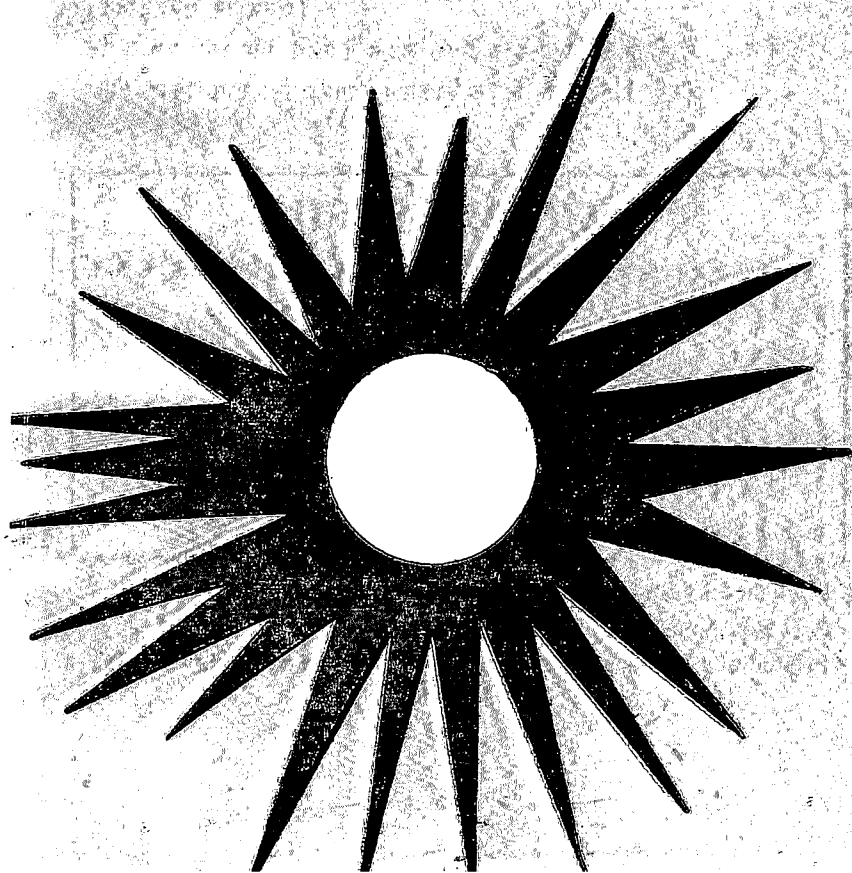


THE BIBLE TEACHER



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. सुसमाचार बोनेवाला—लेखक : जे० सी० चोट

(अनुवादक सनी डेविड)

नोट : सारी पुस्तकें एक साथ प्राप्त करने के लिये एक रुपए पचास पैसे (रु० 1.50) के टिकट भेजिए। आपका पता साफ़ लिखा होना चाहिए।

एक आवश्यक सूचना !

अब सुनिए “सत्य सुसमाचार” ‘आपका मन पसन्द प्रोग्राम’ सप्ताह में तीन बार !

समय :

मंगलवार (Tuesday) रात 8 : 45 से 9 : 15 तक

बीरवार (Thursday) रात 9 : 00 से 9 : 15 तक

शुक्रवार (Friday) रात 9 : 00 से 9 : 15 तक

ये कार्यक्रम रेडियो श्री लंका से 25 और 41 मीटर बैंड पर सुने जा सकते हैं।

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THE BIBLE TEACHER

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The Problem with our way of thinking

Members of the church are no different from other people in some ways. Even as the world has problems, so do believers in Christ. Neither does it take very long to become aware of them. But it is interesting to note what they worry about. For instance, you will not come across anyone who is worried about the Atomic Bomb being dropped here or anywhere else in the world. None seem to be bothered about earthquakes, floods, famines, and the such like. We are not even bothered about the traffic situation whether we are driving a car, scooter, or crossing the street. Yet, we are constantly bothered, worried, and troubled about various things. We worry about grades, jobs, promotions, and marriages. In the church we are concerned about attendance and contribution. And on and on it goes. You will quickly note that we are worried with mental problems, things in many instances that never materialize. This is not good for our physical body not to mention our spiritual welfare.

As a result of all of our mental torments we end up in becoming negative, having a defeatist complex, being fatalistic in our thinking, reasoning that whatever will be will be, saying we can't, and in general just giving up. No wonder we have problems when we think and reason that way. For sure, nothing good ever came out of such pessimistic attitudes.

Out of the spirit of negativism and failure comes one excuse after another. We can't get a job because someone is against us or because of our religion. We failed our examination because the teacher or professor didn't like us. We can't do better because we are too poor. We can't attend worship because we don't have a way or because of our job or because of our school work. We can't give because we don't have it to spare. We can't go out to teach our friends because we are too busy. This reminds us of some people the Lord spoke of in Luke 9 : 57-62. They said that they would follow him but first they had to go bury the dead, take care of their guests, and so on. Again in Luke 14 : 15-24 Christ tells a parable of a certain man who made a supper and sent out invitations to many to come and partake of it. But alas they all began to make excuse. One said that he had bought a piece of ground and he had to go to see about it. Another said that he had purchased five yoke of oxen and he had to go to prove them. Still another just simply said that he had married a wife and that he would not be able to come. The servant then went to report the response to the Lord and then the Lord said to his servant that he should go out into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in the poor and the maimed and the halt and the blind. The servant did so and there was still room. Then the Lord sent him into the highways and hedges and compelled them to come in. Then he said that those who were bidden to come and refused to do so would not be allowed to taste of his supper. Now what is the Lord saying in all of this ? He is saying that he will not accept our excuses. Those who are smart never rely on such flimsy reasoning. Have you ever noticed that the ones who get ahead in this world in all probability could have used the same

