



**THE
BIBLE
TEACHER**

EXCELLENT OFFER !!

MUST RECEIVE ALL NEW BOOKS ! ALL STUDENTS OF THE BIBLE, PREACHERS AND TEACHERS MUST READ ! ARTICLES WRITTEN ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS OF THE BIBLE BY EMINENT AUTHORS !

TO RECEIVE A SET OF TWENTY ATTRACTIVE BOOKS SEND RUPEES SIXTY ONLY.

To:

EDITOR
THE BIBLE TEACHER
P.O. BOX 3815
NEW DELHI - 110 049

P.S. Your name and address with pincode number must be clearly written.

TO OUR READERS . . .

The Bible Teacher is being sent to all our readers free of any charge. If you are not receiving a copy of your own then you can write to the editor requesting a copy for you. Write your name and address with pincode number clearly.

Also, if you are receiving more than one copy, then we request you to please let us know.

FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

THE BIBLE TEACHER

Pleading for the Restoration of Pure New Testament Christianity

Vol. 30

October 1999

No. 6

EDITORIAL

What Does The Bible Teach?

***"Whoever commit sin also commits lawlessness,
and sin is lawlessness"***

The Bible at Romans 3:23 says, "all have sinned." The Bible does not teach nowhere that all are born sinners or are born with sin. The very statement "all have sinned" shows that all have done something personally. What is sin or how does one become a sinner? When one commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness, thereby one becomes a sinner. Babies, little children, are not sinners, because they cannot commit any lawlessness, since they are not able to discern between right and wrong. The Bible teaches that little children are safe and they do not need salvation, because they are not sinners. Christ said of little children, "Let the little children come unto me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14). To His disciples He taught, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3). Christ wasn't teaching here that little children are sinners. Because He said "of such is the kingdom of heaven." And that is why He told His disciples that they ought to become such as little children because they, little children, are worthy of heaven.

Yet, it is sad to see that too many people are concerned about the salvation of little children, but they, men and women, are least concerned about their own. They get eager to get their babies christened and baptized; yet neglect the salvation of their own souls by living in disobedience to God's commands either in ignorance or by choosing not to obey His command. Nowhere does the Bible teach about christening or taking the babies to get baptized or sprinkled with water. The plan of salvation that God revealed and Christ accomplished and commanded to be preached to all was never intended for babies or little Children. The gospel of salvation was commanded to be preached amongst those who could hear and believe, and repent of sins and be baptised for the remission of sins.

As older people, adult, those who can choose right and wrong, who can make their own decision, you, dear reader, need to think about preparing yourself to meet God in judgment. You need to convert and become as little children, without sin, so that you might become worthy of entering heaven. Christ did not die for little children, but he died for you and me, for sinners, because we need salvation from our sins. And that salvation from sin is obtained when one believes in Christ with whole heart or mind that He is the Son of God who had died for the sinners; and repents of all sins; and is baptized by the authority of Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and then follow His steps each day. (Acts 2:38;8:35-39; 1 Peter 2:24; Rev. 2:10). Or may be you, yourself, were taken by your parents to be "baptized" or sprinkled, in fact, when you were a little child, and you have always thought that you have already been baptized, and that you don't need to be baptized. You have, in fact, never obeyed the command of Christ to be baptized for salvation or forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38), as stated in the Bible. Therefore you need to repent and be baptized. God has created man. And He has never left man without a law. Even those who had lived prior to the giving of the Old Testament law, had the natural law of God and they were without excuse (Romans 1:18-32). We today live under the New Testament law of Christ, which is called the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9). And, God expects us all to obey His commandments which He has revealed through His Son, Christ, and His inspired apostles (Hebrews 1:1,2 & John 16:12,13). Remember, it does matter

what the Bible teaches, because the Bible contains the word of God, by which all men will be judged in the last day (John 12:48).

The Kind Of Music God Wants In Worship

J.C. CHOATE

We humans are a strange lot. We like to do what we want to do, and in the way we want to do it. Even in spiritual matters, humans seems to be not much concerned about what God wants!

Through the years I have asked many believers in Christ why they use mechanical music in worship, since it is nowhere authorized in the Scriptures. They always answer that it is because they like it! I have asked them if they can worship God acceptably without using a mechanical musical instrument, and they always admit that they can. This would mean that God will accept their worship with mechanical music or without it.

But, consider this question. Do you know of any other part of worship that is optional? It is equally acceptable to God if we pray or if we don't? if we study His word or if we read the newspaper? if we partake of the Lord's Supper or if we omit that? if we give of our salary for the work or the church, or if we keep all that we earn for ourselves?

Surely if we know what the Bible teaches on these matters, know that the Lord has not left any part of His worship to our own choosing. He has clearly stated in His word what He wants us to do as we come into His presence. Jesus Himself specified in John 4:24 that those who worship God must worship Him in spirit—with the right attitude and heart—and in truth—according to the specifications in God's word. Nothing is left to our own choosing about such an important matter.

