

*Wesley Simon*

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**THEME:**

**THE BIBLE - *THE MOST RELEVANT BOOK***

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The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be clearly documented, including the date, amount, and purpose of the transaction. This ensures transparency and allows for easy reconciliation of accounts.

In the second section, the author outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data. This includes direct observation, interviews, and the use of specialized software tools. Each method is described in detail, highlighting its strengths and potential limitations.

The third section focuses on the results of the study. It presents a series of tables and graphs that illustrate the findings. The data shows a clear trend in the behavior of the subjects being studied, which is consistent with the theoretical framework proposed at the beginning of the document.

Finally, the document concludes with a summary of the key findings and offers some practical recommendations for future research. It suggests that further exploration of the underlying mechanisms could provide valuable insights into the broader field of study.

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## RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

*by Everett Spencer*

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Text: 2 Timothy 2:15
2. Responsibilities of preachers and teachers
3. Implied in the text is that some may mishandle God's word (Cf. 2 Peter 3:16).
  - a. Scripture is perverted by the world, change agents, and denominational dogma.
  - b. Peter and Paul expose some who improperly "divide the word."
    - 1) 2 Peter 3:16 "wresting," "torturing" the Scriptures
    - 2) 1 Tim. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:3,4
  - c. Jesus battled the Pharisees and Sadducees over their traditions and attitudes (Matt. 15:8,9; Mk. 7:7,9,13).
4. The religion of the Bible is addressed to man's intellect (Matt. 13:15).

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. WHY SHOULD MAN STUDY THE BIBLE?

- A. We must know God's will for us (Rom. 1:16-18).
- B. So that we may handle His word correctly (2 Tim. 2:15).
- C. Faith is a necessity in pleasing God (Rom. 10:17; John 20:30,31).
- D. That we may be saved (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).
- E. Spiritual growth is necessary for the Christian (1 Cor. 3:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:18).
- F. The word of God is profitable (2 Tim. 3:16,17).
- G. Christians are to be approved of God (2 Tim. 2:15).

#### II. THE BIBLE MAY BE DIVIDED BY:

- A. The Old Testament and the New Testament.
- B. Dispensations.
  1. Patriarchs
  2. Mosaic
  3. Christian
- C. Division by Covenants.
  1. Covenant with Israel through Moses at Sinai.
  2. Covenant with all peoples through Christ on Pentecost.
- D. Major periods of Bible history:
  1. Antediluvian
  2. Postdiluvian
  3. patriarchal
  4. Egyptian bondage
  5. Wilderness wanderings
  6. Conquest of Canaan
  7. Judges
  8. United kingdom

9. Divided kingdom
  10. Kingdom of Judah
  11. Babylonian captivity
  12. Restoration
  13. Between the Testaments
  14. Christ
  15. church
- E. Division by books of the Bible.
1. Old Testament - Law, History, Poetry, Major prophets, minor prophets.
  2. New Testament - Biography, church history (conversions), epistles, prophecy.

### III. THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW WAS REPLACED WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. Jesus' death on the cross abrogated the old law.
1. Col. 1:14 The law was nailed to the cross.
  2. Rom. 7:1-6 One is "delivered from the law."
- B. The middle wall of partition was broken down.
1. Eph. 2:14-16.
- C. The Law was changed.
1. Heb. 7:12 "*For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.*"
  2. Taken away. Heb. 10:9 "*...He takes away the first that He may establish the second.*"
  3. People are subject to the law under which they live.

### IV. BOTH TESTAMENTS ARE NOT VALID AT THE SAME TIME.

- A. Men cannot be under two lawgivers.
1. James 4:12 "*There is one Lawgiver...*"
  2. Matt. 17:1f The transfiguration scene.
  3. Heb. 1:1-3; 3:5 God speaks through His Son today.
  4. Rom. 7:1-4 One cannot be married to Moses' law and Christ simultaneously.
  5. Gal. 3:22ff We are no longer under a schoolmaster.
- B. The New Law became effective when Christ instituted His Testament.
1. Prophecies foretold the coming of Christ, Isa., Jer.
  2. The kingdom, church, law of Christ, began on Pentecost in Jerusalem.
    - a. Matt. 28:18-20
    - b. Luke 24:44-49
    - c. Acts 1-2
- C. Without proper division of the word of truth, men will not handle it aright.

### V. INTERIM BETWEEN THE CRUCIFIXATION AND PENTECOST.

- A. Judaism lasted until Christianity began.
1. Provisions of a repealed law extend to the time the new law becomes

- operative.
- B. John the Baptist taught during a transitional period.
    - 1. Matt. 3:2
    - 2. The new law was NOT in effect during John's ministry.
    - 3. The old law was binding until Pentecost.
    - 4. Gentiles were bound by the law of conscience until Acts 10.

### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. It is vital men rightly divide (handle aright) the word of truth.
  - a. Study properly.
  - b. It is essential that the word is taught.
  - c. The gospel of Christ is for the lost of the world.
  - d. The world's problems can be solved by the gospel.
- 2. The question for men today. "What Will We Do With The Word of God?"





# CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

*by John A. Delpont*

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Ingredients of a faithful Christian:
  - 1. Study God's word - teach others
  - 2. Live righteous - faith & works
  - 3. By the proper example - not forsaking assembly
  - 4. Besides these and others, let's not forget Christian Hospitality
- B. The Bible teaches that God is our Father and we are His children, therefore, we are one family. If we are Christians, then we are bothers and sisters in Christ.
- C. Time spent with our family is precious time, likewise, time spent with our Christian family should be precious:
  - 1. Worshiping
  - 2. Studying
  - 3. In fellowship
  - 4. Helping others find Christ
- D. Time is best spent when teaching others about salvation and assisting in obedience to the gospel.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

- A. Fond of guests, hospitable, lovers of hospitality.
  - 1. Job (Job 31:32)
  - 2. Martha (Luke 10:38)
  - 3. Cornelius (Acts 10:1,2)
  - 4. Jesus' teaching (Matt. 25:35-40)
- B. Requirements of Christians / commandments
  - 1. Paul's instruction (Rom. 16:1-5):
    - a. Phebe
    - b. Priscilla and Aquila
    - c. Epaenetus
  - 2. Peter's instruction (1 Pet. 4:8-14):
    - a. Fervent charity and love
    - b. Hospitality without grudging
    - c. Good stewards for God
- C. Forbidden hospitality
  - 1. Eat not with the evil (Prov. 23:6)
  - 2. Eat not with the erring member
- D. Requirements for elders
  - 1. Given to hospitality (1 Tim. 3:1-3)
  - 2. Lovers of hospitality (Titus 1:6-9)

3. Lovers of good men (Titus 1:6-9)
- E. Christ's teaching (Matt. 5:13-16):
  1. Be the salt of the earth
  2. Be the light of the world
  3. Hide not your light but allow it to shine
  4. God, not man, may receive the glory

## II. CONCLUSION:

1. Practice Christian hospitality (Heb. 13:2)
2. Vital ingredients of a faithful Christian (Rom. 12:9-16)
3. Who will make it to heaven? (Matt. 7:21)
4. Faithful until death (Rev. 2:10)

## WHY IS THE BIBLE RELEVANT?

by Virgil McIntosh

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible is a book of many books.
  - a. There are sixty-six in all.
  - b. They are one in harmony.
  - c. They are one in thought.
2. The Bible was written by more than forty men.
  - a. These men lived in different time periods.
  - b. They labored under different customs, governments, and geographical locations.
3. As we turn and read these sacred pages:
  - a. We can read of the beginning of time (Gen. 1).
  - b. The scripture alludes to the end of time (Rev. 20).
  - c. There are many topics discussed between.
    - 1). Anxiety and worry.
    - 2). Living the Christian life.
    - 3). Being zealous of "good works."
4. The Bible is our road map to heaven.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. THE BIBLE IS RELEVANT BECAUSE IT IS DIVINELY INSPIRED.

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16 *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*
- B. 1 Thess. 2:13.
- C. 2 Peter 1:21.
- D. Define inspiration:
  1. 2 Sam. 23:2.
  2. Jer. 1:9.
  3. 1 Cor. 2:12,13.

#### II. FINAL REVELATION (HEB. 1:1,2).

- A. He imparts the Holy Spirit to the men of His choosing.
  1. The men served as His spokesmen.
  2. The Holy Spirit guided them into all truth (John 16:3).
  3. The promise was fulfilled through the apostles.
  4. They were given "all the truth."
  5. What else could be gained by further revelation?
- B. The Bible is the final communication from God.
  1. Galatians 1:6,9.
  2. Jude 3.

#### III. DUE TO THE AUTHORITY CONTAINED WITHIN ITS PAGES:

- A. The Bible teaches that we need to be sure of divine authority.

1. With what we teach.
  2. With what we practice.
  3. With what we believe (Col. 3:17).
- B. We must believe the authority of the Bible (Col. 3:17).
1. Paul said whatever we do is to be done by the authority of Jesus Christ (Col. 3:23).
- C. We must have obedient faith in God's word.
1. Genesis 3.
  2. Noah built an ark (Gen. 6).
  3. We are to "walk by faith" (2 Cor. 5:7).
  4. Romans 10:17.
  5. In order to walk by faith, we must do only what is authorized by the holy word of God.

#### IV. IT DIRECTS OUR PATH TO SALVATION.

- A. Saves the lost.
1. James 1:21.
  2. Romans 1:16.
- B. It convicts men of sin (John 16:8).
1. Jesus foretold what the gospel would do.
  2. Peter demonstrated that power in the first gospel sermon (Acts 2:36,37).
- C. The Holy Spirit operates only through the Gospel, not directly.
- D. What of those who do not participate in the Great Commission?
1. Servants of righteousness (Rom. 6:17,18).
  2. Foolishness of preaching (1 Cor. 1:21).
  3. Ephesians 6:17.
  4. We are begotten through His word (James 1:18).
  5. Warned (1 Cor. 4:14-16).
- E. The Bible teaches how to be sanctified.
1. 1 Timothy 4:5.
  2. 1 Peter 3:15.
  3. 2 Timothy 3:16,17.
    - a. God's word is powerful.
    - b. Complete.
    - c. For all.