excuses that we have offered so many times ? They, however, did not sit down and complain about not having enough. They did not feel sorry for themselves or expect others to take pity on them. They were also poor and had needs. But the difference was that they got up and worked on their problems. They said that they could do something about their situation and they did. Have you ever noticed in the religious world that some accomplish great things for God but some never do anything ? Why is this ? Because one refused to be defeated and the other never put forth any effort. Which category are you in ?

There must be a way to overcome these worries, fears, problems, excuses, and negative way of life, and there is. Read carefully what follows, but for it to be of any use to you then you are going to have to apply it. For your sake and the sake of all those lives you may touch, I hope you will.

1. Keep busy. Don't be lazy, wasting your time away. Don't sit idle, day dreaming all the time, thinking about yourself, imagining things to be worse than they are. Get up and do something. Go to work. Do anything right, but do something. Don't stop but keep trying. The Bible teaches this principle. It says that if a man will not work neither should he eat. We need to work for our families, for others for ourselves, but above all, we need to work for the Lord. There is so much to be done and so few to do it. We can do our part. It will help us, give us some purpose in life, provide for the things that we need, give us a sense of accomplishment, and will bring a better life, a happy life.

2. Stop thinking of the perfect situation. Many do nothing more in life than imagine what it must be like to be rich, to have a car, to have a big house, to make lots of money, etc. They go to the films and live in a dream world. They are always wanting a hand out, looking to someone to feel sorry for them, never ready to face life and to find a solution for their problems. Some have tried and failed and so they give up. But let me say to you that you should not wait for something that is perfect to come along. Do something. If you fail, keep trying to do better. Be happy with

whatever you are doing and this can change things for you. You'll have a different attitude, others will take note of you, and things will begin to get better for you.

3. Change your thinking. You need to move out of the past into the future. It is not going to help by constantly thinking about your past mistakes and failures, that you should have done this or that. What about right now? What about the future? It is not where you have been but where you are going that counts. Learn from the past but don't live there. Think positively about your job, your boss, life, the church. Don't say that you can't, but that you can, and will.

4. Take action. Make plans but then put them to work. Translate them into productivity. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4 : 13). Again, he said, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2 : 2). Now if you know anything about the life of Paul you know that he had problems, difficulties, obstacles, and persecution to deal with. Yet, here was a man that would not give up and quit. He would not let others control his life and tell him what he had to do. Instead, he said he could do all things through Christ who gave him the strength to carry on. He said that he was determined to preach Christ and to do his work. And so he was. Again, I ask you to take a look at those around you who have succeeded in various professions. Likewise, look at those Christians, preachers, teachers, and so on, who are leaders in the church. Don't they have problems and obstacles to overcome? Do you think that they succeeded without putting forth any effort? My friends, they worked, toiled, prayed, and worked some more to get where they are. Anything in life that is worthwhile you have to work to get it. You have to put something into it, invest in it, sacrifice for it, to ever get anything out of it. The same applies to you and all others throughout the world. You can remain where you are or you can take action and change things. You must do this if you are going to be successful.

5. Sit down and count your blessings. It is so easy to think of one's problems to the point that one forgets about all the blessings that he has, all the things that he has to be thankful for, all of the assets that he has. He may be rich and not even be aware of it. He should be mindful of what he has and talk about that rather than to talk about what he doesn't have. Those who have more often times have bigger problems and greater worries. You should realize that. Start with what you have. You have life, a family, a country, health to work, perhaps a job, and on and on we could go. It may vary from person to person, but all have a great many things to be thankful for, if they would but sit down and think about them. The Christian is most blessed of all. He has God, Christ his Saviour, remission of his sins, brethren, the privilege of prayer, the opportunity to work for the King, all of the many spiritual blessings that God has promised to those who belong to him, and above all there is hope of a better world, eternal life with God. Now if you'll stop to think about all of that then you'll soon realize that you don't have anything to worry about or to be troubled over. You are created in the image of God and if you have obeyed the Lord then you are a child of God. As such you are as good as anyone else. Further, you have the satisfaction of knowing that the Lord will be with you and help you to do your work and that all things in the end will work together for your good.

My friends, these points can change your life. They can change the church. We must realize that if we have worries, problems, and difficulties, it is not the Lord's fault. Neither is it, in many instances, the fault of others. We are the ones to blame because we allow these things to happen to us. I ask that you consider the foregoing as a remedy for your worries and problems. Stop those childish things and begin to live. It is up to you.



associate editorial

Why Are People Lost?

Declaring his mission upon earth Jesus on one occasion said, I have come to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19 : 10). When he chose his twelve disciples, who were mostly fishermen, he said unto them, "Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." (Mark 1 : 17). God sent Jesus, His only begotten Son upon earth. In fact, He gave him and offered him in man's stead, so that man might be saved. Man is lost. He is lost in his sins and in his iniquities. (Isaiah 59 : 1, 2). There are many reasons why man is lost. In the New Testament we have some examples which shows why people are lost.

