



ഓരോ
തലമുറയിലും
ദൈവത്തിനുവേണ്ടി
ദൈവം ചിലരു
വേർത്തിക്കുന്നു.
വിശ്വാസത്തിനു
വേണ്ടി പോരട്ടം
കഴിച്ചും ജീവൻ
ബലി അർപ്പിച്ചും,
നിന്മകളും പരിഹാ
സങ്കരം സഹിച്ചും
ഉറങ്ങിത്തിരിച്ച്
നമ്മുടെ പിതാക്കൾ
നാടുടെ കാലം എത്ര
അനുഗ്രഹമായിരുന്നു.



Pastor
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രഘൃ തലമുറയിൽ

നാം ഈന്ന് വന്നൊത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നത് എല്ലാംകൊണ്ടും ഒരു വല്ലാത്ത തലമുറ യുടെ മധ്യത്തിലാണ്. മാതാപിതാക്കൾ വളരെ ക്ഷേമിച്ചും ത്യാഗങ്ങൾ സഹിച്ചും തണ്ടളുടെ കുംതതുണ്ടൾക്ക് എറ്റവും മികച്ച വിജ്ഞാഭാസം നൽകുവാൻ ഉത്സാഹിക്കുന്നു. ജീവിത വിജയത്തിനും പ്രവർത്തന നേട്ടങ്ങൾക്കും അത് ആവശ്യമായതുമാണ്. കഴിത്തെത്ത തലമുറയിൽ ഉന്നതമായ ആദർശങ്ങൾക്കും മുല്യങ്ങൾക്കും സ്വഭാവ മഹിമയുംകൂടുന്ന പ്രാഥമ സ്ഥാനം നൽകിയിരുന്നു. ഈന്ന തെരു അവസ്ഥയും ? മുല്യസംശയങ്ങൾ തന്നെ മാറിയിരിക്കുന്നു. നേട്ടങ്ങളും ലാഭങ്ങളും മാത്രമാണ് നിന്മുടെ ആത്യന്തിക ലക്ഷ്യം. മാർഗ്ഗമെന്തായാലും കൂടുതലില്ലെന്നാണ്.

ഈ പരിസ്ഥാപനത്തിയിൽ ദൈവവിജ്ഞ കൈക്കെട്ട് അനുസരിച്ച് പുറപ്പെട്ട ബാഹ്യ ദൈവമക്കളും എന്നെന്ന മുഖംവാട്ടു പോകണമെന്ന് ബാർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ചില ഭാഗങ്ങളിലേക്ക് ശ്രദ്ധയെയ തിരിക്കാം. ‘ഭനാഹര നീതിമാനും താഴ്ന്ന തലമുറയിൽ നിഷ്കരിക്കും കൂടും നടന്നു’ എന്നു ദൈവഭന്നാട്ടു കുടെ നടന്നു’ എന്നു വലിയ സാക്ഷ്യം. എന്നു മഹ തന്ത്രായ ജീവിതം. അന്നത്തെത്ത തലമുറയ്ക്കു അധിക്കരിച്ചതായിരുന്നു. വഷളതുവും അതിക്രമവും പെരു കിയ കാലം? “ഭൂമി ദൈവത്തിന്റെ മുമ്പാക

വഷളായി, ഭൂമി അതിക്രമം കൊണ്ട് നിര തെതിരുന്നു. ദൈവം ഭൂമിയെ ഭനാക്കി അത് വഷളായി എന്നു കണ്ടു. സകല ജീവവും ഭൂമിയിൽ താഴ്ന്ന വഴി വഷളാക്കിയിരുന്നു.” ഇപ്പോൾത്തെത്ത അവസ്ഥ മുന്നും അഭവും വയസ്സുള്ള പൊലികയും തൊഞ്ചുള്ള വയസ്സുള്ള സ്ക്രിയും മാനംഗാന്തിന് ഇരയാകുന്നു എന്നത് നിന്മുടെ സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ യാർഹിക മുല്യപ്പുതി എന്നു ഭീകരമെന്ന് വ്യക്തമാകുന്നു.

