal hope of you and your family is the power of fellowship with those of like precious faith in the congregation nearest you !

It is our prayer you will let us know today you would like to place your membership here and have an unbroken service to Christ. You have talents, time, and treasure, with which God is calling you to bless his Church and through which you can find the abundant life in Christ !

## What is the Church of Christ ?

Robert C. Redden

The church of Christ is a group of men and women who have been converted to Christ. That conversion began with a complete change of heart from the love and practice of sin to submission to the law of God. This change of heart and purpose was brought about by the Holy Spirit operating through the means that the Bible tells about, "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Eph. 6:17).

Those in the churches of Christ were led to believe in Christ by the preaching of the gospel of Christ, for "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). Without this faith, men and women cannot approach God for salvation, for without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Heb. 11:6).

This faith leads to a sorrow for sin, a regret that is sincere and unfeigned, and this godly sorrow works repentance. (II Cor. 7:10). Without genuine repentance, we cannot be saved, for Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay, Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3).

The church of Christ gladly confesses that it believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God, and before one is scripturally baptized he makes that confession. (Acts 8:36-38). This confession is in order to salvation. (Romans 10:10).

The church of Christ is composed of men and women who have been baptized into Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3). Baptism is for the remission of sins, we are plainly told in Acts 2:38, and it is in this act that one becomes a member of that one body over which Jesus is head and of which he is the Saviour. (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:23).

The church of Christ today assembles on the first day of the week to break bread just as it did in New Testament days. "Upon the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them." (Acts 20:7). This is done in tender remembrance of his death for us (1 Cor. 11:24,25), and thus we show forth the Lord's death until he comes.

Upon the first day of the week we contribute, "lay by in store" of our money according to our prosperity for carrying the "word of truth" to the world, and for caring for the poor and needy.

The public worship of the church of Christ consists of congregational singing of gospel hymns, preaching the gospel, praying, the Lord's Supper and contributing in sacrifice to the Lord.

The church of Christ bears her own burdens, and does not ask people who are not members of the church to pay her obligations, or to support the church. That obligation rests upon the members only.

When you visit in the services of the church of Christ you have no obligation whatever except to respectfully hear the word of God.

You will find worship after the New Testament pattern, simple and sincere. Churches of Christ recognize no creed but Christ, have no discipline or rules but the inspired word of God. Members wear no name but the divinely given name, "Christian." And you will find that you have the very greatest welcome to all the services, too.

# The Man Who Changed The World

**Paul David Allen**

Here was a man who was born in an obscure village, Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, the child of a peasant woman, Mary.

He grew up in another village which was a despised one. He worked as a carpenter with Joseph, for many years, and then for approximately three years. He was an itinerant preacher (Evangelist—traveling from place to place.)

He never wrote a book. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never had a fine automobile or wagon to travel in. He only had a borrowed ass to ride (Matthew 21:3-8). He never traveled except in His infancy more than two hundred miles from the place in which He was born.

The only credentials that He had were the "signs".....the miracles that he performed to prove who He was. Matthew 21:14 and John 20:30-31.

You and I have credit cards, driver's licenses and even photographs of ourselves to prove who we are.

But, our Lord and Saviour had only Himself.

Jesus never took a course in medicine. Yet He healed the sick and alleviated human suffering.

Jesus, God's Son, the Great Physician, possesses complete and unbounded supernatural knowledge. He knows all the ailments which might afflict the soul, and He knows the exact remedy and application necessary to effect the complete cure.

The Bible says in John 11:43, "Christ cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth." In this verse of scripture, we can plainly see that Jesus even raised the dead.

In Matthew 11:5, blind eyes were opened; deaf ears were unstopped, withered limbs were made whole.

In Luke 7:12-15, He broke up every funeral that He met.



Just think, every person who has died or ever will die, will hear Christ say unto them, "Come forth", and we all will arise from the grave. "Every eye shall look upon him, and every knee will bow down to Him and confess Him as Lord of lords and King of kings". I Timothy 6:15.

No one ever died in the presence of Jesus Christ. Even on the cross, when he was dying, He died before the thieves died on either side.

"He became poor for our sake that we through his poverty might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9.

When Jesus was born, He was rocked in a borrowed cradle (manger).

He never wrote a book. His only written words that we know of are those He wrote on the sand, John 8:6-8, when the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman to Him who had been caught in adultery. John 8:3.

What Christ wrote in the sand, the Bible doesn't say. The winds have shaken the sands together long ago. However, we do know that Christ forgave her of her sin. He said unto her, "Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more." John 8:11.

And, then in verse 12 of the same Chapter, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world : He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Jesus Christ knows your every need and desire even before you ask it of him.