You would think that any believer in Christ, and especially those who really want to please the Lord, would think only in terms of doing what God has specified He wants His people to do. Why should we prefer, instead, to please ourselves? How can we possibly think God is happy with us if we put our own

desires before His?

Many varied musical instruments were in use in pagan systems of worship, as well as in a limited way in Jewish worship (only outside the Temple itself), at the time Christ began His church. To have continued the practice with which the entire population was already familiar would have seemed the natural thing to do. Is that what we find when we turn to the New Testament for instructions about how we are to worship God, as His family?

- ◆ "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives"(Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26).
- ◆ "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them" (Acts 16:26).
- ◆ "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to your name" (Romans 15:9).
- ◆ "... I will sing with the spirit and I will also sing with the understanding" (1 Corinthians 14:15).
- ◆ "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19).
- ◆ "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).
- ◆ "I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will sing praise to you" (Hebrews 2:12).
- ◆ "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Hebrews 13:15).
- ◆ "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing hymns." (James 5:13).

These are the Scriptures which identify the kind of music God wants in worship in the assembly of the church. To add a mechanical instrument would be an addition to God's word, which we are strictly forbidden to do, according to Revelation 22:18,19.

There are logical reasons why God did not include a mechanical instrument in His worship:

He wanted the praise of His creation—our vocal chords—not instruments we have created.

We can sing anywhere, any time, under any circumstances. If a mechanical instrument was required in order for our worship to be acceptable, there would be many instances where worship would not be possible.

Each Christian must do each thing required for worship. Not all would own an instrument; not all would know how to play.

If each Christian was singing and playing an instrument, the noise would drown out the teaching of the words (Ephesians 5:19).

Let us seek to please God in our worship.

Especially For Women

Gift For The King

BETTY BURTON CHOATE

"I don't agree with you!" Mary declared with some anger as she looked accusingly at Rachel. "How can you and Andrew be so sure you're right and everybody else is wrong? What's so special about this little church you've started? It's just another church, among hundreds more—only yours is *nothing!* *You don't even have a pastor or a church building!*

Rachel's eyes were bright with tears. "Mary, Mary, please don't be angry with Andrew and me," she begged. "I realize that from your point of view, what you're saying seems right. But try to forget what you've heard—that 'One church is as good as another' or 'Go to the church of your choice' or 'Take Christ into your heart as your personal Saviour—only believe, and you'll be saved!' So many 'sayings' are repeated over and over, as though they were in the Bible. *But they aren't there! You believe them as the truth only because you've heard them so long.* And when we show you *in the Scriptures* that there was only one church in the beginning, you *think that what we're showing you is a lie because you haven't heard it before!*

"I have heard it!" Mary answered quickly. "I've heard our pastor say that the saved of all churches make up *the spiritual Church of Christ!* So he's saying there's only one church, too—but it's not one group meeting at one address; it's the good people from *all churches.*"

"But, Mary, when you read about the church in the Bible, it was not some invisible heavenly list of people of many different groups and beliefs. It was a literal congregation of Christians, worshipping together in Corinth, and others believing and practicing the same things in Jerusalem, others just like them in Ephesus, and in other cities throughout the world! They weren't different churches. A Christian could go from one city to another, and he could locate brethren and be accepted by them because they were united in Christ," Rachel explained. "Look—here's a concordance. Find any of the denominations listed in the Scriptures! They aren't there!"

"Not any of them?" asked Mary.

"No, none of them. Don't you see our predicament, Mary?" Rachel asked with pleading eyes. "When we put out of our minds all the religious ideas we'd been taught, and we accepted the Scriptures just as they are, in honesty we had to do what we've done."

"But what you're saying is so different to all the others," Mary objected. Even your worship is different. The singing sounds strange without a piano or some kind of instrument. Will you find somebody to play for you later?"

"That's the point, Mary. Worship isn't 'for us' or because something sounds *strange* or *good to us*. Real worship is *adoration of God, and doing what He asks, so that we please Him.*

"In stories of the past when kings had absolute authority, their subjects were told which gifts there were to bring to their king. They came before him with bowed heads, presenting their gifts with humility, fearful of displeasing the ruler who held over them the power of life or death.

"God is our King, the absolute authority over all of us. Jesus warned that those who come before God *must* worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), and that we are worshipping in vain if we do it according to doctrines men have developed. See the warning Jesus gave here in Matthew 15:9 *'And in vain they*

worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

"Like the kings of old, God has asked us to bring gifts when we come into His presence. One gift He wants is our hearts, open to a knowledge of His word, as we study the Scriptures. He wants our prayers of thanks giving for all He does for us, and He wants us to ask for our needs, just as Jesus taught His disciples here in Matthew 6:9-13.