First of all, many are lost because of unbelief and not obeying the gospel of Christ. The infidel, unbeliever, and those who refuse to obey the commands of the gospel of Christ might laugh at the idea of being lost, but remember God is not mocked. (Galatians 6 : 7). God's word teaches very plainly in these words, that when Jesus will return as a judge, he will take 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).

However, there are others who are lost as believers and religious People because they are religiously lost, and honestly mistaken. The examples that we are going to see from the New Testament of such people who were religious but in fact lost, might be the examples of many people today.

In Matthew the twenty-third chapter we are introduced to some scribes and Pharisees. They were considered as religious

leaders among the Jews, who followed the Old Testament scripture. But they were lost. And not only were they themselves lost but they were also causing many others to be lost. So we find Jesus speaking to them in these words : "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites ; for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men : for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in." (Verse 13). But why were they lost ? in verse 5, Jesus said, because they did all their works to be seen of men. Their prayers, all their religious acts, sacrifices or giving, all that they did in the name of religion, was done to be seen by men. For instance, they would use certain so-called religious garments, make long prayers, and would give of their tithe, as the Old Law of Moses taught, but only of mint and anise and cummins, Jesus said to them, "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." (Verse 24). That is, they would pick up some religious act or teaching that would be easy and to their own advantage, and would leave such things for which they would have to sacrifice or give.

Further, in Luke 18 we have yet another example of a Pharisee. Again, Jesus said, "Two men went up into the temple to pray ; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican, the Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers or even as this publican. I fast twice in a week, I give tithes of all that I possess." But on the other hand, said Jesus, "the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." And Christ said, that this man who confessed that he was a sinner went down to his house justified, rather than the other who trusted in himself. The Pharisee was a religious man, he prayed, fasted, gave tithes, and there were many evil things that he did not do. But he was lost. Why ? Because he trusted in himself that he was righteous. (Verse 9). The wise preacher exhorted, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart ; and lean not unto thine own understanding." (Proverbs 3 : 5).

Ignorance is another cause for being lost. Speaking to

Jews on one occasion, in Acts 3 : 17, Peter said, I know that through ignorance you have crucified Christ. Saul, about whom we read in Acts 9, was, in fact, a very religious man at the time he persecuted Christians and opposed the church of Christ. Speaking about his religious background, on one occasion he himself said, "Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews ; as touching the law, a Pharisee ; concerning zeal, persecuting the church ; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." (Philippians 3 : 5,6). Standing before the high priest he declared, "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." (Acts 23 : 1). This would mean that he persecuted Christians, opposed Christ and his church in all good conscience, believing that he was doing right religiously. But in fact, he was wrong religiously. He was religious, but was still lost in his sins. Therefore, later when Ananias came to him, he exhorted him and said, "And now why tarriest thou ? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22 : 16). After he had obeyed the command of the Lord and thus his sins were washed away, he was saved, he said, "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious : but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." (1 Timothy 1 : 13). So Saul was religiously wrong because he was ignorant of the truth.

another religious man who was trying his best to be a religious person, and of whom we read in the New Testament, was Eunuch. We read about him in Acts 8 that he was from Ethiopia and was of great authority under the queen of Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship. It is amazing to see the kind of faith this man had in his religion. He had come to Jerusalem travelling all the way from Ethiopia for to worship. Isn't it great ? Then, we read, after he had worshipped, he was returning to his country, sitting in his chariot. And what was he doing as he travelled ? It says, he was reading from the scriptures ! I have seen people reading in travel, but they would read a newspaper, or a novel, or a weekly or some

other material. But this man as he was going, was reading from the scriptures. Surely, what a wonderful religious man Eunuch was. But he was lost, just as any other person, because he had not obeyed the plan of salvation yet. So we read; Philip, the preacher, as directed by the Lord, came to him and asked him if he understood what he was reading. Eunuch replied, and said, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" "And he desired Philip to come up and sit with him. Sitting with him in the chariot, Philip began at the same scripture, that Eunuch was reading, and preached unto him Jesus. As Eunuch listened to the preaching of Philip, he soon discovered that he was religiously wrong. So he wanted to change and obey the gospel to be saved. We read, "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest, And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." (Acts 8 : 36-38).

Our country is a land of many religions. But one God has only one plan of salvation for all men, and only one religion that he introduced through his Son Jesus Christ. Wouldn't it be a great personal loss to any person who consider himself throughout his life as religious and believe in his heart that he had lived in all good conscience before God until death, but discover himself at the day of judgment in the lake of fire in the eternal punishment. It would be, of course, a very late discovery. Examine therefore yourself and your religion in the light of the Bible teaching. Because, "The word that I have spoken" said Jesus, "the same shall judge him in the last day." (John 12 : 48).

God's Plan of Salvation

Charles E. Crouch

Well-meaning and pious people sometimes belittle the idea that God has a plan of salvation for everyone. Their comment runs like this : "God sent a Saviour ; not a plan." They contend for the "person of Christ," but they minimize the plan of salvation. No doubt still other people go to the opposite extreme. However, though men may scorn God's plan of salvation, yet a "plan" is nothing more than "a method of action or procedure." The Bible clearly reveals "a method of action or procedure" for the salvation of men, and it contains several vital factors.

