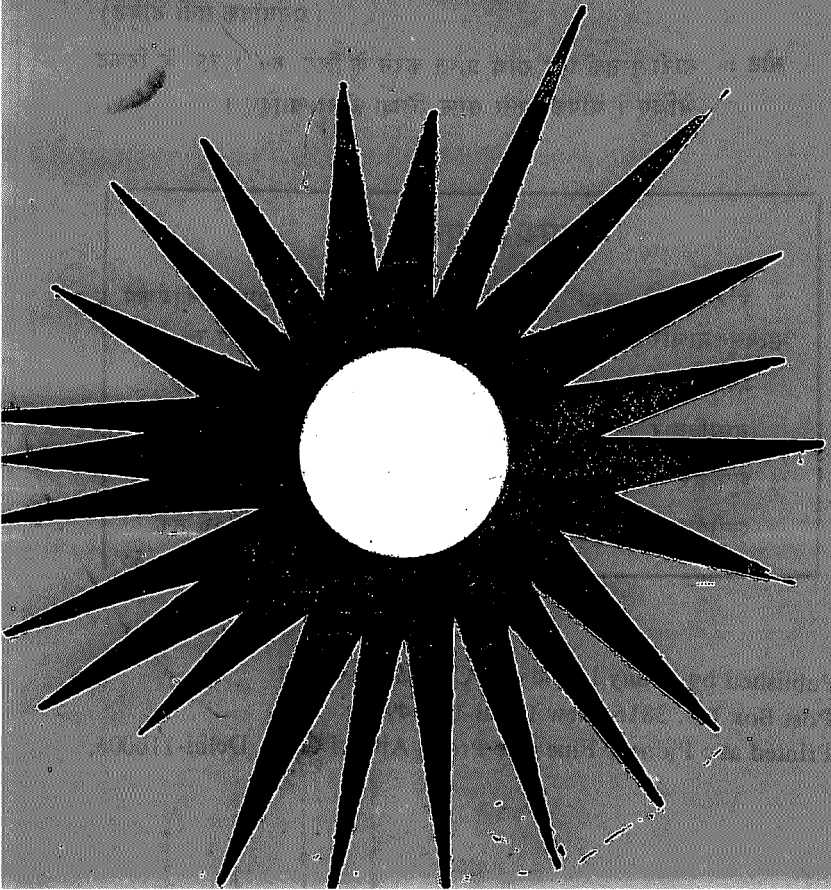


# THE BIBLE TEACHER



# 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
बुधवार	(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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# THE BIBLE TEACHER

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## EDITORIAL

### Whatever happened To Sin ?

There was a time when we knew about sin. We heard about it. It was spoken against. We knew what it was and we knew of its consequences. Those who engaged in it were frowned on, shunned, and disgraced. But it seems that times have changed. Attitudes toward sin are not what they were at one time. The word sin is almost never used anymore. For instance, how often do you hear the word sin used ? How often do you hear someone talking about sin, or labeling a certain action as being sinful ? Who knows anything about sin ? What would be classified as sin today ? As a matter of fact, many things that were frowned on at one time are now accepted. Many would be insulted for the subject of sin to be brought up.

As pointed out, many things that were at one time labeled as being sinful are now generally accepted. These would include homosexuality, living together outside of marriage, adultery, fornication, abortion, bad language, nudity, lying, cheating, murder, and many other similar acts. For example, a number of countries have now passed laws to legalize homosexuality. Those who engage in such now pass it off as being their own personal lifestyle. They are known as the "Gays" in

some parts of the world and with the change of attitude toward them they have come out into the open to declare who they are and they seem to take pride in all of the attention they are getting. Some would pass them off as being sick, but they would reject even this idea. Actually, these are people who are involved in an unnatural act and the Bible labels it as being sinful and ungodly. Instead of being legalized, it should be outlawed. Certainly those who involve themselves in such a practice stand condemned before God and must repent of such activities in order to become Christians.

In the modern day society attitudes have so changed toward morals that a segment of young people, and even some older people, have begun to live together as man and woman outside of marriage. They claim that marriage is old-fashioned and out of date. However, the young women in particular who get caught in this kind of philosophy will be ones who will have to pay for it in the years to come. One can say what he wants to about marriage but where there is no marriage contract then the male will eventually feel free to walk out on the arrangement. But where will this leave the lady? It will leave her without a companion, perhaps with children, and who then will want to marry her? She therefore has all to lose and nothing to gain. Of course such living is bad and wrong and sinful. God's law demands marriage, and regardless of what the world has said it is not old-fashioned and out of date. It is as modern and up to date as today.

Akin to this are fornication and adultery. Fornication is an immoral act between man and woman both outside of marriage as well as in marriage. Adultery results when one is married lawfully and scripturally but puts away his or her companion without a scriptural reason and then marries another. (Matthew 19 : 9). More and more of these acts are being indulged in and it is becoming a sinful way of life.

Abortion is the act of killing a baby before birth. At one time this was done mainly where the life of the mother was in danger or where young women had become pregnant outside



of marriage and rather than to go through the shame of having their child they would risk their lives by finding some one to do an unlawful abortion. But countries around the world, including India, are now freely legalizing and performing abortions on thousands and even millions of women. In highly populated countries this may even become a popular means of holding the birthrate down. But this is nothing more than an act of murder. This is the killing of a new human being. It might be argued that this child is not a human being since it is yet unborn. If it is not a human life then what is it? Would it be vegetable life? Would it be animal life? No, again. Then it must be human life. And if it is human life and it is aborted or destroyed then that means that it has been killed, and that is murder. Actually, what we have today in that thousands and millions of unborn babies are being murdered around the world. Isn't that a horrible thought?