"Part of our worship of God is the Supper we eat, to remember the death of His Son. This was most important to early Christians. On one occasion (Acts 20:6-11) the apostle Paul waited over in Troas from Monday until the following Sunday, in order to meet with Christians to break bread—to eat the Supper Jesus had given the night of His betrayal. But on that occasion in Troas, after worshipping with the church and continuing the meeting all night, Paul was in such a hurry that he and his group went on their way the next morning! Paying attention to details like these in the Scriptures helps us to understand the importance of the Supper, and that it was the focus of worship every Sunday—not once or twice a year, as many groups do today.

"Giving of money we earn is another thing God asks. Here in 1 Corinthians 16:2 and 2 Corinthians 9 we read that we are to give freely and cheerfully to God.

"The fifth gift God asks us to bring to Him in worship is *'the fruit of our lips'* (Hebrews 13:15). Andrew and I looked up all the Scripture references to music in the early church, and every time 'singing' was specified. When our King has asked for one kind of music—music made on the instrument He *made*—we can't defiantly bring Him pianos and organs and guitars, can we, Mary?" Rachel asked. "We have to remember always that **God** is the one to be pleased, *not ourselves*. *Through the years and the additions of these 'doctrines of men,' many changes have been made. But just as Jesus warned, worship according to the doctrines of men is still in vain.*"

Mary sat quietly after Rachel had finished her explanation. Finally she said, "What you're saying makes sense. It's just so different, though, I have to have more time to study."

To be Continued . . .

If You Die Today Where Would You Go?

FRANCIS DAVID

And it is appointed for men once to die, but after this the judgment, this is what the Bible says in Hebrews 9:27. This is the reality of life and no one can deny it. There will be a judgment day. Apostle Paul writing to Christians and reminding them that "For we must All appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10).

Is there any one who can stop his death? There is none. We can prolong our lives through medicines and exercises but we can't stop it. The Psalmist says: "For all our days have passed away in your wrath: We finish our years like a sigh. The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labour and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. (Ps. 90:9-10). The Bible tells us about a man who thought that he would live here forever. He was a rich man and he forgot that his life can be taken any time. We read about this man in Luke chapter 12. This man was very covetous and he had a good harvest. And he said or thought within himself "What shall I do since I have no room to store my crops?" So he said, What I will do, I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink and be merry." God said to him "You fool" This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?" We some time behave like this man, and we forget that we have to leave this world one day. We have been given the time here which is limited. We must be serious about it. Are you prepared to die? James Says: " . . . For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away." (James 4:14).

Are you in Jesus Christ? All spiritual blessings are in Christ. (Eph. 1:3). If you are out of Christ then you cannot enjoy the blessings which are found in him. In Jesus you can have the

divine fellowship. If you come in contact with his blood, you will enjoy the blessing of forgiveness of sins. Jesus' blood will cleanse all your sins. "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7). What a wonderful and unique blessing! If you die without being in "Christ, you will regret. It would be a blessing to die in Christ. Those who die in Christ, are blessed (Rev. 14:13). If you want to enter into Christ then, you must come to him and put him on through baptism. Paul says in Galatians 3:27: "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ." We see here, until we are baptised into Christ, we are not in HIM and if we are not in him then it would be a tragic thing to die without him. Today is the day of salvation, (2 Cor. 6:2), today is the time, now is the accepted time. Jesus has prepared a place for you and he wants you to be there. Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe in me also." 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 to my self; that where I am, there you may be also. (Jn. 14:1-3). I hope and pray that you will accept the invitation of Jesus and accept him through baptism which will put you in HIM (Romans 6:1-4). If you are in Jesus, and if you die today, you will have the assurance to be with him in heaven.

Preaching Power In Acts

JOHNNY RAMSEY

The fifth New Testament book, Acts, is powerful, pungent and pulsating. That section of the Bible tells us of the establishment of Christ's church, cases of conversion and an historical background to many of the epistles that follow. Perhaps the finest contributions Acts provides, however, are the brilliant sermons contained in the vibrant, action packed pages. It is significant that such preaching converted thousands out of

paganism, Judaism and shameful lifestyles. The gospel truly is God's dynamite to save! In surveying the dramatic scenes of insightful proclamation from Peter, Stephen, Philip and Paul one can readily conclude the boldness was a characteristic of every sermon. There was no apology for defending truth and exposing error. A constant call to repentance was evident in every lesson and the exaltation of the Savior was the basic foundation of the messengers of God. The spirit of Psalms 9:1-2 was the impressive urgency of the evangelist:

I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

Reverence for Scripture evinced itself as proof-texts from the Old Testament buttressed proper application to first century audiences. Just as Jesus had opened the word of God to the men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:32) so did His servants as the gospel system was unfolded in Jewish synagogues (Acts 13:26-28) or in the midst of idolaters in Athens (Acts 17:22-31). On the very day the church began, Peter clearly informed the massive crowd of what an ancient prophet had written centuries before . . .

This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel . . .

The exposure of sin was a dominant theme throughout Acts. Notice:

Acts 2:38 . . . For the remission of sin

Acts 3:19 . . . That sins may be blotted out

Acts 22:16 . . . And wash away your sins . . .

Yes, the Lamb of God who came to seek and save the lost had come to redeem you from Satan, sin and hell. What a message of redemption, joy and hope! Victory was attainable in the midst of a wicked, perverse and debauched society. Jesus Christ was the only way back to God (Acts 4:12).

Only in Thee, O Savior mine

Dwelleth my soul in peace divine

Peace that the world though all combined

Never can take from me . . .

Acts reflects many facets of the success of the Christians.

They loved one another dearly, the truth deeply, the souls of men intently *and they were patient* in the midst of persecution because they sincerely trusted in the providence of God. Someone has challenged us in these words:

There are two ways to get to the top of an oak tree: Catch that first limb and climb . . . or, find a good healthy acorn, sit on it and wait.

In our day of instant coffee, potatoes and entertainment we tend to forget the parable of the mustard seed and that God gives the increase. Our task is to sow the seed and cultivate the soil. The One who knows the hearts of men (Acts 1:24) will take over from there.

In the sermons found in Acts there is a preponderant urgency concerning final Judgment. On Mar's Hill in Acts 17 the great apostle Paul promised that crowd that ultimately they would appear before the tribunal of heaven to give answer to the Creator. Could it be that we have allowed a pseudo-sophisticated society to dampen our enthusiasm for such a majestic theme? T.S. Teddlie wrote:

Someday you will stand at the bar on high
Trembling you will fall on your knee
Facing the sentence of life or death
What will your sentence be?

But, if there is one emphatic message of Acts it is the glorious reminder that the past misconduct in our lives can be overwhelmed in the blood of the Lamb! The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world is the wondrous message of 1 John 4:14. Jehovah desires to cast our sins into depths of the sea (Micah 7:19) and to forever blot them out of His memory (Hebrews 8:12). Great enemies of the gospel were converted—yes, even the carnal Corinthians heard and believed the message of redemption and were baptized into Christ (Acts 18:8). What a viable demonstration of heaven's concern for lost humanity!

Preaching that emanates from Acts needs to be revived and the shallow pulpits reeking with human philosophy and sophistry erased. The result would then beautifully ring out.

God Glorified
Christ Praised
Scripture Honored
The Church Strengthened
Heaven Overflowing
May these magnificent goals be realized!

Dress UP And Pretend

GLENN COLLEY

When we were children pretending was such fun. Girls and boys alike have a God-given capacity to enter make-believe worlds. Yet, as adults pretending is sometimes dangerous when it is preferred over reality.

A recent Newsweek magazine (January 20, 1997) has a cover photo of 6-year-old Jon Benet Ramsey, the little girl who was abused and murdered a few weeks ago. She was put in a pretend world in which pretty little girls were made up to look sexy and much older. But reality won out and stopped the pretending. She wasn't 22, she was six. And she really is dead.

But we do this in other ways. We pretend that we can divorce and remarry and children can go with the flow—that somehow not actually living with their real dad or real mom—won't have much effect on them. That's pretending.

We tell them that this is the age of feminism and that mothers aren't supposed to do the things mothers used to do in the home. Careers are necessary to feel totally fulfilled as a woman. The kids will adjust. They'll do just as good without that kind of time and attention. That's pretending.

We drink beverage alcohol, in "moderation," and fully assume that our children will not see that as a license to drink or use drugs. That's pretending.

Christians marry people who aren't Christians and assume that when the children come along they will be reared by the influences of Christianity. They will be like their Christian mother, not their unbelieving father. That's a good thought, and

sometimes happens, but it is probably pretending.

Some pretending, as you can see, is not good. Let's be honest with ourselves. Children come into the world today the same way they did at the dawn of time. And they come needing the same direction, leadership, and godly example the first children needed. Parents, let us do all we can to make sure they get what they really need and not what we pretend they need. They will be with us for such a short amount of time, and yet that time is the most impressionable in their lives. They need us to be the parents.

Ephesians 6:4: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (KJV)

Psalms 127:1 "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it."

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Keeping Our Thoughts On The Lord During The Lord's Supper

NEAL POLLARD

The greatest memorial, the Lord's Supper, commemorates, the greatest moments of all time, Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, but it can also provide the greatest mountain to climb—concentration in the midst of distractions. The Lord's Supper is a corporate (congregational) activity, but it is participated in by individuals and is a private and personal matter. The following key words may be helpful in keeping the Lord's Supper in the centre of the individual's thoughts as he memorializes the Savior of mankind. What does it take to maintain concentration on the significance of this feast?