A Divine Plan Was Needed

Though gloriously created in God's image, man fell into sin. (Gen. 1 : 27 ; 3 : 1-21). Sin became universal among men. (Rom. 3 : 10 ; 3 : 23) Because of the nature of God, the nature of sin, and the nature of men, all men were doomed to eternal ruin. (Isa. 59 : 1, 2 ; Rom. 6 : 23a.) All men had sinned, and no sinner, unforgiven, can enter God's presence. (Heb. 12 : 14 ; Rev. 21 : 27 ; Matt. 5 : 8.) And no person, having sinned, is able to save himself. (Heb. 9 : 22 ; etc.) Hence, all humanity stood in need of God's forgiveness.

The Motive of God's Plan

The motive which prompted God's plan of salvation is his infinite love and grace. "But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," (Rom. 5 : 8.) "For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men." (Tit. 2 : 11 ; Eph. 2 : 1-9). God's love embraced all sinners in the whole world. (John 3 : 16.) He "would have all men to be saved." (1 Tim. 2:4.) He wills "that all should come to repentance." (2 Pet. 3 : 9.) The character of every institution partakes of, and is flavored by, the motives of its founder. Never was any "plan" founded upon more holy motives than God's plan of redemption. His amazing grace the primary cause of salvation, is always a gift—never earned, never merited—but it is conditional.

The man in God's Plan

God's plan includes a man. "The Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19 : 10.) "And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father hath sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." (1 John 4 : 14.) Christ, who is the central figure in human history, is also the central person in the Christian system. (Col. 2 : 9 ; Eph. 1 : 22, 23.) "That in all things he might have the preeminence." (Col. 1 : 18.) "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1 : 27.) The identity and nature of the man in God's plan is fully revealed. (See Matt. 26 : 16 ; John 1 : 1-3, 14, 29; 14 : 6 ; etc.)

The Impartial Nature of God's Plan

God "is no respecter of persons ; but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him." (Acts 10 : 34, 35.) With God, "there is no distinction... the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich unto all that call upon him." (Rom. 10 : 12 ; Acts 2 : 21.) Jesus died for all mankind, not for just a few people. (John 1 : 29 ; 1 Tim. 2 : 5, 6 ; Heb. 2 : 9.) The death of Jesus removed all distinctions among men as far as God is concerned. (Eph. 2 : 14-16.) Our Saviour's invitation is to "all who labour and are heavy laden." (Matt. 11 : 28 ; Tit. 2 : 11, 12.) His compassion, like our Father's, extends to all persons of every nation—embracing even his enemies. (Matt. 9 : 36 ; Luke 23 : 34.) Never was any plan conceived so impartial in its nature as the divine plan of salvation.

The Unity of God's Plan

Is God's plan for saving sinners unified or diversified ? Is it definite or indefinite ? Is it variable or invariable in its initial conditions ? Some men teach that God has no specific plan for saving everyone. Yet the facts are that he sent but one Saviour and Lord, (Matt. 1 : 21 ; Luke 2 : 11 ; Eph. 4 : 5) ; salvation is in only one name (Acts 4 : 12) ; God revealed only one "good and perfect will" (Rom. 12 : 2) ; he gave only one saving power—the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1 : 16). To argue that God has no unified plan for saving sinners is o

argue that the word of God is indefinite in its statements ; and therefore that it may mean anything, or nothing, according to the wish of the individual reader.

If God saves anyone except through Christ, then he does respect persons, Jesus died for naught, "the way of salvation" is plural rather than singular, and God therefore has no "plan of salvation." And if any person is saved by Christ except by an obedient faith in the original gospel, God is a respecter of persons and the gospel is not "*the power of God unto salvation.*" Though some men say, "You go your way, and I'll go mine, and we'll both get to heaven at the very same time," we are impelled to a different conclusion. The Bible says emphatically that God is impartial, and that "there is no distinction." If anyone is saved, therefore, everyone else who is saved must be saved in the same manner. It follows therefore with the force of a mathematical demonstration that God does have a definite, unified plan for saving sinners—all sinners.

Conditions for Receiving God's Plan

God's plan includes specific conditions whereby sinners receive forgiveness of sin through Christ. (John 3 : 5, 16.) These conditions, often called "commandments," are not grievous, but reasonable. (1 John 5 : 3.) These constitute steps into Christ : (1) An obedient faith in the Lord Jesus himself. (John 8 : 24 ; 20 : 31 ; Mark 16 : 16.) (2) Repentance from sin unto life. (Luke 13 : 3 ; Acts 17 : 18.) (3) Confession of faith in Christ as Lord. (Rom. 10 : 9, 10 ; Matt. 10 : 32, 33.) and (4) baptism into Christ for the remission of sins. (Gal. 3 : 26, 27 ; Acts 2 : 38.)

It is actually impossible to "preach Christ" without preaching the plan of God which includes the steps toward and into Christ, which are the terms of pardon. (Matt. 28 : 18-20 ; Acts 2 : 36-38 ; 8 : 35ff.) God's plan for following Christ the man must also be preached : This will include preaching the nature of the kingdom, which is the church : how to worship God acceptably ; and how to serve "in the name of the Lord Jesus" in his kingdom. (Acts 8 : 5, 12 ; John 4 : 23, 24 ; 17 : 17 ; Col. 3 : 17.)

Motivating Disciples to Be Teachers

Gus Nichols

There is a crying need today for more teachers in the various congregations of the saints. We not only need more Preachers, but more teachers for our Bible schools in each congregation.

