

Monthly

October, 2012

Price: Rs. 2/-

# THE BIBLE TEACHER



## *BACK TO BASICS*

Jesus promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18). His promise was fulfilled when His church came into existence on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Peter commanded the multitude assembled on that day: "Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38). Those who gladly received his word were baptized (Acts 2:41), as a result three thousand were added to the church on that day by the Lord Himself (Acts 2:47). That was the beginning of Christ's church.

Of what denomination did those three thousand become members? Our contention is that they joined no denomination. Indeed, denominationalism such as we know in today's world did not even exist then. They had simply obeyed the Gospel and were added by the Lord to His church. They wore no sectarian name, adopted no denominational creed, and belonged to no ecclesiastical hierarchy. They were simply children of God, members of the church, were called Christians (Acts 11:26).

Churches of Christ today everywhere plead for a return to that same church with that same simplicity. We do not claim to be a denomination. Our goal is to be that church—nothing more, nothing less—just basic New Testament Christians as people were in the first century.

We teach the same plan of salvation—faith, repentance, confession, and baptism for the remission of sins. (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 8:35-39). We practice the same worship—teaching, giving, observing the Lord's Supper, praying, and singing praises to God. (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; Ephesians 5:19). We follow the same congregational organization—elders, deacons, saints (Philippians 1:1), without offices and positions unknown to the Christians in the beginning.

If you want to be just what people were in the New Testament, then we urge you to investigate churches of Christ. We strive to speak where the Bible speaks and to remain silent where the Bible is silent.

# TO RECEIVE CDs of Bible based Teaching in English and Hindi

*Contact*

Cell: 09810896789

or

Email: [theinspiredbook@gmail.com](mailto:theinspiredbook@gmail.com)

# THE BIBLE TEACHER

*Pleading for the Restoration of Pure New Testament Christianity*

**Vol. 43**

**October 2012**

**No. 6**

## *Editorial*

### **What Does the Bible Teach?**

#### ***Numerous Scientific Facts Mentioned In The Bible Are the Proof Of Its Inspiration***

ALTHOUGH the Bible is not primarily a book of science, however, it does contain numerous scientific facts which prove the Bible was written by the inspiration of God. The Bible claims that it was written by the inspiration of God (3 Timothy 3:16); and that men whom God had used in the writing of various books of the Bible were moved by His Holy Spirit to write (2 Peter 1: 21 ).

Moses who began writing the first five books of the Bible almost 1500 years before the birth of Christ, on the very first page of the Bible, where he wrote the account of the creation of the universe, wrote, "Then God said, Let the waters under heavens be gathered together into one place, and the dry land appear ; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:9, 10). Notice, the two scientific facts mentioned in these two verses of the Scripture . Moses wrote, first that God had said, Let the waters under heavens be gathered together **Into one place**. How did Moses know that oceans are connected and have one bed? Then he wrote, that gathering together of the waters God had called **Seas**. Again, how did Moses know that there are several Seas? He had not traveled, he had not seen them. If God did not tell him to write this in the Bible, then who did, since no man knew about these fact, when Moses had written about them?

Another writer of the Bible was Isaiah. He wrote about God, in Isaiah 40:22, and said, "It is He who sits above the circle of the earth. ..." How did Isaiah know that the earth is a circle or round? He lived almost 2800 years ago, when it was universally believed that the earth was flat, and it was argued that should one go too far toward the edge he would fall off. Man universally came to know about the rotundity of the earth only in recent years when men like Columbus and Magellan had sailed around the earth a little over about five hundred years ago. The people as close as to the fifteenth century feared sailing because they thought they would fall over the edge of the flat earth. Yet Isaiah wrote in almost 800 B.C. that the earth is round or spherical. How did Isaiah know?

In the book of Job, in Job 26:7, Job, more than 3000 years ago wrote, "He stretches out the north over empty space; he hangs the earth over nothing." How did Job know that there is an empty space or expanse in the north? And how did he know that the earth is not hanging or resting on anything? We know this today, because of the modern scientific researches have established these facts. But who told Job about these facts thousands of years before modern science was developed?

About 200 years ago there lived a man by the name of Mathew Fontain Maury. He was a firm believer and an avid reader of the Bible. One day when he was very ill, he asked one of his children to read from the Bible. What was read for him, was from the book of Psalms, chapter 8, where in verses 3-8 it says, "When I consider your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For you have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen—even the beasts of the field. The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, that pass through the paths of the seas." Maury asked that verse 8, where it talks about the paths of the seas, should be read to him again. As he heard it again, he said, if the Bible says that there are paths of the seas, then they must be there. He said when I will get well, I will surely try to find those paths of the seas.

After regaining his health, Mathew Fontain Maury, began to work hard to find the paths of the seas. He discovered the ocean currents used by marine animals to navigate in the seas, and within

a few years he had charted the principal lanes of the paths of the seas. Today all vessels sailing in the seas are using the same paths that Mathew Fontain Maury had discovered just over one hundred fifty years ago, by reading about them in the Bible. But how did the writer of the book of Psalms know about the paths of the seas almost 3000 years ago? If God did not reveal this to him then who did?