“ഭാവിന് താഴ്ന്ന തലമുറയിൽ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ ആലോചനയ്ക്ക് സുന്ദരമാക്കാം ചെയ്തു”. ഇവിടെയും എന്നു മഹ തന്ത്രായ ഒരു സാക്ഷ്യം. ഓരോ തലമുറയിലും ദൈവത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ദൈവം ചിലരെ വൈർത്തിക്കുന്ന വിശ്വാസത്തിനുംവേണ്ടി പോരാട്ടം കഴിച്ചും ജീവൻബലി അർപ്പിച്ചും, നിന്മകളും പരിഹാസങ്ങളും സഹിച്ചും ഇരുണ്ടിന്തിരിച്ചു നിന്മുടെ പിതാക്കന്മാരുടെ കാലം എന്നു അനുഗ്രഹമായിരുന്നു. ഭനാഹര ഭലാക തെരു നേട്ടിയില്ലായെങ്കിലും കൂടും പെരുതെന്നു നേട്ടി. ഭലാകത് താഴ്ന്ന കുടുംബവ തെരുപ്പാലും ഭനാക്കാക്കരെ വലശത്ത് ഭാടി കഷ്ടിച്ച് രക്ഷ പ്രാപിച്ചു. നമുക്ക് പഞ്ചലോസിനെപ്പോലെ എന്തു വിഡയ നയും ചിലരെക്കുടെ നേദ്ദവാൻ ഇടയാക്കേ.

The Pentecostal Way of Interpreting the Bible

Have you noticed the way a particular scripture verse is used to establish opposing theological positions? Whether it is about tithing or wearing ornaments, verses are often interpreted in multiple ways. Consider the major doctrines. For instance, have you noticed that non-Pentecostals and Pentecostals come to differing positions on the baptism of the Holy Spirit basing their theologies on the very same biblical texts? What you are seeing is the difference in biblical interpretation. The text may be the same, but the ultimate meaning of any text is based on the way it is interpreted.

There are correct and wrong ways of interpreting a biblical text. You may be surprised to know that some of the favorite theological beliefs among God-fearing Christians are based on irresponsible interpretations of biblical texts. Preachers and teachers of the Bible must take their work of interpretation very seriously because wrong interpretations lead to wrong doctrines, and wrong doctrines affect people's lives in this world and the next.

It appears to me that while untrained preachers often interpret biblical texts poorly, pastors trained in Bible Schools and seminaries sponsored by non-Pentecostal or anti-Pentecostal groups seem to interpret the texts often in non-Pentecostal ways. Many don't seem to understand that they are using methods of biblical interpretation which led the founders of these schools to anti-Pentecostal or non-Pentecostal theological positions in the first place. Preaching based on non-Pentecostal ways of interpreting the Bible is impacting Pentecostal congregations in very negative ways.

For instance, the main aim of evangelical approaches to Bible interpretation is to find the historical meaning of particular texts. This is, of course, a very important goal. But what the text meant to someone in the original readership should not be the only concern of the Pentecostal interpreter. What is the Holy Spirit saying through the same text to current believers should also be a concern for Spirit-filled interpreters because Pentecostals believe that the Spirit of God is actively at work in the world today, revealing God's word and ways to mankind, especially through His

Church. Why should Pentecostals adopt a method of interpreting the Bible that has led others to the conclusion that the gifts of the Spirit have ceased operating?

Pentecostal interpreters of the Bible are not just passive readers. They are persons who are actively engaged in discovering the meaning of the word of God by allowing the Spirit to move within them and interact between them and the text. The Spirit illuminates the word, giving the interpreters not only important historical understanding, but also fresh insights and revelations! The readers and hearers of the Bible need not just the historical meaning of biblical passages; they also need to grasp the meaningfulness of the text "in the now."

Early Pentecostal interpreters and preachers were not stuck on the historical meaning of what they read in the Bible, they were looking for the meaning of the text in their contexts. This is a valid way to interpret the Bible. The scripture does more than inform us, it also transforms. Inspired interpretation that is faithful to the historical context and illuminated by the

Spirit is what transforms life profoundly, not just historical meaning of texts.