Each Bible class not only needs a good regular teacher, but also at least one good substitute or assistant teacher for each class. In most congregations there is a need for smaller classes and more of them. This would also call for more teachers.

Furthermore, in wide-awake churches there are classes conducted on Lord's day evening before the regular services, and other classes on the evening of the midweek services. The same teacher should not have to teach in more than one class each week. This also would require more teachers in the church.

Then there is the need for well-trained men to be elders and deacons in the church. Very few churches have enough of such men to lead the church in the best way possible. There is also a need for parents who can teach children the word of God in the home.

Finally, there is the crying need for more preachers of the gospel. We have more congregations than ever before, and more and more of these congregations are growing and expanding. Many of them which have never used a full-time preacher are now wanting regular preachers.

All of this adds up to the fact that we need Christian teachers in ever increasing numbers. This need is a real challenge to the church today. It is more than that, it is a challenge unto you, and to every one of us. This need which is a great challenge to every true Christian should itself motivate men and women, boys and girls, to consecrate themselves to the wonderful work of teaching the word of God.

All Christians Should Teach

In fact, every Christian should, in due time, be a teacher of

the word of God. Unto some members of the church who had had time to be teachers, God said, "When for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God ; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat." (Heb. 5 : 12.)

Here we learn that teachers of the word of God should be such as have advanced beyond the primary principles of the word. But all members of the church should do this in a reasonably short time. At first all new members of the church should "desire the sincere milk of the word" that they may grow thereby. (1 Pet. 2 : 2.) They should "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 3 : 18.) They should obey the injunction to add to their faith virtue and "knowledge." (2 Pet. 1 : 5.) In order to do this they should "search the scriptures daily." (Acts 17 : 11, 12.)

Training Classes Needed

Timothy was commanded to teach and instruct those to become teachers. This is very effectively done in teacher training classes. Paul said, "The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Tim. 2 : 2.) The faithful attendance and participation in the regular classes conducted by the church is a powerful factor in making teachers of those who will to teach. Also the daily reading of good religious books, tracts and religious papers greatly helps the faithful to become teachers.

But do the first thing first

The first thing to do is this : Decide to become a teacher of the word of God. Decide now to teach in classes, from house to house, in the pulpit, or in the way you are best qualified to teach, and in keeping with your talents and circumstances, then start your training at once.

A doctor does not wait till he is qualified to practice medicine before he decides to be a physician. He decides first, and then spends years and years in preparation for his work.

The same is true of the practice of law, or any other great calling or vocation.

So, decide now to become a teacher in the church and start training for your position. It may take you a few months, or even a few years to get ready to actually start teaching others the word. But don't wait for luck, chance or "happencance" to make you a teacher, an elder, or deacon, or a preacher of the gospel.

We need Christian teachers who can support themselves, by teaching in the school system, or practicing their profession and then on the side win souls and plant and establish the church by their Christian teaching and work for the Lord. Many full-time teachers in the church started in this way.

Yes, first decide to be a teacher and then prepare.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Title of this book comes from Romans 16:16 "The Churches Of Christ Salute You."

This book, in fact, is a brief history of the church, with illustrations. It shows how the church had its beginning, how it spread, and how later many of its member departed from the truth, thus ushering in the dark ages.

Then it briefly tells about the reformation period and finally about the restoration age in which people throughout the world have sought to return to the Bible. Simple, brief, upto the point. To obtain your copy of this hand book you should send us a postage stamp of 25 paise. Write your name and address in Blocks.

The Slanderer

B. C. Goodpasture

Bible names are significant. They give emphasis to some event, some trait of character, or some activity, related to those who bear them. The great deliverer and lawgiver of Israel was called Moses because he was drawn out of the waters of the Nile. (Ex. 2 : 10.) Esau's twin brother was named Jacob, "Supplanter," in anticipation of his wicked treatment of his brother. (Gen. 27 : 36.) And the long-promised Messiah was called "Jesus," because he was to save his people from their sins. (Matt. 1 : 21.) The arch-enemy of man, the devil, has been given names which describe him in terms of his nature and work.

One of the most common titles applied to the enemy of souls is "the devil." The word "devil" literally means "slanderer." It describes Satan in terms of a work in which he has been found from the beginning—that of slandering. When he is first introduced in sacred history he is set forth as a "slanderer." In talking with mother Eve, Satan slandered the goodness of God when he inquired, "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of any tree of the garden?" ; he slandered the motives of God when he said, "God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil," and he slandered the severity of God when he said, "Ye shall not surely die." (Gen. 3 : 1-5.) Satan sought to make the impression that God had not been so good as he might have been in that he had too drastically limited the freedom of Adam and Eve relative to the trees of the garden ; that God was prompted by selfish motives in that he did not want them to be wise as he was—he wanted a monopoly on knowledge ; and that God would not punish them for disobedience as he had said. In this connection, Satan slandered God to man. Later he slandered man to God.

In the days of Job, when the sons of God came to present themselves to Jehovah, Satan also was present. when the

Lord called his attention to the superior character of Job, the devil at once began to berate the Uzzean sage. He said, "Doth Job fear God for nought?" In other words, "Job fears God because it pays. He is mercenary in his motives. He is serving God for money," Thus Satan slandered man to God. He slandered the best man of that day. God said of Job, "There is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil." Nobility of motive and perfection of character are no sure guarantee against slander. Rather, it seems that the devil is prone to aim his darts of detraction and slander at God's most useful and faithful servants. Not only did Satan slander Job in particular, he also slandered man in general, when he later said, "all that a man hath will he give for his life." (Job 2 : 4.) This is not true of all men. Of some men it is eminently true ; but of others it is utterly false. Every martyr to a righteous cause has accounted something else more valuable than his own life.

