



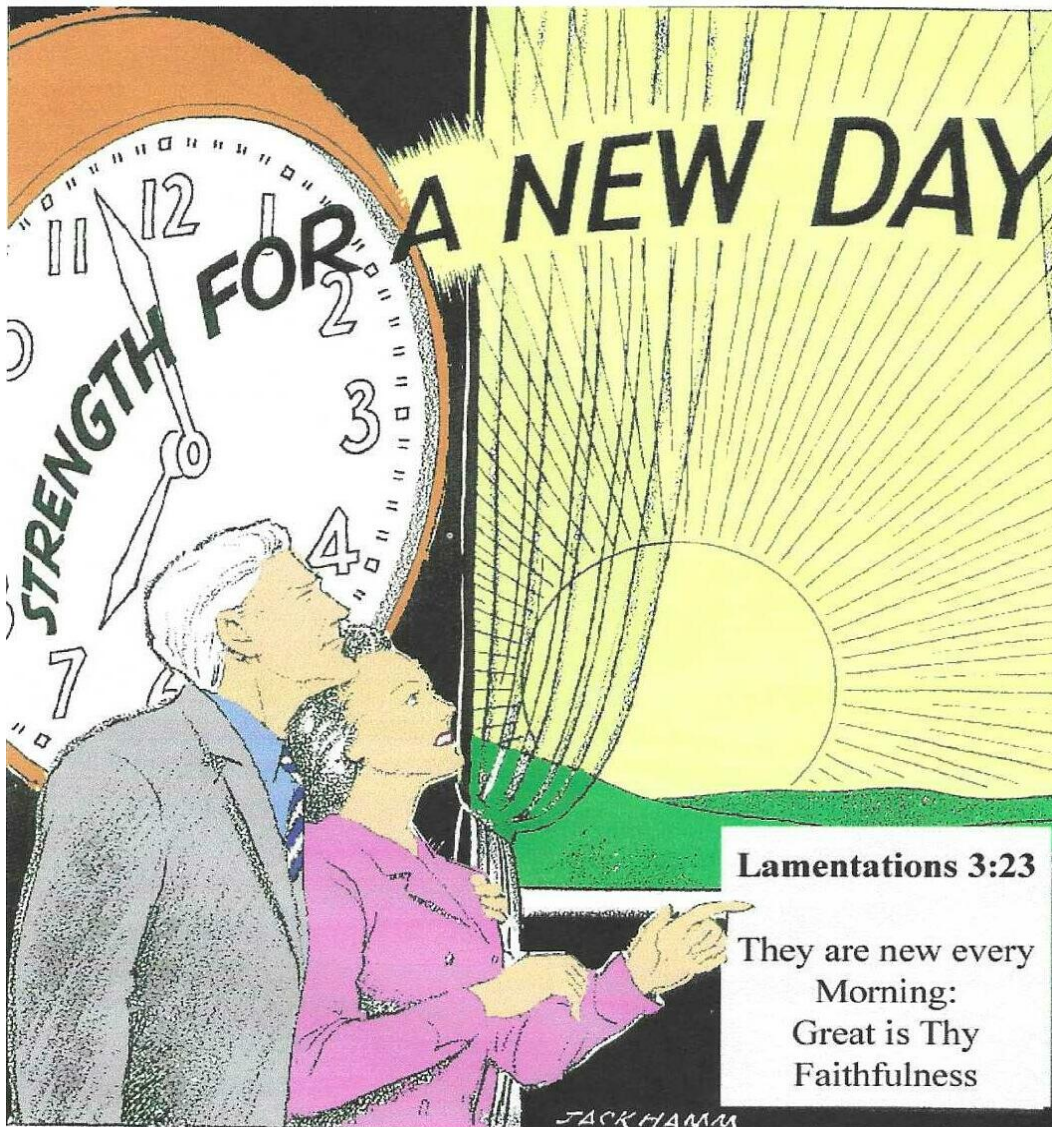
AMERICA'S

CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

NOV-DEC 2025

OUR GOAL:

REACHING FOR LOST SOULS FOR CHRIST WHILE THERE IS TIME



Strength for the Day

When burdens press and shadows fall,
And hope feels faint, so very small,
Lift up your heart, don't be dismayed—
God walks beside you, unafraid.

He knows the weight your soul must bear,
He hears each whispered, weary prayer,
And though the road may twist and wind,
His grace is sure, His love is kind.

Each morning brings a brand-new start,
With peace to calm the anxious heart,
A quiet strength, a gentle touch,
To show that God still cares so much.

No trial comes beyond His view,
No storm too fierce for Him and you,
He gives the courage to endure,
A faith that's steadfast, strong, and pure.

So face the day with lifted eyes,
The sun will rise in clearer skies,
And though the night may seem so long,
God's promise stands—He makes you strong.
“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and
He helps me.” —Psalm 28:7 G.H.

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**CHRIST IS
THE ANSWER**

Greetings to the Saints of God!



Pastor Junior and Brenda Tingle

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus

As we reflect on the goodness of God, our hearts overflow with gratitude.

What a joy it is to witness His hand at work—in our lives, in our communities, and through the pages of this very newspaper. Every article, every testimony, every truth shared is a beacon of light in a world that so desperately needs the hope of the Gospel.

We thank God for this publication and its unwavering commitment to reaching the lost and strengthening the found. It is more than ink on paper—it is a ministry, a lifeline, a voice crying out in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

To each of you who read, pray, and support this outreach: you are deeply appreciated. Your prayers fuel the mission. Your encouragement uplifts the weary. Your faithfulness helps carry the message of salvation to hearts that are searching. You are co-laborers in Christ, and your impact is eternal.

We know that life brings daily struggles—some seen, many unseen. But take heart: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. He is our provider, our healer, our sustainer, and our joy. In every moment, He is enough. And in every trial, He is near.

Let this letter be a reminder that you are not alone. You are part of a mighty family of believers, united in purpose and anchored in truth. Keep pressing forward. Keep shining your light. Keep lifting up the name of Jesus.

With hearts full of thanksgiving and eyes fixed on eternity, we celebrate all that God has done—and all that He will continue to do through you.

Brother Junior Tingle

The Christian Tabernacle Church



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Madisonville, Kentucky 42434*

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Service Schedule:

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Tuesday Evening	Thursday
Word & Worship	Word & Worship	Bible Study	Evening
10:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Youth Service
			7:30 p.m.

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By David Gray

Questions & Answers

Question

Everybody thinks I am a top-notch Christian. My pastor is always putting me up and wanting me to take more jobs in the church. It isn't that I can't do them; I can. The thing is that I have a besetting sin. He doesn't know it; in fact, nobody knows it. I try and try to overcome it, but before I know it I have failed again. It is not something I can talk about. I feel so guilty and unclean. I do not want to be a hypocrite. What should I do?