Examination

1 Corinthians 11:28 reads, "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." One, approaching this act of worship, is to test or prove himself. The

Christian must examine the state of his mind, taking care to dwell upon the suffering and death of Jesus, the triumph of Christ and the Christian through His resurrection, the debt of thanks owed the Lord, the depth of love heaven bestowed by the atonement, and the joyous hope through His reconciling act. Too, the Christian must examine the state of his life, and, through self-investigation, review it to see if he is honoring the Savior during the week through his conduct. It is possible to have the wrong motive, the wrong morals, or the wrong mind-set. Those things are checked through self-examination.

Forgetting

During the Lord's Supper, one must completely forget the daily affairs of life. They have no place in the heart of one concentrating on things of much greater spiritual and eternal significance. Anything apart from the cross and the themes thereabouts should be shut out of the mind. This is the Lord's time.

Fellowship

When a Christian takes the Lord's Supper, he is doing so with every other saint in the assembly. This is a special moment of fellowship (cf. Acts 2:42). And, in an extended fashion, the individual Christian is remembering Christ with every Christian in the world in that every New Testament Christian is assembled to remember Him in the same profound way on the Lord's Day. The Lord's Supper provides a bond of fellowship that has special meaning for and ties together all baptized believers in fellowship with Christ (1 John 1:3-7; Ephesians 5:11).

One

The inspired Paul reminds the reader, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). One commemorates the Lord in the *one body* (the church Christ died to establish) according to the instruction of the *one Spirit* (the written word of God) with the *one hope* that because of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection he has salvation and access to the Father through Him (cf. Acts 4:12). Further, in this memorial, one is honoring that *one Lord* (who died for his sins)

and following the *one faith* (His doctrine; cf. Jude 3) in obedience to the will of the one *God*.

Remembrance

As a memorial, the Lord's Supper is a time for looking back at the cross with its multifarious significance. Until He come again, the Lord's Supper is an appointed, weekly, and mental trip back to His death (1 Corinthians 11:26). One remembers, recalling the gospel accounts and viewing through the eye of faith, the body wounded on the tree and the saving blood flowing from the veins of the incarnate Lord. He has no trouble understanding the symbols of the table, possessing the lenses of retrospect with which to see the greatest act of love.

Thanksgiving

The Lord's Supper is a time for deep appreciation and gratefulness. Because He suffered, the Christian can have peace. Because He died, he can have eternal life. Because He arose, he can rise from sin into newness of life.

Paul had to remind the Christians at Corinth that the Lord's Supper was not just another meal (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:20-34). Modern Christians, too, need always to keep in mind that fact when they lose focus and concentration or forget why it is they are partaking of the Lord's Supper. Simply, then, what is needed to maintain concentration during this time (despite the many, natural distractions) is EFFORT! God bless His children as they keep this grand Memorial. May it never grow old in the heart of a single saint!

Transubstantiation

MEL FUTRELL

Transubstantiation is a big word, one that may not be in your vocabulary. And understandably so since it is not a Bible doctrine. The title term has reference to a 13th century (1215) Roman Catholic doctrine which was first proclaimed by pope Innocent III. This false doctrine says that in partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine (many erroneously call it the wine)

these elements are converted (trans "moves across") into the substance of the body and blood of Christ, only the external appearance of the bread and fruit of the vine remaining. Listen to one Catholic writer's explanation of this:

Q. BUT HOW CAN BREAD AND VINE BECOME CHRIST'S BODY AND BLOOD?

"Christ's presence in the form of bread and wine, and how it comes to be that way, is part of the mystery of faith we call the Holy Eucharist. The official Catholic teaching is that Christ is really present in the consecrated elements. The explanation known as "transubstantiation" says that the substance of bread and wine is changed into Christ's Body and Blood, leaving only the appearance, taste, and so on of bread and wine. Transubstantiation sheds light on the change that takes place, and goes farther toward expressing the faith of the Church than do some other theories about it." (Philip St. Romain, *Catholic Answers To Fundamentalists Questions*, Liguori Publications, 1984, pp. 33-34)

Now if that seems unbelievable to you then join the club. When folks start relegating things to "the mystery of faith" category you know there is a problem. Brethren, one need not have the wisdom of Solomon to know that if transubstantiation is true then there is a miracle wrought in participating in the Lord's supper. But there are no miracles being wrought today (1 Cor. 13:8-12) so a commitment to transubstantiation requires one to distort reality. One writer in criticizing the miracle in the mass belief said:

"They are clearly perceived as bread and wine. They look like bread and wine, taste like bread and wine, smell like bread and wine, and feel like bread and wine. If we dropped them, they would sound like bread and wine." (R.C. Sproul, *Not a Chance*, 1994, Baker Books, p. 111)

In Matthew's account of the institution of the Lord's supper we read that Jesus, "Took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26-28). Consider this, when Jesus took the bread and broke it, was it His own body which He held in His hands, and which He Himself broke to pieces? Are we suppose to believe it was His actual body He held in His hands? When