***Note: I encourage you to obtain and listen to the Audio C.D. "All About The Bible"***

***Call Cell No. 09810896789 or  
email : theinspiredbook@gmail.com***

### **Putting off the Old Man of Sin**

#### ***Lesson 2***

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

**J.C. CHOATE**

**T**HE Bible describes the carnal man, the things of the flesh that are bad and wrong, the sinful side of us, as being the old man of sin. Naturally, in obeying Christ we put off that old man, or we repent of our sins, and obey God, that we might be saved, and therefore, we become a new person in Christ. Paul therefore tells us that in doing this that our old man is crucified with Christ, or put to death with Christ. (Romans 6:6). Then he says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Now what does entertainment have to do with all of this? Just this, and that is, we must realize that there are many sides to our lives. We have work to do, we have families, we have friends, we have education and training, and then we have entertainment, recreation, or a holiday to enjoy from time to time. There are times that we need a change, a rest from what we are presently doing, and some time off. During such times we usually want to change our activities and do those things that entertain us or things that we enjoy. There is nothing wrong with this: provided it is wholesome and beneficial to the one who is engaging in it. Actually, it is in one's interest. It can even save one's life, and certainly it can keep one from leading a boring life.

Like everything else, there is good entertainment and bad

entertainment. Also, as is the usual case, so many choose that which is bad, and questionable at best.

There is nothing wrong with a good movie but so many of those today are filled with nudity, violence, bad language, immorality, and numerous other evils. Television or radio can bring a great deal of entertainment into one's life, but these can be overly done. What about sports, travel, reading, hiking, hobbies, and such like, for one's pass time?

We know that children do a lot of playing while they are growing up. This is expected of them. At the same time, as adults we can over work ourselves to our own hurt. That is why it is necessary to take some time off for a change of pace. We may not be children any longer, but we need also to have some time for play. Our games may be more mature, physically or mentally, but still they are games. There is a saying that all work and no play makes one dull, and that is true.

In considering the type of entertainment we should engage in, we should ask some questions.

1. Is it good and wholesome? Is it something that I can do without being ashamed of it? Can I engage in it with others? Can I recommend it to my friends? If I must answer no to these questions then I should not even consider it. Others may be doing it but that does not mean that I should do it.

2. Do I enjoy it? Is it the type of entertainment that I can relax and do for the simple reason that I enjoy doing it? If it is going to be hard work, and something; that I really don't like to do, then why bother with it? There are too many things to do that I can enjoy without wasting my time on something I don't like.

3. Can I afford it? Many types of entertainment are very expensive. Even though it might be something that I would enjoy, it might cost too much financially and time wise.

4. Is it dangerous? Many forms of entertainment are too dangerous. There are rides and games that break arms, legs, and other parts of the body. Then one's physical condition may prevent one from participating in some sports, or other activities, lest it bring on a heart attack or some other physical ailment.

5. Will it benefit me? If it is in the form of sports, it may be the means of giving me some physical exercise that I badly need for my health. It could be cricket, soccer, golf, badminton, table tennis, or many other games. Or it might be fishing, jogging, going on a trip, or just staying around the house and relaxing. It could be

something that one does by himself or it could include group participation. It might involve the rest of the family. Whatever it is or whoever it involves, it should be designed to give one a change of pace, to bring some relaxation, or to strengthen one physically and mentally.

I could go on with other questions, but these are few that will help me, or you, to determine if the kind of entertainment or recreation that we are engaging in is worthwhile.

Above all, the Christian must realize that he is a Christian and that he can do only those things, whether in private life, his work, or on leave, that is in keeping with Christian principles. To practice one thing at home, and then to go off somewhere, where he is not known, and indulge in questionable activities, is not only wrong, but it is as hypocritical as it can be.

There are some Bible principles that we should keep in mind when we think about entertainment and recreation. For example, Paul wrote, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21). Again, he said, "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." (Romans 12:9). Whatever one does, he may be encouraged to turn it into something bad. If he likes sports, he may be tempted to gamble on the outcome of a game. If he enjoys a good cinema show, he may be encouraged to go see one that is very bad. But as Paul said, we must abhor such things and cleave to that which is good. There is always something that is good and wholesome for us to do if we want to do it. While the world thinks that a good time can be had only by engaging in those things that are bad and wrong, those things that are naughty and questionable, this is certainly everything but the truth. If one, however, is tempted to listen to the world on such matters, then he should remember that the Lord is always there to help him to overcome such temptations. The Hebrew writer reminds us, in speaking of Christ, "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." (Hebrews 2:18). Paul wrote, "There hath, no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Let me hasten to say that there is nothing wrong in the Christian being happy or engaging in those things that entertain, provided they are not wrong within themselves and it is not taken to the

extreme. Sometimes people of the world think of the Christian as always being serious, sad, and even unhappy. They even think it would be bad and wrong for the Christian to show any signs of happiness. But this is the very opposite to what the Bible teaches about the followers of Christ. Christians are to be happy people. They have every reason to be happy and to enjoy life. It is true that they must abstain and avoid many things in life, but all of that is bad and wrong and that which brings heartache and sorrow. The Christian engages in those things that brings true happiness.

Peter wrote the Christians of his day, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessings. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience: that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." (1 Peter 3:8-17).

Please think on these things and if you are not a Christian we would like to encourage you to become one. It is in Christ that we are complete in every phase of life. It is by following Christ that we find joy and happiness that is beyond words of expression. You can also be a Christian. All you need to do is to believe in God, to believe in Christ as being the Son of God and the one who died to save you, to repent of your sins, or to turn away from them to engage in them no more, to confess with your mouth before one or more that you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and to be baptized, buried in water, to wash away your sins. If you will do that then the Lord will save you and add you to his church. As such then you will be a child of God, a Christian, with all of God's blessings, and if you will be faithful unto him unto death, then one



day he will take you to heaven where you will live with him forevermore.