Reading the Bible should not only lead to knowing about God, it should also give an opportunity to know God and hear His word.

Pentecostal teachers, preachers and other interpreters should be mindful of this. The Holy Spirit reveals God to us through His son Jesus Christ. Interpreters and other readers should ask, what is the Spirit saying to us through this text now?

Is this not too subjective? Can't people misunderstand what the Spirit is saying? How would you prevent false doctrines from developing from personal interpretations and claims? These are good questions, but this is where the importance of the community of faith comes in. God has His word, His Spirit and His community to discern and guard the truth. It is the job of the Spirit-filled community to test the interpretation for witness and to keep the doctrines in balance. What else should we conclude from the words of the apostle Peter, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us ---" (Acts 15:28)?



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Through the heavenly wisdom we have the ability to view life from God's perspective along with mental perception and comprehension that God will bestow upon us.

Understanding the truth about 'heavenly' wisdom!

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." (James 3:13, 17)

The 'heavenly' wisdom of which James speaks is practical and relational that is evidenced by godly attitudes and actions. He exhorts believers to demonstrate their faith through works and demonstrate their wisdom by godly living. The outward sign of 'heavenly' wisdom is a gentle and humble spirit. Our Lord Jesus was meek and lowly in heart (Matt. 11:29). Therefore, all who are truly wise will have the hallmark of genuine humility!

'Heavenly' wisdom that comes from God has the following characteristics:

- * It is pure in thoughts, words, deeds, spirit, body, doctrine, practice, faith and morals.
- * It is peaceable and will love to maintain peace in every situation without sacrificing purity.
- * It is gentle, courteous and respectful of the feelings of others.
- * It is willing to yield, open to reason and ready to give in when truth requires it.
- * It is full of mercy to those who are in the wrong, and anxious to help them find the right way.
- * It is full of good fruits by being compassionate and kind.
- * It is without partiality and does not

produce favoritism.

- * It is without hypocrisy by being sincere and genuine.

James says that 'heavenly' wisdom is necessary in a teacher. The teacher must exhibit a meek and practical application of the truth. One cannot teach what one does not live. The wisdom that comes from God is first pure, then promotes peace, and finally

ends in righteousness (vv. 17,18). Through the heavenly wisdom we have the ability to view life from God's perspective along with mental perception and comprehension that God will bestow upon us.

Is there bitterness in our hearts or envy? Are we speaking from God's wisdom or the wisdom of the world? Are we peacemakers or troublemakers? If your hearts are right before God, He will use ours words to produce the right kind of fruit in our lives. Our outward behavior will reflect if we are wise as we control our tongues and place our minds deliberately under the authority of God in order to let God control us. Let us ask God in faith to grant us heavenly wisdom today!

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind" (James 1:5-6).



Keep "Suvartha" Ministry in your prayers

God's Book for Mankind:

- Part 11 -

The Triune God

The central theme of the Bible is God's plan of redemption for mankind. This redemption, or salvation, is by the grace of God through faith in the atoning, substitutionary death and resurrection of the one and only Savior of the world, that is the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The central Person of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ, the second Person of the triune God. Of course, God the eternal Father of the eternal Son and the eternal Holy Spirit are the other divine Persons in the Bible.

Two kinds of Angels

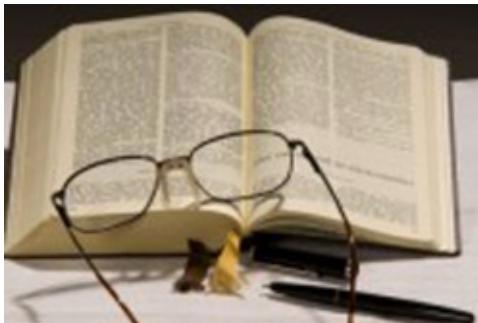
The other major characters in the Bible are good and bad angels. God created countless angels and gave them many duties and responsibilities (Col. 1:16; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:11). We read about an angel named Gabriel, which means "God is Strong" (Dan. 9:21; Luke 1:26). We also read about another angel named Michael, which means "Who is like God" (Dan. 10:13; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev. 12:1-9).