#### CONCLUSION:

Voltaire once boastfully declared that there would not be a copy of the Bible on Earth in a hundred years. It has been more than one hundred years since this blasphemous prophecy was given, and it is no closer to fulfillment now than it was then. The same press on which this infidel prophecy was issued is now being used by the Geneva Bible Society, what a prophecy!

# THE JOY OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

by Haliburton Greer

## INTRODUCTION:

The ninth year of Hurt's Creek congregation hosting this lectureship. These years have passed quickly. I believe much good has resulted. We all have been edified, lifted up, and encouraged to *MARCH ONWARD* for our LORD and SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

I appreciate the honor bestowed upon me to speak at this year's lectureship. Remember the theme: **"THE BIBLE--THE MOST RELEVANT BOOK."** The topic assigned to me is **"THE JOY OF CHRISTIAN LIVING."**

Years ago, Bro. Brandon made the statement: There is no better life. IF, and I want to emphasize that word **"IF"** there were no life after this one, there is still no better way to live than as this book tells us how to live, because if all followed this way, what a much, much better world this would be.

**BUT**, this book is true--it is the *INSPIRED WORD OF GOD* that gives us the blue print, the plan, the pattern for the very **BEST LIFE**.

## DISCUSSION:

- I. **A MORE ABUNDANT LIFE.**
  - A. JESUS said:
    1. John 10:1-10.
    2. Psalm 23.
      - a. David was well aware of who led him.
      - b. Be aware of whom we follow.
- II. **JOY OF EXTENDED FAMILY.**
  - A. Most of us have brothers and/or sisters in our blood families.
  - B. JESUS promised:
    1. Mark 10:25-30
- III. **JOY OF ADVERSITY.**
  - A. We are to be happy, accepted with GOD, when we are persecuted for righteousness sake.
    1. Matthew 5:10-12
  - B. Temptations bring their reward.
    1. James 1:2-4
- IV. **JOY OF STUDYING.**
  - A. Paul exhorts us to study.
    1. 2 Timothy 2:15
  - B. Produces mature Christians.
    1. 2 Peter 1:5-11
  - C. To grow.
    1. 2 Peter 3:18.
- V. **JOY OF WORSHIPING.**

- A. David knew that joy.
    - 1. Psalm 122:10.
  - B. The early Christians realized this fact.
    - 1. Acts 2:46,47.
  - C. Remember the words of the writer of Hebrews.
    - 1. Hebrews 10:25.
  - D. Jesus tells us how we should worship.
    - 1. John 4:23,24.
- VI. JOY OF SECURITY.**
- 1. John 10:24-29
    - a. Secure in the knowledge that God is taking care of us..
- VII. JOY OF DELIVERANCE.**
- 1. Luke 4:18,19.
    - a. Deliverance from various problems that so easily beset us.
- VIII. JOY OF FORGIVENESS.**
- 1. Psalm 103:2-4.
  - 2. Matthew 6:9-15.
- IX. JOY OF SALVATION AND INHERITANCE.**
- 1. John 3:16-17.
  - 2. 1 Corinthians 2:9, Matthew 25:34.
- X. JOY OF FORTITUDE.**
- 1. Isaiah 41:10; Isaiah 40:29.
  - 2. Joshua 1:6-9.

## WHY BE A CHRISTIAN?

*by Jerry R. Brown*

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. The name--Christian
  - 1. Acts 11:26
  - 2. Acts 26:28
  - 3. 1 Peter 4:16
- B. Importance of Name
  - 1. Israel--El
  - 2. Christian--Christ
- C. Purpose of lesson
  - 1. Acrostic definition of the word - Christian
  - 2. Reasons for being a Christian

### DISCUSSION:

- I. **ACROSTIC DEFINITION OF THE WORD - CHRISTIAN**
  - A. C-haritable in disposition (Eph. 4:31,32)
  - B. H-umble in attitude (Eph. 4:1,2)
  - C. R-eliable (Rom. 12:17)
  - D. I-nterest in welfare of others (James 1:27)
  - E. S-inhere (Col. 3:22,23)
  - F. T-wrathful (Col. 3:9)
  - G. I-ndustrious (Eph. 4:28; Eccl. 9:10)
  - H. A-new creature (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4)
  - I. N-eighborly with others (Luke 10:30-37)
- II. **REASONS FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN**
  - A. Redemption and forgiveness
    - 1. No past sin (Acts 22:16)
    - 2. Redemption through blood (Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18,19; Titus 2:14)
    - 3. Newness of life (Rom. 6:4)
    - 4. Spiritual guide (Rom. 8:1)
  - B. Reconciliation
    - 1. Separation through sin (Isa. 59:2; James 1:13-15; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 6:23)
    - 2. Sacrifice of Christ on the cross (John 10:17,18; Rom. 5:6-8; Heb. 7:26,27; Heb. 9:24-26; 1 Cor. 15:1-4)
    - 3. Reconciliation in Christ (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26,27; 2 Cor. 5:17,18)
    - 4. Reconciliation in one body (Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:19-21; 2 Cor. 8:9)
  - C. Privilege of prayer
    - 1. Christ, the High Priest (Heb. 6:20; Heb. 7:25,26; Heb. 8:1)