When we read of what King Herod did at the time of Jesus' birth we think how terrible that he would send his soldiers to Bethlehem and have them kill all the male babies two years and younger. He did this because he had heard that Jesus was born to be a king and he feared that one day Jesus might challenge him for his throne. Of course Jesus was not going to be an earthly king but Herod didn't know this. Anyway, Herod has gone down in history as having been a fiendish person, a murderer of children. And he *was* all of that, but it has been estimated that may be 200 children were killed at that time but that is nothing in comparison to the number of unborn babies that are being killed each day in our time. Thousands more than that are being aborted every day and yet most people think nothing about it. Another heinous act with which we are all familiar was what Hitler did in recent history. He also had a programme of exterminating babies, crippled and insane people, and he attempted to systematically do away with all of the Jews living in his country. That was a horrible thing, no one will deny. But as bad as it was nothing in comparison to what is happening in our own time, and that lawfully. Various governments and countries have even

borrowed some of Hitler's ideas and practices for their plans to eliminate the weak and unwanted from society.

As awful as the foregoing is, did you know that this could be just the beginning? As the people around the world harden themselves to this kind of thing, they will be ready for some further evils to be introduced. And this is already in the works. In America, bills in many States have been formulated to permit older people who consent, and whose families consent, to be taken off drugs, medicines, and machines and allowed to die. Then eventually it may come to pass that crippled children, insane people, and people at a pre-determined age will be exterminated for the "good" of the rest of society. Yes, the world is changing in its thinking and attitudes toward certain evils, but this is not making the world any better.

Bad language is now accepted as decent language. Nudity is on the increase. Even more and more of it is seen in Indian films. It is somewhat controlled by the censors but the very fact there is a growing number of adult movies tells us that something is wrong somewhere. Then add to that the many other social, moral, and religious acts and practices that are somewhat common place and you can begin to get the idea of why the question is being asked, "Whatever happen to sin?"

As an explanation for some of these things we are told that people who indulge in them are sick. Often times a murderer or one who is guilty of some other hideous crime tries to get by the law by pleading insanity. Some of these sins may also be explained away with "situation ethics." That is, people would say that it depends on where you are, the circumstances, and so on, as to how a certain act or practice may be classified. Of course the Bible teaches that sin is sin, that there is no double standard. Other evils that are practiced may result from the social values in certain places. In many countries the things we have discussed have been legalized and therefore lawful. But regardless of what laws man pass, if a thing is sin, it is sin. Then many would reason that "everyone does it" but they fail to realize that everyone can also be wrong. In recent times also the idea has grown up among young people in parti-

cular that one should be left to do his "own thing." They reason that if you want to do it and feel that it is right for you, then who would have a right to object to it? This kind of reasoning, if practiced by all, would nullify all laws and would turn man loose to do as he pleased and thus the whole world would be flung into a chaotic condition. Neither has the women's lib movement helped the situation because the idea is basically that woman is liberated and should be free to do whatever she wants to do.

The question we need to ask, then, is : What is sin? It is said to be many things. Some of the words or synonymous that would define it would be "iniquity, offence, transgression, wickedness, evil, bad, wrong, ungodliness", and so on we could go. The Apostle John tells us that "All unrighteousness is sin." (1 John 5 : 17). Again, "Sin is the transgression of the law." (1 John 3 : 4). That is, God's word is our standard of authority and when we go beyond that law or when we break it then we have sinned or done wrong. In 1 John 3 : 8 he says that "He that committeth sin is of the Devil." Also, "If we say...we have no sin, we deceive ourselves." (1 John 1:9). And Paul concludes, "For all have sinned." (Romans 3:23).

What does the Bible say about the sins that we have discussed thus far, and those who commit them? Let's go to the Bible and see. Paul writes concerning a wicked group of people : "For the invisible things of him from the creation are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead ; so that they are without excuse : Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful ; but became vain in their imagination, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves : Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the

creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." (Romans 1 : 20-25). Here was a group of people who had turned from God and had begun to worship images of man, fowl, and beasts. They had gotten so far away that the Lord gave them up to their own destruction. That is going as far into sin as you can go.

Again Paul writes, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. Unless one turns away from sin he cannot be saved; and if one is not saved then he cannot be a part of the Lord's kingdom or church. Neither can such a person go to heaven. That is how serious this question is.

A similar passage is found in Galatians 5 : 19-21 : "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these : Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like : of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Here, and in so many other places throughout the scriptures, specific sins are mentioned. They are also specifically mentioned as works of the flesh and those who do them cannot enter the kingdom of God. It is true that since the church is made up of human beings, that a congregation of Christians—being human beings—might accept one or more into their fellowship who is guilty of one or more of these things but that does not mean that the Lord has accepted them. Also, one may claim that he has repented, and on this basis, may be accepted into the fellowship of the saints, but also again that does not mean that the Lord has added such an individual to his kingdom or church. The only possible way to be saved and to be added to the church is for one to repent or turn away from all of his sins and thus to obey God that his sins might be washed away. (Acts 17:30; Acts 2:38;

Acts 22:16; Acts 2:47). But one other thing, and that is, some one might claim that Paul did not mention some particular sin and therefore that sin may be done without the Lord's disapproval, but Paul did mention it when he said, "....and such like." No doubt Paul, or the Spirit who guided him to write these things, knew that the day would come when man would invent to himself similar acts and practices that would likewise be wrong and so as not to leave them out, he summed up the whole thing by saying that one could not do these particular things, and such like, and expect to enter the kingdom of God or the church.