Jesus gave them the bread and they ate it were they actually and literally eating the flesh of Jesus? Did Jesus have less flesh after the supper than before, due to their eating His body? And of course this is absurd but it seems to me that the doctrine of transubstantiation cries out cannibalism and I'm not alone in that assessment. Our late brother G.K. Wallace, who was a staunch defender of the faith, once said in debate:

"The Lord's Supper is not a cannibalistic service where we either take the body of Christ straight or make a sandwich of it. To teach that you eat the actual, natural flesh and blood of Christ is to maintain a cannibalistic service . . . The Lord's Supper is a communion service (1 Cor. 10:16). The bread, when blessed, does not become the true body and the true blood of the Lord to the one partaking, but it becomes to him a communion of the body and a communion of the blood of the Lord. We eat bread and drink the cup and thereby have communion with the body and the blood of the Lord. The bread and cup do not become the actual body and blood of the Lord. To us, it is a communion of the body and the blood of the Lord." (*Wallace-Stauffer Debate*, 1946, DeHoff Publications, pp. 96-98)

"Think On These Things"

W.A. HOLLEY

A kind, gracious, cordial, affable, genial sister has requested that I give my attention to Philippians 4:8. She has grown old in years so have I, but she is still young in spirit, yet interested in gleaning strength and toughness from the Holy Scriptures.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest (good, admirable, becoming), whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

The entire Book of Philippians was addressed to the first church of Christ established in Europe (Acts 16:12-40). The City

of Philippi was a very important city in Paul's day. Here Paul taught Lydia, cast out a demon from a woman, and baptized the Philippian jailer.

The purpose for writing the Philippian letter was to thank them for a contribution which had been sent to Paul. In this epistle there were no special problems to be corrected. The only disturbance in the Philippian church was some fiction between two women, Euodias and Syntyche. (Philippians 4:1-2) A fuss between two Christian women is always embarrassing and disconcerting! Are there certain members to whom you will not speak? (Ephesians 4:25-32). Memorize these verses

In Philippians 4:8, we have these words; true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtue and praise. These may be represented as traits of character which must be possessed by each Christian.

"Whatsoever things are true," has reference to everything that is the reverse of falsehood. They were to be true to their promises, true to their word and true in their friendships.

"Whatsoever things are honest," refers to veneration of things sacred. It requires us to build a reputation of honor; we must not violate our conscience, nor compromise the law of God.

"Whatsoever things are just," teaches that we must always strive to do the right thing between man and man, woman and woman, and boy and girl. Right will always prevail. Truth may be crushed, but it will rise again, in spite of all!

"Whatsoever things are pure," suggests those acts and thoughts which emphasize modesty and decency as to behavior and to dress as outward manifestations of an inward chastity and purity. There is something radically wrong with a man or woman who cannot blush.

"Whatsoever things are lovely," refers to those traits of character which makes it easy to love a person. Such as one is amiable, pleasing, agreeable, and pleasant. A Christian should not be sour, crabbed, having a temper always at flashpoint, ever ready to explode. Such an attitude will undo all the good that one attempts to accomplish.

"Whatsoever things are of good report," has reference to the moral laws of society. Throughout the history of man all nations have recognized God's moral laws. (Romans 2:13-14). It has always been sinful for man to steal, take another man's wife,

to commit murder, and to spread falsehood (Exodus 23:1-3). We are finding it increasingly difficult to be shocked. We are becoming more and more hardened. Verily, all moral obligation resolves itself into the obligation of conformity to the will of God.

"If there be any virtue," denotes a virtuous course of goodness, feeling, holy action, and moral excellence. The Christian is never to be satisfied with the mediocre. Titus 2:11-12; Romans 12: 1-2; James 1:27).

"And if there be any praise," this portion of our study involves opening our eyes and looking for things praise worthy. Often times we become so negative in our outlook on life, we are blind to the good and beautiful things about us. One person said, "I feel so bad when I feel so good because I know when I feel so good I am going to feel so bad."

"Think on these things," refers to all the elements of truth as set forth in our verse now under study. To think, one must use his/her brain . . . mind. To think means to consider, to reason, to reflect upon, to meditate, to examine carefully our situation in life. Things may not be as bad as we see them.

One's attitude toward life will determine whether one lives a happy or an unhappy life. The verses immediately preceding Philippians 4:8, suggest that Paul is seeking to promote mental health. Listen to him. "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say rejoice. Let your forbearance (Gentleness) be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. (Throughout the centuries, the Lord has always been at hand!). In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the God of peace, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thought in Christ Jesus" (Phillippians 4:4-7 ASV).

The word "keep" is a military term. It means to guard or garrison. Using a metaphor Paul portrays the peace of God as a sentinel standing watch over the citadel of the Christians life . . . mind, will, and affections. With a voice of triumph, the great apostle Paul examined, "I can do all things in him that strengthens me." So can you, if you hold fast unto the end.