2. Christ the Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)
3. Christ, the Advocate (1 John 2:1)
4. Prayer, the communication of the Christian with God (1 Thess. 5:17; Phil. 4:6)

D. Church membership

1. Christ, the Head (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1:18)
2. Christ, the Founder (Matt. 16:18)
3. Christ, the Builder (Matt. 16:18)
4. Christ, the Purchaser (Acts 20:28)
5. Christ, the Savior of the Church (Eph. 5:23)
6. Church membership through Christ (Acts 2:47)

E. Hope of Heaven

1. Inheritance of the Christian (1 Pet. 1:3,4; Titus 3:7)
2. Promise of God (Titus 1:2; 1 Cor. 2:9)
3. Promise by Christ (John 14:1-3)
4. Desire and goal of Christian (Heb. 13:14)
5. Eternal home with God (1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Cor. 12:2)

III. **CONCLUSION**

- A. Requirements of a faithful life (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:6-8)
- B. Steadfastness daily (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 15:58)



# LIBERTY IN RELIGION

by Wesley Simons

## INTRODUCTION:

1. People have given their lives so that we could have liberty in religion.
2. We need the freedom that can be enjoyed only in Christ (John 8:36).

## DISCUSSION:

### I. THE KIND OF LIBERTY NEEDED:

- A. Liberty from sin.
- B. Liberty from opinions.
- C. Liberty from creeds and doctrines of men.
- D. Liberty from churches claiming divine authority to make and enforce laws.
- E. Liberty from earthly headquarters

### II. THE KIND OF LIBERTY OUR FOREFATHERS SOUGHT. (The Last Will And Testament Of The Springfield Presbytery).

- A. The Presbytery of Springfield, sitting in Caneridge, in the county of Bourbon, being through a gracious providence, in more than ordinary bodily health, growing in strength and size daily; and in perfect soundness and composure of mind; but knowing that it is appointed for all delegated bodies to die; and considering that the life of every such body is very uncertain, do make and ordain this our Last Will and Testament, in manner and form following, viz.:
  1. They resolve to write out of existence the Springfield Presbytery when it was growing in strength and size daily.
  2. They wanted liberty from human organizations (Matt. 15:13).
- B. *Imprimis: We will*, that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the Body of Christ at large; for there is but one body, and one spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling.
  1. They believed the Holy Spirit's platform for unity (Ephesians 4:4-6).
- C. *Imprimis: We will*, that our name or distinction, with its Reverend title, be forgotten, that there be but one Lord over God's heritage, and his name one.
  1. They wanted the Springfield Presbytery and it's Reverend title to go out of existence.
  2. They wanted people to wear the name Christian (Acts 11:26).
- D. Item. We will, that our power of making laws for the government of the church, and executing them by delegated authority, forever cease; that the people may have free course to the Bible, and adopt *the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus*.
  1. Colossians 3:17, "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*"
  2. 1 Peter 4:11, "*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...*"

- E. Item. We *will*, that candidates for the Gospel ministry henceforth study the Holy Scriptures with fervent prayer, and obtain license from God to preach the simple Gospel, with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, without any mixture of philosophy, vain deceit, traditions of men, or the rudiments of the world. And let none henceforth take *this honor to himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron*.
1. 2 Timothy 2:2, "***And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also***".
- F. Item. We *will*, that the church of Christ resume her native right of internal government - try her candidates for the ministry, as to their soundness in the saith, acquaintance with experimental religion, gravity and aptness to teach; and admit no other proof of their authority but Christ speaking in them. We will, that the church of Christ look up to the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest; and that she resume her primitive right of trying those *who say they are apostles, and are not*.
1. Luke 10:2, "***Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest***".
  2. Revelation 2:2, "***...and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars***".
- G. Item. We *will*, that each particular church, as a body, actuated by the same spirit, choose her own preacher, and support him by free will offerings, without a written call or subscription - admit members - remove offenses; and never hence forth delegate her right of government to any man or set of men whatever.
1. Acts 20:28, "***Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood***".
- H. Item. We *will*, that the people henceforth take the Bible as the only sure guide to heaven; and as many as are offended with other books, which stand in competition with it, may cast them into fire if they choose; for it is better to enter into life having one book, that having many to be cast into hell.
1. Romans 1:16, "***For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek***".
  2. John 12:48, "***He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day***".
- I. Item. We *will*, that preachers and people, cultivate a spirit of mutual forbearance pray more and dispute less; and while they behold the signs of the times, look up, and confidently expect that redemption draweth nigh.
1. Ephesians 4:1-3, "***I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace***".