We are told what will happen to those who commit such sins: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death." Such is to say that all such people, those who do these things and all other bad things, will be lost or will be cast into hell which is described as spiritual death, where one will be punished forever and forever. Yes, that is how serious sin is with the Lord and this is the consequence of sin. It should therefore not be taken lightly.

In Galatians 6:7,8, Paul reminds us of this important truth: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. If we think we can sin without reaping the consequences, we are mistaken. We should not be deceived into thinking that sin is nice and that there is happiness in it. There have been those who reasoned that it is to be expected that young people in particular would sow their wild oats or would go on while they are young and do some things that they will not do when they become older. These same people overlook the fact that when young people or old people sow to the flesh that they will also have to reap the consequences.

Finally, we read the words of Paul: "For the wages of

sin is death ; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6 : 23). It is true that you may go on and do all the things you want to do in life. You may engage in all of the sinful things that we have mentioned, and many others that we have not mentioned, and you may reason that this is your business. You may go on and do them and even have the approval of others. But remember this one thing : You will receive your wages for this, if not in this life, at least in the world to come and your wages will be death, spiritual death, eternal death. You cannot live a life of sin without having to suffer the consequences sooner or later, and often times sooner. Even if you live a long life, and do not experience many consequences in this life, eternity is a long time to have to pay for a few short years of sin. You had better think about the value of your soul and ask yourself if you are really ready to sell it for a few worldly sinful things. (Matthew 16 : 26).

My brethren and friends, there are some facts that we need to face. We must realize that sin is sin, that we cannot hide from it, and we must rid ourselves of it or suffer the consequences. We can call it by many names, even pretty names ; we can pretend that it is not there, overlook it, try to hide it, but sin is still there. Only obedience to Christ can bring forgiveness or wash away our sins. (Acts 2 : 38; Matthew 26 : 28 ; Acts 2 : 47).

How do you view sin ? Do you know what sin is ? Do you recognize it ? Do you condone it, wink at it, or hate it ? Do you know what it can do for you ? Have you repented of it in your life, purified your body and soul of it, and are you working against it ? Oh, how we as God's people need to be on guard against it, warning others about it, and pointing to a life of godliness and showing what it means to live such a life. And we have this promise from God's word itself, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1 : 7).

Whatever happen to sin ? Although the word has some-

what been put in the background by the masses, nevertheless, the evil is still there—it is alive and strong—and still working in the lives of all accountable beings all over the world. It is still taking its toll, bringing heartaches, pains, sadness, sorrow, death, and eternal destruction to millions and billions. Again, we point you to Jesus Christ as the alternative, the only answer to sin. Through him, and only through him, can one rid himself of this killing disease and through him and only through him can one have the hope of life and life eternal. The wise will have no difficult choice to make when considering between the two.



**associate  
editorial**

## Can One Be Saved Without Being a member Of The Church ?

Recently while talking to a man, who said he was a gospel preacher, I questioned him which church he was a member of ? He replied, that he was preaching independently and that he was not a member of any church. There are too many people who likewise believe that they can be Christians and go to heaven without being a member of the church. But contrary to this belief the Bible definitely teaches that all the saved are found in the church and no one will be saved outside the church. Certainly, here we are not talking of a denominational religious organization rather we are talking about the church, that Jesus said he would build (Matthew 16 : 18), and he did build (Acts 2). We are talking about the church of which alone

we can read in our Bibles, the church of which Christ is the head and the saviour. (Colossians 1 : 18 ; Ephesians 5 : 23).

Since the blood of Christ was shed for the remission of sins (Matthew 26 : 28), and his blood cleanseth us from all sins (1 John 1 : 7), and because Christ purchased the church with the blood that he shed (Acts 20:28), therefore, to be saved by the blood of Christ one must enter the church of Christ which is the blood-bought body of the saved people. But to enter the church one must enter in it on the Lord's term. In fact no one can enter it or join it on his own will or terms, but the Bible teaches that Christ adds to the church daily that are saved. (Acts 2:47). Now, since he adds the saved to the church, therefore, one must first obey his commands to be saved. In Acts the second chapter we read that when the multitude of people asked the question "What shall we do ?", the apostles, who were guided by the Holy Spirit of God, commanded them to repent from their sins and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. (Acts 2 : 37,38). We also read, when others did the same thing then the Lord added them to the church daily. (Acts 2 : 47).

In Ephesians 5 : 23 the apostle declared, "Christ is the head of the church : and he is the saviour of the body." So, Christ is the saviour, but he is *the saviour of the body*. And what is the body that he is talking about ? He explains this that it is the church. (Ephesians 1:22,23). Therefore, Christ is the saviour of the church. So you can see that no one can be saved or go to heaven without being a member of the church.

Apostle Peter reminds us by saying, "When once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a-preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience towards God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." The inference is, he says, they were saved in the ark by water, and likewise when we are baptized we are added into the church wherein we shall be saved (Acts 2:38, 47). Apostle Paul further explained this, when he said, "For



by one spirit are we all baptized into one body." (1 Corinthians 12 : 13) The body is the church. (Colossians 1 : 18 ; Ephesians 1 : 22,23). Just as the eight souls were saved in one ark, so we will be saved in one church, that is, the church of Christ. "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Ephesians 3 : 21).

## The Birth of Jesus

**Bill Flatt**

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wisemen from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews ? for we saw his star in the east, and are come to worship him. And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ should be born. And they said unto him. In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written through the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, land of Judah, art in no wise least among the princes of Judah : for out of thee shall come forth a governor, who shall be shepherd of my people Israel. Then Herod privily called the Wisemen, and learned of them exactly what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search out exactly concerning the young child ; and when ye have found him, bring me word, that I also may come and worship him. And they, having heard the king, went their way ; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother ; and they fell down and worshipped him ; and opening their treasures they offered unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they

should not return unto Herod, they departed into their own country another way." (Matt. 2: 1-12.)