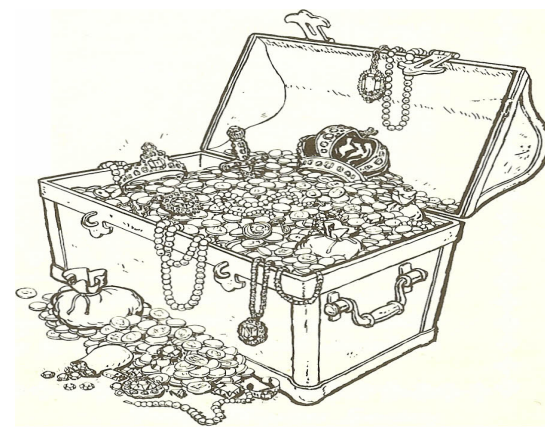
Answer:

I am glad you have a tender conscience that will not permit you to keep putting up a big front while all the time you go on sinning. I hope you will always have that kind of conscience. At the same time, you should not continue on the way you are, sinning and living under condemnation while your pastor wonders why you do not seem to want to advance in the service of the Lord. He may suspect that something is not right in your life, or he may think that you are backward and lazy, or simply not spiritually minded enough to value the opportunities he gives you. However he may feel about you, he certainly loves you and wants God's best for you, while all the time you are not honest enough or do not have courage enough to let him know the real reason for your reluctance to be more active in church. Actually, you are not fair with him, neither are you fair with yourself. By continuing to hide your sin you are in reality making it more attractive to you. The more you hide it the stronger it becomes in your life, for you are protecting it by not exposing it. And it will continue to have power over you as long as you protect it.

Proverbs 28:13 tells us, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." This is exactly what you must do: confess and forsake. Forsaking is not nearly so hard once you stop protecting the sin and expose it by confessing it.

Then we come to that marvelous promise to all who, like you, are troubled with sin in their lives, I John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Cleansing is what you need and want. But you cannot have it without confessing your sin. Confession should be made, without exception, to God in prayer. Tell Him all about it. He knows it already, but confession is important to help you acknowledge the sin itself, which is an essential part of repentance. (See Jeremiah 3:13.) This is what David did (Psalm 51:3), and he was forgiven.

**Before you assume,
LEARN
Before you judge,
UNDERSTAND
Before you hurt
FEEL
Before you say,
THINK !**



Beyond Belief A Biblical Study of Salvation

Welcome to Beyond Belief: A Biblical Study of Salvation. This study is simply an honest, open-minded look at what the scriptures say about salvation. This study is not designed to degrade any experience or relationship you may have with Jesus Christ. Many of you have accepted Jesus Christ as your savior and have given your heart to Him. No doubt, that was the most important decision of your life. God always responds when we make a sincere effort to draw closer to Him. The point of this study is simple. Was your salvation journey complete when you committed your life to Jesus Christ, or was it just the beginning? The road of religion takes us down many different paths, but this study is not about religion. If you disagree with this study, it has only cost you a few minutes of your time, but if you see where God has more for you, then your time will be well-invested.

Understand, man has taken the Bible and confused its simple message. By incorrectly dividing God's Word, and placing emphasis on certain scriptures while de-emphasizing others, man has made this road map say many different things. Although the Bible contains many mysteries, and some things we may never fully understand, the way of salvation is very clear. As you will see when we walk through the scriptures in chronological order, only one message of salvation is possible.

Personal Responsibility

When it comes to our salvation, the Bible has squarely placed the responsibility upon each individual. Second Peter 1:10 says "give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things ye shall never fall." Whether you agree or disagree with this study, by taking the time to read this, you are giving diligence to the greatest need in your life, and that is your salvation.

Philippians 2:12 tells us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. We, as individuals, must lay aside any denominational bias and personal preconceptions and study the Word of God with an open mind, and work out our salvation with the understanding that it is the single most important thing we will ever do in our lives. This study is an opportunity to look at what the scripture has to say about salvation. Open your mind and your heart as we study the teachings of Christ and then follow the actions of the disciples after His ascension.

I dare say most of us have never taken our salvation assurance to this level. Many of us have simply accepted what we have been taught and have never objectively explored the scriptures for ourselves. Others of us may have joined a church because we liked the pastor, enjoyed what we felt, and been encouraged by what we heard. Thus, we simply accepted what was presented as the plan of salvation. The problem is the Bible doesn't teach us to accept whatever we are taught or to embrace whatever feels good or sounds good. Proverbs tells us there is a way that There is something about this salvation journey that takes us off the broad road and puts us on a narrow path.

We cannot follow the crowd or worry about what others may do. We must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. We must give diligence to the greatest calling in our lives, which is to know we are saved according to His Word. seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (16:25). We must make certain our salvation is completely scriptural and not just what seems right or feels good. Although it is not "religiously correct" to say it, the Bible teaches that narrow is the way that leads to life and few there be that find it (Matthew 7:14).

A Plan

First, we must understand God has always had a plan. His plan has always been very specific. He has never offered multiple ways to get to Him. We can go all the way back to the beginning of His Word to understand this. God accepted Abel's offering but rejected Cain's. Cain was a farmer, and as a farmer, he brought the fruit of the ground as a sacrifice. Cain was bringing something that was important to him and something he had worked to produce. Yet, God rejected it because it was not according to His divine plan. To our human reasoning, what Cain brought should have sufficed, but it was not what God had required.

(continued on page 5)

SPECIALNOTICE ABOUT PACKAGES

We are sending out a limited number of bulk packages, due to the amount of newspapers that we are printing .

We have many faithful supporters who are receiving the newspaper in bulk. If you wish to receive a package of papers, 6 papers is the least we can mail out, please keep your address current with us as packages that are returned are very costly.

This new age of Technology has many people reading online if you do receive our newspaper and enjoy it please consider a donation so that we can reach others with the Gospel.

Beyond Belief A Biblical Study of Salvation continued:

We must understand, we cannot rely on what seems right and what makes sense to us, since that would change with each individual. We must rely totally on what has never changed, and that is the Word of God.

When God told Noah He would destroy the world, He gave him exact specifications on how he was to build the ark. God did not offer Noah a general concept, but instead gave very specific and detailed instructions.

When we study the Tabernacle Plan in the Old Testament, we find there was a certain order and specific directions for what the priest must do in order for sins to be forgiven. The priest could not alter this in any way and live. He had to follow the specific and detailed plan as it was laid out for him by God. The Bible clearly tells us He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). We have not arrived at this dispensation to find that, all of a sudden, God is offering us a buffet line of whatever we choose for our salvation. God still has a very clear and specific plan.

Foundation

Everything that endures is built on a solid foundation. The foundation we will use for this study are the very scriptures that teach us how to study the Word of God.

ALL scripture is given by
inspiration of God and is profitable
for Doctrine II Timothy 3:16

If we are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, and if we are to make our calling and election sure, we must first be certain that we take all scriptures related to salvation and doctrine. We cannot pick and choose only the scriptures we are familiar with or select just the ones that fall within our comfort zone and still be assured of our salvation. Thus, the first step in an objective study of salvation is to take all scripture. The second step is that we must rightly divide the Word.