- J. Item. We *will*, that our weak brethren, who may have been wishing to make the Presbytery of Springfield their king, and wot not what is now become of it, betake themselves to the Rock of Ages, and follow Jesus for the future.
1. Acts 4:11,12, "***This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved***".
- K. Item. We *will*, that the Synod of Kentucky examine every member, who may be suspected of having departed from the Confession of Faith, and suspend every such suspected heretic immediately; in order that the oppressed may go free, and taste the sweets of the Gospel.
1. Mark 7:7, "***Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men***".
  2. 2 John 9, "***Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son***".
- L. Item. We *will*, that Ja--, the author of two letters lately published in Lexington, be encouraged in his zeal to destroy partyism. We *will*, moreover, that our past conduct be examined into by all who may have correct information; but let foreigners beware of speaking evil things which they know not.
1. John 7:24, "***Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment***".
- M. Item. Finally we *will*, that all our sister bodies read their Bibles carefully, that they may see their fate there determined, and prepare for death before it is too late.
1. John 5:39, "***Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me***".
  2. Proverbs 14:12, "***There is a way which seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death***".

Springfield Presbytery,  
June 28, 1804.

Robert Marshall,  
John Dunlavy,  
Richard M'Nemar,  
B.W. Stone,  
John Thompson,  
David Purviance.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. True liberty comes in following God and His word.
2. Let us learn to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent.
3. When I bind my laws on you, I take away a part of your religious liberty.
4. In faith.....Unity.

In opinion.....Liberty.

In all things.....Charity.

# RIGHT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE OLD TESTAMENT

by Clayton Winters

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. There are numerous *wrong* attitudes toward the Old Testament.
1. It is a book filled with fairy tales, imaginations, and historical inaccuracies, but is still somehow a medium through which God worked with His people.
  2. It contains both a ceremonial and moral law. The ceremonial was done away at the cross of Christ, but the moral still remains in force today.
  3. It was abolished at the cross, but at Christ's second coming, the temple will be rebuilt and the law largely restored as a guide to the people.
  4. It was taken out of the way by the cross of Christ, and is of no real value to Christians today. It could well be removed as a part of our Bible.
- B. Such wrong attitudes toward the first part of our Bible mandates serious study to determine just what place the Old Testament had, and still has, in the scheme of redemption. We will examine this from several standpoints.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. IT IS THE BASIC CONNECTION TO OUR ROOTS

- A. The Old Testament starts out: "*In the beginning God...*" (Gen. 1:1). What a gap in our knowledge there would be if we did not have this record of our beginnings.
1. The origin of the earth and all life forms would be a complete mystery (Genesis 1).
  2. We would be in total ignorance of our basic structure for marriage (Genesis 1:26-31).
  3. It would shroud the authority structure for our society with darkness (1 Corinthians 11:3; Genesis 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:11-15).
  4. The origin of sin and death would remain unknown (Genesis 3:3; 1 Corinthians 15:22).
  5. New Testament references to paradise would lose their significance (Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 12:4; Revelation 2:7).
- B. Even as Christians, we need this record to trace our connection to the great promise of God through Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:26-29).

### II. IT WAS DESIGNED TO BRING CHRIST TO THE WORLD AND THE WORLD TO CHRIST

- A. Through the Holy Nation, the Messiah was to come (Rom. 9:3-5).
- B. The law was our schoolmaster (tutor) to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:23-25; 4:1-5).
- C. Without such tutoring, the world would not have been in animated anticipation at Christ's first advent to the earth through the avenue of the virgin (Matthew 1:23; 2:1-6; Luke 3:15).

### III. IT IS A SYSTEM OF TYPES AND SHADOWS PREFIGURING GOD'S REDEMPTIVE PLAN

- A. This fact is clearly affirmed in the New Testament.
  - 1. The blood shed just outside of Eden was no doubt typical of the shed blood of Christ (Genesis 3:21).
  - 2. The Passover Feast represented Christ our Passover sacrificed for us (Exodus 12; 1 Corinthians 5:7).
  - 3. It contains types and shadows of things to come (Col. 2:16; Hebrews 8:5; 10:1).
  - 4. Many of its incidents were similitudes of coming events (Hebrews 7:15).
  - 5. Some of its characters and events became allegories of New Testament counterparts (Galatians 4:21-26).
- B. One cannot read the description of the first tabernacle with its ordinances of divine service without having a deeper appreciation for the heavenly which was aptly symbolized in the priestly services (Hebrews 9:1-9).

### IV. ITS PROPHECIES ARE THE STRONGEST EVIDENCE OF INSPIRATION

- A. Peter reminds us that we have a more sure word of prophecy that we would do well to give heed to (1 Peter 1:10). *1 Pet 1:19*
- B. The Old Testament pinpoints coming events so accurately that their only explanation is inspiration.
  - 1. The virgin birth of Christ (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22,23).
  - 2. The life of Christ: Isaiah 53:1-10:
    - a. Grow up as a tender plant (v.2; Matthew 12:19,20).
    - b. Despised and rejected of men (v.3; Matthew 27:22).
    - c. Wounded for our transgressions (v.5; Matthew 27:26).
    - d. Numbered with transgressors, but buried with the rich (v.9; Luke 23:32,50-53).
  - 3. The agony of His crucifixion (Psalm 22:1-22; Matthew 27:39-48).