Let us study the characters mentioned in this beautiful story :

1. *Jesus*. The Son of God, the Christ, the Son of Man was born in Bethlehem of Judaea. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was found in the likeness of man (Phil. 2 : 7), in order to save people from their sins (Matt. 1 : 21). What good tidings of great joy unto all people ! (Luke 2: 10.) Let us then accept him into our hearts and lives as our Saviour, and as our Lord and Master. Our attitude toward him should be, "Speak Lord, thy servant heareth ; command and I will obey."

2. *Herod*. Herod was a wicked man. He exterminated the Asmonean house, which included Antigonus and forty-five of his chief adherents, Hyrcanus (31 B.C.); Miriamme, his favorite wife, and his sons, Alexander and Aristobulus. According to Josephus (*Ant.* XVI, vii, 1), he robbed the grave of King David, held in reverence by the Jews, of its treasures ; and one of the last acts of his life was to order the execution of his son, Antipater, and also, to be carried out after his death, he ordered the execution of a number of nobles. His son, Archelaus, beheaded John the immerser (Matt. 14); and his grandson, Herod Agrippa, killed the apostle James with the sword and imprisoned the apostle Peter (Acts 12). In Matt. 2. Herod wanted to kill the baby Jesus because Jesus was called the king of the Jews. Herod was jealous because his conclusion was without adequate evidence and because he was blind to the idea of a spiritual kingdom as are many today. The Greek word translated kingdom simply means reign, the reign of God in Christ ; and Jesus is reigning over his kingdom today. He sits now on the throne of David (Acts 2) and spiritually rules in the hearts and lives of those who submit to his Lordship. Following the example of Herod, many today are trying to kill Jesus ; they plot against his Lordship and against his kingdom, his church. Herod failed, and they will fail. Eternal victory is in Jesus !

3. *The Wise Men.* Although we are not sure of the number of the Wise Men, we can be fairly certain from the meaning of the word in the Greek (*Magoi*) that they were probably either philosophers, priests, or astronomers. They came from the East. Countries in that general direction would include Babylon, Persia, Media, India, Arabia and others. These Wise Men were very wise men in that they came to Christ. They saw the star, followed it until they came, being led by Jehovah, to Jesus. Then they worshipped him and gave him expensive gifts; gold, which could represent the best we have to offer; frankincense, which could represent worship; and myrrh, which could represent service. We, too, are wise men when we come to Jesus, worship him, and give him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

4. *The Jews.* The Jews were indifferent. These men of Jerusalem were willing to tell the strangers from the East that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem of Judaea; but they did not have the right attitude, the attitude that would say, "Great! We want to go with you Wise Men unto Bethlehem and experience the joy of worshipping him." Strangers from the East seemed to be more interested than were they. Yes, "He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not." (John 1:11.) Their indifference is inexcusable. Jesus later said, "Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (John 8:24.) The Jews were God's chosen people. Having the Bible, they should have recognized the fulfillment of prophecy. And there are at least four prophecies fulfilled in the story of Matt. 2: that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2), that he would be called out of Egypt (Hos. 11:1), that there would be weeping for Rachel's children (Jer. 31:15), and that he would be called a Nazarene (Isa. 11:1). Their indifference can be understood in terms of sin in their hearts controlling their lives, and in their misunderstanding in regard to the nature of the kingdom. Let us be sure that sin is not dominating us. Let us be sure that we do not make knowing Bible facts an end itself. It is a mean toward an end, and we may reach this end by having the attitude of humility that will accept God's written instructions

as readily as we would his spoken instructions, if he were to speak directly to us. He can then guide our hearts and lives.

5. *Joseph and Mary.* The parents of Jesus are Joseph and Mary ; poor, but devout; away from home, but good parents. They did what they could for the baby. They got him a bed although it was a bed of straw. They protected him from Herod who would have taken his precious life; even though this carried them all the way to a foreign country, Egypt. It was more important to them to be good parents than it was to experience convenience. What an example for parents today ! Later, it was said that Jesus' custom was to worship God. (Luke 4 : 16,) A custom is more firmly fixed than a habit. This is a tribute to the parents of Jesus. And parents today should be sure that their children grow up with the custom of going to worship. (Psalm 122 : 1.) Also, Joseph and Mary received God's instructions. They listened to God as he told them to go to Egypt; and then as he told them to leave Egypt. And they not only received God's instructions, but, even more important, they obeyed God's instructions. They went ! We need parents who will do God's will today.

There are good examples and bad examples in this story recorded in Matt. 2. Which character most resembles you ? Which character will you follow in the future ? Come to Jesus. Completely accept him as your Saviour and Lord.

## Five minutes After Death

Alan E. Highers

There is a great and natural inclination on the part of all men to wonder what transpires following death. Some who have seen their loved ones precede them in death have an earnest long to know of their condition, while others, facing the immediate or coming prospect of death themselves, have a growing concern regarding its nature. There is one New

Testament story, in particular, which furnishes much information concerning what occurs after death. It is the record of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16: 19-31.

### IS IT A PARABLE ?

There are those who insist that this story was given only as a parable, and consequently they object to accepting it at face value. I am fully persuaded that it is *not a parable*, however, for the following reasons :

1. The Bible nowhere *states* it is a parable, whereas this fact is usually specified in the case of parables.

2. If it is a parable it is the only one that uses the names of actual persons, such as Abraham and Moses. There is no reason to believe it is not setting forth actual facts regarding these actual persons.

