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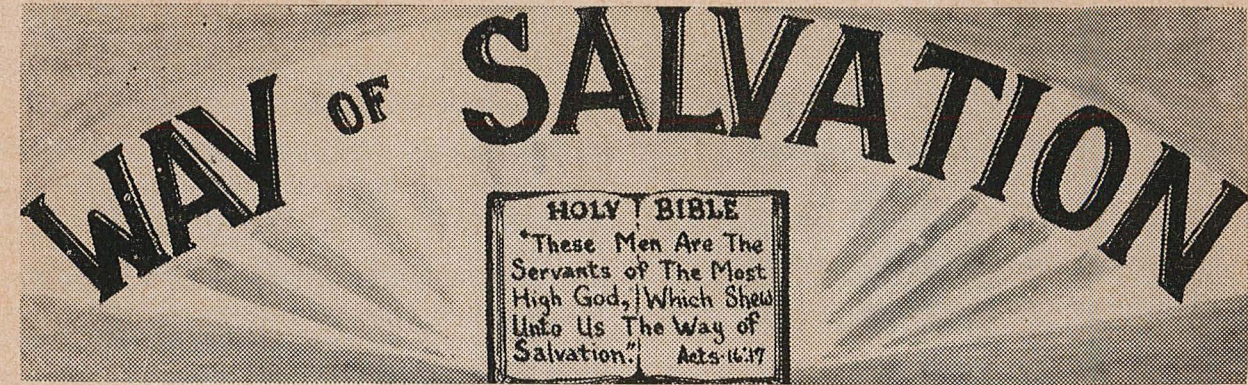
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For all your book and tract needs write to:  
**WAY OF SALVATION**  
1213 E. Jordan St.—Pensacola, Fla.



Volume 4

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA — MARCH, 1956

No. 8

## Can Good People Be Saved Outside Of The Church?

BY J. R. COLVIN

What I mean by good people is the very best of people. Can they be saved outside of the church? What I mean by the church is the one Jesus declared he would build (Matt. 16:18); the church Paul said the Lord purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28); the church the Lord added the saved to (Acts 2:47); yes, the church you can read about in the New Testament. Can the best of people be saved outside of it?

### Did Christ Die In Vain?

If it is true that men can be saved outside of the church, as many seem to think, Christ came to this old world, suffered, bled and died on Calvary's cross in vain. When we come to real serious thinking, could we say Christ came to this sin-cursed earth for nothing? The Bible tells us (Acts 20:28) that the Lord purchased the church with his own blood. If men can be saved without being in this church, why did the Lord pay such an extreme price for an institution that is not necessary?

### Is the Gospel Powerless?

If men are saved outside of the church Jesus built, they are saved without obedience to the gospel of Christ. Yet, in Rom. 1:16 we learn that the Gospel is God's power to save. Therefore, if saved outside of the church, the Gospel of Christ is of no effect.

### Salvation Is A Spiritual Blessing

Surely, everyone would say salvation from sin is a spiritual blessing. We read in Eph. 1:3 that all spiritual blessings are in Christ. Of course, to be in Christ is to be in His body and Eph. 5:23 says, "For the husband is the head of the wife; even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the saviour of the body." In Col. 1:18 and Eph. 1:22, 23 we learn the body is the church.

Therefore, Christ is the saviour of the church. Yes, it is true that the church does not save but Christ does save the church and to be in Christ is to be in His body, the church. If we want eternal life we must get into Christ (1 Jno. 5:11) "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in His son."

### Redemption In Christ

If men are redeemed from sin it will be through the rich grace of God that gave Jesus Christ who poured out His blood to purchase the eunuch. In the Ephesian letter, chapter 1 and verses 6 and 7, we read the following: "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein He hath made us acceptable in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." If we are not with Christ we are against him (Matt. 12:30). Dear reader, are you with Christ?

### A Good Man Unsaved

A great example is given unto us as recorded in Acts, chapters 10 and 11, of a great and good man who was unsaved. The man by the name of Cornelius was a devout man, a God-fearing man with all his house, a praying man, one that gave much alms to the people, a just man, and of good report among all the nations of the Jews. Yet, in spite of all of this goodness, he was unsaved. (Acts 11:13, 14). "And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter; who shall tell thee words whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved." Dear friend, do you know of anyone outside of the church who is better than Cornelius was? He was not good enough to be saved without the blood of Christ being applied to his soul. Notice, this man was commanded to be baptized (Acts 10:48). But why be baptized? In Gal. 3:27 we read, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." And, of course, to be in Christ is to be in His body. We also read (Cor. 12:13) that baptism puts one into the body of Christ. Col. 1:18 tells us that the body is the church.

