

# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Some years ago Evangelist Dwight L. Moody sat down beside a man who was traveling on the same train. After a short conversation between the two men Mr. Moody asked the other man a very important question: "how is it with your soul?" To Mr. Moody's question the man replied; "that is none of your business." Was it any of Mr. Moody's business? He said to the man beside him; "my friend, you are mistaken; that is my principal business." Mr. Moody knew what every Christian should know; that next to the privilege and responsibility of worshipping God and the Lord Jesus Christ, his God-given duty is to tell his fellowman how to be saved for time and eternity.

When the Lord Jesus appeared to Simon Peter, the fisherman, to bestow His saving grace upon him, the Lord said to Simon and his companions, "follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19). Mr. Moody was a fisher of men. Every Christian should be. After the Son of God gave Himself a ransom for all on the cross (I Timothy 2:6) and was raised from the dead He showed Himself alive from the dead by many infallible proofs. (Acts 1:3 . . . Acts 10:40 and 41). Right before the resurrected Christ ascended to sit down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3), He said to Simon Peter and others; "ye shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8). Peter and the other disciples believed the truth of I Thessalonians 1:9 and 10, that they had turned to God, to serve the living and true God; and to wait for His Son from heaven, Whom God raised from the dead, Jesus, Who delivered us from the wrath to come." Because the apostle Paul also believed this truth he reminded some of the ruling disciples in Ephesus of his faithfulness as a witness; how he had served the living and true God. Hear Paul's testimony: "by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." (Acts 20:31). Both Peter and Paul believed that Jesus Christ suffered the agony of Gethsemane and Calvary to deliver sinners from the wrath to come. They were in dead earnest when they warned unbelievers of the terrible penalty of unforgiven sins and when they presented God's sure remedy for any and every kind of sin.

In II Corinthians 5:11 we read these words from the heart and pen of the apostle Paul; "Knowing therefore the terror (fear) of the Lord, we persuade men." "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." (II Corinthians 5:20).

The ambassadors who represent this great nation in other countries are called 'ambassadors extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary'. A minister plenipotentiary is a servant with full power and authority behind him. Christians represent the Lord of Glory, Who is called in the Bible, "the blessed and only POTENTATE, the KING of kings and LORD of Lords." (I Timothy 6:15). In Ephesians 1:19 to 23 we are told that God has made available for Christians His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the heavenlies far above principalities and powers. In I Corinthians 3:9 we read concerning Christians: "we are labourers together with God." Moreover Christians are blessed and empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?

Undoubtedly Mr. Moody was thinking of Romans 10:13 to 15, as he told his traveling companion of God's love and how Christ had shed His precious blood on the cross to redeem sinners. Note these verses: "Whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach except they be sent; as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" In God's sight Mr. Moody had beautiful feet. Many Christians will be saved, "so as by fire"; but their works shall be burned, and thereby suffer loss. (I Corinthians 3:14 and 15).

Mr. Moody may also have been thinking of James 5:20: "he which converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death." We say again, remember the words of the apostle Paul in his farewell to Ephesus: "wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men" (Acts 20:26) . . . "remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Both Mr. Moody and the apostle Paul could have been thinking of Ezekiel 3:18 and 19: God's own words: "When I say unto the wicked, thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life: that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity: but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul."

Whatever Mr. Moody's hearer decided in his heart on that train, Mr. Moody delivered his own soul. He was quite like the apostle Paul who said, "woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" . . . "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (I Corinthians 9:16 to 22). Like the apostle Paul, Mr. Moody could truthfully have said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." (Romans 1:16). In I Corinthians 15:1 to 4 the apostle Paul explained the good news (the gospel) which he had received from Christ, and by which the believing sinner is saved: "How that Christ died for our sins; that He was buried, and He rose again the third day."

## THE SAVING OF THE SOUL

In Hebrews 10:39 we read these words: "we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them who believe to the saving of the soul." Millions have heard God's saving message, who have not believed unto the saving of the soul. When the apostle Paul had preached God's saving message, Christ's vicarious death and bodily resurrection, to the sinners in a large city, the result is recorded in Acts 17:32 to 34: "Some mocked . . . Others said, we will hear thee again of this matter . . . however, certain men believed."

When Paul preached to King Agrippa, he reminded the king that he knew these things. (Acts 26:26). Paul did his utmost to persuade Agrippa to be reconciled to God. In Romans 5:10 we are told that we are reconciled to God through the death of Christ. We are told this again in Colossians 1:20 and 21 where we read that Christ made peace by the blood of His cross, to reconcile sinners to God. Then he added: "and you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in

your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.” These reconciled sinners believed unto the saving of their souls. When Paul had faithfully presented the message of salvation to Agrippa, the king said unto Paul, “almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.” (Acts 26:28). Paul could then have quoted to Agrippa Proverbs 29:1: “he, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” God gives the lost children of Adam the choice between ‘remedy’ and ‘destruction’. And be assured, that to be ‘almost’ saved is to be ‘altogether’ lost.

Paul preached to another Roman ruler by the name of ‘Paulus’, or Paul; and he was wonderfully saved, as we learn in Acts 13:5 to 15. Paul preached to another Roman ruler by the name of Felix. “And as Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, “Go thy way for this time: when I have a convenient season I will call for thee.” (Acts 24:25 to 27). Do you suppose the convenient season and the call ever took place? Felix might be included in the ‘fearful’ of Revelation 21:8: “the ‘fearful’, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.” Note that the ‘fearful’ and the ‘unbelieving’ head the list.