## What God Can Do!

DAVID THURMAN

**I**N THE humdrum business of daily living, it is easy to get discouraged. With wars raging, politics fussing and economies struggling, we can easily think the world is in trouble. But, when we begin to despair, we are forgetting what God can do.

The Apostle Paul always reminded himself of God's plan for his life. *"Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:12-14).* Paul had much to look back on, much good, much not so good. But he was still looking ahead to what God could do and would do in his life. Whatever had happened that was positive, he pressed on. Whatever had happened that was negative, he pressed on. He kept his focus on God. Notice what God can do for His people, even today.

### GOD CAN FIRE UP HIS SERVANTS

The apostles and other followers of Jesus had seen Him die. They had seen Him raised from the dead. They were still confused, still disoriented. They still didn't understand His plan. Notice what Jesus told them to do. *"Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me" (Acts 1:4).* Jesus told them to wait until God moved among them. We would want to send the disciples to the latest conference on church growth, or to a lectureship on evangelism. Jesus said to wait for God to move.

A few days later, God did move among them. *"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And*

*there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4). They obeyed the Lord and waited. Then God moved among them and set them on fire! He gave them the wisdom, the knowledge and power to speak. They waited on God and then acted only in God's power.*

This is important. Although God will not pour out His Spirit in a miraculous way today, still He seeks people who will obey Him, wait on Him and trust in His power. He looks for people who will rely on His will, on His way and will obey Him even when they don't fully grasp God's plans. By the end of Acts 2, 3000 souls are added to the kingdom. All because these people obediently waited on God and then relied on God's power for success.

### **GOD CAN BUILD UP HIS PEOPLE**

While we worry about the future, God has some wonderful promises for His people. *"Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it". (Matt. 16:16-18). Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ. Jesus accepts that confession, accepting His role and status as Messiah. Then he tells the apostles that there will be a group of people (the church) who will succeed in the battle with Satan. His church would be built, and His church would prevail.*

The promises of Jesus are important. He doesn't say, "you will build my church". The Lord says, *"HE will build"* his church. While we scurry around doing our best in church work "and ministry, the fact is it was Jesus who established the church and it will be the Lord who builds up His people. *"And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved"* (Acts 2:47). The Bible tells us the Lord adds people to His kingdom. While we do our best and labor in the kingdom, ultimately it is God who builds the body. *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth"* (1 Cor. 3:6). The apostle Paul was a hard working evangelist. He gave Apollos credit for being the same. But, in the end, it was God causing the growth. While we worry about the future of the church, God is not worried. He can still cause growth,

He can still add to the body, and He promises Satan will not win.

### **GOD CAN WRAP UP HIS ENEMIES**

One of the amazing aspects of God is that He is not intimidated by His enemies. The enemies of God can attack Him over and over again, God always wins. But, even more so, God can convert His enemies so that they become some of His hardest workers. *"Now Saul still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' And he said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do' (Acts 9:1-6).* Saul had been laying waste the church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:4). He had done all He could to stop the spread of Christianity. Now, God knocks him down and blinds him. God takes charge of His future and turns Saul into the great apostle Paul.

While we worry about attacks on the church, God is not worried. While we think the kingdom cannot survive, God is making plans to use His foes to make His plans come to pass. While we struggle with the future of the church, God has it all worked out and may even use His enemies to bring success to the kingdom.

God can indeed do amazing things. Since we trust in Him and His Word, we can be confident that God can still fire up His church. God can still build His church. God can still use His enemies to build His church. When we doubt the strength of the church, we are doubting the God who gave us the church. Instead of fear and dread, we can look to the future knowing what God can do. But, we need to keep in mind two important principles.

### **GOD WILL WIELD HIS POWER**

God is not going to be derailed in His plans. The gates of hell will not prevail in the battle with God. The church of Jesus Christ will conquer the kingdom of darkness. Some of us may go over to the enemy and serve Satan's interests, God will still prevail. Some may be weak in service or understanding, God will still prevail. Some may work diligently and thoughtfully, but it will still be God's

power that brings success. However good or bad we perform, God will wield His power to bring victory to His people.

In fact, there will come a day when everyone will acknowledge Jesus as Christ. *"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (Phil. 2:9-11). One day every soul will confess Jesus and bow before Him. This is not a possible outcome of history, it is an inevitable outcome. God will prevail in the battle with Satan, His power will be triumphant, His people will be victorious.

### **WE MUST YIELD TO HIS WILL**

One day you will surrender to God and confess Jesus. Your choice in the matter is when will you kneel before Him and confess Him? You can give Him your life now, and be part of the body of Christ that will prevail. Or you can stubbornly wait until it is too late and fall on your knees before Jesus as your judge, not your savior.

God can do great things. He can change your life. He can add you to His victorious body. He can empower you to be a great servant. But none of that is possible until you surrender your will to His. Put your faith in God and His Son, Jesus. Turn from your life of sin by repenting and turning to God. Be baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the remission of your sins. Then, watch what God can do in your life!