Study to shew thyself approved
unto God, a workman that needeth
not to be ashamed, rightly dividing
the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

In the above scripture, Paul was instructing Timothy on the importance of correctly dividing the Word. Since Paul spoke of a right way to divide the Word, there must, obviously, be a wrong way. Therefore, in order to rightly divide the Word, let's explore what the Bible says about salvation one book at a time and with an awareness of the chronological order in which the events of the New Testament occurred.

Matthew Mark Luke John ACTS Romans Corinthians

In this study we will start with the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which all record the words of Christ. We will examine the things Jesus said in relation to salvation, and then we will go to the next book, the Book of Acts: the book where the church first began. In the Book of Acts, we will see where the things Christ taught during His ministry are totally fulfilled.

The final scripture we will use as part of our foundation is found in Hebrews.

How shall we escape, if we neglect
so great salvation; which at the first
began to be spoken by the Lord,
and was confirmed unto us by
them that heard him; Hebrews 2:3

Hebrews plainly lays out the formula for this great salvation: 1. Find what was first spoken by the Lord, which will take us to the four gospels. 2. Find out what was confirmed by those that heard Him. The only place where we can find this confirmation is in the book of Acts. Following this formula, we will see an incredible picture of fulfillment and confirmation of this great salvation spoken of in Hebrews 2:3. Very simply put, we are about to see what the Lord spoke and then follow those that heard him and see what message they confirmed.

Summary of The Foundation

What separates this salvation study from other studies is the obedience to these three foundational scriptures. When we look objectively at what was first spoken by the Lord, it is important that we take all scripture and not just John 3:16, which states that, "whosoever believeth in him should not perish " While believing is very important, Christ speaks of much more. (continued page 6)

Beyond Belief A Biblical Study of Salvation continued:

Once we have read and understood the words of Christ, we must then look to those that heard him. What do their words and actions confirm? This forces us to rightly divide the Word of God by going to the very next book, which is the book of Acts - no jigsaw puzzle to put together, no leaving out certain scriptures, no jumping around, no mystery to solve. We will simply let the chronological events unfold and reveal this "so great salvation."

Teachings of Christ

When beginning a study of salvation, the logical thing to do is to thoroughly examine the words of the One that will one day be our judge and to make sure we fulfilled everything He said. Don't take man's word for it, but study His teachings to show yourself approved unto God. The next four verses are taken directly from the four Gospels and are all words of Jesus Christ. These verses record Christ's directives and teachings that will lead us to make our calling and election sure. In addition to these four verses, more scriptures that reinforce and repeat Jesus's teachings are listed at the end of this study. Take your Bible and follow along as we work

HERE WE GO

Matthew 16:18-19 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and- whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Here we find something that is very critical in our search for salvation.

In verses 18 and 19, Jesus put an amazing amount of trust in Peter. Because Peter understood who Jesus was, he was given the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. These keys were not a literal set of keys; these keys are the words that Peter would speak. Whatever Peter binds and whatever he looses will be backed by the Kingdom of God. If we truly desire to be part of the Kingdom of Heaven, would it not make sense to follow the man who has the keys to unlock the door? Shouldn't Peter be the one we watch and listen to when it comes to our salvation?

Peter was the one Jesus trusted to show us the way. Understand, Jesus is now bound by His word, and if Peter preaches anything that contradicts what Jesus has already taught, we have a problem. But as we will see, there is no contradiction only an incredible confirmation. Many people turn to the writings of Paul to explain salvation. While Paul was a great man of God and an apostle, and while he wrote many powerful things in his letters, he did not arrive on the scene until after the plan of salvation had been clearly established.

Paul was never given the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven as was Peter, so why would we dismiss or explain away what Peter preached and rely solely upon Paul's writings to define salvation? Besides, if we study all the teachings of Paul, we will find that he actually obeyed and confirmed what Peter preached. Again, we must rightly divide the Word of God. Now that we have established that Christ entrusted Peter with the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, let's continue our study of what Christ taught His disciples about salvation.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized Here Jesus ties two things to being saved: we must believe and we must be baptized. He didn't say, " ... he that believeth shall be saved." His statement in Mark 16:16 is, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Since Jesus used the conjunction and, can we just pick one of the two and say, "I just choose to believe," and negate the necessity of baptism? Jesus presents believing and baptism as equally important? Many have said baptism is a good thing, but it is not necessary for salvation. As we will see, not only is it absolutely necessary for salvation, but a specific formula as well as a specific purpose for baptism are clearly recorded in scripture. shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Along with believing and baptism, Jesus points us to Jerusalem where two very important elements of our salvation would be preached: repentance and remission of sins. In the verse below, Jesus references Old Testament scriptures that were written about the Messiah and explains to His disciples that these scriptures are referring to Him. **Luke 24:47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

At the very core of our salvation experience our sins must be dealt with: to repent and have our sins totally remitted through His name is a critical message. The fact that Jesus tells us these things will be preached beginning at Jerusalem should not be overlooked. In the following scripture, Jesus tells us what will happen when we believe as the scriptures direct us to believe.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of water. **39**(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 7:38-39 In these verses Jesus teaches that when we believe according to scripture (continued on page 7)

Beyond Belief A Biblical Study of Salvation continued:

we should receive the Holy Ghost. The problem with a common but faulty interpretation of salvation lies in the fact that many people believe, but have negated the necessity of the Holy Ghost. They align their belief with only certain select scriptures. Remember, 2 Timothy 3:16 instructs us that all scripture is profitable for doctrine. As we will see, when we incorporate all scripture and "believe on Him as the scripture hath said," the Holy Ghost is something promised to us and is a sign of our true belief.

Summary of Jesus Christ's Teachings

We have just taken a walk through the gospels and studied what Jesus taught during His ministry. Let's quickly summarize.

1. The salvation message would begin at Jerusalem - Luke 24:47
2. Peter has the keys - Matthew 16:18-19
3. We must believe - Mark 16:16, John 7:38
4. We must repent - Luke 24:47
5. We must be baptized - Mark 16:16
6. Remission of sins would be in His name - Luke 24:47
7. Believers should receive the Holy Ghost - John 7:38

The Confirmation

Now that we have seen what was "first spoken by the Lord," we will find in the scriptures where those who heard him confirmed His teachings. Let us continue to rightly divide the Word and follow it in the order the events occurred and not jump from book to book as if this were a puzzle to be put together.

We will now go to the very next book, the book of Acts, where the Church begins. Watch, as through the next several verses how this confirmation is revealed. A few things to note in the beginning of Acts: 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: Jesus has just spent forty days after His resurrection speaking to His disciples of things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

After forty days of intense teaching with the resurrected savior, I doubt they were confused about what He wanted them to do. Therefore, what happens in the next few chapters is exactly what God had in mind. Remember, this great salvation would be confirmed "by them that heard him" (Hebrews 2:3). We must understand that these disciples were the very ones that had heard Him. In verse nine, after His final words to His disciples, Jesus ascends. Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Now for the first time, everything He lived and died for is ready to be put into action. Watch what happens as we simply walk through the scriptures and view the events just as they occurred: Acts 1:12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. They returned unto Jerusalem. Remember, in Luke 24:47 Jesus directed us to Jerusalem. If we are wanting to make sure we are following the message correctly, we must start at the beginning and not somewhere in the middle. We are now at the right place where Jesus said this message of repentance and remission of sins would be preached for the first time.