Therefore, we must conclude that good men today cannot be saved outside of the church that Jesus gave His blood for. It is also true that men cannot be saved without a good clean life which is devoted to the Lord as was Cornelius.

—Apostolic Times

### Way of Salvation

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PERVIE NICHOLS — Editor and Publisher

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## WITNESSES AGAINST US

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:1-2).



PERVIE NICHOLS

The great cloud of witnesses mentioned in the above scripture are the faithful souls mentioned in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews who served God under great trials and are represented as watching us in our successes and failures. As witnesses, they can testify against us in the last day—the day of judgment, if we fail to live and worship as God directs.

It is much easier to offer excuses than to enter the Christian race and run for the prize of eternal life, but God will not accept our excuses. Whatever our excuse may be, some of the ancient worthies can testify that we are inexcusable since they served God under more trying circumstances than ours. Please read Hebrews, chapter eleven, and note some trials endured by those mentioned there.

If one says that God's commands are difficult, then let him remember God's command to Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice (Gen. 22). Abraham did not think this command was too hard. He can thus testify against anyone who thinks that God demands too much when he commands the alien sinner to believe in Christ (Jn. 8:21-24; Mk. 16:16), repent of all sins (Acts 17:30; Acts 2:38), confess with the mouth that Christ is Lord (Mt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10), and be "baptized into Christ," "for the remission of sins" (Rom. 6:3; Acts 2:38). No command applying either to alien sinner or child of God is as difficult to obey as the command to Abraham to offer his son. Hence, when one hesitates to obey God's commands because he thinks they are too diffi-

cult, let him remember that Old Testament character and his obedience.

If one thinks he cannot give up sinful pleasure, Moses can testify that it can be done. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer afflictions with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." (Heb. 11:24-26). Moses can thus testify against all who think they can't give up pleasures, riches, etc., and live right.

Enoch can testify against all who think that their environment is too sinful for them to live right, for he walked with God three hundred years when the whole world was steeped in wickedness. (Gen. 5:21-24; Jude 14-15.)

If one says it is too far to the place of worship, the eunuch can witness against you, for he traveled one thousand miles to worship, yet he was not a Christian—he was unsaved. (Acts 8.)

Those who think there is too much work to be done in the church and not enough people to do it, let them remember Noah's hard work in building the ark (Gen. 6). He did not think that there was too much work for him. He can testify against us.

Some say they are too poor to give anything to the Lord. But the poor widow (Lk. 21), gave all she had. She was commended of the Lord, and is a witness against all who try to excuse themselves from the obligation to give of their means to support the work of the church on the grounds that they are too poor.

Some think they are too mean and sinful to be saved, but the Pentecostians can testify against us, for they had crucified the Christ. About three thousand of them became Christians—were saved, and added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:22-47).

Some think that if becoming a Christian means that they must turn their backs upon relatives and friends, that they can't do it, let them remember the Apostle Paul who turned from the religion of his parents and became a Christian. By so doing he made enemies of his own people (Acts 9). Read the Book of Acts.

## Shifting Responsibility

Will Rogers said that there were three stages in American history, "the passing of the Indian, the passing of the buffalo, and the passing of the buck." Certainly there is too much of the shifting of responsibility in our own age and in the church especially.

A number of people try to shift their responsibility as Christians to other members of their own families. Parents who never attend church themselves excuse themselves by explaining, "We send our children." Husbands try to do their religion by seeing that their wives attend. Young married people often take refuge in the statement, "We don't go but mother and father never miss."

It is easy to reason that the other fellow will carry on even if I am not there; hence one stays away from services without little thought until death, special occasions, trouble, etc., come; and then one would think the "once-in-a-while" Christian was a pillar in the church. Who does such a member think he is fooling—surely not God; surely not the regular member who knows the facts—maybe just himself.

—Selected

## News Bits

Meetings: The church at Niceville, Florida will conduct a gospel meeting from March 26 to April 3 with B. F. Haynie as speaker.

Bill Crews will be with the Brownsville church in Pensacola in a meeting March 25 through April 5.

The Jordan Street congregation in Pensacola will conduct a series of services with two speakers each night, March 11 through the 16th. The general theme of the services will be BUILDING UP THE LOCAL CHURCH.