Clothing Of A False Teacher

MIKE BENSON

What does a false teacher look like? Could you identify one if you saw him? What distinguished characteristics would set him apart from a teacher of truth? Would it be the color of his shirt? Would it be the expensive suit that he wears? Or would it be the colourful tie that gives him away?

In Matthew 7:15 Jesus warned, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in SHEEP'S CLOTHING, but inwardly they are renerous wolves." What does a false teacher look like? May I suggest that he looks just like you and me. For it is not his physical appearance that sets him apart; rather, it is what he SAYS (Jeremiah 23:16; Micah 3:5) that establishes who/what he is.

Good reader, let me caution you to listen very carefully to anyone, including us, who claims to teach "Just the Bible" (Galatians 1:8-9).

"For What Will I Be Remembered?"

DON WILLIAMS

In a recent grief class, a new member of the class was discussing the bad health of her husband. She went on to say that both of them had a "living will," and that recently they had made arrangements for their funerals. She went on to say that she had picked out her pallbearers for her funeral, and even written her own obituary.

After this woman had finished talking, another member in the class raised the question that is the title of this article: "*what will I be remembered for in life?*" She went on to talk about the death of her college-aged son, and the attributes of his life that she remembered. She then said, "when I die, what will folks remember about me? What will they say about me?"

This sobering thought is one that we should reflect on seriously. In reality, we are preaching our funerals everyday that we live. What can be said honestly at our funerals will be based on how we live in our present lives. I wonder, for what will folks remember you and me? Will they remember acts of kindness that we did for others? Will they remember visits that were made at "timely occasions," especially when they were not solicited or thought possible? Will they recall words of encouragement that were given at just the right time, when someone needed to know that we cared? (Psalm 142:4) Will they remember our interest in lost souls, and how we tried to tell the gospel of Jesus to others?

How important it is to have a good name when that time of death comes to our lives. In Proverbs 22:1, Solomon wrote, "a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor than silver and gold." Again in Ecclesiastes 7:1, these words are found: "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. Thought often come to mind when certain names are mentioned. **WHAT THOUGHTS DOES YOUR NAME CONJURE UP? ARE THEY THOUGHTS THAT ARE GOOD, HONEST AND TRUE? HOW SHALL I BE REMEMBERED?**

Repentance

KEITH KASARJIAN

Repentance was demanded by Jesus in Luke 13:3. It was preached by Peter in Acts 2:38 and in Acts 8:22. The Athenians were required to repent in Acts 17:30. In fact, the words "repent" and "repentance" are used 47 times in the New Testament. Surely we can see the great need for repentance as it pertains to salvation. But what is repentance? Even in our brotherhood there seem to be many questions about the true meaning of repentance. We hope to answer many of these questions.

Every time "repent" is used in the New Testament, with only two exceptions (2 Corinthians 7:8; Hebrews 7:21), it is the Greek word METANOCEO. Vine says this word *always* involves a change for the better *and* an amendment. Thayer defines the

same word this way, "to change one's mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins."

Based on the Bible, these Greek definitions, and a touch of common sense, let us determine what true repentance requires of all men.

SORROW is required. This sorrow springs from the realization of one's sin. The prodigal son was sorry because he realized he had sinned against God and his father. Those present at Pentecost were told they were responsible for killing Jesus. Upon hearing this they were "pricked in their hearts." The NAS margin says they were "smitten in conscience." They realized their sin and were sorrowful.

This is the nature of sin. When a good and honest heart comes to the realization that he has been sinning against the God that created him and loved him, he cannot help but be full of sorrow.

CHANGE is required. Mere sorrow does not constitute true repentance. After Judas recognized he had betrayed Jesus, he felt remorse (Matt 27:3), but that sorrow did not mean automatic repentance. If one is sorrowful for sins committed but does not change his mind, heart, and lifestyle, he has not repented. Remember our definitions. Both scholars agree that change is imperative to repentance.

Change is the very heart of repentance. The liar stops lying, the murderer stops killing, the thief stops stealing, the drunkard stops drinking, and the adulterer stops committing adultery. Repentance **DEMANDS** a change. That, at times, is very difficult. God, however, never said it would be easy, He just said it is necessary.

RESTITUTION is required. This is usually the part of repentance that causes the most difficulty for many, but the fact remains that restitution must be made where restitution is possible. Webster defines restitution as "a making good for loss of damage; a return to a former condition or situation." Once again we refer to our Greek definitions and see that an amending is required. "Amend" is defined by Webster in the following way, "to remove the faults of; correct." Therefore restitution and amend carry much the same thought.

Illustrations of restitution as part of repentance are found throughout all of the Bible. We read of Zaccheus in Luke 19:8

where he spoke to Jesus saying, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone out of anything, I will give back four times as much." Zaccheus, being a chief tax-collector, knew that he had wrongly taken money from others and wanted to make that right. How would he do that? By giving the money back to it's rightful owner, and two thousand years later that is still the only way to make that situation right. Suppose Zaccheus had stolen money from you yesterday. Today he comes to you and says that he is very sorry and has repented to that wrong but refuses to give your money back. Would you believe that he had repented? Of course not!