## **The Joy Of Giving**

JOHNNY RAMSEY

**M**ANY people are reluctant in the field of giving generously to the cause of Christ. Several years ago a popular monthly magazine had a special focus on how families budget and spend their money. It was quickly seen that many households contributed very little to their religion each year. An old slogan reminds us: "Our collection is a reflection of our divine connection."

The Bible tells us, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). When we consider how much God gave, and gives, to us, and then we return such a small

amount to the cause of heaven, we truly display ingratitude of the deepest sort.

A very poor lady, whose husband had deserted her and two children, was blessed by a compassionate church in Port Arthur, Texas. When the contribution plate was passed, she dropped in her wedding ring, because she had nothing else to contribute. When the elders returned it to her, she refused to take it back, saying: *"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be, also"* (Matt. 6:21). She had nothing else to give, but it gave her joy to be able to participate in spreading the gospel. Yes, the joy of giving is a compelling thrust in the life of a Christian.

Some just give God a few scraps of what is left over after we have spent the majority upon ourselves. Malachi rebuked the people of his day for robbing God (Mal. 1) to give to the Persian rulers the best gifts in order to gain the praise of men. What do we have left after we invest in food, sports, houses, cars, jewelry and clothing? We expend untold time and effort in "keeping up with the Jones" while the souls of millions are dying in sin without the gospel. They remain lost while we wallow in materialistic splendor. When we squander our sojourn on earth (1 Pet. 2:11), building up treasures while millions live and die searching for Truth, we sadden the heart of the Savior who left the glory of heaven to redeem mankind from the wiles of the devil.

Giving generously and sacrificially to the kingdom of God is a wise investment because in all matters we reap as we have sown. Stingy people rob themselves of rich dividends the Savior bestows upon faithful depositors in His business which is called "Christianity." We truly rob ourselves of the benefits of the gospel when we waste time, money, talents, energy and effort in spiritual realms. Genuine giving shows the proof of our love (2 Cor. 8:24). Both the Father and the Son gave in a manner that is called *"incomparable"* (2 Cor. 9:15). May that be our goal, also.

#### LET ME GIVE

*I do not know how long I'll live,  
But while I live, Lord, let me give  
Some comfort to someone in need,  
By smile or nod, kind word or deed.  
And let me do whate'er I can  
To ease things for my fellow man.  
I want naught but to do my part*

*To lift a tired and weary heart.  
To change folks' frowns to smiles again,  
Then I will not have lived in vain.  
And I'll not care how long I'll live,  
If I can give, and give, and give!*

As we count our blessings in the Lord, let us determine to see the glory and beauty of reciprocal giving to the cause of Christ. And, let us determine to promise never again to give to the Lord Jesus Christ any less than the very best of which we are capable.

### 3 INGREDIENTS FOR UNITY

ROYCE FREDERICK

**I**N EPHESIANS 4:1-16, we find three ingredients necessary for unity. Each of them occurs several times in these verses.

#### 1. WORK

We should be *"endeavoring* (earnestly trying) *to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"* (4:3). Unity does not happen by accident. Without working for unity, people in any group tend to drift apart.

If no energy is going into a part of the natural world, that part will decay. It will go from order to disorder. The same is true in the Lord's church. **Great effort is required to maintain unity.** Therefore, the gifts in Ephesians 4:11 were *"for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry* (service), *for the edifying* (building up) *of the body of Christ"* (4:12). Those gifts were not merely for beauty, like jewelry. They had a higher purpose. They were tools to use **in labor, in unselfish service, in building up the church.**

Today, our blessings from God are not for our selfish pleasure. Every Christian has abilities and responsibilities. We must all do our part: *"...according to the effective working by which every part does its share..."* (4:16).

#### 2. STUDY

Every gift in Ephesians 4:11 involved knowing and teaching the will of Christ. He made some Christians *"apostles...prophets...evangelists...pastors* (shepherds) *and teachers.* " Anyone who teaches, preaches, or shepherds (as one of the elders in the local church) must study God's will. To truly follow Christ, we must study

and obey His commands and teachings. Ephesians 4:4-6 reminds us that there is:

**"ONE BODY"**—We should all become members of the same "body", His church (Ephesians 1:22,23). Jesus promised to build *one* church (Matthew 16:18; see Ephesians 2:16), not *many* churches with different names and teachings. A sinner who obeys Christ becomes only a Christian, a member of the church of Christ (see Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16; Romans 16:16).

**"ONE SPIRIT"**—The same Spirit lives within everyone who obeys the Gospel (1 Corinthians 6:19,20; Galatians 3:26,27; 4:6).

**"ONE HOPE"**—Instead of selfish motives, we must set our hope on eternal life in heaven (James 5:28,29; Colossians 3:1-4).

**"ONE LORD"**—We must not follow men, but obey Christ as our only "Head" and Lord (4:15; Matthew 7:21).

**"ONE FAITH"**—We must not follow different "faiths" or "beliefs" (see 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Galatians 1:8-10). The majority would lead us to destruction (Matthew 7:13,14). Jesus delivered *"the faith"* (the set of beliefs for salvation) once for all (John 16:12,13; Jude 3). We need to grow stronger in *"...the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God..."* (4:13) so that we will not be *"...carried about with every wind of doctrine..."* (4:14), but speak *"the truth"* (4: 15).

**"ONE BAPTISM"**—To be saved, a sinner must believe in Christ, repent of his sins, confess his faith in Christ, and be baptized into Christ. The *"one baptism"* is immersion (burial) in water (Acts 8:38,39; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12) for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark 16:16).