3. The facts of this story fully harmonize with the teaching we have from other passages about the state of the dead.

We could concede the point and agree that it is a parable, however without giving up a single item of truth that it teaches, for a parable is a means of teaching by the use of something that either *did* happen or that *could* have happened! Therefore, to consider the story of the rich man and Lazarus as a parable could not detract in the least from the lessons it teaches.

### FIVE MINUTES AFTER DEATH

The events recorded in Luke 16: 19-31 have no reference to matters after the final day of judgment, for at the time of these happenings men were still living upon the earth. (Verses 27, 28.) Hence, this passage relates to what occurs *after* death and *before* the final judgment. From it, then, can be learned things that may be expected *after* death, whether a year, a day, or even five minutes thereafter.

1. *Five minutes after death we will be in a conscious existence elsewhere.* The rich man "died, and was buried," yet he opened his eyes in torments and *saw* Abraham afar off. He was conscious after death. (Verses 22, 23.) Many seem to think we will sleep in the grave from death until the resurrec-

tion, but the Bible speaks of the sleep of the body, never the sleep of the soul or eternal part of man.

2. *Five minutes after death we will recognize people known on the earth.* People do not lose their identity after death, any more than an individual loses his identity after sleeping through the night. He is the same person when he awakens the following morning, and so is the one who passes into the next world. The rich man saw and recognized both Abraham and Lazarus. (Verses 23, 24.) On the mount of transfiguration, there appeared Moses, who had died, and Elijah whom God had taken, (Matt. 17: 1-8.) They had lost neither their consciousness nor their identity.

3. *Five minutes after death we will remember scenes that took place upon the earth.* Abraham said to the rich man. "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things." (Luke 16:25.) The rich man also recalled that he had five brethren left behind. (Verses 27, 28.) Memory will effect the very nature of punishment and reward in the world to come. The righteous man will recall his faithfulness to the Lord in tribulation, the gospel preacher will know his labours were not in vain, the redeemed ones will know *why* they are being rewarded because of the memory of their lives upon the earth. The lost men and women, likewise, will have a conscious recollection of the wasted opportunities in their lifetime. I believe those who heard invitations extended and songs of encouragement sung will recall these things in bitter agony in eternity.

4. *Five minutes after death there will be prayers from lost souls in behalf of loved ones upon the earth.* there are those who say they cannot obey the gospel because some of their loved ones never did so, and for them to obey now would be to disparage the memory of those departed loved ones. But it is likely that all of us will have the tragedy of having friends or loved ones eternally lost. If they *are* lost (a fact we may not always know), would they consider it an offense to their memory for their loved ones left behind to obey the gospel of Christ? To the contrary, I believe their earnest prayer would

be like that of the rich man: "I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house; for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment." (Luke 16: 27, 28.) Prayers from lost souls are doubtless ascending even now in behalf of men and women yet living. Abraham said of the rich man's five brothers, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them." Men today have the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Rom. 1: 16.) "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh," (Heb. 12: 25.)

5. *Five minutes after death we will know our eternal destiny.* The rich man "lifted up his eyes, being in torments," and he saw Lazarus in the same place with Abraham, (Verses 2, 23.) Men will not have to await the final day of judgment to know where they will be in eternity, but at that time the *sentence* will be passed and all men will learn *why* they have received sentence. (2 Cor. 5: 10; Eccles. 12: 13, 14.) Christians have nothing to fear in death, although death itself is no friend. But the Lord will be with us as we pass into a world better than this. (Psalm 23: 4.) The one who is not a Christian should see in the approach of death a warning from God to make preparation by obedience to the gospel. (Amos 4: 12; Heb. 9: 27; Heb. 5: 8, 9.)

*If every living person knew what every dying person learns five minutes after death, everyone would become a Christian now!*

## Three Good Rules For Bible Study

**Dorris B. Billingsley**

### **Rule one : Properly Divide the Bible.**

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth.*" II Timothy 2:15. The Bible is divided into two major divisions—the Old Testament and the New Testament. (The word "testament" means "covenant" or "will"). The Old

Testament is a history of God's dealing with men, particularly the Jews, before the Christian age in which we live. The New Testament contains the law of Christ for this age. The Mosaic law, which began with the Ten Commandments, was given only to the children of Israel. Deuteronomy 5:1-3. This law was fulfilled by Christ and was nailed to the cross. Colossians 2:14.

The Old Testament as such is no longer binding upon men. The New Testament is God's law for men today.

See : John 1:17; 6:68; 12:48; 14:6;

Hebrews 1:1, 2; 8:6, 7; 9:15-17; 10:9, 10.

**Rule Two: Study The context of each Passage of Scripture and interest each difficult Passage in the light of Easily understood Passages.**

The Bible is truth and truth agrees with itself, so do not place an interpretation upon one passage which contradicts another passage.

**Rule three: Study all the Bible teaches on every subject.**

Consider all God says on a subject before drawing a conclusion. Failure to do this will lead to a misunderstanding of Bible truths.

### **An Application:**

When we apply these rules to the question "What must I do to be saved ?", we find our salvation depends upon several things, not upon one alone.

#### **WE ARE SAVED BY:**

\*GRACE. Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 2:11.

\*FAITH. Romans 5:1, 2; Galatians 3:26, 27.

\*OBEDIENCE. Matthew 7:21; Romans 6:16-18; Hebrews 5:8,9; James 2:17-26.

#### **TO BE SAVED WE MUST :**

\*BELIEVE ON JESUS. Mark 16:16; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6.

\*REPENT OF SINS. Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 2:38; 17:30.