Another angel we see in the Bible is Lucifer meaning "Shining One" or "Star of the Morning" (Isa. 14:12). Lucifer and a host of angels rebelled against God and God cast them out of Heaven (Eze. 28 and Isa. 14). Demons are bad angels who were led by Lucifer from the presence of God. Lucifer is known as the ruler of demons, or Beelzebub (Matt. 12:24). Demons will be cast into the lake of fire with Satan (Rev. 19:19-21).

Three groups of people

The Jewish people:

The decedents of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who are known as the chosen people of God (Gal. 3:28).



The Gentiles:

All the people of the world who are not Jewish are known as gentiles. (Eph. 2; Gal. 3:28).

The Church of God:

All those who are redeemed or saved by grace through faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. The ecclesia, or the called out ones, of God from the world into Christ (I Cor. 1:2; Eph. 3:10).

Three major places.

Three places we read about in the Bible are Heaven, Earth and Hell.

Heaven:

The Bible speaks of three heavens, the first heaven, the second heaven and the third heaven. The first heaven consists of the sky, the firmament, or the atmosphere near the earth where the birds fly. (Gen. 1:8, 28; Deut. 4:19; 11:17; 28:12; 1 Kings 14:11; Job 12:7; Psa. 8:8).

The second heaven is the outer space. This is the area where the sun, moon and stars are found (Gen. 15:5; Deut. 4:19; Psa. 19:4, 6; Isa. 13:10; Jer. 8:2). The third heaven is the dwelling place of God (2 Cor. 12:2; Eph. 1:20; 3:15). Absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (Phil. 1:23). All those who come to God through Christ will be in heaven with the Lord for ever. Saints of God who are absent from the body is present with the Lord. The Bible speaks of a new heaven (Rev. 21:1).

Earth:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). "God has given the earth to men" (Psa. 115:16). "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" (Psa. 24:1; I Cor. 10:26). The Bible speaks of a new earth in the future (Rev. 21:1).



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CHRIST - CENTERDNESS :

Mandatory For Christian Living - III



**Pastor
Shibu Joseph**
Navi Mubmbai

Today it is regrettable that many so-called children of God are living with selfish and greedy motives which ultimately lead them to a life around earthly things.

Scientifically every revolving thing has a nucleus. For instance, we know about the solar system in which all planets including our earth are revolving round the sun. This determines life, seasons and times. Their gravitational and orbital relation is towards the sun. This defines the aim, purpose, order and future of every planet.

Similar is the position about Christian life. Our faith and life have a centre, a nucleus. The mechanism of our life and progress is essentially established around this centre point. This is a very important matter. The greatness of our life arises not because of anything that we are doing, but because the center of our life is Christ Jesus. This gives our life a purpose and target. If Christ is not our nucleus, then our life will be a kind of futile effort. When Christ becomes the center of our life, there would be more meaningful and fruitful living inside the church and outside in the world.

Today it is regrettable that many so-called children of God are living with selfish and greedy motives which ultimately lead them to a life around earthly things. The richness of our Christian life is not based on the amount of material possessions we have, but more assuredly in Christ Himself. Listen to what Saint Paul is telling believers in the Colossian church which is absolutely applicable to all. Paul says, "If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above

To many, wealth has become the centre of life - for some others, position and power and to a few others, glamour and fame. And Christ is just an address to gain all these!

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life - physical, material, social and spiritual - is Jesus Christ. This is not talking about the ascetic or lonely life pattern. However, it is walking and living with our Saviour. This shows our life in Christ and Christ in us. Christ living in us is both mysterious and glorious. Definitely this is our blessedness according to the riches of glory we have in Christ Jesus (Col.1:27).

To many, wealth has become the centre of life - for some others, position and power and to a few others, glamour and fame. And Christ is just an address to gain all these! Many consider Jesus as a medical prescription! You need a prescription whenever you want a medicine. But the prescription will not cure you. You cannot swallow that paper and get healed!!