Now, let's go to the next chapter. They returned to Jerusalem and gathered in the upper room to wait for the promise Jesus told them was coming. The Holy Ghost falls on them and they begin to speak in other tongues (Acts 2:1-4). Focus on what happens next: a multitude gathers. Notice what the bible says in verses 12-13. 12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? 13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. Acts 2:12-13 At this point, these people who are in doubt and are mocking them are not believers. Remember what Jesus taught - we must believe in order to be saved. So, let's review the elements to make sure we have the entire picture: after His resurrection, Jesus had just spent an additional forty days teaching and training His disciples. He then ascended, after which, they returned to Jerusalem, and now, for the first time since they have fulfilled what Jesus told them to do, unbelievers are present. Watch what happens. 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: Acts 2:14 Who responds to the doubters and the mockers or unbelievers? Peter. Remember in Matthew 16:19 it was Peter that was given the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Notice what comes together in just a few verses: they are in the right place with the right man preaching and unbelievers are present. Let's see what occurs:

(continued on page 8)

Beyond Belief A Biblical Study of Salvation (continued from Nov-Dec 2019 Issue)

Peter begins to preach to them (verses 14-36). Observe what happens in verse 37 after Peter finished preaching. 37Now when they heard this they were pricked in their heart and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren what shall we do? Acts 2:37

Peter has now taken the doubters and mockers from unbelief to where they now believe. They are no longer mocking but, instead, are asking what they need to do. Also, remember, this "great salvation" would be confirmed by them that heard him. This question by unbelievers of "what shall we do" is asked to Peter and the rest of the apostles, the ones that just spent forty days with the Understand what has happened up to this point:

1.)They are at the right place - Jerusalem. 2.)They have the right man - Peter. 3.)Unbelievers have been taken to the point where they now believe and are asking, " ... what shall we do?" 4. For the first time since Jesus ascension, salvation is about to be taught to a lost world. To skip this next verse and to go to any other scripture is not rightly dividing the Word of God. In answer to the question what shall we do, Peter, the man that is about to open up to us the kingdom of Heaven, presents a plan that will either confirm or contradict the teachings of Christ. As we are about to see, there is no contradiction, but an amazing picture of fulfillment. Notice Peter's response. 38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38 In verse 38, Peter gives a specific answer of what they must do after they have believed. These three things fulfill exactly what Jesus taught. 1.)Repentance (Luke 24:47) 2.)Baptism (Mark 16:16) In Jesus Name for the remission of sins (Luke 24:47) 3.)Receiving the Holy Ghost (John 7:38)

Let us recall what Hebrews 2:3 states. 3How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; Hebrews 2:3 The table below provides an overview of what was spoken by the Lord and the corresponding confirmation by Peter and the apostles (them that heard him).

<i>Spoken by the Lord</i>	<i>Confirmed by Peter and the apostles</i>
<i>Repentance</i>	<i>Repentance</i>
<i>Luke 24:47</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>
<i>Baptism</i>	<i>Baptism</i>
<i>Mark 16:16</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>
<i>Remission of sins in his name</i>	<i>In the name of Jesus Christ for</i>
<i>Luke 24:47</i>	<i>the remission of sins Acts 2:38</i>
<i>Believers receive the Holy</i>	<i>Shall receive the Holy Ghost</i>
<i>Ghost John 7:38</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>

Summary of The Confirmation

In just a few verses, Peter, the man with the keys, fulfills everything Jesus taught in His ministry regarding salvation and what it takes in order to be part of the Kingdom of Heaven. When we take all scripture, rightly divide the Word of God, study what was taught by the Lord and what was confirmed by them that heard him, the logical conclusion is that Acts 2:38 is the only possible method of salvation. But let us assume, just for a moment, that we are not yet convinced of the three obvious steps listed above and that Acts' 2:38 was more of a suggestion rather than the actual plan of salvation. If we take a second look at what Christ not only taught but what He exemplified, we will see the beauty of truth and how God's salvation plan is repeated and confirmed throughout scripture.

Additional Evidence

Most Christian denominations agree on the fact that we must believe and that repentance is necessary, but then they attempt to explain away the necessity of being baptized in Jesus name and receiving the Holy Ghost. At this point we must not rely on human reasoning or any religious teachings that are formed, from man's opinions. When it comes to our eternal salvation, we' must follow exactly what the Word of God so plainly reveals. With that in mind, let's take a second look at what Jesus exemplified. Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, 10, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: Matthew 3:16

Here we find Jesus showing us two very important things. First, we find the creator of the world being baptized, and second, the Spirit descending upon him. At this point, we may not fully understand the significance of the Spirit descending and how that applies to us. This will become clear as we proceed. However, after reading this scripture, the debate over the necessity of baptism should be over. Some have erroneously relegated baptism to an act separate and apart from salvation in an attempt to negate its necessity. We have the man without any sin in the Jordan River being baptized, so how can we, who are born in sin, even question whether or not baptism is essential for our salvation? His example aligns with what He stated in Mark 16:16, " ... he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Peter also states in I Peter 3:21, " ... baptism doth also now save us."

Two important truths to take from what Jesus, exemplified: 1.)He goes down into the water in baptism. (Note that His baptism was by immersion.) 2.)The Spirit descends. The next verse is one of the most powerful in the Word of God. Jesus is very clear about what it takes to enter the Kingdom of God.

(continued on page 9)

Beyond Belief *continued*

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. In John 3:5, when Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus and spoke with Him face to face, Jesus answers him very directly. He states that you cannot enter into the Kingdom of God unless born of the water and the Spirit. This is not some religious system trying to make it difficult. No, it is Jesus Himself saying two things must happen before a man can be part of that kingdom. Jesus clearly states that somewhere in our salvation experience we must have a water birth and a Spirit birth, or we will not enter the Kingdom of God. Many have argued that Jesus is not speaking of baptism or the Holy Ghost and have tried to explain away this scripture. However, we know we cannot rely on a theory or a personal interpretation. We must follow what is validated by the scriptures. Let us watch as the scriptures give four different accounts of the importance and necessity of baptism (water birth) and the in filling of the Holy Ghost (Spirit birth).

Acts,8:14-17 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. In these verses we see lost people that believed Phillip's preaching. When they believed, they obeyed Phillip and did two things:

1. *They were baptized (born of water)*
2. *They received the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit).*

In Acts 9:1-6 we find the story of the conversion of Paul who wrote the majority of the New Testament. God stops him on the way to Damascus and tells him to go into the city where he will be told what he must do. Obviously, when he is blinded and hears, a voice from heaven, he quickly becomes a believer, but what is it that he must do from that point onward? 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 9:17 Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. In verses 17 and 18, again we find two things that occur.