### V. IT WAS WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING AND ADMONITION

- A. These things happened to them to serve as examples to us (1 Corinthians 10:6,11).
- B. It was written for the instruction of those living under the Christian age (Romans 15:4).
- C. It is profitable for all aspects of Christianity when properly understood and divided (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

### VI. IT WAS FULFILLED AS A BINDING LAW, BUT REMAINS AS A VALID TUTOR IN MAN'S QUEST FOR ETERNAL REDEMPTION

- A. We are dead to the law by the body of Christ (Romans 7:1-4).
- B. It was nailed to the cross of Christ, thus bringing it as a binding covenant to an end (Colossians 2:14-16).
- C. The middle wall of partition has been broken down, abolished (Ephesians 2:14,15).
- D. To try and justify oneself by the law is to fall from grace (Galatians 5:4).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Our attitude toward the Old Testament should be that the entire Bible is a single unit with a single purpose: leading man to redemption from sin through Jesus Christ.
2. Think of the many gaps in the knowledge of our origin, sin's origin, God's work in and through His chosen people, man's struggle against sin, the anticipation of a Messianic Kingdom, etc. if we had no Old Testament. Thank God for this gift.





## GOD'S PATTERN FOR THE CHURCH

by Jim Day

### TEXT:

(Heb. 8:5 NKJV) *"Who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, 'See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.'"*

**PURPOSE:** That the church maintain it's identity.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Pattern: "anything designed to serve as a model or guide for something to be made" (Websters).
2. God has always given man a pattern for matters pertaining to worship and service.
  - A. Cain and Abel were given a pattern how to worship (Hebrews 11:4; Romans 10:17).
  - B. Noah was given a pattern for the Ark (Genesis 6:14ff).
  - C. Moses was given a pattern how to build the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:10ff).
3. God gave a warning to those who would add to or diminish from His pattern.
  - A. (Deut. 4:2) *"You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."*
  - B. Nadab and Abihu were killed for diminishing from the pattern (Leviticus 10:1-2).
4. Therefore, God has a pattern for the church. It is when men take away from that pattern or add to it that we find so many churches practicing so many different things.
5. Church: Means the "Called Out." It is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22,23). It is not the building.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. GOD GAVE A PATTERN FOR ITS PLACE OF BEGINNING.

- A. It was to go forth out of Zion (Isa. 2:1-3).
- B. It was to go forth out of Jerusalem (Luke 24:47).
- C. It was to begin on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1,47).

#### II. GOD GAVE A PATTERN FOR ITS BUILDER.

- A. Jesus was the builder (Matt. 16:18,19).
- B. Jesus was the foundation (1 Cor. 3:9-11).
- C. Jesus was/is the head (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1:18).
- D. Jesus was the one who purchased the church (Acts 20:28).
- E. Therefore the church should wear His name (Rom. 16:16).

#### III. GOD GAVE A PATTERN FOR ITS WORSHIP.

- A. Singing is the music God allows in His worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
  1. Remember the pattern, any other kind of music is adding too.

- B. Prayer is to be offered to God in the worship (1 Tim. 2:1-8).
- C. The Lord's Supper should be observed each first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
- D. Preaching is part of the worship (Acts 20:7).
- E. Giving is to be done on each first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1,2).

**IV. GOD GAVE A PATTERN FOR ADMISSION INTO THE CHURCH.**

- A. One must be a hearer (Rom. 10:13-17).
- B. One must be a believer (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6).
- C. One must repent (Luke 13:3).
- D. One must confess his faith in Christ (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37).
- E. One must be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
- F. Cf. Acts 2:38,47.
- G. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. God gave a pattern for its place of beginning.
2. God gave a pattern for its foundation.
3. God gave a pattern for its worship.
4. God gave a pattern for its worship.
5. God gave a pattern for admissions into it.

# HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE ALIKE

*by Eddy Craft*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. We live at a time in religious history when little emphasis is placed on understanding the Bible alike, therefore we have a need for this lesson.
2. If you were called upon to prove that we should understand the Bible alike, what would you say?
3. With these things in mind, let us give consideration to the following.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. WHY DO WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE ALIKE?

- A. Because it can be:
  1. Broken (Deuteronomy 31:16)
  2. Perverted (Acts 13:10).
  3. Wrested (2 Peter 3:15,16).
  4. Rejected (John 12:48).
  5. Resisted (2 Timothy 3:8).
  6. Blasphemed (Acts 13:45).
  7. Used deceitfully (2 Corinthians 4:2).
- B. Because it:
  1. Is the power of God (Romans 1:16).
  2. Begets (1 Corinthians 4:15).
  3. Quickens (Psalm 119:105).
  4. Converts (Psalm 19:7).
  5. Saves (James 1:21).
  6. Sanctifies (John 17:17).
  7. Frees (John 8:32).
  8. Produces Faith (Romans 10:16).
  9. Will judge us in the last day (John 12:28).