If we regard or disregard Jesus in such a manner, He is merely a helper not the centre. Sometimes we diplomatically avoid Him from our ways and plans for our ambitious goal and indulge in the ugly games. This will certainly create pain in the heart of God. Because He spent priceless value to purchase and redeem us from the rotten and decomposing life of sin. It was done not to keep Him out of our ways but to walk with Him and live in Him. We ignore it conveniently and go in our own directions without any regret. Surely, we live in the same period of Laodecea church. We have everything but no place for the Master of the church. What an unfortunate life and a grave situation! Still we claim abundance and sufficiency and boast in all these 'seen matters'. We feel fullness but without having the One who is the embodiment of Fullness!! We are all very busy in our own world and consequently, not listening to the constant knock of Christ who purchased the church. Not only Jesus Christ is not in the centre nor even in a corner but He is made to stand outside like a stranger. We have a number

Christ centered life is not just a philosophical idea nor a liturgical announcement but rather it is the life of reality and progressive experience in the life giving Spirit

where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God (Col. 3:1). This verse indicates that we have one position, one life, one living, one destiny and one glory. The centre of our total

of crusades, conventions, conferences, fasting 'melas', camps, picnics, etc. Nevertheless, where is Christ?

Christ centered life is not just a philosophical idea nor a liturgical announcement but rather it is the life of reality and progressive experience in the life giving Spirit that is Jesus Christ Himself. David rightly penned in the Psalms: "*I said to the Lord, You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing*" (Psa. 16:2).

Asaph also adds the same fact in Psalms 73:25: "*Whom I have in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides You*". Apostle Paul admonishes believers: Just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him and rooted and built in Him (Col. 2:6). This provides great scope and goal in the Christ centered life.

Here we can raise a question, why we need to make Him as the nucleus of our life and faith? We can definitely find out many answers to this. A few are given below:

1. Christ came down from above (John 8:23,42).
2. He is the Saviour and Redeemer (Mat. 1:21; Titus 2:14).
3. He destroyed the power of death (2 Tim. 1:10).
4. He is resurrected Lord (1 Cor. 15:4).
5. He is returning soon (Titus 2:13; Rev.

22:20).

6. He is the supreme head of the Church (Col. 1:18).

7. He is the embodiment of the fullness of God (Col. 1:19).

8. He is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

9. He is our only bridegroom for whom we are waiting to get into holy and heavenly marriage (2 Cor. 11:2).

It is the right time for us to realize our failures and come back to the restoring Spirit of Christ who offered Himself for us. We need to make all efforts to make Him as the center of our life.

Perhaps, the list is not complete, but these are enough to recognize the reality of the value of our Christian life. What a precious life the Almighty has granted to us! However we forget all this conveniently and choose our own ways and keep Christ away. It is the right time for us to realize our

failures and come back to the restoring Spirit of Christ who offered Himself for us. We need to make all efforts to make Him as the center of our life.

Let Christ be the centre of our life, worship, prayer, songs and all gatherings. We are running in the last lap of our race and the time has come to see our glorious Saviour and loving Lord who promised, "Behold, I come quickly".

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"God's Book for mankind" . . . (Continuation from page 5)

Hell:

Hell is a real place of eternal punishment prepared for Satan and all those who follow him (Isa. 14:12-17; Eze. 28:12-19; Matt. 25:41; 2 Pet. 2:4. The Hebrew word "sheol" is used in the Old Testament for the place of future punishment (Psa. 9:17; 55:15; 116:3; Isa. 28:15-18). This word is used to mean "grave" also in the Old Testament (Gen. 37:55; 1 Kings 2:6, 9; Psa. 6:5; Hos. 13:14). The New Testament uses the word "hades" for "hell" and to mean "grave" as well. The context determines the whether it means "grave" or "hell". This is a place of eternal torment for all those who are outside of Christ.

Another word used in the Bible for a place of burning is "gehenna". This was a real place near Jerusalem. The New Testament uses this word to speak of a place of eternal punishment for the wicked (Matt. 5:22; 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 19:20; 20:15).