1. *He is told, be filled with the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit).*
2. *He arose and was baptized (born of water).*

Acts 10:1-5 tells the story of Cornelius, who was a devout, God- fearing man who had a sincere relationship with God. Yet, we find God has Cornelius send for Peter to tell him what he needed to do in order to be saved (Acts 11 :14). This means that there was still more required of him than just being a good person and believing in God. Acts 10:44-48 tells what happens during Peter's visit to Cornelius.

Acts 10:44-48 44While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. Notice there are only two things that change for Cornelius and his household in Acts chapter 10:

1. *They receive the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit)*
2. *They are baptized (born of water).*

In our last scripture text we find Paul, the writer of the majority of the New testament, focused on two things. Acts 19:1-6 'And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. "Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

These scriptures record Paul "finding certain disciples" and he asks only two questions:

1. *Have ye received the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit)?*
2. *How were you baptized (born of water)?*

Why these two questions? Because Paul understood that Jesus had put two things into motion that were absolutely essential - we must be born of water and of Spirit. Summary of Water and Spirit A common theme that runs through these four chapters is the ultimate importance of being baptized and being filled with the Holy Ghost, thus fulfilling John 3:5 - a water and a Spirit birth. In verse 7 of John 3 we see where Jesus says, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye MUST be born again." " When Saul (later renamed Paul) had his encounter with Jesus in Acts 9, we find that Jesus uses this same word must again.. He tells Saul to "Arise and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou MUST do."

(continued on page 10)

Beyond Belief (continued from 9)

Is it simply a coincidence that the two things that Saul is required to do are be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost? These two things just so happen to fulfill the must from John 3:5 - a water and spirit birth. Is it a coincidence when Paul finds certain disciples in Acts 19 that his only concern is their baptism and if they have received the Holy Ghost? Obviously, what was a must for him was also a must for them.

Is it a coincidence in Acts 10 that the only thing recorded in this chapter that took Cornelius from unsaved to saved is baptism and the Holy Ghost?

Is it a coincidence that Peter, the man with the keys to the kingdom, in his message on the day of Pentecost included baptism and Holy Ghost when unbelievers asked, " ... what shall we do?" The beauty of truth is how this simple message is repeated over and over. In the Word of God there are no coincidences. Man has devised many theories to explain away John 3:5 in an attempt to negate the necessity of baptism (water birth) and being filled with the Holy Ghost (spirit birth) but, as stated in the beginning of this book, we cannot rely on man nor can we base our eternal salvation on clever theories; we must follow what His Word has revealed. Simply put, John 3:5 is the verbal expression of Jesus' actions (Matthew 3:16).

Conclusion

Not only did Christ teach baptism and the Holy Ghost during His ministry, but also in the book of Acts we find overwhelming evidence of this teaching being fulfilled. Whether it was to believers or to unbelievers, the message was the same: they were baptized (born of water) and received the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit). Confessing and accepting Christ and saying a sinner's prayer are all positive steps toward God, and they bring us into a relationship with Him. Yet, to stop at this point would not fulfill the scriptural plan of salvation. We must have more than a relationship with God, we must be born again. We cannot get caught up in what religion teaches or what man thinks or theorizes. We must follow to the letter what has stood the test of time: the rightly divided Word of God. If we could have been in Jerusalem when Peter preached his first message after Christ's ascension, we would have heard him confirm the message of repentance, baptism, and the Holy Ghost that was first spoken by the Lord. If we could have been there that night when Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, we would understand the essentiality of a water and Spirit birth. The beauty of truth is how His words to Nicodemus so perfectly align with Peter's message in Acts 2:38 - a message of baptism (water birth) and the Holy Ghost (spirit birth). One simple question every Christian believer must answer is, "Do I know for certain that I have been born of the water and of the Spirit?" We must understand that there is no room for an incorrect or faulty interpretation. Jesus was very clear. Without these two elements, we will never enter the kingdom of God. The story of Cornelius in Acts Chapter 10 proves more is required of us than just living a good life and believing in God. Whether you are an unbeliever, a Cornelius, or a disciple, ask yourself, what would God have me do? The answer is simple, it is what each of them did, and that is fulfill John 3:5 and Acts 2:38. They were born of water (baptized) and born of Spirit (received the Holy Ghost). So What Next? 1. Repent. The Bible says a" have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Whether saint or sinner, we a" need repentance. When we sincerely ask Him for forgiveness, the Bible says He is faithful and just to forgive us of a" our sins. 2. Be baptized in Jesus name. Find a church that will baptize you in the only formula recorded in scripture: in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In a" scripture, there is only one way anyone was ever baptized, and that was in the name of the Lord or the Lord Jesus. Nowhere in the Bible is anyone baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. So, in Acts 2:38 when Peter instructed the crowd to be baptized in the name of Jesus, did he disregard what Jesus said in Matthew 28:19? Absolutely not. We must remember that Matthew 28:16 says eleven men went with Jesus to Galilee (One of those eleven was Peter.). Thus, only eleven men heard Jesus's expression in verse 19. Therefore, they were the ones best qualified to interpret what He meant. That is why Peter said, on the Day of Pentecost, " ... in the name of Jesus Christ." With those words Peter fulfilled what Jesus said and that was to Baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and that name is Jesus. Jesus is the redemptive New Testament name of the eternal Godhead. The angel told Mary in Luke 1:31, "behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." Jesus himself said in John 5:43, "I am come in my Father's name " He said in John 14:26, "The Holy Ghost is sent in his name " Consequently, the valid expression of the Father/ Son/Holy Ghost in name is Jesus. One principle that runs throughout the New Testament is the power of the name of Jesus.

- *Healings were commanded in the name of Jesus (Acts 3:6).*
- *Signs and wonders were performed in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:30).*
- *The disciples preached in the name of Jesus (Acts 8:25).*
- *They were persecuted because of the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18).*
- *Spirits were subject to the name of Jesus (Luke 10:17)*
- *New believers and disciples were baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 8:12, Acts 19:5).*
- *We are directed in whatever we do, in word or deed, to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17).*
- *Salvation is in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12).*

In light of all these scriptural directives and examples, why would we be baptized any other way Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit, First, we must understand this is a gift that is promised to everyone. We will notice in scripture that there is a sound that accompanies this born-again experience of receiving the Holy Ghost. John 3:8

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Lost In the House of God

In Luke 15:8-10 the Parable of the Lost Coin was an illustration used to show God's joy over finding the lost. In this parable we find a woman searching and sweeping her house for her lost coin.

This coin was one of ten silver coins that were part of a headdress called a Semedi. The headdress given to her by her betrothed stood for their coming marriage. It was a symbol of their commitment to each other.

The lost coin held significant value both materially and emotionally. The coin here was a Drachma, the equivalent to a day's wage. Losing the coin would be very distressful to the woman that lost it.

The woman with ten silver coins had lost one of the coins in the house and lit a lamp, sweeps the house and searches carefully until she found it. When she found it, she called all her friends and neighbors together and said, "Rejoice with me; I have found the piece which I had lost."