#### TV PROGRAM TIME CHANGE

The television program conducted each Lord's Day afternoon, usually seen at 4:00 p.m. will now be seen at 2:30 p.m. Those living within a 200 mile radius of Pensacola may view this program over WEAR-TV (Channel 3). We urge you to write a card or letter each week to this program. It is believed that much good is being done.

#### ADDRESS CHANGES

Those changing addresses should notify us immediately, giving both their old and new addresses.

#### ATTENTION

#### SEND

THE WAY OF SALVATION  
TO A FRIEND AND HELP TEACH HIM  
THE TRUTH

## Sermon Outline

### DO WE REALLY NEED DENOMINATIONS?

#### 1 Corinthians 1:10-29

By Sam Hartline

I. There are 250 or more religious bodies today. All teach different doctrines. Clear thinking people know that all these doctrines cannot be right.

- If one preacher preached all these doctrines, (faith only, not by faith only, etc.) he would be considered crazy.
- Yet many people can preach different things and be considered all right. (?)

### II. Do we really need denominations?

- People say many times that we do need them. That a person can believe any thing he so desires and still go to heaven.
- The Church that Jesus built is not a denomination. Something that man made will never be as good as something God made. Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28.

### III. Consider some points about the church as found in the New Testament.

- What the church is called. Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27. To be in the church or Body is the same as being in Christ.
- The following things are in the church.
  - Grace. John 1:17; 2 Tim. 2:1
  - Reconciliation. 2 Cor. 5:18, 19; Eph. 2:16
  - Redemption, Forgiveness. Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13, 14
  - Fullness, Completeness (all we need). Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18, 19; Col. 2:10
  - New Creature. 2 Cor. 5:17; Become one by John 3:3-5
  - All Spiritual Blessings. Ephesians 1:3
    - All are in the church, not any Spiritual blessings are outside.
    - Why do we need anything else if the church contains all Spiritual Blessings?
  - Salvation. Acts 2:47; 2 Tim. 2:10; Acts 4:12; Acts 20:32

### IV. Friend, all these things are in the church! WHAT DO WE NEED WITH ANYTHING ELSE?

- We do not need, and there is no need for, denominations.
- What blessings can a denomination give? Answer—All are in Christ—not out. To be in Christ is the same as being in the church. 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27. These blessing are in the church, not in something else.

### V. How does one get into the church?

- Gal. 3:26, 27; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 12:13
- Why not obey the Gospel today? 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

## THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

BY PAT KIRKLAND

It is the Christian's duty to fight in the greatest army on this earth—the army of Christians, where Christ is the Captain. We should consider it a pleasure to fight with this band of faithful Christians, to spread the gospel which Christ commanded us to do. (Matt. 28:19-20.)

### The Kind of Soldiers Jesus Wants

Christ wants a good soldier, one that will endure hardness (2 Tim. 2:3). He wants a soldier like the Apostle Paul, one that is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16).

Christ, the Captain, does not want any of his soldiers to desert his cause. He warns them against turning back. "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that has washed to her wallowing in the mire" (2 Pet. 2:20-22). Hence, it is the soldier's duty to continue the fight of faith until death.

Must I fight in this war?

Yes, that's what a Christian's for.

Must I fight until the end?

Yes, to save the world and vanquish sin.

He wants Christian soldiers who will work (Matt. 7:21) and take orders from him. He wants soldiers who are sober. "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation" (1 Thes. 5:8.) Hence, Christians are to remain sober. They are to abstain from all appearance of evil. A good soldier will follow the Captain's orders and set a good example.

### The Armour of a Soldier

We are told in 2 Cor. 6:7 that a soldier should have the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left hand; that he should be ready to every good work. He is to put on the armour of light. (Rom. 13:12-13.) "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." We are told to "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in

the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Eph. 6:11-17).

From this we learn that the Christian soldier is to wear the armour and use the only offensive piece of the armour, the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, to destroy sin. If we will lead people aright, and fight courageously against evil and error we will be good soldiers and the victory will be ours. When we reach the end of life we can say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Tim. 4:7-8.)

Friends, you are urged to join the Christian army and begin to fight the greatest fight of all—the battle of the Lord—the fight which involves the salvation of your souls.

## The Paradox Of The Cross

The cross of Christ is the greatest of all paradoxes. It was the most tragic event in the history of the world, yet the most wonderful thing that ever happened. It was the saddest spectacle man ever beheld, yet out of it came the greatest joy. The cross was Satan's greatest victory and Christ's most humiliating defeat, yet it was the most stunning defeat Satan ever suffered and the most glorious victory Christ ever won. CHRIST WON BY LOSING. HE CONQUERED BY SURRENDERING!

