The BEACON



By the Newton church of Christ PO Box 893, 28658 Meeting at: 656 St. James Church Rd. Vol. 28, No.1-3

January- March 2014

TRAIN UP A CHILD

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

We have several babies and other small children in the Newton congregation. It is wonderful and refreshing to have such a good number of these. The young parents among us have their work cut out as the children grow and develop. Surely each one has considered the responsibility that God enjoins as parents. It is sobering.



The above scripture from Proverbs well states the case. Training the proper way is absolutely essential in order for the child to grow up to be as God would have it to be. When shall this training begin? It begins at the birth of the child. From the very beginning. While their minds are young and receptive we need to instill into them principles of truth. The strongest teaching is the example set by the parents. This is true whether the examples are good or bad. We always teach them something. Let's be sure it is good.

In the New Testament in Ephesians 6:4 we learn that the fathers are charged with the responsibility of seeing to it that the child is taught right. "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4. Both parents share in this since in verse one of the passage, the children are to obey the parents.

As we look around us in this day and time we are alarmed for it is not easy to raise a child properly in this sinful society in which we live. In recent times everything that has any true value at all has been either disregarded or else ridiculed so that it is discouraging to both parents and children. Some have even said "Is there nothing sacred anymore?"

Before you know it, parents, the children will be in school. They will begin to leave the family circle progressively more and more. This reduces the time we have to instill into them what is good for them to know. They will be in the company of people of the world more and more. This creates the need for the parents to intensify their efforts while the children are very young and while they are at home under our feet. Please do not consider leaving them at this formative stage, young mothers, in order to enter the work place away from the home. What few dollars you earn are insignificant when compared to the greater task of being there for them when they need you most.

I fear that we have women in the body of Christ who have imbibed the women's lib viewpoint. Women ought to have every right that God intends for them to have but this does not justify their abandoning their role as women and mothers. They do not have this right. So parents, mothers, fathers, consider these things as for eternity as they relate to both you and your children. J. Wiley Adams adapted

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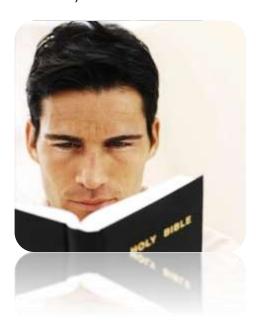
The practice of distinguishing men by religious titles is the outgrowth of sacerdotalism, "the doctrine that ordination confers special powers and rights." Sacerdotalism assumes that some men are elevated above their fellows so as to occupy a position between God and man, and here to function as mediators. In this position they are to receive the respect and solicitation due to God: instead of praying directly to God, confession is made to the intermediary. Hence, in recognition to his divine station, he is to be honored with titles designating his holy estate. This concept was borrowed from paganism, most likely (from available evidence) from Zoroastrianism in the early centuries of The Apostasy. (2 Thess. 2:3-7). The present day religious world has conferred this concept upon what it chooses to call the "clergy". And even among the religious groups who reject the full implication of the concept, there is a carry-over of the religious title. But sacerdotalism is not taught in the testament of Christ - preachers are not mediators, nor are they elevated by the Lord above other men. In fact, both the concept of sacerdotalism and the wearing of religious titles are condemned in the New Testament.

There is only one mediator between God and man, and this is Jesus who is Deity manifest in the flesh (Phil. 2:5-11). "For there is one God, and one mediator betwe.cn God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5). Even the apostles, though ambassadors of the kingdom of heaven, did not occupy a position intermediate so as to be elevated above others. One occasion when a person did fall at the feet of an apostle and worshipped him, he was told: "Stand up: I myself also am a man, " (Acts 10:26). Jesus very forcefully taught His disciples not to seek elevation; rather He said, "he that is greatest among you shall be a-based; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." (Matt. 23:11-12).

It was in discussion of this very subject - that His disciples should be humble and not assume greatness or preeminence - that He condemned religious titles. The Jewish leaders were guilty of this presumption, but Jesus said to His followers: "But be not ye called Rabbi; for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth, for one is your father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters; for one is your Master even Christ. "(Matthew 23:8-10).