Compared to the Parable of the Lost Coin, we have souls sitting on the pews in our church who are lost. Like the woman searching for her lost coin, we need to diligently seek out the lost and sweep out unconcern. We need to pray and travail until the lost souls are found.

Remember the woman in the parable? She searched in the house till she found that which was lost.

God values every person, and with joy he wants to save the lost. In Luke 15:10 it says "likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents."

We must find the lost in God's house or we will become distressed like the woman who lost her coin. When we find the lost souls, we can rejoice with them. What value and joy they will bring to the house of God. By R. Beck

This Worry

If you could take this worry
That is eating at your heart, Wrap it
up, and throw it away,
Then from it completely depart,-
Wouldn't this just be wonderful,-
Imagine the great relief,
The quietness within your heart,
The restfulness and peace!
My friend, this all is possible
Thru our Savior Jesus Christ,
The One Who would take each burden
That comes into our life.
So wrap your every burden up
And give it over to Him
Who promises, when we trust Him,
To give God's Peace within!

Ruth V. Eaker

1 Corinthians 10: 13;

Philippians 4:6 & 7

PEACE
is not
ABSENCE
of Trouble
BUT THE
PRESENCE OF
CHRIST !

Small Steps

**Do not despair, that you cannot
change The world in a day or two.
Instead, just give your very best
In the little things you do.
Then you will find in days to come
When taken all together,
These little steps did change and
make The world a little better.
Thomas C. Gallagher**



Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

Whenever I am troubled
and lost in deep despair
I bundle all my troubles up
and go to God in prayer ...
I tell him I am heartsick
and lost and lonely, too,
That my mind is deeply burdened
and I don't know what to do
But I know He stilled the tempest
and calmed the angry sea
And I humbly ask if in His Love
He'll do the same for me ...
And then I just keep quiet
and think only thoughts of peace
And if I abide in stillness
my "restless murmurings" cease.
Helen Steiner Rice

**The best way to be
successful is to follow the
advice you give to others.**

If I were the devil

by Paul Harvey

If I were the prince of darkness, I would want to engulf the whole world in darkness.

I'd have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I would not be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree.

So I would set about to take over the United States and Canada.

I would begin with a campaign of whispers.

With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: "Do as you please."

To the young I would whisper that "The Bible is a myth." I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I'd confide that "what's bad is good and what's good is 'square.'"

And the old I would teach to pray after me, "Our Father - who art in Washington."

I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull, uninteresting. I'd threaten television with dirtier movies.

I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentleman of distinction. I'd tranquilized the rest with pills.

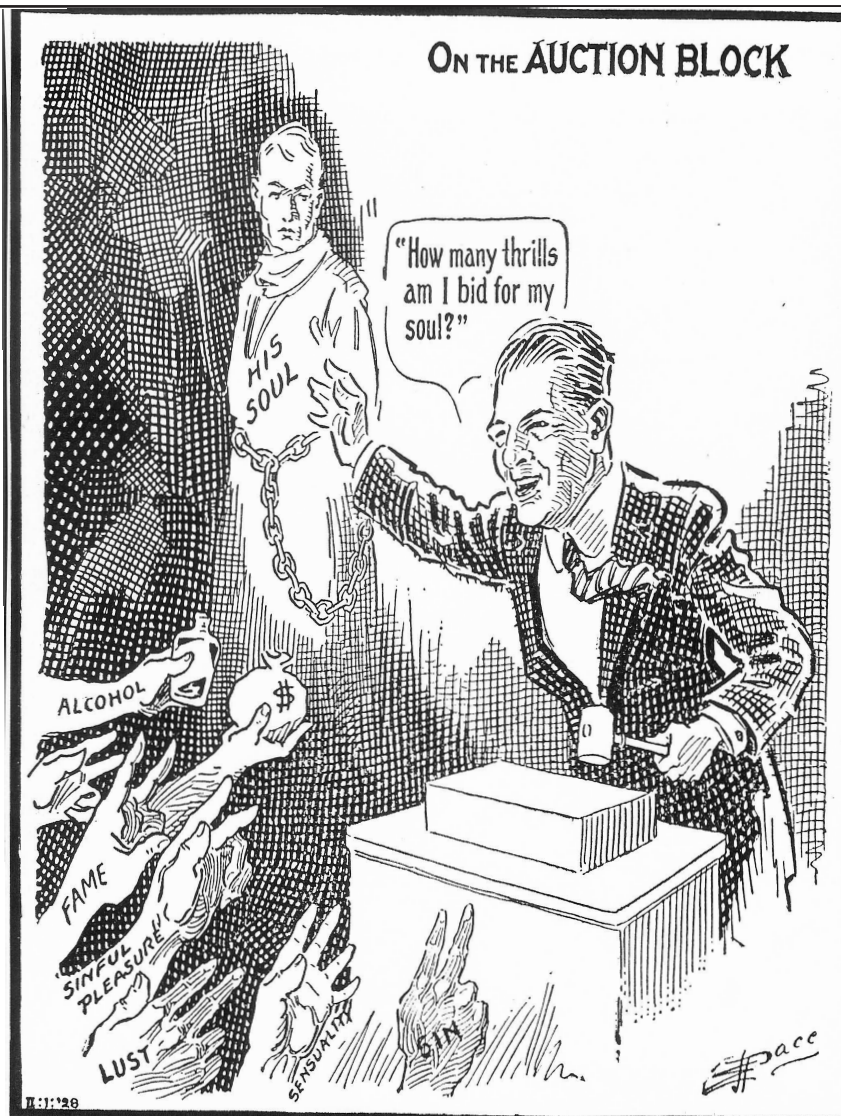
If I were the devil, I'd soon have families, churches and nations at war with themselves. Until each, in turn, was consumed.

If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions - just let those run wild. Until well before you knew it you'd have to have drug-sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

Within a decade, I'd have prisons overflowing and judges promoting pornography. Soon I could evict God from the courthouse and the schoolhouse and then from the houses of Congress.

In His own churches, I would substitute psychology for religion and deify science. I'd lure priests and pastors into misusing children and church money.

If I were the devil, I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg and symbol of Christmas a bottle.



If I were the devil, I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg and symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the devil, I'd take from those who have and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

What'll you bet I couldn't get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? .

I would caution against extremes in hard work, in patriotism and moral conduct.

I'd convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that what you see on TV is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public and lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure.

In other words, If I were the devil, I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing.