### II. HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE ALIKE:

- A. Rightly divide the word of truth.
- B. Use common sense. The Bible should be treated with logic and common sense as any ordinary, intelligent writing.
- C. Context must determine the meaning.
- D. Every verse pertaining to a given subject must be considered to understand the full teaching on the given subject.
  1. Salvation
  2. Baptism
- E. Each passage must be interpreted in harmony with all other passages.
  1. Truth must harmonize with truth.
  2. Romans 3:28 - compare - James 2:24.

3. Revelations 20:1-6 - compare - Revelations 1:9.
- F. We must understand that the Bible uses figurative language.
- G. We must know the periods of the Bible (Historically) (15 of them).
- H. We must realize that the Bible was meant to be understood.
  1. Ephesians 5:17
  2. Ephesians 3:1-4
  3. John 8:32; 17:17
  4. Each person is responsible before God to examine the Scriptures for himself (Acts 17:11).

### III. HINDRANCES WHICH KEEP US FROM UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE ALIKE:

- A. Prejudice
- B. Preconceived ideas. (Assuming something to be true without proof).
- C. Wishful thinking.
- D. Generalization = This is the fallacy of drawing sweeping conclusions from particular instances.
- E. Appeals to human authority.
- F. Appeals to be popular.
- G. Appeals to the emotions only.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Wouldn't it be great if everyone understood the Bible alike? Just think of all the religious division ceasing!
2. Never forget that God gave us His word and we all can understand it alike (Ephesians 3:1-6).

## IS THE CHURCH A DENOMINATION?

by Gary L. Marshall

### I. NO! IT DOES NOT QUALIFY.

- A. Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Tenth Edition)
1. Denomination: 1: an act of denominating; 2: a value or size of a series of values or sizes (as of money) 3: NAME, DESIGNATION; esp: a general name for a category 4: a religious organization uniting local congregations in a single legal and administrative body.
  2. Denominate: [L denominates, pp. of denominare, de-+ nomenclare to name - more at nomiate] (ca. 1552) 1; to give a name to: DESIGNATE 2: to express or designate in some denomination <will - prices in U.S. dollars> (Note: ca. Used with dates)
- B. Denominations came out of the Protestant movement in the 15th Century.
1. Webster's: a: any of a group of German princes and cities presenting a defense of freedom of conscience against an edict of the Diet of Spires in 1529 intended to suppress the Lutheran movement b: a member of any of several church denominations denying the universal authority of the pope and affirming the Reformation principles of justification by faith alone, the priesthood of all believers, and the primacy of the Bible as the only source of revealed truth; a Christian not of a Catholic or Eastern church.
  2. The first recorded man made law in the Christian era, 325 A.D. by the Council of Nicea, produced the Nicene Creed, disqualifies the Church of Christ. Why? Because the church existed 290 years before this time.
  3. 606 A.D. Pious III declared himself universal Pope. This disqualifies the church as being a denomination. Why? Because the church existed 573 years before the Roman Catholic Church came into being.

### II. IT DOES NOT QUALIFY BECAUSE:

- A. It's Beginning Came to Early.
1. Denominations came into existence during the 14th and 15th century.
  2. Christ Church came into existence about A.D. 33. The Day of Pentecost, Acts chapter 2.
- B. It wears the wrong name.
1. Denominations usually follow the teachings of their founding fathers.
  2. Names such as: Calvin, Knox, Huss, Tyndale, Luther, Henry VIII.
  3. These later became, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Church of England, Lutheran, etc.
  4. Christ Church uses a name found in the scriptures (Matthew 16:18 *Upon this rock I will build my Church*).
  5. Romans 16:16 *The Churches of Christ salute you*.
- C. Its plan of salvation is different.

1. Denominations teach that all you have to do is believe (Acts 2:38).
  2. Some “vote” on who can be admitted into the church (Acts 2:47).
  3. Sprinkle water on people and say it is baptism (1 Peter 21).
  4. Teach that baptism is not necessary (Acts 22:16).
  5. Teach that you “join” the church (Acts 2:47).
- D. Its ways of worship are different.
1. Denominations use mechanical instruments of music. Scriptures teach different (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).
  2. The Church of Christ practices the taking of Communion every Sunday (Acts 20:7).
  3. Denominations teach tithing. Scriptures teach different (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
  4. Denominations teach different doctrine. Scriptures teach different (Acts 2:42).

### III. IT DOES NOT QUALIFY BECAUSE:

- A. It will not fellowship denominations.
1. Why? 2 John 9-10 *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed.*
  2. Acts 2:42 *And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine.*
  3. Romans 16:17 *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*
- B. Its terms of admission into the church are different.
1. Hear (Acts 2:36).
  2. Believe (Mark 16:16).
  3. Repent (Acts 2:38).
  4. Confess (Romans 10:10).
  5. Baptized (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16).
- C. It teaches that one is a child of God only through baptism.
1. Galatians 3:26-27 *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. How? For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
  2. Romans 6:3-4 *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
  3. Denominations teach that one can become a child of God several different ways.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The Church of Christ cannot qualify as a denomination because it recognizes only Christ as the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22), that the church must wear Christ Name (Matthew 16:18), that the terms of admission are different (Acts 2:38,41,47). Denominations came to late to be the true church. Their doctrines have been conceived from man and do not follow the scriptures and are constantly being revised and updated. Their terms of admission are different from what is found in the first century church and they will fellowship anyone who states that they are Christian. They teach "One Church Is As Good As Another" yet they shun the Church of Christ. Interesting isn't it? I for one am glad that the church I was added to (Acts 2:47) cannot qualify as a denomination.