When the wicked Philippian jailer trembled with conviction, and was indeed ‘fearful’, he cried out, “what must I do to be saved?” And Paul replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.” (Acts 17:26 to 32). Just think of this: that guilty sinner, who had sinned for years, was saved in less time that it takes to relate the story. In Acts 13:38 and 39 the apostle Paul proclaimed this good news for sinners: “be it known unto you, that through ‘THIS MAN’ (Jesus Christ) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him all who believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.” If you will carefully read the third chapter of Romans, you will find Acts 13:38 and 39 thoroughly explained; with the conclusion in Romans 3:28: “therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” To be justified by faith in Christ, is to be at peace with God (Romans 5:1), and to stand before, God pardoned, having His Divine righteousness. Because of God’s grace and Christ’s redemptive work, the believer stands before God as though he has never sinned one time in word, thought or deed. This is what it means to be justified freely by God’s grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, as we read in Romans 3:24 to 26. This is the meaning of Romans 5:20, “where sin abounded grace did much more abound,” but according to the next verse: “that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”

When we read in I Timothy 1:15, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners God had His servant add this to the statement; “it is worthy of all acceptation.” It is worthy of the acceptation of all. God says, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Isaiah 1:18). Are you too busy to stop for a little time of reasoning with God? Have you read Romans 14:12, “so then every one of us shall give an account of himself unto God?” Think of I Timothy 2:4 to 7, that God will have all men to be saved by faith in His Son and the ‘ransom’ that Son accomplished for lost, ruined humanity.

After you read Hebrews 9:27 and Hebrews 10:31, “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment,” and “it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God,”

turn to John 3:17 and 18 and 1 John 10:28 to 31, and read the most wonderful ‘good news’ that members of the human race have ever heard: “God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned.” Now note Christ’s words in John 10:28: “I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.” These are the words of the loving, compassionate Saviour, Who said, “come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28). But remember also that this is the same Christ Who said, “the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.” (John 5:22).

### THE GREAT SIN OF UNBELIEF

Now let us prayerfully, seriously consider I John 5:10 to 13: “he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar: because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you who believe on the NAME of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”

When we have read John 3:36 with the above statements from God’s Book, we shall surely know that the most moral, respectable person, like the vilest criminal, is unsaved because he is an unbeliever, because he has not received the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. The Bible teaches that sinners suffer the sorrows of the second death because of their evil, ungodly deeds, but in the final analysis they will experience ‘after-death’ judgment, the wrath of God, because they refuse God’s all-sufficient remedy. Note John 3:36; “he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

What do you think was in the mind and heart of almighty God when His only begotten and well-beloved Son, cried, “My God! My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” That Son was nailed to the tree, wearing thorns, the emblem of the curse. Consider these two questions: “if the righteous scarcely (with difficulty) be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?” (I Peter 4:18). We read the answer. Revelation 21:8. The other question “How shall we escape (Revelation 21:8), if we neglect so great salvation?” (Hebrews 2:3).

When we read Romans 5:20, “where sin abounded grace did ‘much more’ abound,” when we read in I Corinthians 6:9 to 11 that adulterers and drunkards and idolaters and extortioners were washed, and sanctified and justified in the NAME of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God, we know that the sins which we call ‘immoral habits’ are not unpardonable. Hear the testimony of one of the outstanding Christians of all times, the testimony of the apostle Paul, who said that he was before he was saved: “a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus . . . This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (I Timothy 1:12 to 15).

Hear another testimony of this same converted sinner, in I Corinthians 15:10: “By the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain.” Then he added these words in Romans 11:6: “and if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.”

Listen to the apostle Paul, “saying that bonds and afflictions abide me: but none of these things move me, neither count my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the ‘GRACE Of GOD’.” (Acts 20:23 and 24). Note again the testimony of this faithful, fearless, spiritual, uncompromising servant of the Lord, as recorded in Galatians 1:1 and 12: “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man: For I neither received it of man, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

After this messenger of the grace of God wrote to the Romans, “being justified freely by God’s grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:24 to 26), he wrote to some saved sinners, who had a very dark and ugly past, people who had been dead in sins, by nature the children of wrath (Ephesians 2:1 to 3), alienated from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18), hopeless infidels and atheists (Ephesians 2:12). “By grace ye were saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast . . . For we are God’s workmanship, created ‘IN CHRIST JESUS’, unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:8 to 10).

The sins of no sinner are unpardonable; but they are surely unpardoned until they are pardoned. They will not be pardoned by the God of all grace (I Peter 5:10), whose grace hath appeared and provided salvation for all men (Titus 2:11), so long as the unsaved sinner continues to be an unbeliever and refuses the more abounding grace of God, which reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:20 and 21). The Lord Jesus Christ declared that the work of the Holy Spirit with sinners was to convict them of their sin of unbelief: “because they believe not on Me.” (John 16:7 to 9). The Holy Spirit works to convict and convince sinners that they need the gospel of the grace of God to save them from the after-death judgment (Hebrews 9:27), called in I Thessalonians 1:10, “the wrath to come,” in Acts 24:25, “the judgment to come,” and explained in Revelation 21:8. Salvation from the after-death judgment means also eternal salvation and glory in heaven with the Lord and His blood-redeemed people. “That in the ages to come God might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:7).