Men have not allowed these ancient slanders of the devil to die. All down through the ages they have repeated them. They have served as abject echoes of the devil to repeat his slanders. There are those who assert that no punishment in the future will befall the wicked. Yet Jesus clearly taught that the wicked "shall go away into eternal punishment." (Matt. 25 : 46.) The punishment of the wicked will last as long as the happiness of the blest. There can be no eternal punishment in the absence of eternal existence. The same word measures the duration of both. Any man who asserts that the wicked will not be punished beyond death slanders the severity of God. He is preaching the doctrine of Satan. Further, the devil-born slander against Job has been launched against many a servant of the Lord since Job slept with his fathers. It is easy for some disgruntled, frustrated, dis-appointed and embittered crank to accuse faithful preachers of the word of mercenary motives ; especially, if they are obviously more successful in their work—and more in demand than he is. Just remember Job was the victim of this kind of slander ; and it was not a man who voiced it against him—

it was the devil, the author and abettor of all kind of evil. A slander of this kind becomes even more diabolical when its author, in the same breath, proceeds to praise himself and recite his charities. Self-praise may be even more than half-slander. Some preachers may preach for money. If even one does, that is one too many.

There is something radically wrong in the person who can see nothing good in anyone. There is something bad in the person who can see no good motive behind any good thing. But unfortunately such persons have lived ; do live ; and will live. A person can scarcely be more Satan-like than when he stoops to the villany of slander. A greater calamity could hardly befall the slanderer than that of being who he is.

What is the Bible ?

“By what authority are you doing these things?”—Matthew 21:23.

CAN I KNOW ABOUT GOD WITHOUT THE BIBLE?

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—*have been clearly seen*, being understood from what has been made.....”—Romans 1:20.

WHY THEN DO I NEED THE BIBLE?

“.....The holy Scriptures..... are *able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*”—2 Timothy 3:15.

HOW USEFUL IS THE BIBLE?

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be *thoroughly equipped* for every good work.”—2 Timothy 3:16,17.

WHO IS THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE?

“In the past *God* spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.....”—Hebrews 1:1,2.

HOW DID GOD SPEAK THROUGH THE PROPHETS?

“.....No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For a prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but *men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*”—2 Peter 1:20,21.

HOW HAS GOD SPOKEN THROUGH HIS SON?

“.....The One whom God has sent (Christ) speaks the words of God; *to Him God gives the Spirit without limit.* —John 3:34.

WHAT AUTHORITY DOES CHRIST HAVE?

“*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*”—Matthew 28:18.

WHERE DOES CHRIST'S AUTHORITY APPLY?

“.....Therefore go and make disciples of *all nations* baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.....”—Matthew 28:19.

HOW FAR DOES CHRIST'S AUTHORITY GO?

“.....And teaching them to *obey everything* I have commanded you”—Matthew 28:20.

DOES CHRIST'S AUTHORITY STILL APPLY?

“.....And surely I will be with you *always*, to the very end of the age.”—Matthew 28:20.

WHAT DID CHRIST PROMISE HIS APOSTLES?

“.....*The Holy Spirit*, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything. I have said to you.”—John 14:26.

WHAT DID CHRIST'S APOSTLES DO?

“Then the disciples went out and *preached everywhere*, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied them.”—Mark 16:20.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S MESSAGE?

“.....How shall we escape if we ignore such a great *salvation*? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed by those who heard Him.”—Hebrews 2:2,3.

ARE THERE OTHER WAYS OF SALVATION?

"Salvation is found in *no one else*; for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
—Acts 4:12.

SHOULD PEOPLE CHANGE THE BIBLE MESSAGE?

'.....Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, *let him be eternally condemned.*"—Galatians 1:8.

WHAT IF I DON'T ACCEPT THE BIBLE?

"There is a judge for the one who rejects Me and does not accept My word; that very word which I spoke will *condemn him* at the last day."—John 12:48.

HOW CAN I ACCEPT THE BIBLE?

".....When they *believed* Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were *baptized.*"—Acts 8:12.

Man is constantly asking questions that have to do with religious matters. The only problem is, the wrong source is usually contacted for the answer. This complicates matters and further confuses and deceives the enquirer. What is the solution then to the problem? A very simple one and that is to allow God himself to speak. We invite you to observe how it works as we consider some of the prominent questions of our day. You are encouraged to follow the same procedure with other questions that you might have as you go to the word of God for a clear cut answer to every problem that you may have.

1. **Man's Question:** "What is sin?"

God's Answer : "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." (1 John 3:4).

2. **Man's Question :** "Who is a sinner?"

God's Answer : "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23).

3. **Man's Question :** "What is the consequence of sin?"
God's Answer : "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23).
4. **Man's Question :** "Must man be eternally lost?"
God's Answer : "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16).
5. **Man's Question ;** "How does faith come?"
God's Answer : "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17).
6. **Man's Question :** "Does faith only save?"
God's Answer : "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." (James 2:24).
7. **Man's Question :** "What must I do to be saved?"
God's Answer : "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16).
8. **Man's Question :** "What is baptism?"
God's Answer : "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God who hath raised him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12).
9. **Man's Question :** "How does one enter Christ?"
God's Answer : "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:26,27).
10. **Man's Question :** "Who built the Church?"
God's Answer : "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18).
11. **Man's Question :** "Who is the foundation of the church?"