All religious titles are forbidden to the disciples of Christ, and specifically He mentions "Rabbi" and "Father", perhaps the two most frequently used titles. Other titles that have been assumed are "reverend" and "doctor." Reverend is a word used one time in the King James version -Psalm 11:9 - and here it refers to God. It means "fearing, reverencing . . . religious pious (one who fears God)"-Gesenius' Heb. -Eng. Lex. : Hebrew "yare". To refer to a man as "reverend" is to acknowledge that he is one to be reverenced with the respect one gives to God. This is the doctrine of sacerdotalism! But where is the man who is "reverend", who is to be feared or honored as God? Such sin of presumption was severely censured by Christ. "Doctor" used as a religious title is subject to the same censure. This is one of the troubles in the religious world today-there are too many "doctoring" the teachings of Jesus!! (next page 7)

We can show respect to men whom we appreciate, but let us respect them as men and with designations of respect common to man. To give religious titles is to go contrary to the expressed" will of Christ and helps to promote the doctrine refuted by Jesus. I humbly ask my friends not to address me so and I humbly ask all to refrain from calling men on this earth by titles that have been condemned by our Saviour. "I myself also am a man." (by Gene Frost)



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- *• Laying on of the Apostles hands (Acts 8:18)

The Purpose Of Miracles Has Ceased

- ** Revelation of God's Word (John 14:26; 16:13)
- ** Confirmation of the Word (Mark 16:20; Heb 2:3; Jude 3)

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Miracles Of Today Are Not Like New Testament Miracles

- ** Compare Matthew 4:24,9:35,8:6 and 14:34
- ** The only time men of God ever failed when attempting a miracle was in Matthew 17:14-21. In this case, the Lord blamed His disciples, not the person who was sick.

The New Testament Said They Would Cease

"Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away" (1Cor.13:8-10)

WHICH WAY TO HEAVEN?

No doubt there are many sincere people who ask the question in the title. This is a good question. It is a question which far more should consider than do. It is a question to which the answer can be found. Where is the answer to this question of the ages to be found?



1. The answer is not to be found in human wisdom.

Paul told the Corinthians this in I Cor. 1:20 when he said by inspiration of God, "Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the dispute of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" Human wisdom cannot point out the way to heaven.

2. The answer is not to be found through idolatry.

In Acts 17:16 Paul's spirit "was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry." His sermon on Mars" Hill before the intellectuals and philosophers of that day and time was a flat denouncement of the worship of idols. He said in verse 29, "we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." The apostle declared unto them the eternal existence of the ONE TRUE GOD in clear language. In Eph. 4:6 and in I Tim. 2:5, Paul further declared there is one true God.

3. The answer is not to be found in man-made traditions and creeds.

To the Pharisees Jesus made the accusation of hypocrisy as they sought to circumvent the teachings of God by their traditions and customs. The disfavor of Christ is declared plainly in Matt. 15:9, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Many today are being led, not toward heaven, but toward hell by their failure to discern between God's will and human creeds and traditions.

4. The answer is not to be found, in false churches or bodies.

Several hundred churches or bodies make the erroneous claim that we are all going to heaven but are just travelling along different roads. Now this surely would have a strong appeal to many. It really is equivalent to saying it does not make a great deal of difference what you do. However, if the Word of God is true (and it is), then Christ is "the Saviour of the body." (Eph. 5:23). In Eph. 4:4 it says "there is one body" and I Cor. 12:20 nails it down still further by saying there is "yet but one body." Col. 1:18 declares Christ to be "the head, of the body, the church." My friend, you cannot be saved in man-made churches or bodies. It does make a difference. Christ is the head over one body which is His church. Make sure you are in Christ's church or you will be lost according to the Bible.

5. The answer is to be found in the New Testament.

Jesus said in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The answer to "Which Way To Heaven?" is to be found in the Holy Scriptures. Christ said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." If we make it to heaven, dear reader, it will have to be through Christ. There are not, several ways or bodies nor several churches, any more than there are several Gods or several Christs.

Conclusion

The way to heaven is not by way of human wisdom, idolatry, man-made creeds or traditions or false churches. The way is through Christ. He will save those who obey Him (Heb. 5:9) and add them to His church "(lets 2:47). Will you not give heed to God's Word and obey Him through faith (Heb. 11:6), repentance (Acts 2:38), confessing Christ to be God's Son (Rom. 10:10, Acts 8:38), and by being baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27) for the remission of sins. This is the way to heaven if you will remain faithful unto death. (Rev. 2:10). (J. Wiley Adams)

Is Baptism "Water Salvation"?

By Connie W. Adams 1961



In 1 Peter 3:20-21 we learn that God sent the flood in the days of Noah and that eight souls were "saved by water." Verse 21 states that in likeness to this, baptism "doth also now save us." When ever we teach that baptism is essential to salvation, many are quick to reply, "That would be water salvation." With this in mind, it is practical for us to consider several occasions when God employed water in his plan.