**"ONE GOD AND FATHER"**— We must turn our hearts away from everything else to serve the one, true, living God (1 Thessalonians 1:9; Colossians 3:5).

### 3. LOVE

Jesus allowed evil men to torture and kill His physical body to save us in His spiritual body, the church. He prayed for it, then paid for it—with His life (John 17:20,21; Ephesians 2:16; 5:25; Acts 20:28). By His Gospel, He calls us to become children of God and inherit eternal life. *"I...beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love"* (4:1-2). We should love the Lord's church as Jesus does (1 John 3:16), always *"speaking the truth in love"* (4:15). We must help the church grow,

not divide. Loving the church and doing our part "...causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love " (4:16).

## THE JEWISH PASSOVER

ROY BEASLEY

**E**ACH year the Jews celebrate the Passover. This ancient observance dates back to the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. It begins on the 14th day of Abib, the first month of the Hebrew calendar. This corresponds to our month of April. Although we do not live under the Law of Moses, it is important for us as students of the Bible to understand the significance of the Passover.

In the book of Exodus, the Children of Israel were nearing the end of 400 years in the land of Egypt. Much of this time was in slavery. They turned to God in their distress, and God heard their prayers. He sent them a deliverer, Moses. Moses petitioned Pharaoh to let the people go, but he refused. God sent ten plagues on the Egyptians, the last of which was death to the firstborn of both man and beast throughout all the land.

Moses was commanded to prepare the Children of Israel by giving them certain specific instructions. They were told to kill a lamb, one for each household. They were to paint the blood on the doorposts and lintels of their homes. They were to roast the lamb and eat it that same night. Any left over to the next morning had to be burned. They were also to eat unleavened bread. There was to be no leaven in their houses. While they were eating, they were to have their sandals on and staff in hand ready to begin the march out of Egypt on short notice.

That night the Destroyer did pass over Egypt. He passed over all neighborhoods, over the shacks of the poor, the mansions of the rich, and tents of the sojourners. The firstborn of both man and beast did die. Even Pharaoh's eldest son and heir to his throne died. All died except for those who had the mark of the blood on their houses. *"And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead"* (Exodus 12:30). God had told Moses that there shall *"be a great cry*



*throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it anymore" (Exodus 11:6).*

It is unfortunate that the Jews do not understand the full significance of the Passover. They do not understand it because they reject Jesus Christ and do not accept the New Testament as the Word of God. The Passover foreshadows the coming of Christ. The Passover lamb in Exodus 12 was a type of Christ, the Lamb of God. (A type is a thing in the Old Testament which foreshadows something in the New Testament.) In 1 Corinthians 5:7 Paul says that Christ is our Passover. Just as the Passover lamb had to be without spot or blemish, Jesus had no sin. As the blood of the Passover lamb on the houses saved the first-born of the Hebrews from death by the Destroyer, the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin and saves us from eternal death. Just as the blood of the Passover lamb had to be applied to the door posts, the blood of Christ is applied to our hearts when we are baptized into the death of Christ (Romans 6:4). We are baptized for or unto the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38).

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper during a Passover meal with His disciples. It consisted of the fruit of the vine and the unleavened bread which was used in celebrating the Passover. However, the Passover celebrated the deliverance from Egypt; the Lord's Supper celebrates our deliverance from sin and Satan. The Passover was celebrated annually; the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated each first day of the week, which we call Sunday.

When the Jews celebrate the Passover they discuss the events of the Passover with their children. They explain the meaning of the Passover in Jewish terms. We, as Christians, need to discuss the themes of the Bible with our children. We need to tell them about Christ our Deliverer, and explain to them the meaning of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

## *THERE IS A RIGHT WAY*

JIMMY YOUNG

**R**ELIGIOUS teachers disagree over many vital questions regarding the identity of the Lord's church, what is acceptable worship, and the way of salvation; but there is a way that is right and cannot be wrong.

An important principle which helps us find the right answers to

these and other Bible questions is clearly illustrated in Genesis 4:3-5. Here, we are told, "*...in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell*" (Genesis 4:3-5).

We are made to wonder why God accepted the sacrifice of Abel and rejected the sacrifice of Cain, unless we read God's own explanation in the New Testament book of Hebrews. The Hebrews writer says, "*By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous...*" (Hebrews 11:4). The words "by faith" are key words in this passage, for we read from Romans 10: 17, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*"

Since faith is the result of hearing God's Word, and since Abel offered his sacrifice by faith, it is evident that God had told both Cain and Abel what and how to sacrifice. Abel offered precisely what God had commanded, with the right attitude of heart, and thus he was acceptable unto God. Whereas, Cain, through human wisdom, offered a substitute, and did wrong. Human wisdom is often wrong. God's way is always right!

## MAKE DISCIPLES

OWEN D. OLBRICHT

"**G**O YE therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). The New King James, New American Standard, New International, and many others translate "teach" as "make disciples". The Greek is *matheteusate*, an imperative, aorist, active, second person, plural, meaning Jesus commanded them to go make disciples.

### OUR MISSION TODAY

What is our mission if we seek to reach the lost? Clearly our mission is to *make disciples*. Does this *exclude baptism*? No, it *includes baptism* but not just baptism, for the one who is to be baptized is first to be convinced that Jesus is Lord and be willing to follow Him; that is, to be His disciple. Commenting on Matthew

28:19, J.W. McGarvey wrote, "Not baptizing the nations, but baptizing the *disciples*" (The New Testament Commentary, Vol. I).