God's Answer : "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11).

12. **Man's Question :** "What is the church?"

God's Answer : "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." (Ephesians 1:22,23).

13. **Man's Question :** "Is the church important?"

God's Answer : "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, and he is the Saviour of the body." (Ephesians 5:23).

14. **Man's Question :** "How many churches are there?"

God's Answer : "There is one body....." (Ephesians 4:4). "And he is the head of the body, the church..." (Colossians 1:18).

15. **Man's Question :** "Can one join the church?"

God's Answer : "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47).

16. **Man's Question :** "Is there anything in a name?"

God's Answer : "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12).

17. **Man's Question :** "What is required of the Christian?"

God's Answer : ".....be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2:10).

18. **Man's Question :** "Are there many ways to heaven?"

God's Answer : "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6).

19. **Man's Question :** "When will Christ come again?"

God's Answer : "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." (Matthew 24:36).

20. **Man's Question :** "Will there be a second chance?"

God's Answer : "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matthew 25:46).

Why bother with religion at all if it is not based on God's word? The word of God is the truth. May this be the beginning for a new respect for His word which in the end will judge us all. (John 12:48).

J.C.C.

Going to Heaven

E. Claude Gardner

The world is more concerned with launching a rocket into outer space than in going to heaven. It has been said that many of our day are more interested in going to the moon than in going to heaven. We should be excited about going to heaven. The thoughts of heaven should thrill us and inspire us to continue faithfully in the Lord's service.

Heaven is a promise of God that should be real to us. John assures us "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." (1 John 2 : 25.) The taught and consecrated Christian looks forward to the coming of Christ and the heavenly hope as did Paul. Said he, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith : henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing." (2 Tim. 4 : 7, 8.)

What is Heaven

If Christians can keep ever before them the picture of heaven, they will not likely be distracted by the world's allurements. If the sinner can see what heaven is like he will be induced to set his feet heavenward. What will it be to go to heaven? What will one miss if he is barred entrance from heaven? The Bible describes heaven as follows :

1. It is a place rather than just a state of mind. Jesus called it a place as recorded in John 14 : 1-3. He declared, "Let not your heart be troubled : ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions : if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself ; that where I am, there ye may be also."

2. It is a place of worship. Before his throne he is ever worthy to "receive glory and honour and power." (Rev. 4 : 11.) Those who do not attend and enjoy worship in this life are not prepared for worship around the great throne of God in eternity. Those who are glad to go to the house of worship are preparing themselves for the richer things in heaven. (Cf. Psalm 122 : 1.) Lukewarm Christian who make excuses about church attendance and growl because they are urged to be faithful would not be happy in the worship to the heavenly habitat.

3. It is a place of beauty. "There's a beautiful place called heaven," we sing and this is in perfect accord with the Spirit's description. This "holy" city (Rev. 21 : 2) is full of glory and loveliness because of the glory of the Father and the Lamb. John saw this view, "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it : for the glory of God did lighten it, and the lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it : and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it." (Rev. 21 : 23, 24.) Paul also speaks of the "glory" of the future life when he wrote, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Rom. 8 : 18.) Jesus tells of the welcome given to the faithful servant, "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant : thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things : enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matt. 25 : 21.) The loyal and true servant will be granted Joy unspeakable when he is ushered "into the

everlasting kingdom." He will be given a glad "welcome home," for Peter promises, "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 1 : 11.) Heaven is more beautiful than the finite mind can possibly grasp. Do you not want to go to heaven ?

4. It is a place of perfect happiness. No day of gloom will ever come. It will be an "unclouded day." One will never have the "blues." We will not feel uneasy and unsafe ; we will not be afraid and frustrated; we will not be "torn-up" and distraught. We will rest from our labours. (Cf. Rev. 14:13.) The eternal "rest" awaits the people of God who "labour" to enter it. (Cf. Heb. 4 : 9, 11.) In God's presence we are promised pleasure. The psalmist happily declared, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life : in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16 . 11.)

5. We will enjoy eternal security. Eternal security is promised but it is not in this life. When we get to heaven, we will be forever safe. Never will there be any danger of falling and being cast out of heaven. Paul declared, "For the wages of sin is death : but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6 : 23.)

6. It is a place with God. We go home to our Father's house. He is our God and we are his children. He dwells with us—what exaltation for mankind ! We are heirs of God if we remain faithful. In Rom. 8 : 17 Paul explains, "And if children then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." John reveals how intimate relation with Jehovah will be, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God...He that overcometh shall inherit all things ; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." (Rev. 21 : 3, 7.) Also John records this view, "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple : and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. (Rev. 7 : 15.)

7. Heaven will be a new place. "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." (Rev. 21 : 5.) In verse one John said. "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: and the first heaven and the first earth were passed away." Heaven will not be a renovation of the present heaven and earth for Peter declares that "the elements shall melt with fervent heat." (2 Pet. 3 : 10-13.)