The first such occasion is the flood of Noah's day, already mentioned. The Bible says that eight souls were "saved by water." Did the water itself save Noah and his family? No, God saved them. But He used water in the plan. It was the water which lifted the ark above the destruction and which finally deposited them upon a cleansed earth. The water was connected with changing their relationship.

Later we read of Israel departing Egypt and coming to the brink of the Red Sea. Behind them came the forces of the Egyptians. On the other side of the Red Sea was freedom. Here the water stood between Israel and liberty. Could God have saved them without their crossing over? He could have, but did not choose to do so. In 1 Cor. 10:2 we read that they were "baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea." God delivered them, but He used water in the plan.

In Judges 7:4 God again called for water in His plan in the time of Gideon. God told Gideon to bring his soldiers 'down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there." Only those who drank a certain way were to be retained for the battle, while the others were to be sent home. God made the choice, but He used water in the plan.

In 2 Kings 5 we have the account of Naaman the leper. The prophet of God sent instruction to him to "go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean." (2nd Kings 5:10.) When Naaman at last obeyed this instruction, he was made clean. Was it the water that cleansed Naaman? No, it was God, but water was in the plan God used.

In John 9:7 we observe that Jesus told the man born blind to "go and wash in the pool of Siloam." Could Jesus have healed that man without anointing his eyes with clay and without his washing in Siloam? Can you not see that His plan called for a test of the man's faith? Jesus healed that man. But He used water in the plan. It was not the water which healed the man, yet he was not healed until he had used the water, for he had not obeyed Jesus until he washed in Siloam.

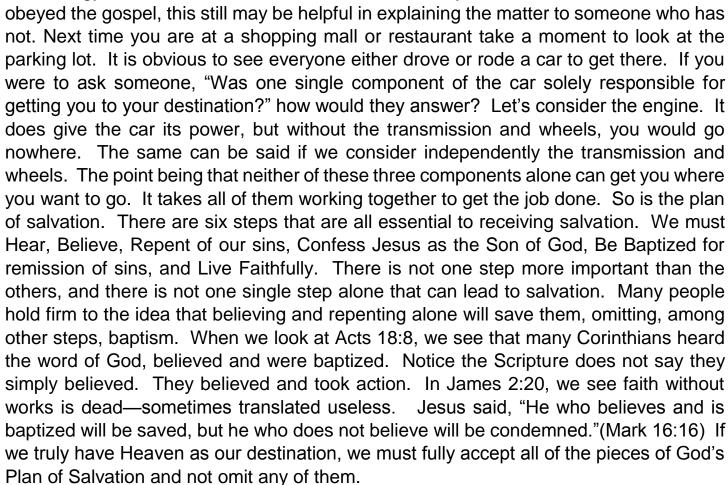
Even so it is with baptism. God has required it. His law on the matter is so clearly revealed that it is difficult to understand why so many fail to respond to what God teaches. Now, when a man obeys the commandment of the Lord to be baptized "for the remission of sins," what is it that saves him? Is it the water? Is there some mystic power in the water? No, it is just water. God saves us, but He has placed water in His plan as He did in the case of Noah, Israel and the Red Sea, Gideon, Naaman and the man born blind. A man who truly believes in Christ is willing to do whatever Christ requires, without question or doubt. Whenever a man refuses to be baptized because he can see no wisdom in it, his problem is infidelity. While Christ saves, He saves those who obey Him. He is the "author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Heb. 5:9.) We therefore teach people that baptism is essential to salvation, not because the water will save them, but because God who saves has placed baptism in His plan. Have you been scripturally baptized?

How Do You get There?

By Bryan Click 2014

We often use analogies to illustrate complex matters by relating them to more common everyday events. Let us consider God's Plan of Salvation by using

the analogy of a car. Even for those who have already



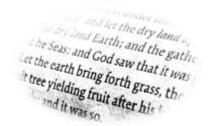
JOINING DENOMINATIONS

In the Bible we read of one church. (Matt. 16:18.) To this one church people were added when saved. (Acts 2:47.) Christ's apostles taught that there is "one faith" and "one body." (Eph. 4:4-6.) When the spirit of denominationalism or sectarianism arose as it did at Corinth, it was condemned in no uncertain terms. (1 Cor. 1:10- 13.) In the first century Christians were united in the body of Christ. Denominationalism came many years later. No inspired teacher ever told or asked anyone to join a denomination. Denominationalism makes unity impossible. Christ prayed for unity. (John 17:20,21). People who join denominations do so on human authority and against divine authority.