He knows your every thought and every sin you have committed. There is no such thing as a large sin or a small sin. They are all the same. All the diseases of sin are alike to Him and none are beyond cure.

In Christ's birth, He revealed the Father. He was the infinite, becoming an infant. He was the only one who in heaven rested on the bosom of a Father without a mother and upon the earth, He rested on the bosom of a mother without an earthly father. At His birth, He was as old as His Father and older than His mother. He was God and man at the same time, for

He was in the beginning. Hebrews 1:1-2; Colossians 1:15-18; Genesis 1:1.

Jesus revealed His Father by His Life. His life revealed that God was tender and compassionate. He (Jesus) told His disciples, "that if they had seen Him, they had seen the Father." John 14:7-9.

The Father loved as He loved and felt as He felt.

He is a high priest who can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities.

Jesus revealed the Father by His works. His works of love and compassion revealed the interest that God had in the human race. Jesus revealed the Father by His teachings.

We—you and I—today are now living under the covenant of Christ (New Testament) and not under the Law of Moses (Old Testament). Christ came to fulfill the law. Colossians 2:14; Matthew 5:17.

The Old Testament was nailed to the cross when Christ was crucified. The word fulfill means to bring to an end, or completion.

In Colossians 2:14, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross." When Christ died, the Law of Moses died.

In Hebrews 1:1:2, "In many and various ways, God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in the last days, He has spoken to us by his Son, Jesus Christ, whom he appointed heir of all things through whom also he created the world."

In Matthew 17:5, from the Mount of Transfiguration, the thundering voice of Jehovah spoke concerning His Son, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." Christ came to reveal the mind of God.

The gracious sayings that fell from His lips were revealing to us the way that God feels about us. Jesus was God, talking to us.

During Christ's life, many people proclaimed that He was a good man, while still others said He was a deceiver.

In John 7:45-46, the Bible says that the Chief Priests and Pharisees inquired of their officers, "Why have ye not brought Him (Christ) ? The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."

The statement of these ancient officers is as true today as it was then. With all our modern wisdom, with the highly developed speech of our age, it still remains true that "Never man spake like this man !"

He made His earthly home with others, having no place that He could call His own, not so much as a place to lay His head. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. Even His own friends ran away and hid. Even His chosen apostles forsook Him at one time or another.

Judas Iscariot betrayed Him for thirty pieces of silver. Matthew 26:14-16. He was turned over to His enemies. Matthew 26:47-50.

He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed on a cross between two thieves. He was pierced in the side by a Roman soldier's sword, and His blood came forth.

His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on this earth, His seamless robe.

Christ died not in the luxury of a beautiful mansion nor in a hospital. He was not taken to a funeral home as we have today, rather outside the city of Jerusalem on the Hill of Gethsemane, the place of the skull. His body (hands and feet) was nailed to a rugged cross. His head bowed upon his chest in agony.

The soldiers also put a sign up over the head of Christ which read, "This is Jesus, The King of The Jews." Matthew 27:37.

Matthew 27:46. "About the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying... My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me ?"

Matthew 27:50. And, then a little later Christ "cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost."

Matthew 27:51. "And, behold, the veil of the temple was

rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent."

Matthew 27:52. "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose."

Matthew 27:53. "And came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the Holy city and appeared unto many."

Matthew 27:54. "Now when the centurion and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."

Someday, Christ is coming back to claim His own. Will you be in the number that Christ will claim ?

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today, "Jesus Christ" is the centrepiece of the human race.

"The Man Who Changed The World" calls upon every person today, as changed people to turn their lives over to Christ for total control.

The question that I want to put before you is : "Will you let Jesus Christ be the Saviour of your Soul ?" Have you made the same confession that the centurion soldiers made : "Truly this was the Son of God" ? Let Christ change your life as He has changed my life.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned put together have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that "one solitary life."

Christ changes the world as He changes individuals. Acts 2:47. When we obey the whole Plan of Salvation that is recorded in the Gospel, New Testament, then the great transformation has occurred. However, the real test of our acceptance of Him, Christ, comes when we face trials that require real faith and courage.

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

In Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith, it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Christ has taken the responsibility for my life, and He is using me and making of me the person that I was created to be. I have been an Evangelist for Christ in the Church of Christ, since April 19, 1961, and I am enjoying every minute of it. It is really thrilling to be used by God in accomplishing his purpose. He has commanded us all to "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

The Bible says our life here upon this earth is like a vapor "that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14.

Tomorrow is not promised unto us, but eternal life is, if we have lived the Christian life. The Bible says in Revelation 2:10, "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

You and I must comply with all the plan of salvation in order to be saved and to become a member of the Lord's Church.