Prepare To Meet Thy God

The Cry of The Heathen

*A cry of woe and fear;
It is the voice of millions
Who grope in heathen
night ; It is the cry of Jesus
To rise and send them light.
With every pulse's beating,
Another soul is gone,
With all its guilt and sorrow,
To stand before the Throne.
And learn with awe and
wonder
The story of that grace
Which God to us had trusted
For all our fall en race.
Oh, how the Master's bosom
Must swell with love and
pain
As evermore they meet Him-
That sad and ceaseless
train; And if He holds us
guilty
For all our brothers' blood,
What answer can we offer
Before the throne of God?
Author Unknown*

*In
Other
words,
If
I were the devil,
I'd just keep
right on
doing
what
he's
doing.*

Think On These Things

I Will Lift Up Mine Eye's

"I will lift up mine eye's
Unto the hill's," David said
Running from his enemy
Wishing comfort from his bed

Fleeing in the wilderness
Hiding in a cave
Seeking God for safety
And his promise he gave

He knew God would
Strengthen him, protect and guide
He felt Gods presence
Close by his side

Our battles are not physical
Yet the attack is real
We can learn from David
As he bends his knee to kneel

"My help comes from the Lord," David
faithfully proclaimed
With his eye's lifted up
And his countenance unashamed
Becky Wooten

**A LITTLE
PROGRESS
EACH DAY
ADDS UP
TO BIG RESULTS**

Nobody cares how
much you know, until
they know how much
you care.

"I JUST WISH I KNEW GOD
LOVED ME. BUT HOW CAN
WE KNOW FOR SURE?"



ROMANS
5:8

What if = Fear
What if = Faith

The
Will of God
will never take you
where the
Grace
of God
will not protect you.

There Will Always Be A God

They cannot shell His temple,
Nor dynamite His throne;
They cannot bomb His city,
Nor rob Him of His own.

They cannot take Him captive,
Nor strike Him deaf and blind,
Nor stave Him to surrender,
Nor make Him change His mind.

They cannot cause Him panic,
Nor cut off His supplies,
They cannot take His kingdom,
Nor hurt Him with their lies.

Though all the world be shattered,
His truth remains the same,
His righteous laws still potent,
And "Father" still His name.

Though we face war and struggle
And feel their goad and rod,
We know above confusion There
always will be God.

Albert Leonard Murray

TRUST *Never* puts
a question mark
where the Lord
has put a period.

Satan's Steppingstones

Stepping Stones: A Path to Peace or Peril?

Walking beside a quiet stream in the woods or a city park, one might notice a series of steppingstones placed across the water. These stones, carefully positioned, allow us to cross safely from one side to the other. It's a simple image—but one that carries profound spiritual meaning.

Just as these stones offer a way across a stream, Satan places his own steppingstones across the stream of Better Judgment—a spiritual divide that separates Christians from the world. These stones may seem harmless at first, but they lead to a dangerous destination: a wilderness of sin, far from the presence of God.

The Bible assures us that with every temptation, the Lord provides a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). But recognizing the danger is the first step. Let's examine some of the devil's most common steppingstones—and the scriptural escape routes God has lovingly provided.

The Devil's Steppingstones

Prayerlessness A life without prayer is a life without power. Jesus taught that “men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1). James reminds us that “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16). Prayer is our lifeline to heaven.

No Testimony Silence about our faith weakens our witness. Revelation 12:11 declares, “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.” Our story matters. Speak it boldly.

No Bible Reading Neglecting God's Word leaves us spiritually vulnerable. Paul urges us to “study to shew thyself approved unto God” (2 Timothy 2:15), and David wrote, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11).

No Desire for Church Isolation from the body of Christ leads to spiritual decline. Hebrews 10:25 warns against “forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.” Church is not just a building—it's a spiritual home.

Love of the World Affection for worldly things dims our love for God. James 1:27 calls us to remain “unspotted from the world,” and 1 John 2:15–16 cautions, “Love not the world... For all that is in the world... is not of the Father.”

Slang and Impure Speech Our words reflect our heart. 1 Peter 1:15 calls us to be “holy in all manner of conversation,” and James 3:11 asks, “Doth a fountain send forth at the same



place sweet water and bitter?”

Petting and Lust Physical intimacy outside of God's design is a dangerous gateway. James 1:15 warns, “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

What Does the World Really Offer?

Some may ask, “What can we get out of life if we don't partake in what the world offers?” The answer is found in Ephesians 5:18: “Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” The best the world offers is a poor substitute for the blessings of the Lord and the peace that passes all understanding.

The Broad Way and Its End

Satan's path is wide and crowded. Many who wish to turn back find themselves swept along by the momentum of the worldly crowd. At the end of that road lies a precipice—and beyond it, the lake of fire.

Peace vs. the Devil's Reward

God's peace is not just the absence of trouble—it's the presence of Christ. It's calm in the storm, joy in sorrow, and strength in weakness. “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” — Philippians 4:7

The devil's reward, by contrast, is chaos disguised as pleasure, emptiness masked as fulfillment, and destruction dressed in glitter. It ends not in peace, but in pain. Not in rest, but in ruin.

Final Thoughts

Each day, we walk beside the stream. The stones are there—some placed by God, others by the enemy. The choice is ours. Will we step toward safety, or stumble into sin?

Let us choose wisely. Let us pray, testify, read Scripture, gather with believers, speak with purity, and walk in holiness. For on the other side of Better Judgment lies not the devil's domain—but the kingdom of God, where peace reigns, joy abounds and love never ends.

Setting The World Afire

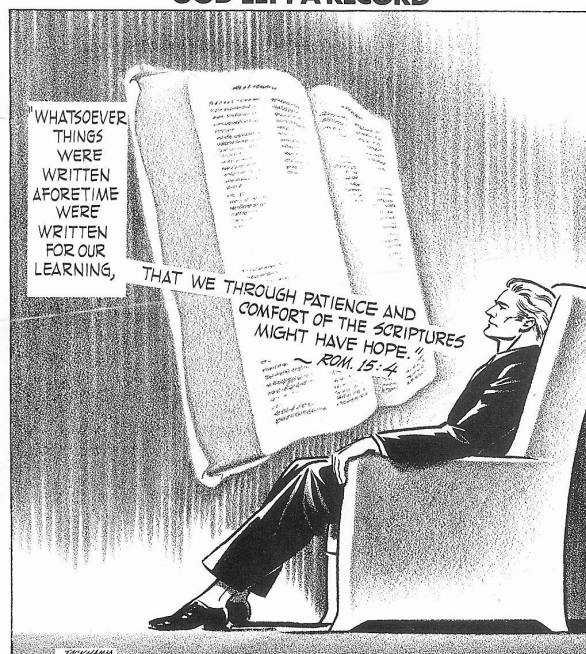
To set the world afire with this glorious truth was a commandment from Jesus Himself when he said "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Pentecostal Fire is falling today. It is like a giant fire which is spreading out of control engulfing the hearts and lives of hungry men and women in our world. Acts 5:39 says "If it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it, lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. Throughout the centuries Satan has been waging a constant warfare against the people of God, but God has always found a way to use this warfare to defeat Satan himself. In the Old Testament we find the Children of Israel with the Red Sea before them and the armies of Pharaoh behind them. It looked as though all was lost, and perhaps they would never see a Promised Land. But God used the armies of Pharaoh that day to prove to them that no matter what encounter Satan puts before them, that He would see them through. So was the case with the Philistines. Satan had God's people backed against a wall and trembling at the site of his gigantic master-piece, but God in His simplicity used a shepherd boy, with a sling and five stones, to prove to His people that no matter how big the odds, He had promised to be their God, and He would fight their battles for them.