Zeal and Knowledge

By J. Wiley Adams 1961

In Romans 10:2, in speaking of Israel, Paul said, "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge." Paul himself had once fallen into the same classification as Israel, of whom he here speaks.



Israel believed in God as the Almighty and the Creator of the world. They were *zealous*, or enthusiastic, in serving God, but, as the writer points out in verse 3, they were found to be in ignorance concerning God's righteousness. In their zeal to serve God, they had substituted their own righteousness in place of the righteousness of God. They found themselves to be in the school of the rebellious in that they had not submitted to the righteousness of God.

It seems that it is especially fitting in these difficult days for the Lord's church that we give some consideration to the passage before mentioned.

We have many among us who have imbibed the spirit of the great commission to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." For this *zeal* we are most thankful. It seems that it has been too long in coming. At last our brethren are awaking to the urgency of preaching the gospel to our generation.

But, caution must be exercised! Just as a piece of untempered metal is unreliable, so is the zealous one without knowledge. It is as a workman going to his job with a splendid toolbox but upon arrival at his destination—alas! No tools! It is essential that we also consider the second part of the great commission in Matt. 28:20. Here Jesus said, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." It is a tragedy to preach the gospel, have some obey it and then to not follow through and teach them the necessary things which they need to know in order to grow in faith and usefulness in the kingdom of God. That is like laying a foundation for a building and then leaving before putting down the flooring, walls and roof. If a teacher is to follow through with instruction then it is a foregone conclusion that he must be equipped to teach. That will involve a great deal of preparation. He must have a good working knowledge of the Word of God and be able to teach it to others. We have many young preachers (and no small number of older ones) who are more zeal than anything else. They let this untempered zeal run away with them. This should not be. Zeal must be tempered and stabilized with the knowledge of God's Word. In the desire to get something done regardless, we might well find ourselves going about establishing our own righteousness and substituting where our knowledge fails.

Just as faith only or works only will not suffice, so it is with zeal and knowledge. Either one alone is insufficient. God has likewise made a team of zeal and knowledge and "what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."



By J. Wiley Adams, 1961

How often have preachers of the gospel of Christ heard the above question repeated! Perhaps you have asked that question. In my own experience it is just about at the top of the list of most-asked questions.

It is a good question and merits an answer. At a glance we can see and agree that as far as men's standards go, the reare churches many — several hundred, in fact. Each has its own peculiarities. Most profess to be of the "Christian faith." The reason they are separate from the others is that in some ways they are different. It would follow that if they were not different, then neither would they be separate. There would only be one church. We are saying that differences separate us religiously. To many religious people division is regarded as being simply democratic. A political principle is applied to religion and it will not work because the church is not *political* but *spiritual*.

It would be a hard job to get to heaven if a person had to trudge through all the many doctrines of the vast denominational system. In fact, he might die before he could finish and come to a conclusion. What he should rather do is to go to the standard or pattern of things spiritual—the Word of God. We of today live under the New Covenant, therefore it is the standard. (Heb. 1: 1,2.) God speaks to us today through the Words of His Son, Jesus Christ. So, rather than search the creeds of men and the various traditions which are vain (Matt. 15:9; Gal. 1:6-9), let us go to the pattern. The question should not be "Which Church Is Right?" but a better question would be "What Does the New Testament Teach About the Church?"

The most striking statement concerning the church in the New Testament is that it is and must of necessity be ONE. In Matt. 16:18, Jesus promised to build his church, "... and upon this rock I will build my church . . ." not churches, mind you, but *church* (one). In Col. 1:18 we learn that the body of Christ is the same thing as the church of Christ. But there is "one body" (Eph. 4:4), and further still there is "but one body." (1 Cor. 12:20.) Whose body is it? Inasmuch as it is Christ's, would you not suppose that it should be called by His name? Surely we could agree on that.

Which church is right? The church that is right is Christ's church, the church we learn about by reading the New Testament. Search for this church. It is right. And when you find it, you will also find that you get into it through obedience to the gospel of Christ. (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 12:13.) Then you will be a member of the church because God will add you to it. (Acts 2:42.)

The church is the *fullness* of Christ. (Eph. 1:23.) All the blessings of Christ are to be found, therefore, in the church. If one blessing, or two, can be had out of the church, then the church lacks that much being His fullness.