**\*CONFESS FAITH IN CHRIST.** Matthew 10:32;  
Romans 10:10.

**\*BE BAPTIZED.** Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:38, 39; 22:16;  
Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 3:27; Colos-  
sians 2:10; I Peter 3:21.

## We Are Standing On The Promises of God

**Clem Thurman**

God will do what He said ! This is a cardinal truth of the Bible. Men may deceive you, lie and break their word; but God will not. We are often disappointed when one we trusted breaks his word. But God will do just as He has promised. Peter wrote in 2 Pet. 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise." In Heb. 10:23, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised." Men may promise to pay a debt, then ignore it; wedding vows are often broken; solemn agreements are violated almost daily with some. But God is faithful. He keeps His promises.

Many of God's promises are unconditional, that is, there are no conditions for man to meet in order for the promise to be kept. He promised a Saviour would come (Jer. 23:6; Isa. 19:20, etc.); and we read in Acts 13:23, "God, according to his promise, raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus." The dual promise of Heb. 9:27 is unconditional: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." There are many other such promises of God. But many of His promises are **conditional** promises: that is, there are conditions man must meet in order to receive the promise. In Heb. 3, the writer refers to the promise God made to the Israelites that they would be given the land of Canaan. But then is stated, "They were not able to enter in because of unbelief." (3:18). God made the promise the land would be theirs, but there were conditions they had to meet. The warning is then given us two verses later "Let us fear, therefore, lest a promise being left us of entering

into his rest any of you should seem to come short of it." The fact that "the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men" does not mean all men will be saved. There are conditions stated that must be met. (Titus 2:11-12).

### **Know the truth and Be Made Free**

The blessings of the gospel are all predicated on learning the truth. In Jno. 8:32 Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Ignorance of what is right will not excuse or save (Acts 17:30). Only the truth can make men free, and then only if it is known. This is why the Lord said, "And they shall all be taught of God. Everyone that hath heard from the Father and hath learned, cometh unto me." (Jno. 6:45) Only by "hearing and Learning" the truth is freedom possible. The **Known** truth makes men free.

But what is truth? In His prayer (Jno. 17:17), Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them with the truth: thy word is truth." The tragedy of modern society is the cry for freedom, while the source of freedom is ignored. There are still those such as Peter discussed in 2 Pet. 3:18-19: "They allure through the lusts of the flesh... while they promise them liberty, they themselves are the bond-servants of corruption." Anyone who leaves God out of his life is not really free. It is God's truth that makes us free. Nothing else can do it.

### **Study the word, Grow in Christ**

Another promise with conditions concerns our growth and strength in Christ. Paul exhorts us to be "strong in the Lord" (Eph. 6:10). And his statement in Phil 4:13 is this: "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me." We are told in 2 Pet. 3:18, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ," All Christians should want to "grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." (Eph. 4:15). But how do we grow? The answer is found in the passage of 2 Pet. 3:18: we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

There is no shortcut to spiritual maturity. If we would "grow up" in Him, it will not be with tongue-speaking or direct

operation of the Holy Spirit. We will grow as we study God's word; and our growth rate will closely parallel our rate of increase in Bible knowledge. "Study to show thyself approved unto God...handling aright the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15). Peter tells us "Long for the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." (1 Pet. 2:2). Paul shows that the more knowledge of Christ we gain, the more like Him we become. He speaks of our looking into God's word as into a mirror (2 Cor. 3:18), then adds: "Beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, we are transformed into the same image from glory to glory." If you truly want to grow up in Christ, then study His word and become like Him.

### **Believe and be Baptized and Be Saved**

Christ came to "Seek and save the lost" (Lk. 19:10). He was to be called Jesus "because it is he that will save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21). This was His mission on earth. And when He was ready to depart from the earth and return to the Father, he said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (MK. 16:15-16). Notice that to "be saved" is a conditional promise: the conditions are "believe and be baptized." If we are to receive the promise, we must meet the conditions! We do not determine those conditions, we only submit to them.

When the apostle later preached so that men could be saved, "they that received his word were baptized" (Acts 2:41). God has not changed His promise, nor has He changed its conditions. We read in Acts 2:38 the command. "Repent, and be baptized...unto the remission of sins." Again in Acts 22:16, "Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins; calling on the name of the Lord." Paul shows that when our faith leads us to be baptized, we are "baptized into Christ" and "into his death." (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27). We are saved by faith (Jno. 3:16; Rom. 5:1); but baptism is also a condition of the promise. And, as is true with all God's promises, if we would receive the blessing we must meet the conditions He lays down.

### **Be Faithful Unto Death and Receive the Crown of Life**

In John's writing in Rev. 2:10, Jesus made the promise, "Be

thou faithful unto death, and I will give unto thee the crown of life." Assurance that we can live with Christ forever is the great hope of the gospel; "Heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7). Before His departure from the apostles, the Lord spoke of the mansions He would prepare (Jno. 14). He promised to come again, raise the dead to be judged and grant the reward of eternal life to those who have served Him (I Thes. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:31-46). This is the promise that removes the terror of death; as John wrote in Rev. 14:13, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord." What a hope! that the Lord who died for our sins then arose from the dead, and now promises us all the joys of Heaven forever!

But the promise is conditional: "Be thou faithful unto death." Beginning "the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:2) is not enough. We must, like Paul, "finish the course" (2 Tim. 4:7). Too many act as though becoming a Christian gives one a guarantee of heaven, but it isn't true. Many will be "gathered out of the kingdom" and cast into the furnace of fire (Matt. 13:14-42). The promise of eternal life with Christ is conditional; we must, as Christians, be faithful unto death.