8. Heaven is free of sin, lusts and evil companions. Only the "pure in heart" will see God. (Matt. 5 : 8.) Peter states that heaven is a place wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Pet. 3:13.) No sin will enter heaven because we read, "And there shall in no wise enter it any thing that defileth neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie : but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev. 21 : 27.) Impure indifferent. and hypocritical church members should carefully read and profit from this warning.

9. In heaven we will not experience Pain, death, sorrow, and other woes. How glorious it is to read, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes ; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain : for the former things are passed away." (Rev. 21 : 4.) Neither will there be any night. "And there shall be no night there ; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun ; for the Lord God giveth them light : and they shall reign for ever and ever." (Rev. 22 : 5.) Those whose robes have been washed in the blood of the Lamb have this promise, "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more ; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters : and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." (Rev. 7 : 16, 17.)

Death and decay are not a part of heaven. Paul said, "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption...Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God ; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." (1 Cor. 15 : 42, 50.)

10. Heaven is a place of eternal existence. Some may have supposed this is the only feature of heaven but actually whe-

ther one is saved or lost he will have an eternal existence. Jesus said, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matt. 25 : 46.) Life and bliss are included in going to heaven. Paul revealed, "Who will render to every man according to his deeds: to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality." (Rom. 2 : 6, 7.)

How Much Shall I Give ?

L. O. Sanderson

Since God made the earth, enriched it for our supply, provides all means of its productivity, and we are but stewards of all that we receive, it should not be difficult to determine that we should give much; and it will be helpful in deciding how much we give if we take another view, considering how much we shall keep. Divine truth provides principles and instructions sufficient to lead the sincere soul to gracious sacrifice with all its blessings.

Giving is proportionate to our prosperity. Paul said, "Let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him." (1 Cor. 16 : 2.) Prosperity does not mean that which we derive or amass above what we want to spend for ourselves, but rather the sum total of our accumulation and income. Properties and possessions may show gain by exchange or by increase in values. If you really want to know how much you prosper, count up how much you make—in wages, in trades, in sales, in tips or gifts, by capital gain, and by any other means. This is your success, your progress, your prosperity. When all is accounted for, then determine what portion shall be given to the Lord's cause.

Giving is proportionate to what you have. If one has amassed property and means, but has now retired, and is now living on his accumulated assets, he is still obligated to give, because his contribution and sacrifice are "accepted according to that a man hath." (2 Cor. 8 : 12.) Whether one receives by inheritance or pension, that which is entrusted to his care becomes a basis for giving. It is not counting the Lord

first when we consider his portion second. And if you possess this world's goods or its fortunes, you are obligated to give according to what you have. Though a man goes deep in debt to obtain, he is still debtor to God and his kingdom. Otherwise, he could avoid obligation to the Lord's cause by owing others continually. If what you hold is subject to taxation by governments, should it not also be considered in your tribute to God ?

Giving freely is urged upon all. Jesus said, "Freely ye have received, freely give." (Matt. 10 : 8.) This demands liberality. The Macedonians gave "beyond their power," and their "deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality." (2 Cor. 8 : 2, 3.) Hence, "as ye abound in everything ...see that ye abound in this grace [of giving] also." (2 Cor. 8 : 7.) For instance, the man who makes Rs. 100 a week but gives only Rs. 5 on the first day of the week is not giving freely. The one who makes Rs. 75 a week yet gives only a rupee or two is not liberal. We must be free-hearted and liberal in giving. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35.) How true it is that "God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9 : 7).

Giving relates to equality. It is "by an equality" and so bound upon all "that there may be equality." (2 Cor. 8:14.) If a man makes a fishing trip with others, he pays his part ; on any project, apart from religion, men naturally want to share in the expense. Yet in the church there are too many who enjoy a good building, bask under good lights, use the pews, hymnals, Testaments, receive the bulletin, take home tracts and literature, accept the teaching, feast at the Lord's table, take advantage of fellowship, and share in all Christian blessings, but still feel little or no obligation to pay their share of the expense. There must be equality. And skipping class does not lower tuition ; being out of the city does not relieve the bread winner of home obligations. Absenteeism, for any cause, does not lessen duty to give.

Ability to give is dependent on giving. Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you ; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, shall men give

(Contd on back page)

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ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO LISTEN

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into your bosom." (Luke 6 : 38.) Long ago, God urged tithes and offerings, promising "I will...open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive." (Mal. 3 : 10.) What more proof could we ask? Proportionate to our giving will be our ability to give; as we give, we receive: as we share, we have. Really, giving is a paying proposition.

Tithing is a good starting point. This is ten per cent of what we make. Present average in the church is three per cent. Some give from twenty per cent to thirty per cent. This means some give below three per cent—and many will be lost for this stinginess and selfishness. True, God did not tell Christians to tithe. We are on an honor system. Tithes were a part of the patriarchal—Abraham gave a tenth (Gen. 14 : 20); Jacob pledged a tenth (Gen. 28 : 22). Under the law, they had to tithe—a tenth of everything. (Lev. 27:30.) Jesus approved the tithes of the Pharisees (Matt. 23 : 23), and also said: "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 5 : 20.) It has been said the Jews gave at least thirty per cent under a faulty covenant; could we, with a better covenant, based on better promises, give less than ten per cent? Therefore, in determining how much to give, start with ten per cent, but by no means stop there. Purpose in your heart to be fair and honest with the Lord's cause. Think how much the church could do if all gave as they should!

TO :

From :

The Bible Teacher

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