Early New Testament times found Satan still in pursuit of God's people. The fires of Pentecost had no more than fallen than did the fires of persecution begin. Although with each persecution there came a force which spread this new gospel to the utmost parts of the then known world. However, as many of the early church Christians died, and the fires of persecution increased, the fires of Pentecost were being stamped on by opposition. But God had not forgotten what the Prophet Joel had prophesied of and Peter had once again spoken

of on the day of Pentecost, in Acts 2:16-18 when he said, this is that which was spoken through the Prophet, Joel. And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. And upon my servants and my handmaiden in those days will I pour out my Spirit and they shall prophesy." This gospel spread quickly the apostles turned the world upside down Act chapter 17 How did it all come about? By clean living, a standard of Holiness, and a desire for the Spirit of God to dwell in one's life. It is our duty to see that our lives meet these three qualifications so we ourselves can continue to set the world afire with this glorious gospel. Yes, there will still be trials and persecutions. Satan is still challenging God in his race against eternity. He has unleashed every Satanic Force imaginable in our world today. But thank God for the promise which Paul wrote of in Romans 8:31 when he said, "And what shall we say of these things? for if God be for us, who can be against us?"

by: Terry Bratton

GOD LEFT A RECORD



Pentecostal Fire is falling today, engulfing the hearts of hungry men and women in our world.

The Builder

author unknown

*A builder built a temple,
He wrought with grace and skill;
Foundation, pillars, arches,
All fashioned to work his will.*

*Men said, as they saw its beauty,
"Magnificent it is, my friend,
Great is thy skill, O builder--
Thy fame shall never end!"*

*A teacher built a temple
With loving and infinite care,
Planning each arch with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.*

*None praised her unceasing efforts,
None knew of her wondrous plan,
For the temple she was building
Was unseen by the eyes of man.*

*Gone is the builder's temple,
Crumpled into the dust;
Low lies each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust.*

*But the temple the teacher
fashioned
Will last while the ages roll,
For that beautiful, unseen temple
Was a child's immortal soul.*

Wheel Of Prophecy

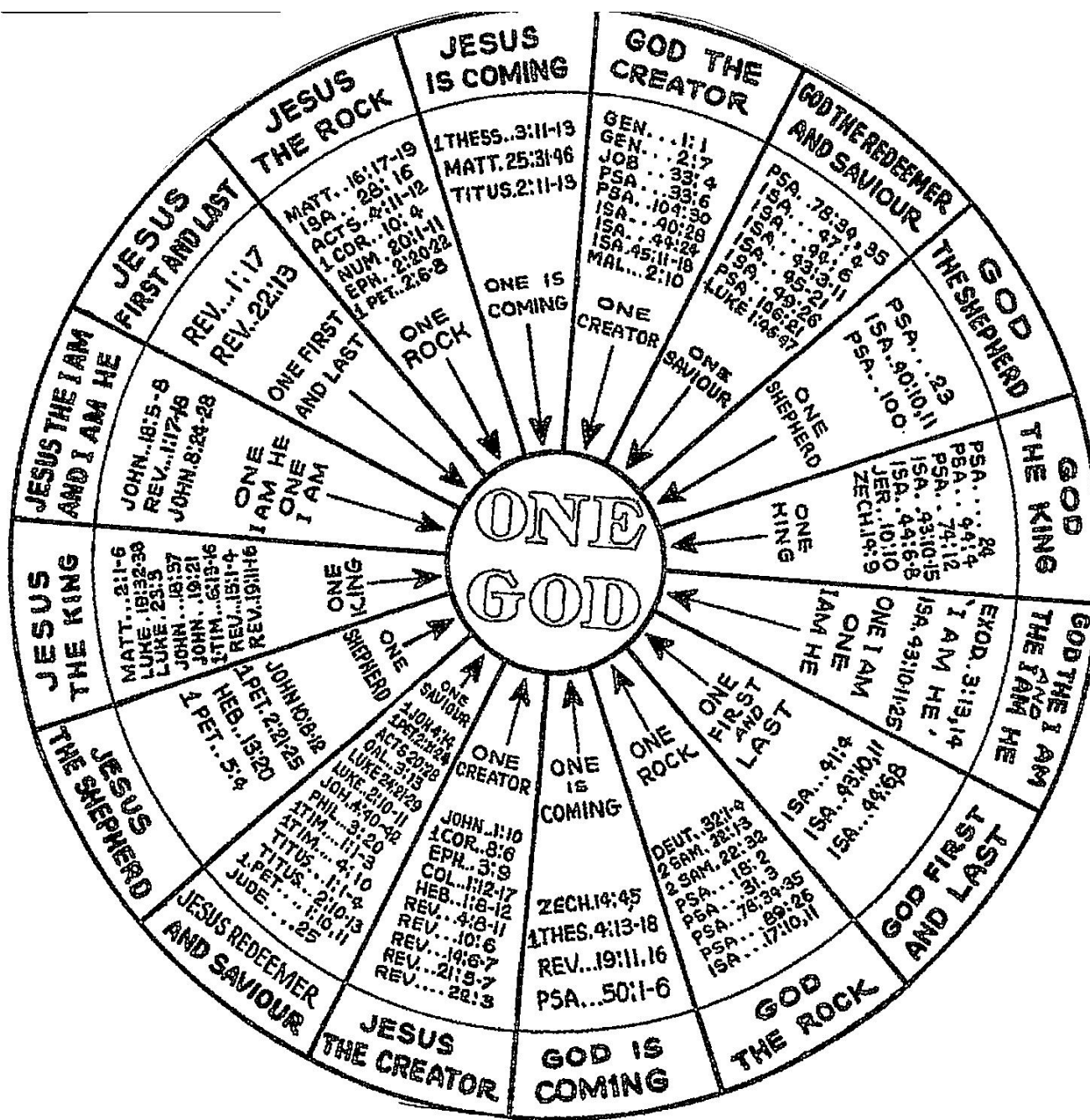
God is a
Spirit

John 4:23-24
Acts 7:48-49
Acts 17:24-28
Psalm 139:7-12
I Kings 8:27
Jeremiah 23:23-24

Who Is God

There is One
God

Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Mark 12:28-34
Malachi 2:10 Isaiah
44:6-8 Isaiah 45:2-6,
21-23 Isaiah 46:8-9
I Corinthians 8:4-6
Ephesians 4:5-6
I Timothy 2:5 James
2:19 Revelation 4:2-3



Jesus Is
Man

Isaiah 7:14 Isaiah
9:6 Luke 1:31 2:6-7
Acts 17:31
Gal 4:4 Philippians
2:7-8 I Timothy
2:5 Hebrews 4:15
Hebrews 7:24-25

Jesus Is
God

Isaiah 7:14
Isaiah 9:6
Micah 5:2
John 1:1, 14
John 1:10
John 8:24, 58-59
John 14:6-11
II Corinthians 5:19
I Timothy 3:16