If baptism were enough, preaching the gospel would not be necessary. Paul's mission was not only to baptize but also to preach the gospel (1 Corinthians 1:17). *Obedience* to the gospel (Romans 1:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17) *includes* baptism, but is *more than* baptism.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter presented his evidence, then drew the conclusion that Jesus is Lord and Christ. He told those who believed that they must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:36-38). Repentance would include a commitment not only to *accept* Jesus as Lord but also a resolve to *live* for Him as Lord (Romans 6:4).

### SPIRITUAL CIRCUMCISION

Baptism is the spiritual circumcision of the Christian (Colossians 2:11), which includes both physical and spiritual aspects. A baptism involving only the physical form without a transformation of the spirit will not bring about the new life.

Concerning physical circumcision Paul wrote, "*For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew which is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men but of God*" (Romans 2:28,29).

What does Jesus want, *a physical act without inward dedication*? If God did not accept the physical act of circumcision without inward correct qualities of the heart, He must also not accept the physical act of baptism without a change of heart resulting in a new life.

Paul's statement to the Galatians confirms this, "*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature*" (Galatians 6:15). What is meaningful to Jesus is our being *a new spiritual person*.

The goal is not baptism *alone* but that of making a disciple who, when baptized, will serve Jesus. Jesus stated that we cannot be His disciples unless we are willing to bear our cross and follow Him (Luke 14:27).

Our effort should be to persuade people to be followers, disciples, of Jesus. The person who is convinced that he should follow Him will want to obey Him by being baptized; however, the reverse of this is not necessarily true: that the person who is "baptized", as an empty form, will want to follow Jesus anymore

than that a circumcised person would necessarily want to obey God.

### CONCLUSION

Jesus sent the apostles into all the world to make disciples who, in turn, would be baptized so that they could be forgiven. Our effort today should be that of persuading people to become disciples of Jesus and to trust the cleansing power of His blood. If they are willing to make that commitment then they are ready to be baptized so that their sins can be forgiven. Jesus does not want *just baptized people*. He wants *disciples*. Our duty is to persuade people to become disciples of Jesus and then baptize them into His body, His family, which is the church.

## CAN YOU SPEAK IN TONGUES?

GUY V. CASKEY

**T**HE subject of speaking in miraculous tongues has become a subject of keen interest among religious people of the world. This claim has been made by various groups for over one hundred years, but in the past ten years, many groups are claiming the modern practice of the New Testament feat and are claiming to possess such powers by means of the Holy Spirit.

An investigation of these claims is the purpose of this article. We need to prove every spirit or doctrine (1 John 4:1), and are told to prove all things in order to hold fast to the good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Let us therefore try this doctrine held by so many lately and see if it can be approved by the Word of God.

### IS MAN'S WORD ENOUGH?

Let us say in the beginning that no claim of miraculous power to speak in tongues, heal the sick, or perform any other supernatural act should be accepted at face value. Just hearsay or some isolated case where I *heard* cannot be accepted as a factual happening. Human claims are not absolute facts in religion.

There must be an absolute standard by which all men evaluate and consider these claims. That standard is the New Testament. This great Book of God must sit in judgment upon human actions—not the other way, where human actions sit in judgment of the Bible.

Not that man is not honest and sincere when he makes a claim like this, but he could be honestly mistaken. Many millions imagine in their heart that they have cancer, or some other disease they have read about and may become sick over worry about that very disease. The feelings that one has about these diseases can either be verified or denied only after a careful examination by a qualified doctor. We claim that the Bible is the place to check these claims to verify or deny this mania. Feelings alone will not suffice. An examination is necessary.

### **THERE HAVE BEEN MIRACULOUS TONGUES!**

There is no evidence that the gift of miraculous tongues was ever associated with the worship of God in the Old Testament period. There are several references to this great miracle in the New Testament. They are:

1. **On the first Pentecost** following the resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit came upon the twelve apostles in a baptismal measure. These men had been told to wait for the promised power in Jerusalem after the Lord's ascension; and in Acts 2:4 we read, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." This was from God and fulfilled His promise to guide them into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13).

After inspiring these men with divine truth through the power of the Holy Spirit, an effective way of communication had to be provided. Since the group of people assembled were from many nations (Acts 2:5) and spoke different languages, some miracle had to make possible their understanding in their own language. They heard these apostles, who were all Galileans, speak in their own tongue or language (Acts 2:8).

The apostles then spoke in other languages in order to teach the truth and it was to give understanding. It was *not* ecstatic gibberish (which came from emotions) that no one could understand. It was not an *unknown* tongue. The word *unknown* in the King James translation appears in Italics, which means that this word is not found in the original Greek, but the translators added this word. Paul later deals with people speaking in a tongue or language where no one understood and he commanded that they were to keep silent, unless there were an interpreter who could give the meaning (1 Corinthians 14:27).

Every tongue then had to (1) be from God for the purpose of

teaching the truth and (2) be in some language that people could understand. As a result the Jews believed and were baptized and were added to the church (Acts 2:47).