## FAITH AND GOOD WORKS

As we consider faith and good works many people at once think of James 1:22: “be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves,” and James 2:18, “show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.” In this same Epistle of James, which was written to the twelve tribes of Israel, we have this question; “hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich ‘IN FAITH’?” (James 2:5).

In Titus 3:8 we find recorded the message which the Lord directed Paul to write to Christians: “affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.” Christians, according to Titus 2:7, should be a ‘pattern of good works’. But these believers in God, Christians, were redeemed by the redemptive work of God’s Son, Who is called, in Titus 2:13 and 14; “the great God our Saviour Jesus Christ,” “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works.”

As the Lord directed James to write that God hath chosen the poor of this world to be rich 'IN FAITH', He directed the apostle Paul to write this message to those in this world who desire and struggle to be rich: "that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute." (I Timothy 6:18). Not only does God greatly desire that every person on this earth should be 'RICH IN FAITH' and 'RICH IN GOOD WORKS', but God permitted His Son, Who was 'RICH', to become poor, that we through His poverty may be 'RICH' (II Corinthians 8:9). And the Son said to the Father, "I come to do Thy will." (Hebrews 10:4 to 10). Note what this meant: In John 6:38 the Lord Jesus Christ said, "I came down from heaven; not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me."

Then behold the Man of Sorrows in the Garden of Gethsemane and hear Him say to several of His disciples, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death." (Mark 14:34). Then hear His prayer to His Father, as the Son was sweating drops of blood (Luke 22:44): "Father all things are possible unto Thee: take away this cup from Me: nevertheless not what I will, but what Thou wilt." (Mark 14:36). "He prayed that. if it were possible, the hour might passed from Him." (Mark 14:35). What is the answer? Christ on the cross, crowned with thorns, crying "My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34). Christ was delivered up to death by wicked men and by Satan, but He was delivered according to the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. (Acts 2:23 . . . Acts 3:18). "But God raised Him from the dead." (Acts 13:30). Christ was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification. (Romans 4:24 and 25).

So we have the good news, wonderful news in Ephesians 1:6 and 7: 'To the praise of the glory of God's grace, wherein He hath made us accepted ('GRACED US') in the Beloved, In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of God's grace.'

After reading of this eternal redemption in and through and by the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 9:12), and carefully considering I Timothy 2:5 to 7, "God will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth: For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself a ransom for all," we should accept at full face value the words of Christ in John 14:6, Matthew 11:27, John 5:23 and John 17:3. Now most carefully receive into your hearts these words from the Son of God Who loved us and gave Himself for us, which the rulers of this world did not know, for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory (I Corinthians 2:8). Christ said, in John 14:6; "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by Me." Christ said, in Matthew 11:27; "no man knoweth the Son but the Father: neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." Christ said, in John 5:23: "that all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father: he that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father Who hath sent Him." "Christ said to His Father, in John 17:3, "and this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent."

Thus we see why the unbelieving, religious people took up stones to stone Christ to death, when Christ said, "I and Father are ONE." (John 10:30). Christ asked them, "for which good work do you stone Me?" Note the answer; "for a good work we stone Thee not; but for blasphemy: and because that Thou, being a man, makest Thyself God." (John 10:31 to 33).

Was Christ a blasphemer or was He God? Thomas called Christ, “my Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). Was Thomas mistaken? God called His own Son, “GOD,” in Hebrews 1:6 to 8, after the statement in Hebrews 1:3, that Christ was the express image of God’s Person and the effulgence of His glory. In Colossians 2:9 we read that in Christ dwelleth all the fulness of the God-head bodily. In Isaiah 35:3 to 8 we read that God was to come to earth and perform miracles. God came in the Person of His Son, Emmanuel. (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23). Christ said, “he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.” (John 14:9). Read Romans 9:4 to 6 and Colossians 1:15 to 18 and then this statement in I John 5:20: “And we know that the Son of God has come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

When Christ told the self-righteous religious leaders of His days on earth, “ye are of your father the devil” (John 8:44), they disagreed with Christ, saying, “we have one Father, God.” Who was right? Christ said to those blind, religious, men; “if ye believe not that I AM, ye shall die in your sins.” (John 8:24). When some of their company asked Christ, “what shall we do, that we might work the works of God?” (John 6:28), note carefully the answer of Christ: “This is the work of God that ye ‘BELIEVE’ on Him Whom God hath sent.” Then Christ added; “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me hath everlasting life.” (John 6:47).

After reading what we have quoted from the Bible, surely you will never join with the foolish people who say, “with God it is unimportant what man believes; it is what man does that counts with God.” This brings us to the very interesting question:

### IS CHRISTIANITY A CREED OR A LIFE?

Quite frequently some well-meaning religious person makes some such remark as this: “I am not interested in creeds, dogmas or doctrinal controversies”. . . “I am for practical Christianity; for the Christian religion in action.”