We have the assurance that God is faithful, He will keep His promises. We need to be just as sure that the blessings of the promise will be ours only if we keep the conditions He makes. Another promise of the Lord is: "In flaming fire taking vengeance upon them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thes. 1:8). And, "If we are faithless, he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." (2 Tim. 2:11). If we refuse to live for Him, we will be eternally lost. And that is His promise, too.

## Bible Baptism vs. Baptist Church Baptism

Perry Newton

This may seem a strange title, yet it is extremely valid. The Bible teaches baptism; the Baptist church teaches baptism. The

Bible teaches baptism by immersion; the Baptist church teaches baptism by immersion. The Bible teaches baptism of believers, not infants; the Baptist church generally teaches baptism of believers although some have come to accept infant baptism.

This, however, is about the extent of similarity between Bible teaching and Baptist church teaching concerning baptism. I speak as a Christian converted from the Baptist church doctrine and practice. I was baptized by immersion when I was about Twelve years old thinking, I was being baptized for the remission of sins. It was many years later that I learned the Baptist church and the congregation I belonged to did not believe in baptizing for the remission of sins.

As I began to study the matter, I soon understood why they could not teach baptism for the remission of sins and hold to some of their other teachings. For example, the usual confession of a respondent to the invitation song in the Baptist church (before he is baptized) is "I believe that God has, for Christ's sake, forgiven my sins," he then is a candidate for baptism. With this confession, baptism for the remission of sins is meaningless, for the respondent states that his sins have already been forgiven, and that they were forgiven before he was baptized. Brother B. C. Mc. Carley, in preaching on baptism, has said many times that if the confession is not right, the baptism cannot be right. This illustrates his point.

The confession found in the Bible is "I believe that Jesus is the Christ; the Son of God," or "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." This is the confession of the Ethiopian eunuch to Philip; this is the confession of Peter to Christ; this is the confession of Mary to Christ. This was the confession of God about Christ.

The Baptist church teaches baptism is not necessary to salvation. Salvation involves forgiveness of sins. Baptism is for the remission of sins according to Acts 2 : 38; 22 : 16; Mark 16 : 15, 16; 1 Peter 3 : 21. So for the Baptist church to admit the Bible teaching that baptism is for remission of sins is to admit that baptism is necessary to salvation.

What then does the Baptist church teach is the purpose of baptism? There are several teaching on this: (1) for church membership, which would indicate it is harder for a person to become a member of the Baptist church than to become a Christian (2) to show a Sign of a good conscience. (3) because it is commanded of Jesus.

H. W. Tribble, author of *Our Doctrines*, published by the Southern Baptist Convention, writes of baptism on page 108, "It is enough to say here that it is a requisite to church membership. This is not stated in so many words in the New Testament but it is everywhere implied." On the meaning of baptism he says on page 115. "Baptism symbolizes some of the essential truths of Christianity. In the first place, it symbolizes the remission of sins, the renunciation and burial of the old life, the resolve to walk in a new life of fellowship with Christ. Thus it points back and calls attention to a great change that has been wrought in the individual. But of course, baptism does not remit our sins or work this great change." This despite Peter's words, repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2 : 38).

### **Is Baptism Essential to Salvation ?**

Jesus taught the essentiality of baptism when he said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16 : 15, 16). Jesus put faith and baptism before salvation : 1—believe, 2—be baptized, 3—be saved.

If one can be saved without baptism, he can be saved outside of Christ, for one is baptised into Christ. (Rom 6 :3). If one can be saved without baptism, he can be saved without putting on Christ, for through baptism we put on Christ. (Gal. 3 : 27). If one can be saved without baptism, he can be saved out of the body of Christ, for "by one spirit were we all baptized into one body." (1 Cor. 12 : 13). If one can be saved without baptism, he can be saved outside the kingdom of Christ, for "except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3 : 5).

If one can be saved without baptism, how then can the passage be explained which reads, "Baptism does also now save

us (1 Peter 3 : 21) ? If a man can be saved without baptism, why was a man told, "Arise, be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22 : 16)?

Sin is forgiven in the mind of God. Unless and until God forgives man's sins, they are not remitted. The Bible tells us what God has told us to do to obtain forgiveness of sin...the baptism of a penitent believer who has confessed Jesus as the Son of God. This effects the spiritual new birth. This, then, is the only way we can begin to walk as a Christian, grow as a Christian, build our hope for eternity as a Christian.

## The New Testament Teaching Concerning The Hereafter

by L.R. Wilson

There is more bonafide evidence that Christ was raised from the dead than there is any other single fact in all history. Based upon this evidence, Paul argued that all men will be raised. Thus he asserted, "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen : and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain and your faith is also vain." (1 Cor. 15:12-15).

On one occasion some of the Sadducees, who argued that there is no resurrection or life after death, came to Jesus with a make-up story about seven brothers who married the same woman, then asked "...in the resurrection, whose wife shall she be of the seven?...Jesus answered and said unto them : Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." (Mat. 22:25-32).

Jesus pointed out two errors in their reasoning.

1. In the resurrection there is no blood relationship—hence no marrying. In harmony therewith, Paul explained that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Cor. 15 : 50).

2. When Moses approached the burning bush, God said to him: "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." (*Exod. 3 : 6*). This the Sadducees believed, but they had overlooked one fact. Namely, "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Then Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who had died centuries earlier, were still living somewhere, with God.

### **After Death, What ?**

1. After death there will be both a resurrection and a judgment. Furthermore, both the good and the bad will be raised in the same hour. This Jesus plainly declared, saying, "For the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life: and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation." (*Jno. 5:28, 29*). Thus all will come forth at the same time; some to eternal life, the rest to everlasting condemnation.