The cross was the greatest exhibition of divine justice in condemning sin, yet the most wonderful demonstration of divine mercy in pardoning sin. It was God's greatest manifestation of hatred for sin, yet his supreme proof of love for the sinner. The cross was the means by which God's justice condemned sin, and his mercy forgave it.

The cross was the darkest hour in history, yet it was the time of greatest light. Though the sun refused to shine and God hid his face from Christ, the cross was the means of which Christ really became the "light of the world." In the cross we see Christ's love for man. There we see human vengeance as they cry for blood, yet we see divine forgiveness as Jesus prays, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

The cross portrays man's sinfulness and God's holiness; human weakness and divine strength. It demonstrates man's inability to save himself, and God's ability and power to do this for him. The cross, from the human standpoint, is foolish; yet it is a revelation of the highest wisdom of God. —Selected

## THE GREAT SALVATION

BY J. C. CHOATE

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 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" (Heb. 2:1-3).

There are two types of salvation in the present world. First, we might think of physical blessings in terms of salvation. For instance, when a person is near death and recovers by a new drug, then, we might think of such as a physical salvation. A person might be saved from drowning, sorrows, distress, etc. Second, there is a spiritual salvation. This type of salvation deals with the soul. Many believe that there are many kinds of salvation in connection with saving the soul. Yet, the Bible teaches that there is but one great salvation. (Heb. 2:3; John 14:6). Now, the world may believe that there are many salvations, but, the world is in error on the matter.

From the above statements the definition of salvation should already be understandable. Salvation has reference of being saved from something. Hence, we suggested a physical salvation in that a person may be saved from various things physically. We also suggested a spiritual salvation in that a person is saved from past sins upon obedience to God. Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16). There is but one salvation spiritually speaking.

The Bible has a great deal to say about salvation. As a matter of fact, the Bible deals primarily with the salvation of mankind. First, let us notice salvation from the Old Testament standpoint. Notice, that the Old Testament deals with both physical and spiritual salvation.

1. Salvation of the Lord. "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever" (Ex. 14:13.) "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you" (2 Chron. 20:17).

2. The Lord wrought salvation in Israel. "And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for today the Lord hath wrought salvation in Israel" (1 Sam. 11:13). "For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the Lord wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?" (1 Sam. 19:5).

3. Salvation belongeth to the Lord. "Salvation

belongeth unto the Lord: thy blessing is upon thy people" (Psalms 3:8).

4. The Salvation of the righteous is of the Lord. "But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble" (Psalms 37:39).

These scriptures deal with salvation greatly in a physical sense. God was with the people of Israel. Many battles were won through the direction of God. At the same time the people of Israel were commanded to follow the law. (Ex. 20.)

Now we turn to the days of Christ. The Lord came into this low land of sin and sorrow to save a lost world. (Lk. 19:10; John 3:16, 17). Christ died on the cross, was buried, arose from the grave, and ascended to the Father in heaven to assure salvation. (Matt. 27, 28; Acts 1).

The New Testament has a great deal to say about salvation. Notice the following points:

1. Salvation in the name of Christ. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

2. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. "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" (Rom. 1:16).

3. Confession is made unto salvation. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:10).

4. Godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Cor. 7:10).

5. The helmet of salvation. "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17).

6. Work out your own salvation. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:112).

7. The grace of God bringeth salvation. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (Tit. 2:11).

8. The Great salvation. (Heb. 2:3.)

9. Author of eternal salvation. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:8, 9).

Now, let us make a list of the reasons why this salvation is so great.