Of course many people today are displeased, if not disgusted, with the ever-increasing number of sectarian religious organizations, and the lack of unity among Christians. God only knows how many of these Church-members are saved and how many are unsaved. “The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal; the Lord knoweth them that are His; and let every one that nameth the NAME of Christ depart from iniquity.” (II Timothy 2:19). Because of the great number of church-members who confess that they have never experienced the Divine miracle of regeneration (John 3:3 to 8 . . . John 1:12), the supernatural work of God called ‘God’s workmanship, created ‘IN CHRIST JESUS’, (Ephesians 2:10 . . . II Corinthians 5:17), we quite frequently hear saved Church-members referred to as ‘born-again’ Christians, or ‘Bible Christians’.

The term ‘Bible Christians’ needs to be analyzed as to the believer’s standing and state in God’s sight. But there is no such thing as a Christian who is not a new creature in Christ, or a regenerated believer. A Christian is a child of God. God’s Word clearly teaches how a person becomes a child of His: “Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26), “which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man; but of God.” (John 1:13). “if any man be in Christ there is a new creation.” (II Corinthians 5:17). Who are to be glorified when the Lord Jesus comes for His own? “All them that believe.” (II Thessalonians

1:10). Then the saved believers are to be rewarded according to their works. (I Corinthians 3:14 . . . Hebrews 6:10).

It is one thing for a faithful believer to be rewarded for his good works, which is the sure promise of God. It is quite something different for a person to get into heaven, by good works, without faith in the good work of Christ, which will not be. We have learned in John 3:36, John 8:24 and Revelation 21:8 the after-death state of unbelievers. To whom will God send the strong delusion and let believe the lie and be damned, and why? Hear God's answer: "who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." A person need not be an immoral, ungodly sinner to have pleasure in unrighteousness. He may be like the very religious, sincere, conscientious, devout people of Romans 10:1 to 4, who were ignorant of God's righteousness, and went about to establish their own righteousness, and would not submit themselves unto the righteousness of God which is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Referring to such people, the Lord Jesus Christ said, "ye are they which justify yourselves before men: but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:15). This was another way of saying what is written in Proverbs 28:26 and 14:12: "he that trusteth in his own heart is a fool" . . . "there is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Paul was led by the Holy Spirit to write that if man could be saved by his own doings, Christ died in vain. (Galatians 2:21). Any rational person, unless completely deceived by Satan, who will compare Galatians 2:21 with Christ's prayer in Gethsemane, His cry on the cross to God and His own words in John 12:27 to 31, certainly would not claim to be a saved person, if he does not believe the record that God has given concerning His Son. No Christian will be guilty of making God a liar, which unbelievers do, according to I John 5:10 to 13.

We can see how unregenerated, moral, religious people, not interested in creeds, prefer 'the golden rule' and 'the sermon on the mount' to the glorious doctrine recorded in Romans 4:4 and 5, which the great majority of them perhaps have never read: "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace but of debt: But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

God wants every Christian to walk in the Spirit, and fulfill the righteousness of the law. (Romans 8:4). Before a person can walk in the Spirit, which means to be both indwelt and controlled by the Holy Spirit, that person must receive the Holy Spirit. In Galatians 3:13 and 14 we learn that Christ was made a curse on the cross, that Israel might be delivered from the curse of the law, and that believing Gentiles might receive the righteousness of God and the Holy Spirit. Thus we learn that salvation and righteousness and the Holy Spirit are all the gifts of God. "The free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23). Believers pass out of death into life. (John 5:24 and John 11:25 and 26). "He that hath the Son hath life." (I John 5:12). "Even when we were dead in sins (God) hath made us alive together with Christ." Those who have been made alive by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ are thus instructed in Romans 6:13; "yield yourselves unto God, as those who are 'ALIVE FROM THE DEAD'."

In Hebrews 5:9 we read that Christ having been made perfect, became the Author of 'ETERNAL SALVATION'. The word 'Author' is literally 'Causer'. In Hebrews 9:12 we read that Christ, by His own blood, entered into heaven, having obtained 'ETERNAL REDEMPTION' for us. So in and through and by Christ, Who is called the believer's 'LIFE'

(Colossians 3:4), the believer, or Christian, has 'ETERNAL LIFE' . . . 'ETERNAL SALVATION' . . . 'ETERNAL REDEMPTION'.

In I John 5:13 we learned that God wants those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to know that they have eternal life. In John 6:47 the Lord Jesus said that believers have everlasting life. This is stated in John 3:36 and in John 3:16 and 3:15.

A creed is a belief. The word 'believe' is found in the Gospel of John one hundred times. No Christian will join with the foolish, unsaved, religious people who say a creed is unimportant for a Christian. When Paul testified in Galatians 2:20 that he had been crucified with Christ, he added, "nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me." Here we have the creed and the life working together.

CHRIST is in the word 'CHRISTIAN'. According to Colossians 1:27, CHRIST is in the CHRISTIAN, the hope of glory. Think of this, 'THE HOPE OF GLORY'. Then note why the Christian may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, in Romans 5:2. Because being justified by faith he has peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and because he has access into God's grace by faith. (Romans 5:1 and 2).

#### WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING.

Saved and unsaved church-members, who are determined to add their own religious doings or spiritual activities to the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ to help God save them, which means to have Christ as a Helper rather than an omnipotent Saviour, quote Philippians 2:12: "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." This message was written to saints in Philippi. They were saints because they were 'IN CHRIST JESUS'. (Philippians 1:1). We learn in Colossians 2:10 that saints are 'complete' 'IN CHRIST'. The Holy Spirit wanted these saints to have in them the mind which was in Christ Jesus. (Colossians 2:5). They believed that Christ had been in the form of God before He became a man to die on the cross and rise again the third day. (Philippians 2:6 to 11). Their citizenship was in heaven. (Philippians 3:20 and 21). They were not told to work to hold on to their salvation. They were told that God was working in them both to will and do of His good pleasure. (verse 13). Note what He wanted them to do. To be "blameless and harmless sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world, holding forth the Word of life." (Philippians 2:15 and 16).

Christians are the sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26), and have not received the spirit of bondage unto fear, but the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry 'Abba Father'. (Romans 8:15 and 16). Christians are not a race of servants, but a race of sons (Galatians 4:4 to 7); not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14).

#### CHRISTIANS ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Note this message to Christians: "ye were sometimes darkness; but now light in the Lord: walk as the children of light." (Ephesians 5:8). Christians are not in the light because they work

or walk; but because they are in the Lord. Because they are in the light and in the Lord, they should walk and behave as children of light.

The all-important word, in becoming a Christian, or in living the Christian life is 'LET'. Let God save you in His way. Then let God use you to His glory. God says to Christians: "ye are not your own. Ye are bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Corinthians 6:19 and 20).

Let us see how Christians get into the Lord and in the light: "Giving thanks unto the Father, Who hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:12 to 14).

Some most important and needful instructions are given to Christians in I Peter 2:9 to 12 for Christian living and behavior; "that ye should show forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" . . . "that they (sinners) by your good works, which they shall behold, may glorify God in the day of visitation." Another servant of the Lord—James—said, "I will show you my faith by my works." (James 2:18).

The Lord tells Christians that they are an epistle of Christ, known and read of all men. (II Corinthians 3:2 and 3). In the next chapter, II Corinthians 4:6 and 7, we read concerning Christians; "God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness (Genesis 1:3), hath shined in our hearts, to give the 'LIGHT' of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (II Corinthians 4:6). This verse takes us back to the words of Christ when He was here on earth: "Ye are the light of the world." "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father Which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14 to 16).

The Lord Jesus Christ called Himself the 'LIGHT' of the world; and said that His followers would have in them the light of life. (John 8:12). Concerning Christ, we read in I Timothy 6:16, "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light, which no man can approach unto, to Whom be honour and power everlasting." Similar truth is recorded in John 1:4 and 5 and 9: "in Him (Christ) was life: and the life was the light of men . . . And the light shineth in darkness: and the darkness comprehended it not." "That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Then note the wonderful statement that follows, in verse 10: Christ was in the world, and the world was made by Him and the world knew Him not. Then John 1:29, Christ is the Lamb of God Who beareth away the sin of the world.

In Revelation 4:10 and 11 we read why God's servants in heaven say to Christ, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power." Why? "For Thou halt created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created." This confirms Colossians 1:17 to 19 and John 1:1 to 10 and Hebrews 1:1 to 4. Then in Revelation 5:9 to 14 we read why God's servants in heaven say to Christ, "Thou art worthy" . . . "Worthy is the Lamb That was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." Why? "For Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God 'BY THY BLOOD' out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."

Thus we learn that the Lord Jesus Christ is to be praised, worshipped and honoured both as Creator and Redeemer. Note this expression of praise in the first part of Revelation, "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins 'IN HIS OWN BLOOD'." (Revelation 1:5).

Christ said to John; “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, Which is, and Which was, and Which is to come.” (Revelation 1:8). “I am He that liveth, and was dead . . . I am alive forever more . . . and have the keys of hades and death.” (Revelation 1:18).

#### CHRISTIANS BELONG TO CHRIST - (MARK 9:41)

As we compare these glorious truths in The Revelation with the greatest story of the ages, recorded in Philippians 2:5 to 11, and know that Christ is mentioned 6988 times in the Books from Matthew to Revelation (according to my count), we are not surprised that Paul said for himself, “God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Galatians 6:14). Paul was directed to write to fellow-Christians, “ye are not your own . . . ye are bought with a price.” (I Corinthians 6:19 and 20). What a difference it would make in the life and behaviour and service of Christians, if they would permit the Holy Spirit to teach them and constantly remind them that the Lord of glory, Who suffered on the cross of Calvary, the eternal, omnipotent, sinless Christ, was the Creator of the heavens and the earth; and that this world belongs to Christ by right of creation and by right of redemption. Little wonder then that God, the Father, desires that God, the Son, in all things should have the preeminence. (Colossians 1:18).

We should be able to understand the meaning of Philippians 4:19 when we read Romans 8:32. Note these two verses: “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

Surely now we can understand better Colossians 3:23 and Colossians 3:17: “Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily (from the soul), as to the Lord, and not unto men.” “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the NAME of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks unto God the Father by Him.”

Some saved church-members join with the great number of unsaved church-members in their comment; “this is taking religion too seriously.” The great majority of saved church-members give little heed to Colossians 3:16, “let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.” There is another very important ‘LET’ in Philippians 4:6 and 7, which it behooves every Christian to obey in these days of uncertainty, unrest, of international political, economical and religious confusion: “Be careful for nothing: but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, ‘LET’ your requests be made known unto God . . . And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Let us never forget the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, in John 12:26 and John 5:23, and let us, by God’s grace and power, obey I Corinthians 15:58. Note the truth in these verses. Christ said, “if any man serve Me, Him will My Father honour” . . . “That all men should honour the Son even as they honour the Father: he that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father Who hath sent Him.” “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always, abounding in the ‘WORK OF THE LORD’, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain ‘IN THE LORD’.”