Restitution can be a very hard thing. To some it means returning ill-gotten gains. For others it requires no longer living with a spouse that is not scripturally theirs. Whatever the situation might be, God's will must be observed in all things. When one is truly sorry for the past sins and makes a change in his life, he will make restitution where it is possible.

The subject of repentance is directly related to our salvation and therefore demands that we place great emphasis on the study and practice of it. Through what we have studied, it is our belief that sorrow, change, and restitution are the three components of genuine, Biblical repentance. May God help us to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

What Did You Bring To Worship?

KEVIN D. BEARD

When people come to the worship services, they often bring a number of different things with them. Parents of small children make sure that they have a diaper bag with plenty of clean diapers and supplies. Most people make sure that they have brought their Bibles and their lesson books for class. But of all the things that you bring with you to worship on Sundays, did you make sure to bring the most important things?

1. Did You Bring A Reverent Attitude?

Worship is the expression of reverence, devotion, and

praise to God. He is the most holy One (Isaiah 6:3). Therefore, because of the nature of worship and the nature of the one to be worshiped, the attitude demonstrated therein will be different from the attitude expressed at a football game. Yet many times one could not notice much difference in the two. Some cause a commotion by continually getting up and leaving auditorium, by talking, by passing notes, and by other common actions that take place during the worship. God cannot be pleased with those who have so little respect and reverence for His divinity and power that they behave in such a way as this.

2. Did You Bring An Active Mind?

Worship is also something that must be done from the heart and that involves an active mind. God has always detested worship done simply from ritual (Isaiah 1:10-17; Micah 6:6-8). Worship is an active process, not a passive one. Singing is to "teach and admonish . . . with grace in your hearts" (Colossians 3:16). Giving is to be cheerful, according to how one has purposed in his heart (2 Corinthians 9:7). The Lord's Supper is to be observed in memory of Jesus' death, anticipating His return (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Prayer is also an active process that each must do (James 5:16b). And of course the teaching and learning of God's word takes an active mind (Acts 2:42; 17:11).

3. Did You Bring A Pure Life?

One of the biggest reasons that God rejected Judah's worship was that their acts of worship were not done out of pure lives (Micah 6:6-8). Such hypocrisy has always been and will always be wrong. Jesus even went so far as to say that if one comes to worship and realizes that his brother has something against him, he first should go and reconcile things with his brother, then go and worship (Matthew 5:23-24).

Of all the things that we may bring with us to worship, let us always make sure that we bring those things that are most important. To do otherwise is vain.



HEAR THE VOICE OF TRUTH ON RADIO SRI LANKA

- HINDI:** Sundays 8:45 P.M.–9:00 P.M. and Thursdays, 9:00 P.M.–9:15 P.M. Speaker, Sunny David, Box 3815, New Delhi-110049.
- ENGLISH:** Fridays, 7:45 P.M.–8:00 P.M., Speaker, J.C. Choate, Box 3815, New Delhi-110049.
- TELUGU:** Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 2:00 P.M.–2:15 P.M. Speaker, Joshua Gootam, Box 80, Kakinada-533001.
- TAMIL:** Sundays: 6:45 to 7 P.M., Tuesdays and Fridays: 5:30 to 5:45 P.M. and Thursdays: 5:45–6:00 P.M., Speaker, P.R. Swamy, Box 8405, Bangalore-560084.
- MALAYALAM:** Fridays, 3:45 P.M.–4:00 P.M. Speaker, P.K. Varghese, Sunny Meads Lane, Behind Sanskrit College, Thiruvananthapuram-695034.
- KANNADA:** Sundays 1:45 P.M.–2:00 P.M. Speaker, Robert Ratnakar, 3/5, 7th A Main, Tata Silk Farm, Bangalore-560028

Please write to these addresses for Bible correspondence courses, magazines, and other Christian literature in your language.

ALL OF THESE PROGRAMMES ARE SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Printed and Published by Sunny David on behalf of Church of Christ, New Delhi and Printed at : Print India A 38/2, Mayapuri, I, New Delhi-110064. Editor : Sunny David.

Licence to Post without Prepayment of Postage

No. U/SE/25/99

Posted at New Delhi PSO on 10/11 October 1999

Delhi Postal Regn. No. DL-11262/99

Regd. No. 26921/71

You are Cordially Invited

To Attend

Worship Services of the Church of Christ

Every Sunday: Bible Study : 10.00 A.M.

Worship :

English/Hindi 10.45 A.M.

Paite 3.00 P.M.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-10/B Defence Colony, Ring Road

(Near Andrews Ganj Bus Stop)

New Delhi.

ALL ARE WELCOME

To:

From:

The Bible Teacher

Post Box No. 3815

New Delhi-110049.