1. Given by God through Christ. (1 Tim. 4:10; John 3:16.)

2. A simple salvation. (Isa. 35:8.)

3. Saves from all sin. (1 John 1:7.)

4. Saves from eternal punishment. (2 Thess. 1:7-9.)

—Firm Foundation

## The Sin of Unbelief and Infidelity

By GUS NICHOLS

The greatest cause of wickedness and general religious indifference is infidelity. Unbelief always keeps its possessors from God. (Heb. 11:6.) It also leads God's people away from Him. "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of UNBELIEF, in departing from the living God." (Heb. 3:12.) Atheism is as empty as darkness. It robs its possessors of God, and leaves them miserable as orphans. The soul cries out for God, as a thirsty man in a desert for water. Earthly things cannot satisfy this part of our nature. God who planted in the wild geese the instinct to come south at the first approach of winter in the north, planted within us the desire to live on beyond the grave. God has never mocked any holy desire which he himself has planted within us. HUNGER AND THIRST have been matched with an abundance of food and water. The DESIRE FOR REST at the end of the day has been matched with darkness and night in which to sweetly sleep. The NEED OF OUR LUNGS for "air" has been matched with rich provisions. The DESIRE TO SEE the beauties around us has been matched with eyes and light properly adapted to each other. God matched THE FINS of the fish WITH WATER in which to use them in swimming. THIS SAME GOD HAS MATCHED OUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS. We need some one in whom to put our trust, and upon whom we can rely. Our anchor must be tied to something stronger than man, something more secure than nature. (Heb. 6:12-19.) Atheism ignores this part of man and deals with him as though he were a beast of the forest.

### Called Fools

The evidences of God's existence are so strong, that the Bible says "The FOOL hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Psa. 14:1.) Athiests are the only creatures who deny their maker. They suppose that matter is self-existent and eternal, and that from it all life has come into existence by chance, and by the blind forces of nature, guided by no intelligence. They are FOOLISH for thinking the universe had no builder, and that there is no designer back of the designs seen in nature all around us. They are FOOLISH for supposing an effect without an adequate cause to produce it. They think we have design without a designer, and laws of nature without a law-giver. They are FOOLISH for supposing that the first thing ever to exist was dead, lifeless matter, and that by spontaneous generation, without any design, or maker, "OUT OF THE DEAD THE LIVING CAME."

### Million Fold More Reasonable

But it is a million fold more reasonable to suppose that God was first, and is an eternal PERSONALITY, able to CREATE THE DEAD AND LIFELESS MATTER, and then from it to BRING FORTH LIFE, as the Bible declares he did. (Gen. 1

and 2.) No life now is created by dead matter, and there is no proof that such a thing ever happened. Lifeless matter could not design and make a man, much less the harmonious universe about us. Men are FOOLISH for exchanging God for such absurdities. The blind forces of nature, guided by no intelligence, would not have been capable of producing such results. For every effect, there must be a cause, and the cause must be equal to the task of producing just such an effect. All the life we know anything about has come down from antecedent life, life coming from life, all the way back to God, the FIRST LIFE.

### DENY MIRACLES

The athiests and unbelievers deny miracles. They say such things could not have happened. But how do they know? Do they know everything? In saying "There is no God," they are claiming to possess universal knowledge, for if there is only one thing they do not know, that one thing may be that there is a God and they do not know it. So, before their affirmation could be taken seriously, they would have to prove that they have all knowledge. And how do they know that there has never been a miracle? Do they know all things? How do they know God did not make man of the dust of the earth, as the Bible affirms? Were they there? Can they set aside the evidence by their denials? They are foolish, and the Bible says so. To say dead matter is self-existent, and eternal, and blindly created all things, is FOOLISH. Dead matter was not and could not have been equal to such a gigantic task. It is, however, reasonable to say God, a Being of infinite power and wisdom, was self-existent and eternal, and that he designed and formed all things, including man. While there is nothing to confirm the former, the Bible and reason confirm the latter.

### Every House Was Built

Paul says, "Every house is builded by some man, but he that built all things is God." (Heb. 3:4.) Just as the house proclaims and preaches the existence of its designer and builder, all things in the universe were originally built by God, and their very existence proclaims the existence, wisdom and power of their BUILDER AND MAKER. A cyclone never designed nor built a beautiful city. The very existence of a beautiful building proclaims the existence of the architect and builder. It says, "Some man has been here." So, the universe, and the existence of all life, proclaims the fact that God has been upon the scene. (Psa. 19:1-3.) The human body with its digestive system, its sympathetic nervous system, its power of mind and thought, did not come into existence by chance. Neither was the camera called the eye, a mere accident. The blood pump called the heart, with all the arteries and veins excell any water system in any city a million fold in design and wisdom. It is foolish to say such came by chance, and that "There is no God." (Psa. 14:1.) Just as the camera was designed and made, the eye had a Maker. Hence, God is—has a real existence. (Heb. 11:6.)

## What I Believe As A Member of the Church of Christ

By E. V. SRYGLEY, JR.

NOTE: The churches of Christ do not have any humanly written creed such as Hiscox's *Standard Manual For Baptist Churches*; the Methodist *Discipline*, etc.



search for God.