The Necessity of a Standard of Authority

By Arvid K. McGuire, (AP 1961)

As in every other phase of life, so in religion, a standard of authority is necessary. Football, baseball and all other sports have their rule books.

Military regulations are written and enforced upon service men. There is in our Federal government a Department of weights and measures. The standard of these weights and measurements is enforced so that when one purchases items he gets correct weight and measurement. Imagine what it would be like to live in a society where there was no standard of authority for anything. As to a standard in religion, men hold to different positions. One reason that there are so many differences in religious matters is that different standards are followed. Some men allow standards that other men disallow. Let us consider some standards in religion that are responsible for division.

Likes and Preferences

Some people argue that the standard in religion is subjective. It is what one likes, prefers, and happens at the moment to approve. This denies a standard of authority outside ourselves. Man is the measure of all things. Every man is a law unto himself and can do what is right in his own eyes. This is chaotic. Many people feel this way about denominationalism or sectarianism. It depends on which name, form of government, ritual, or creed one prefers. Of what value is the Headship of Jesus Christ, the one church of the New Testament, or the holy scriptures to people who think in this way? To them their emotional pitch will tell them what is right! Do not forget that man cannot direct his steps. (Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12.) Man at best is a sinner and cannot, unaided, guide himself aright. (Rom 3:23; 6:23.)

Tradition

Roman Catholicism claims that in addition to the Bible there is a collection of oral tradition dating from the days of the apostles. By the doctrine of papal infallibility and the doctrine of development the Roman Church defines and enunciates the will of God today. Such claims are preposterous and their belief destroys authority rather than establishing it. By allowing oral tradition as the word of God, Roman Catholicism has succeeded in corrupting the revelation of God and has thereby corrupted the divine authority of revelation. This collection of oral tradition has destroyed the boundaries of divine revelation and has made equivocal the authority of God. The Roman Church has never given a complete, exhaustive list of the contents of this oral tradition. She would not dare to do so, for this oral tradition is a nebulous entity. It is so bulky, contradictory and loosely connected that it is impossible to draw a clear line separating true tradition from speculation.

Oral tradition adds much that is not even hinted in scripture. It is tradition in most instances that aids Romanism in her interpretation of the Scripture. By this process the word of God does not speak as authority, but the judgment of tradition dominates the scriptures. (cont. next page)

Following Men

God has appointed that men are to follow Christ, not themselves. (1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Cor. 10:13.) The church at Corinth was divided by a sectarian spirit. Some were of Paul, some of Apollos, some of Cephas, and others of Christ. (1 Cor. 1:10-14.) Division in religion is sinful, for it violates God's purpose (Eph. 1:8-10), Christ's prayer (John 17:20-21), and Paul's command for unity. (1 Cor. 1:10.) To be followers of Paul would have necessitated Paul's crucifixion for us and our baptism into the name of Paul. There is only one who was crucified for us and into his name we are baptized. (Acts 19:5.) "Into his name" means all that the name of Christ procures for us— redemption in his blood, every spiritual blessing and remission of all past sins. (Eph. 1:7, 3; Acts 2:38.)

It is just as wrong today for men to plant sectarian churches, write human creeds, and follow men as it was in New Testament times. This destroys unity and elevates men above what is written. (1 Cor. 4:6.) People call themselves "Lutherans" after Martin Luther, "Calvinists" after John Calvin. They elevate Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy, Ellen G. White and many others to a position next to Christ himself and make authoritarian claims for their respective creed books.

New Testament—Proper Standard

The Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all the truth. (John 16:13.) The faith has once for all been delivered to us. (Jude 3.) The scriptures make a man of God complete and thoroughly furnish him unto every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17.)

The New covenant scriptures constitute the "one faith"—the body of doctrine that is absolute, final, and authoritative as our standard of religion. We must speak as God's oracles speak. (1 Pet. 4:11.) We are limited to speaking and practicing only what is written. (2 John 9; 1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:6-9.) It behooves us to search the scriptures daily to learn and follow God's will. (Acts 17:11.)

The words of Christ will be the standard of judgment at the last day. (John 12:48.) God will judge the secrets of men according to the gospel, by Jesus Christ. (Rom. 2:16.) To be judged faithful *then*, demands acceptance of Christ and conformity to his covenant *now!* The New Testament is the final authority in religion today. Rid yourself of all things that hinder you from being God's child and obey the gospel while you can do so.

Divine Revelation will not fit the mold of human philosophy. Those who try to make it do so might as well attempt to put the sun in a candle holder.



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For A Gospel Meeting

With Speaker

Steven Deaton

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