2. There are but two places for all to go after the judgment. Jesus made this abundantly clear in the picture he gave of the last judgment, saying, "And these (the wicked) shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (*Mat. 25 : 46*). The Bible makes no mention of any other place or condition after dead and the judgment.

### **Heaven and Hell**

1. There are many expressions found in the New Testament to indicate the joys of heaven. In Revelation 21 and 22 it is pictured as a city "four square;" with golden streets, jasper walls, pearly gates, the river of life, with trees bearing their fruit perennially; where there is no heat, no tears, no sickness, and no sorrow. In that city the face of God is the light for ever more.

No doubt, all of these terms are highly figurative, but they indelibly impress one fact upon our finite minds; namely: heaven will be a wonderful place of happiness and unending enjoyment—where sorrows come no more.

Heaven is also pictured as a place of eternal rest. (*Heb. 3 : 11; Rev. 14 : 13*).



It is doubtful, however, if finite minds can grasp all the marvels that God has in store for his children, who remain faithful to him until death.

2. The word "hell" is generally used to describe the place of everlasting punishment of the incorrigible wicked. (*Mat. 5 : 22, 29, 30 ; 10 : 28; 18:9*). Sometimes hell is pictured as a place of fire (*Rev. 20 : 10*). Sometimes it is "outer darkness : there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (*Mat. 25 : 30*). Sometimes it is spoken of as "the second death"—meaning eternal separation from God, the giver of all life. But however we look at it, the place of eternal death for the wicked, will be one of punishment, "In flaming fire" with "vengeance on all them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (*2 Thes. 1 : 7, 8*). It does not matter how we look at these scriptures, hell will be a place of unending punishment.

### Conclusion

It is an inescapable fact that "it is appointed unto men once to die, after this the judgment." (*Heb. 9 : 27*). "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord," said Paul, "we persuade men." "For," he goes on, "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (*2 Cor. 5 : 10*). There is no escape from the hereafter. It therefore behooves us all to trust in Christ who conquered death by his own resurrection, and to conform our lives unto his, that he may at last be able to say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant.....enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (*Mat. 25 : 23*).

## Book of the Month

"How to get to Heaven" a study guide book by Ike Hamilton. This book contains twenty-one scriptural lessons written on various spiritual subjects.

To obtain this book you should send us your name and address clearly written and a postage stamp of 25 paise only as its mailing charges.

# Ye Must Be Born Again

M. Lloyd Smith

Jesus in talking with Nichodemus said, "Ye must be born again." John 3:7. Life does not come by spontaneous generation but by a birth. One preacher said, "John 3:8 was given to teach us that the new birth was incomprehensible to all finite minds." If this verse cannot be understood, why do such men spend thirty to forty-five minutes trying to explain it?

**THE SPIRITUAL BIRTH** is no more a mystery than the physical birth. Since Jesus said it was impossible to get into the kingdom of God, or the church, without this new birth, it is necessary that we learn what the new birth is. We may not understand all the mysteries of the new birth any more than we do those of the natural birth, but we can understand what has to be done and what is necessary for birth.

**A FATHER AND MOTHER** is necessary to birth. Paul said that God is our Father: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 1:7. (Also Matt. 4:9; I John 3:5). A person is begotten of the father and born of the mother. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born (begotten ASV) of God." I John 5:1. "The seed is the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." 1 Pet. 1:23. Hence, we learn that the word of God, is the spiritual seed with which one is spiritually begotten.

**THE GOSPEL** is the power of God unto salvation, only to those who believe it. Rom. 1:16. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Rom. 10:14. But a man is not born again when he believes. "The devils also believe, and tremble", Jas. 2:19. Also John 12:42-43. A person is not born again as soon as he believe because there are no elements of birth. When a person believes, he has the power (or permission) to become a son of God. John 1:11-12. When a man believes the gospel, and with meekness receives it into a good and honest heart, he is then begotten of God, and is prepared to be born. It is not the office of a birth to give life but to bring the subject into a different relationship, or state.

**THE NEW STATE**, or birth is illustrated by Paul when he said a man is grafted into the good olive tree. Rom. 11:24. Again, the new state is explained by showing how men are adopted. Rom. 8:15. Paul clears the mystery of the new birth by showing it is like being translated from one kingdom to another. "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. Col. 1:13.

**The New BIRTH CONCLUDED**: When the Holy Spirit operates upon the human heart through the preaching of the gospel, that is the begettal. Rom. 10:10. When one completes his obedience by repenting, confessing, and being baptized, he

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## ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO LISTEN

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has been born again. The state of the sinner has been changed from the kingdom of the world to the kingdom of God. Col. 1:13.

Before the kingdom was established. Jesus taught in parables and figures; but after its establishment, figures gave place to facts, and promises. We have an example of 3,000 being born again in Acts 2:14-47. They were cut to the heart through Peter's sermon and asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter did not tell them to be born, again because the time for figures had passed, therefore he said "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38. "Except a man be born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5. "They that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added to them about 3,000 souls." Acts 2:41. When were they born again? When they did what Peter told them to do. They did not join the church (or them) but the Lord added the baptized to them. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47. Baptism is the only place where one contacts water in the New Testament, therefore, it is plain that one is born again when he is baptized into Christ. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal. 3:27. And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sin." Acts 22:16.

When a person is baptized he is in Christ, his sins are washed away, he is in the kingdom, therefore is born again. May the Lord bless you in your search for the truth.

TO :

From :

The Bible Teacher

Post Box No. 3815  
New Delhi-110049