“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.” (Ephesians 6:10). “Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:25).

Surely as we meditate upon what we have quoted from God’s Book, the Bible, we must know that the Christian belongs to Christ; that he is not his own; that he is bought with a price, the precious shed blood of the Eternal Christ. (I Peter 1:18 to 23). We should know what Paul meant when he said, “the love of Christ constraineth us.” (II Corinthians 5:14). Before Paul wrote this to the Corinthian Christians he wrote, in I Corinthians 16:22, “if any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema . . . Maranatha . . . “accursed, the Lord coming.” Another apostle, John, wrote; “we love Him, because He first loved us.” ( I John 4:19).

Remember that church-members, however decent, respectable, moral, kind, gentle, religious and zealous, who deny the eternal Deity and virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, His perfect, sinless life, His vicarious death, His resurrection and ascension in a body, are called deceivers and anti-christ (II John 7); and they make God a liar, because they believe not the record that God hath given of His Son. (I John 5:10).

Inasmuch as the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is now in heaven appearing in God’s presence for Christians (Hebrews 9:24 and Hebrews 7:25), is the Author and Finisher of our faith, and wants all Christians to be faithful ambassadors, witnesses and labourers, we do not want it said of us what is being said concerning so many church-members; “they practice Christianity only when it is convenient and entails no sacrifice, hardship nor suffering.” And shame on the spiritual leaders who have changed conviction for convenience. (John 12:43 . . . Galatians 1:10 and Jude 16).

## THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORLD

Just before the Lord Jesus closed His ministry on earth He said to His disciples: “if the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. if ye were of the world, the world would love its own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” (John 15:18 and 19). “I have spoken unto you that ‘IN ME’ ye might have peace. in the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33). Then Christ said concerning His disciples, in His prayer to His Father: “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” (John 17:16).

It would seem from these words of the Lord Jesus Christ that Christians would know that the term ‘worldly Christian’ seems to be paradoxical. Note how the world is described in I John 2:16: “All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth Forever.” Therefore Christians are instructed, in verse 15, “love not the world, neither the things in the world: if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” “The friendship of the world is enmity with God . . . whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4).

The unsaved person is said to walk ‘according to the course of this world’. (Ephesians 2:2). God thus instructs the saved person: “be not conformed to this world.” (Romans 12:2).

In Colossians, the third chapter, God explains to the Christian the meaning of Christ's words in the seventeenth chapter of John, that the Christian is 'IN THE WORLD'; but is 'NOT OF THE WORLD'. Every Christian should read the third chapter of Colossians at least one thousand times, and then by God's all-sufficient grace and almighty power, try to obey the command, "be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only." There is no higher spiritual truth in all the Bible than in the third chapter of Colossians, which begins; if ye then be raised with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth . . . Put to death therefore your members upon the earth" . . . After mentioning some of the sinful habits that are to be put away, these words of warning are added: "for which things's sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." (Colossians 3:6).

Note in this same Epistle to the Christians, or saints, what the Lord's spiritual leaders wished for all of the Christians, and that for which they prayed fervently: "that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God" (Colossians 4:12) . . . "that ye might be filled with the knowledge of God's will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:9 and 10).

#### WASTED GRACE AND UNUSED POWER.

When we learn in Romans 5:20 and II Corinthians 9:8 and Ephesians 2:8 to 10 and II Timothy 1:9 and 10 and Titus 2:11 to 14, that God's all-sufficient, more abounding grace is altogether adequate for all the sins and all the sinners in this world, and equally adequate for every need, every task, every test, every affliction (II Corinthians 12:9), for every problem, every trial of every Christian, we can truly say that so far as eighty percent of the unsaved people on this earth are concerned, God's grace is wasted. Millions of church-members, including many saved church-members, do not believe II Timothy 1:9, "God, Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began?" This gift of God's grace included the gift of God's Son; so that God might be just and merciful and freely justify any kind of a believing sinner. (Romans 3:24 to 28 . . . Titus 3:5 to 7).

More than ninety-five percent of God's people, called Christians, will not let God do for them and with them that which He desires to work in them to will and to do of His good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12 to 14). But hear God's Word to Christians: "I beseech you that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." (II Corinthians 6:1). Paul wrote the Corinthians that God did not bestow His grace upon him in vain. (I Corinthians 15:10).

Then hear of God's mighty power for Christians. God is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20) . . . what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ when He raised Christ from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenlies far above. (Ephesians 1:19 to 23). So far as more than ninety percent of Christians are concerned, much of this power is not appropriated.

“Now the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13).

## HOPE-SO CHURCH MEMBERS AND KNOW-SO CHRISTIANS

It has been truly said that there would not be so many unsaved, religious church-members, going to perdition, labeled as ‘Christians’, if there were not so many carnal, worldly, compromising saved people who are members of some one of the three hundred or more sectarian church-organizations. It has also been truly said that there has never been a time in this country when, on the one hand, more servants of the Lord were preaching the gospel of Christ by radio and otherwise, and when, on the other hand, there was so much real apathetic indifference, as to spiritual things, on the part of unsaved people who are headed for the wrath of God.