### (1) Hear the Gospel

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" Romans 10:14.

## Book of the Month

Authored by C.B. Douthitt, the book of this month is entitled "Bible Topic Studies." This guide book contains twenty-eight lessons on as many Bible subjects prepared for use in all Bible classes and home study.

This book will be sent to you free, if you send us a postage stamp of twentyfive paise for its mailing charges. Write your name and address clear.

(2) **Believe.**

“And without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing unto Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that seek after Him.” Hebrews 11:6.

(3) **Repent of past sins.**

“The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now He commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent.” Acts 17:30.

(4) **Confess Jesus as Lord.**

“Behold here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, if thou believeth with all thy heart thou mayest, and he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” Acts 8:36-37.

(5) **Be baptized for the remission of sins.**

“And Peter said unto them, repent ye, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38.

(6) **Live a Christian life.**

“Ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness unto his marvelous light.” I Peter 2:9.

When you become a member of the Lord’s Body, Church of Christ, you will be called upon to do nothing which you cannot read in the New Testament. You will then live and worship just as the apostles guided Christians of the first century.

Will you not let “The Man Who Changed The World” change your life too? He can if you will only let Him into your heart. In Revelation 3:20, Christ said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me.”

(See last page)

# Radio Sri Lanka Broadcasts

**ENGLISH**—*The Voice of Truth*—Speaker : Reggie Gnansundaram.

All correspondence should be sent to *The Voice of Truth*,  
Post Box 3815, New Delhi 110049.

Sundays—10 : 15 to 10 : 30 P.M.

**Frequencies**—(1) 15,120 KHZ, 19 Meter Band ; 100KW  
(2) 11,725 KHZ, 25 Meter Band ; 100 KW  
(3) 7,190 KHZ, 41 Meter Band ; 10 KW

Tuesdays—9 : 30 to 9 : 45 A.M.

**Frequencies** : (1) 11,724 KHZ, 25 Meter Band ; 100KW  
(2) 15,128 KHZ, 19 Meter Band ; 100KW  
(3) 6,075 KHZ, 49 Meter Band ; 10 KW

**HINDI**—*Gospel Truth*—Speaker : Sunny David.

All correspondence should be sent to Satya-Susamachar, Post  
Box 3815, New Delhi 110049.

Tuesdays—9 : 00 to 9 : 15 P.M.

Thursdays—9 : 00 to 9 : 15 P.M.

Fridays—9 : 00 to 9 : 15 P.M.

Saturdays—9 : 45 to 10 : 00 P.M.

**Frequencies**—(1) 11,800 KHZ, 25 Meter Band ; 100 KW  
(2) 7,190 KHZ, 41 Meter Band ; 50 KW  
(3) 6,075 KHZ, 49 Meter Band ; 10 KW

**TELUGU**—*The Voice of Truth*—Speaker : Joshua Gootam.

All correspondence should be sent to *The Voice of Truth*,  
Post Box 80, Kakinada 533001.

Sundays —2 : 30 to 2:45 P.M.

Mondays—2 : 30 to 2 : 45 P.M.

Tuesdays—2 : 30 to 2 : 45 P.M.

Wednesdays—2 : 30 to 2 : 45 P.M.

**Frequencies**—(1) 11,800 KHZ, 25 Meter Band ; 100 KW  
(2) 7,190 KHZ, 49 Meter Band ; 50 KW

**TAMIL**—*The Way of Truth*—Speaker : P. R. Swamy.

All correspondence should be sent to *The Way of Truth*,  
Post Box 3301, Bangalore 560033.

Tuesdays—5 : 30 to 5 : 45 P.M.

Thursdays—6 : 45 to 7 : 00 P.M.

Fridays—6 : 45 to 7 : 00 P.M.

**Frequencies**— (1) 11,800 KHZ ; 25 Meter Band  
100 KW  
(2) 7,190 KHZ, 49 Meter Band ; 50 KW

**ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO LISTEN**

Bible Correspondence Courses and Christian Literature  
are available in these different languages from the addresses  
listed.

I would like to leave with you these scriptures in mind.

(1) Galatians 2:20

"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

(2) II Timothy 2:11

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

(3) Matthew 11:28-30

These verses say that Christ extends to you a personal invitation to accept Him as your personal Saviour:

(4) Amos 4:12

"Prepare to meet thy God."

It is up to you now. What will you do with Christ? Accept Him or reject Him? I plead with you to hearken to God's voice before it is too late. Will you not do it now?

"And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16.

TO :

From 1

The Bible Teacher

Post Box No. 3815  
New Delhi-110049