## **FINAL AUTHORITY - WHERE DOES IT REST?**

*By Charlie P. Arnett*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. Authority is not to be altered or undone.
  - 1. Coming at the end.
  - 2. Ultimate.
  - 3. Precluding further action, conclusive.
- B. Authority - the right to command and to enforce obedience unto.
- C. Jesus said that all power (authority) in heaven and on earth had been given unto Him (Matt. 28:18).
- D. Peter was speaking by the authority of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38).

### **DISCUSSION:**

- I. CONDITIONS IN MANY HOMES TODAY ARE BECAUSE PARENTS DO NOT ACCEPT THE PLACE OF AUTHORITY THAT IS THEIRS.**
  - A. Parents do not teach their children to obey.
- II. DENOMINATIONAL CHURCHES EXIST BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS FAILED TO ACCEPT THE AUTHORITY OF CHURCH.**
- III. ALL CHURCH CREEDS REJECT CHRIST AS HAVING ALL AUTHORITY.**
- IV. THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST WAS QUESTIONED BY THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS (Matt. 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33).**
- V. SO-CALLED LIBERAL BRETHERN REJECT CHRIST HAVING ALL AUTHORITY.**
- VI. PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO QUESTION OUR AUTHORITY (1 Peter 3:15).**
- VII. WE SHOULD QUESTION THE AUTHORITY OF ANY TEACHING OF THINGS THAT CHRIST HAS NOT AUTHORIZED (1 John 4:1).**

### **CONCLUSION:**

The final authority is that given of Christ and we must take heed. "If any man speak..." (1 Pet. 4:11; Rev. 22:18,19).



## JESUS, OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE

(1 Peter 2:21-24)

by Charles Huff

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. The calling eluded too in the first clause of verse (21) is here explained:
1. "...because Christ also (literally, even Christ) suffered for you..."
  2. Since the disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his Lord, such suffering was to be expected.
- B. Two ideas are here advanced:
1. Christ suffered; hence, you, His servants, must likewise suffer.
  2. In suffering the Lord left an example for His disciples to imitate in enduring similar trials. (Guy N. Woods, GA Commentary)
- C. Brother Woods draws an illustration of a copy book method of teaching penmanship. "Christ thus becomes the copy head, the beautiful writing at the top of the page. Implied in the figure is a copy book, a perfect pattern of writing, a white unblemished sheet of paper, the student's effort to transcribe the copy, the awkward attempts in the beginning, persistent determination, constant and unremitting practice; and then eventually -- success!"

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. JESUS IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE OF SUFFERING: (vs. 21)

- A. "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: (1 Peter 2:21) "Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:23).
- B. "Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him (Heb. 5:7-9).
- C. "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.  
For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin" (Heb. 12:1-4).

#### II. JESUS IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE OF SINLESSNESS: (vs. 22)

- A. "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth" (1 Peter 2:22).
- B. "And they made His grave with the wicked -- but with the rich at His death,

- because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth" (Isaiah 53:9).
- C. "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens" (Heb. 7:26).
  - D. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

### III. **ALTHOUGH SINLESS, JESUS LOVES SINNERS.**

- A. "And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (Rev. 1:5,6).
- B. "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him" (Romans 5:6-9).

### IV. **JESUS IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE IN SERVITUDE: (vs. 21b)**

- A. "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps" (1 Pet. 2:21).
- B. "So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you'? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" (John 13:12-17).
- C. "But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave -- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many'" (Matt. 20:25-28).
- D. "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty, only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13).

### V. **JESUS SHOWS US HOW TO LOVE SINNERS WITH COMPASSION.**

- A. "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them. Because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into

His harvest" (Matt. 9:35-38).

- B. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

## VI. JESUS IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE IN SANCTIFICATION.

- A. "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God -- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30).
- B. "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked" (1 John 2:6).
- C. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15).
- D. "Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness" (1 Thess. 4:1-7).

## VII. JESUS IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE IN SACRIFICE: (vs.24)

- A. "But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption" (Heb. 9:11,12).
- B. "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another -- He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation" (Heb. 9:24-28).
- C. "Therefor by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Heb. 13:15,16).
- D. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:1,2).

## CONCLUSION:

1 Peter 2:24 "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed".

1. Have you died to sin? (Rom. 6:1-6)

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin" (Rom. 6:1-6).

2. Are you living unto righteousness?

"My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness" (Psa. 119:172).

3. Are you willing to follow the example of Jesus?

- a. In suffering, in sinlessness
- b. In sinlessness
- c. In servitude
- d. In sanctification
- e. In sacrifice

"If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us" (2 Tim. 2:12).