It has been observed by many church historians that multitudes have been spiritually indifferent during the seasons of unusual material prosperity. Others have stated that eighty percent of the people, who are really born again and become members of the one true Bible Church of this age and dispensation of grace, ‘the Body of Christ’, receive God’s saving grace and His Son either as children or in the time of adversity or real trouble.

Then again it has been often said by God’s servants that Satan has caused many really saved people to doubt their salvation, and many unsaved people to feel secure without regeneration. Satan is accused of the crime of deceiving the whole world. (Revelation 12:9). The apostle Paul was directed by the Holy Spirit to write: “I fear, lest by any means, as the Serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds, should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” (II Corinthians 11:3). Satan did such a deadly work in Eden that we read in I John 5:19, “we (Christians) know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in the evil one (in the lap of Satan).”

If the Christian is to stand against the tricks of the clever devil, he must put on the ‘whole’ armour of God (Ephesians 6:11 to 20), and resist Satan steadfastly in the faith (I Peter 5:8 and 9).

When we read in II Corinthians 2:14 concerning Satan, “we are not ignorant of his devices,” we should read with this II Corinthians 11:13 to 15: “Such are false apostles, deceitful workers, ‘TRANSFORMING THEMSELVES INTO THE APOSTLES OF CHRIST’; And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into ‘AN ANGEL OF LIGHT’.” He sends out his ambassadors as ministers of righteousness. The Bible foretold that these camouflaged religious messengers would creep in to the church-organizations ‘unawares’. (Jude 4). Many of them are very sincere, very religious, philanthropic, benevolent, having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. They use Christian terminology and Bible phraseology to propagate what has been called “christianized agnosticism.” They deny the Lord that bought them, which God calls ‘the damnable heresy’. (II Peter 2:2). Many are following their pernicious ways. (II Peter 2:2). Of course, Spirit-taught Christians know that a ‘Christian infidel’ is an impossible paradox.

As ‘COMMUNISM’ is ‘ANTI-GOD’, so ‘MODERNISM and every (so-called Christian) METAPHYSICAL CULT is ‘ANTI-CHRIST’, described in II John 7 to 11, as deceivers, who

abide not in the doctrine of Christ, and have not God. God warns His people that their religious works are evil deeds, and not to support them in any way. Then we have many 'ANTI-GRACE' movements carried on under the leadership of religious men who are steeped in 'RITUALISM'. Satan knows that, with HEATHENISM and COMMUNISM, and with MODERNISM and RITUALISM and SECTARIANISM and the METAPHYSICAL CULTS and WORDINESS in the churches, and with many of his agents, ministers and servants preaching another Jesus and another gospel (II Corinthians 11:3 to 6), he has most of the members of the human race where he wants them.

It is sad, but true, that many spiritual Christians do not have assurance, and hesitate to join in the "WE KNOWS" of I John 3:14 . . . II Corinthians 5:1 . . . and . . . I John 3:2. "We know that we have passed out of death into life" . . . "we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house eternal in the heavens" . . . "we know that when Christ shall appear, we shall be like Him."

We certainly should know that we are not going to be with Christ forever in glory, because we are worthy, but because He is worthy. When we are saved by grace, and know it, boasting is excluded. (Romans 3:27 and Ephesians 2:8 and 9). Spirit taught Christians "worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." (Philippians 3:3).

#### A HOPE LAID UP IN HEAVEN

Christians are confident, and are willing to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (II Corinthians 5:8). Paul testified in this language, in Philippians 1:22, "having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ which is far better." Stephen, when dying, prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" . . . "and when he had said this, (in Acts 7:59 and 60) he fell asleep." This experience is explained in Ecclesiastes 12:7.

Then note in I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18, that the dead in Christ, Christians, whose bodies have returned to dust, will receive their resurrection, glorified bodies when the Lord Jesus Christ shall descend from heaven. At the very same moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the living Christians will also be raptured; and they shall not sleep. (I Corinthians 15:51 to 53). So Christians can truthfully say; "our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall change our body of humiliation, that it may be fashioned like unto His body of glory, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself." (Philippians 3:20 and 21).

#### OTHERS WHICH HAVE NO HOPE

When the Lord Jesus Christ raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:34 and 44), Christ, in John 11:25 and 26, answered the question asked by Job centuries before Christ came down from heaven, "if a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). We have the answer again in the verses we quoted from I Thessalonians, the fourth chapter. There we read of 'others which have no hope'. (I Thessalonians 4:13). in I Timothy 1:1 we are told that the Lord Jesus Christ is our hope. In Ephesians 2:12 we are told that people who are without Christ, are without hope, and without God. The word translated 'without God' is 'ATHEOS', from which we get the word 'atheist'.

An atheist might be a respectable, moral, religious church-member, who not only contends for a personal God, but expresses great admiration for Jesus of Nazareth, and is sure he has the right to be called a 'Christian' because he heartily sanctions the social gospel and ethical philosophy of the Master. However he does not hesitate to make God a liar by denying the eternal Deity and bodily resurrection of the Son of God. (I John 5:10). Faith and confession are required of the sinner by God for salvation; confession of the Deity of Christ and belief in His bodily resurrection. (Romans 10:9 and 10).