**2. Cornelius and his household.** In Acts 10 we find the next instance of miraculous tongues. Cornelius was a great moral man who was devout (Acts 10:1-2), but was still in his sins (Acts 11:14). After Peter was sent to him to guide him into truth, he began to "speak with tongues and magnify God." This occurred when the Holy Spirit fell on all of them that heard the word (Acts 10:44-48). The Jews who had accompanied Peter to Cornelius "... were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also" (Acts 10:45).

The purpose of this gift of tongues was to convince Jewish Christians that "... God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life" (Acts 11:18). God wanted *all* men to be saved. The gospel was to be for every creature (Mark 16:15). It was "... for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:16). Therefore, God brought the Gentiles into His great family by the same sort of miracle He had used for the Jews on the day of Pentecost, about ten years before.

As a result of Peter's preaching and this great miracle to convince the Jews that God would accept Gentiles, Cornelius and his household were baptized into Christ (Acts 10:47-48). They became Christians, and now all nations (Jews and Gentiles) were brought to a knowledge of truth.

**3. The next miraculous tongue speaking** took place in Ephesus. Paul was on his journeys and entered the city and preached to certain men who had been baptized with John's baptism. "And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' So they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?' So they said, 'Into John's baptism.' Then Paul said, John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.' And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:1-6).

It should be noticed that this occasion differs from the first two

in that the Holy Spirit's power was given through the laying on of the apostle's hands.

On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), the Jews (apostles) received the gift of tongues *directly* from heaven. At the household of Cornelius (Acts 10), the tongues were given *directly* from heaven. But now these men of Ephesus received this gift *indirectly*. The first two times tongues were given without human hands. The third time the gift was bestowed by the laying on of hands. As a result of Paul's teaching, and this miracle, they were baptized with the baptism which the Jews and Gentiles had experienced. It was in the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:5).

**4. The miraculous tongue gift** was also given to certain members of the church at Corinth. I Corinthians 12:8-10 lists nine spiritual gifts, which were, evidently, given to these Corinthian Christians. Not every Christian had all nine gifts (I Corinthians 12:30). Also, there was no single gift (like tongues) that all possessed. He compared these gifts to different parts of the body (I Corinthians 12:19).

The purpose of these gifts was to edify and build up these Christians; so teaching in other tongues or languages is mentioned as one of these nine gifts.

Paul goes into much detail in the Corinthian letter to make sure that these Christians used this gift of tongues for teaching with understanding. He said, "Let all things be done for edification" (I Corinthians 14:26).

Remember that the word *unknown* in this chapter is added every time by the translators and means *not* understood (never means jabbering nor *any* language). In every case of tongue speaking, it was for man's benefit that he might (intelligently) understand, what was said. It was associated with teaching people how to be saved and be built up spiritually.

#### **NEVER INTENDED TO BE PERMANENT!**

These miraculous works of the Spirit (nine gifts of I Corinthians 12:8-10) were never intended to be permanent in the church. They were to be given in part. "But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away" (I Corinthians 13:10). This new and perfect thing would be a much more excellent way (I Corinthians 13:13).

All of the gifts mentioned in the Corinthians church were to pass away, or cease. He said in I Corinthians 13:8 that prophecies would

*fail*, tongues would *cease*, and Divine knowledge would be *done away*. Now, when would these gifts cease? When that perfect thing (the complete will of God) should come (I Corinthians 13:10).

### BUT WHAT ABOUT CLAIMS OF TONGUES TODAY?

Their claims must be false. There are at least four reasons we come to this conclusion:

1. **There is *no* Holy Spirit baptism** available today. The apostles and household of Cornelius were given these gift of tongues directly from heaven in baptismal measure. But each was for a specific purpose. And there was *never* another single case of Holy Spirit baptism referred to in the entire New Testament! These were special cases and for special reason, and were never promised or intended for all men in all ages.

The apostle Paul says, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, *one baptism*" (Ephesians 4:4-5).

What was this one baptism? Is it *water baptism* or Holy Spirit baptism? The apostle commanded and administered water baptism in fulfillment of the Lord's commission given in Matthew 28:18-20. They were to do this until the end of the world. On both Pentecost, (Acts 2), and at Cornelius' house, two baptisms were administered—Holy Spirit and water baptism! But by the time Paul wrote the *Ephesian* letter there was only *one baptism*. Which baptism had ceased? Which one was to be administered to every creature until the end of the world?

Water baptism was used in every case of conversion in the book of Acts; whereas the Holy Spirit baptism was used only twice—once on the Jews at Pentecost and then on the Gentiles when Cornelius was converted. Thus all flesh (Jews and Gentiles) had been given the gospel by a special miracle from God. Since all people had been given a chance, the need for the baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit ceased, and the baptism of water for *the remission of sins* continued (Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21).

2. Apostles can no longer lay hands on people and impart this special gift. Of all the people who had these special miraculous gifts, *only the laying on of the apostle's hands* would give them these special powers. Philip was a spirit-filled evangelist from Jerusalem who could work miracles. But when Philip went to Samaria, because he was not an apostle, he had to wait for the apostles Peter and John to come and lay hands on certain people (Acts 8:14-19).



Since the death of the apostle John at the close of the first century there has been no possibility of men receiving miraculous spiritual gifts through these means. When the last man on whom the apostles had laid their hands died, miraculous gifts in special measure by the hands of men (like healing incurable disease, cleansing lepers, restoring sight to the blind, drinking poison, raising the dead or speaking in a tongue or language they had never heard or known so that people could understand) ceased to exist.