### WHAT I BELIEVE RELATIVE TO:

**GOD:** The Bible teaches that God is not immanent in nature. That is, God is a personal being outside the material universe, Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3.

**THE BIBLE:** The Bible is a verbally inspired revelation from God, 1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Pet. 1:21. Hence, the Bible is not the result of man's

**CHRIST:** Christ is eternal; not a created being, John 1:1; 8:58. Jesus was literally born of a virgin, according to prophecy and according to the precise meaning of the Greek word translated "virgin" in Matt. 1:23. Cf. Isa. 7:14.

**BIBLE MIRACLES:** Faith in a supernatural Creator provides a sufficient basis for faith in supernatural events of the Bible.

**THE LAW OF MOSES:** The Law of Moses is no authority for Christians today, Gal. 3:24, 25; Col. 2:14, 16, 17. Hence, no distinct part of the Law (animal sacrifices, incense, mechanical instruments, Sabbath observance, etc.) can be made a part of Christian worship. We must be guided by the New Testament, Matt. 26:28; Heb. 8:6.

**THE CHURCH:** The New Testament church is composed of all who have been saved through faith, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins, Acts 2:36, 37, 38, 47; Eph. 5:23.

**DENOMINATIONS:** The Bible teaches that it is sinful for professing Christians to be divided into different sects, parties, or churches, John 17:20, 21; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; Eph. 4:3-6; Gal. 5:20 (heresies).

**ELECTION:** The Bible does not teach unconditional election and a limited atonement. Salvation is conditional, and for all the sinful race of Adam, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Heb. 2:9; 1 Jno. 2:2.

**THE PLAN OF SALVATION:** Salvation from past sins is not by faith only, James 2:24, 26. Salvation is by faith, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38.

**BAPTISM:** Consider the following aspects of New Testament baptism:

**Subjects:** Believers, Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12; Acts 18:8; Acts 8:36, 37. Hence, infants may not be scripturally baptized.

**Action:** Baptism is strictly immersion. This is sustained by the meaning of the word "baptize"; by the picture the Bible draws of baptism; and by secular history. Cf. Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Matt. 3:16; Acts 8:38, 39.

**Design:** Baptism is administered in order to be

saved; not because one has already been saved, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38.

### WHAT I BELIEVE RELATIVE TO:

**FALLING FROM GRACE:** The Bible teaches that it is possible for a child of God to so sin as to be finally lost in hell, Gal. 5:4; Heb. 12:15; 1 Cor. 10:12; 1 Chron. 28:9.

**THE LORD'S SUPPER:** The elements of the Lord's Supper are bread and fruit of the vine, Matt. 26:26-29. The Lord's Supper is a Christian duty to be observed each Sunday, Luke 22:19; Acts 20:7. Closed communion is wrong. The Bible teaches an individual examination, 1 Cor. 11:28.

**PIANOS, ETC., IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP:** There are two kinds of music: vocal and instrumental. The New Testament authorizes vocal music for Christian worship, Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16. Hence, mechanical instruments in Christian worship constitute an addition to God's arrangement, just as ice cream in the Communion would be an addition to what God wills.

**CHURCH ORGANIZATION:** The New Testament does not reveal any church organization higher than that of the local congregation. Hence, dioceses, associations, synods, general assemblies, etc., are without scriptural authority. Each New Testament church was strictly independent and contained a plurality of elders or pastors, and deacons, Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:5.

**THE SECOND COMING:** The second coming of Christ will mark the end of the world; not the beginning of a millenium on earth, 1 Cor. 15:24; 2 Pet. 3:10-12. Hence, the second coming will usher in the judgment, heaven, and hell.

**JUDGMENT:** The Bible teaches that there will be a judgment after death and at the second coming of Christ, Matt. 25:31-33; Heb. 9:27.

**HEAVEN AND HELL:** Man is mortal in body and immortal in spirit, Matt. 10:28; 1 Pet. 3:4. After the resurrection and judgment, the spirit and changed body will experience either an eternal heaven of happiness or an eternal hell of punishment, 1 Cor. 15:51, 52; Matt. 25:46.

## IT'S UP TO YOU

You are the fellow that has to decide  
Whether you'll do it or toss it aside.

You are the fellow who makes up your mind,  
Whether you'll lead or linger behind,

Whether you'll try for the goal that's afar,  
Or just be contented to stay where you are,  
Take it or leave it. Here's something to do!

Just think it over—it's all up to you.