If a man can get into heaven by admiring Jesus Christ, by trying his very best to regulate his life and conduct by the teachings of Christ in the sermon on the mount and in the golden rule, then all of the apostles of Christ were false witnesses; and Christ indeed died in vain (Galatians 2:21).

If Jesus Christ was not God in heaven before He became Man, if He did not perform the supernatural miracles with which He is accredited in the Bible, including the great miracle of His bodily resurrection (Matthew 12:40 and 41 . . . John 10:17 and 18), if Christ did not come out of Joseph's tomb the third day, and show Himself alive by many infallible proofs (Acts 1:3), surely the Bible is a compilation of fables, forgeries and myths and Christianity is worse than a superstition.

#### AFTER 1920 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY

After reading the following article you wouldn't think we live in a land of Bibles and Churches which are supposed to preach a Divine, sinless, crucified and resurrected Christ. He is not mentioned once in this article. No person can reach heaven and eternal glory without faith in the omnipotent eternal, sinless Christ and His redemptive work.

#### ONLY 12 OF 100 FEAR HOT HEREAFTER

Survey Shows Americans More Certain  
of Heaven than They Are Afraid of Hell  
By HAL BOYLE in Kalamazoo Gazette

NEW YORK - (AP) - Americans never had it so good on earth. And a majority are smugly sure that when they die, they will have it good in an afterlife, too. They are more certain of heaven than they are afraid of hell.

Since the second World War, the United States has seen a growing revival of interest in religion. Church membership has increased, books on religious topics often hit the best seller lists.

#### UNEXPECTED RESULTS

Clerics naturally are pleased, that, even in the midst of widespread material prosperity, more and more people are turning to God for a final answer to the tension of our times. Some, however, are troubled by questions as to the real depth and understanding of religious issues this revival of interest raises.

How do the American people feel on the fundamental tenets of religion? Catholic Digest, a monthly magazine, is making a series of surveys to find out. its most recent poll had some unexpected and disturbing results.

It found that 99 per cent of Americans over 18 years of age believe in the existence of God, but only 77 per cent think their own individual souls will live on after death.

What happens in this afterlife? Some 72 per cent of all adult Americans believe there is a heaven, where people who have led good lives will be eternally rewarded. But only 58 per cent, on the other hand, believe there is a hell in which bad people who died without regretting their sins will live in eternal damnation.

As to their own chances of being punished in the hot hereafter, Americans are surprisingly optimistic. Their high opinion of their own goodness is shown by the fact that only 12 out of 100 think there is any real possibility of their going to hell.

Catholic Digest finds this attitude dismaying, and proof that America, whether it is a righteous nation or not, is certainly too self-righteous.

#### FEW ATHEISTS

While some religious leaders are disturbed by what they feel is an overly complacent attitude toward the afterlife, atheist leaders face what is to them an even more doleful problem.

“Our membership was never lower,” recently complained Woolsey Teller, secretary-treasurer of the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism.

“In many ways we who are trying to lead people away from church are in the same boat as those trying to lead them into church.

“People today are generally too interested in material things. The average man, I’m afraid, would rather play gin rummy or watch wrestling on TV than take part in something serious.”

After you have read this newspaper article, read again Revelation 21:8 and John 3:36 and take a stand with the apostle Paul, as he wrote in Romans 3:4: “Let God be true, but every man a liar.” Wake up, sinner, after you leave this world you cannot correct the great blunder and tragedy of rejecting Christ.

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written: He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.” (I Corinthians 3:19). “The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us who are saved it is the power of God.” “Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?” Korea is one answer. The same worldly wisdom and human religion that crucified the Lord of Glory (I Corinthians 2:8) is rejecting Him today.

Read I Corinthians 1:18 to I Corinthians 2:16 and make a survey of Christendom in the light of these verses and hurry to Christ and Calvary.

#### FINAL WORDS TO CHRISTIANS

One of the first statements in the Bible that the new born babe in Christ should read is Romans 11:11, the statement that when the FALL OF ISRAEL took place, God sent salvation to

the Gentiles, in a somewhat changed economy, called “the dispensation, or economy, or administration, of the grace of God for Gentiles.” (Ephesians 3:1 to 3).

To get the connecting link between the statements in Romans 11:11 and Ephesians 3:1 to 3, it would be well for Christians to read Titus 2:11 to 14, the meaning of the statement, that the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men; and then to read all that is in this short Epistle to Titus. In this Epistle God, the Father, is called the Saviour in each of the three chapters: and the Lord Jesus Christ is called the Saviour in each of the three chapters. God instructs His children to study the Bible, to rightly divide His Truth, and thus be workmen who need not be ashamed. (II Timothy 2:15). This of course means to know the difference between God’s people under the law, and His people not under the law. (Romans 6:14). it means also that Christians should know the change in God’s dealings with both the nation Israel and the Gentiles after the FALL OF ISRAEL.

Observing this principle of progressive revelation, and the unfolding of God’s unmixed grace gospel, it would be intelligent, wise and profitable to study all ‘salvation’ messages in the light of Titus 3:3 to 8. In Titus 3:3 we read of the awful, sinful condition of the human race, then in Titus 3:4 we read of God’s kindness and love toward these awful sinners. Then God’s saving power in action: “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit, Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour . . . That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life . . . Affirm constantly that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.”