**3. Paul said by inspiration** that miraculous gifts would cease when the *Perfect* thing was revealed to men. Paul plainly taught all nine of those spiritual gifts would be done away when "that which is perfect is come" (I Corinthians 13:8-10).

The purpose for these gifts was to confirm and establish the gospel and to edify the Christian until such time as (1) the revelation of the gospel was complete (2) the church was growing strong within, and (3) church leaders could be developed by normal means.

Once the New Testament was completed and circulated, the need for these special gifts, such as tongues, ceased. God does for us through His inspired word what He once did through miracles before the truth was written down for us to know. Now we have in the Bible the "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25) which will give us "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (II Peter 1:3).

**4. What purpose could tongues serve now** in the plan of God? Spiritual gifts were helping hands to an infant church. Just as parents give support and special assistance to a baby to teach him to walk, the Heavenly Father gave special direct help to the first century Christians as they learned to walk. But when a baby begins to learn to walk, the parent gradually withdraws direct support and encourages his child to develop more strength and skill. To keep on holding the child's hand directly would stop his growth. So it is with God's dealings with His church. He has removed the miraculous, direct helps from her grasp and walks by our side, giving us direction and aid and warning in His word. We do not need special miraculous helps, for our Lord is not a respecter of persons and has given every Christian adequate instruction in His wonderful word, the Bible.

### CONCLUSION

The very obvious and necessary conclusion from the facts presented herein is that miraculous gifts, such as speaking in

tongues, are not available to men today. Thus whatever else may be said of modern day claimants of such powers, it cannot be said that such claims are based on scriptural authority.

It therefore becomes our duty to refute such false claims and to brand those who make the claims as *false teachers*. They may fool men, but not the Lord. **Beware!**

## COINCIDENCE CREATION?

FOY E. WALLACE, JR.

**I**F YOU are in doubt about whether the earth "happened" by coincidence or was created by Divine will and power, consider the following facts about the earth, its atmosphere, and its relationship to the rest of the universe:

The rotation of the earth on its axis, for instance, is 1,000 miles per hour at the equator. If it were 100 miles per hour instead, the days and nights would be ten times as long, the result of which would be the burning up of all vegetation each long day and the freezing of each surviving sprout each long night.

The sun, the source of light, has surface temperatures of 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit; the earth is far enough away for the right warmth, not too much, not too little. If the sun gave less radiation, the result would freeze us all; and if more, it would roast us all.

The slant of the earth is at an angle of 23 degrees, which gives seasons, and if not so tilted, the movement of the vapors of the sea would turn continents into ice.

If the moon were set at less distance from the earth, tides would submerge all continents twice daily, and the mountains would erode away.

If the crust of the earth were ten feet thicker, there would be no oxygen and all life would die.

If the atmosphere were thinner to the point of precision, meteors which hurl from their orbits and dart toward the earth and which now burn and consume in the atmosphere, would shoot to the ground and set fires over the whole earth.

All of this is proof that life was created, is governed by mathematical laws, and is not an accident.



## **OUR PLEA**

### **LET THE TRUTH PREVAIL**

1. That there should be only one church today, as it was in the beginning—Church of Christ—Which Christ Himself built, and about which we all can read in the Bible (Matthew 16:18). That congregations of the one church of the Bible everywhere may be known as churches of Christ, as we read at Romans 16:16. That there should be no denominations or sects in the name of the Church. (1 Corinthians 1:10).
2. That there should be only one plan or guideline of salvation, as is revealed and taught in the Bible, followed everywhere. All must believe in Christ, repent of wrong, confess Christ the Son of God, and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-38). Those who obey these commands of salvation are saved by the Lord and He Himself adds the saved ones to His church (Acts 2:47); which is His Spiritual body. (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:4).
3. That all followers of Christ, everywhere, should be known as Christians, after His name alone, with no Prefixes or Suffixes, as it was in the beginning. (Acts 4:12; Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16). That all other names which exalt and glorify any other name of a man, or a doctrine, or a day or a movement, etc., must be forgotten.
4. That all man-made creed books must be put aside, with other books written by men which contain doctrines and commandments of men, and only the Bible which contains God's inspired message for man must be followed in all spiritual matters. (Matthew 7:21-23; John 12:48).
5. Let us accept the authority of Christ in all religious matters (Matthew 28:18), and strive to abide in the New Testament doctrine of Christ (2 John 9).

*Printed and Published by Sunny David for Church of Christ, B-350, Chitranjan Park, New Delhi and Printed at: Print India, A-38/2, Mayapuri Phase-I, New Delhi-110064. Editor: Sunny David (Cell: 09810896789, E-mail: sunny\_davidin@yahoo.co.in).*

Regd. No. 26921/71

Postal Regn. No.  
DL(S)-17/3154/2012-2014  
Licence to Post without Prepayment  
No. U/SE/25/2012-2014  
Posted at Lodi Road HO  
on 10-11 October 2012

Total No. of pages 24+cover

**Welcome to the Services of**  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**B-350 (L.G.F.)**  
**Chitranjan Park**  
**Near Market #1**  
**New Delhi-110019**

**SUNDAY**

Bible Study	... 10.00 A.M.
Sunday School	... 10.00 A.M.
Worship	... 11.00 A.M.

*English/Hindi*

To:

From:

**THE BIBLE TEACHER**  
**P.O. Box 3815**  
**New Delhi-110049**