It is the privilege and responsibility of each child of God to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. All those who come to God through Jesus Christ will enter into eternal blessing and all those who names not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be cast into lake of fire (Rev. 20:15; 21:27).

Hell is a real place of eternal punishment prepared for Satan and all those who follow him

HEY, there is HOPE!

"For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?" – Bible.

"Hey, there is hope"

"WHAT are you saying?"

Yes, I'm totally serious!

I don't enjoy seeing anyone fail.

Failure is painful. Failure is terrifying.

However, our failure in life can teach us some incredibly valuable lessons. I actually feel bad for the high and mighty who think too well of themselves.

Failure keeps us humble; As long as you accept responsibility for your own shortcomings you can grow in amazing ways after a bitter failure. I often wonder if those who are self-centered, know-it-all jerks are actually people who have not felt their own failure. Oh yes, they've failed miserably in life, but they don't realize it. They're not owning their mistakes and making themselves better. It doesn't matter how much money you gain during your life, if you're a jerk, in the end you lose. In the business world I really don't want to work for someone who has never overcome a failure.

Have you never been fired or

worked in a very difficult environment? Then I really

don't want to work for you.

When you fail and accept

responsibility you grow, you

mature; you become a better

boss, mentor and friend.

Have you ever had a dream and

watched it crumble before your eyes?

Have you failed people you cared

deeply about? People of strong

character pick themselves up from a

terrible failure, and they try again... and

again... and again and... again until

they break through. More failures mean

more opportunities to try again,



Pastor Joab John

(friendjohn4u@gmail.com)

succeed, and become a better person.

Most importantly, God (Jesus) is for those who are failures. We read: "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed". I have a sense that God sees us so much differently than the people around us do. When others reject us, impose their

opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble". You really don't want God of the universe to oppose you, do you? Then don't be a proud jerk! Sadly I have seen more proud, unforgiving, busy, know-it-all people in the church than anywhere else. I confess, I've been that kind of person, too, I'm sorry to say. So I will give thanks to God for the times of deep despair in my life, for they cause me to have less pride in myself and more trust in Him.

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else".

Are you discouraged? Then encourage yourself in the Lord! He is for you! He took the punishment of our sin on Himself so we wouldn't have to. Live your life knowing who you are because of Him: you may fail but you are not a failure, you may be broke but you are not worthless, you may feel alone you are not deserving of abandonment; you are extremely valuable to God.

So now go on, get up, brush yourself off, and go try again. Hey, You Haven't Lost The Hope, the HOPE is in YOU !

If you are spiritually blessed by "Suvartha", tell others about it!

What is your justification *for not preaching the gospel?*

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 26:18)

The greatest commission given by Jesus for all believers is quoted above. Peter emphasizes the commission of Jesus and commands us to preach to the people and testify that He is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. Even though we recognize sharing the gospel as the greatest commission, we often hesitate to make the most use of every opportunity. The common excuses given by young people to rationalize their hesitancy to share the gospel is: "I am an amateur speaker" or "I don't know how to start or what to say"! I remember using the very same statements to silence my conscience until I heard the story of Charles Spurgeon's conversion.

The following is an excerpt from one of his biographies.

Spurgeon's words: "I sometimes think I might have been in darkness and despair until now, had it not been for the goodness of God in sending a snowstorm one Sunday morning, while I was going to a certain place of worship. I turned down a side street, and came to a little Primitive Methodist Church. In that chapel there may have been a dozen or fifteen people. I had heard of the Primitive Methodists, how they sang so loudly that they made people's heads ache; but that did not matter to me. I wanted to know how I might be saved.

The minister did not come that morning; he was snowed up, I suppose. At last a very thin-looking man, a shoemaker or tailor or something of that sort, went up into the pulpit to preach. Now it is well that preachers be instructed, but this man was really stupid. He was obliged to stick to his text, for the



Anoop Chacko, UK

simple reason that he had little else to say. The text was: "**LOOK UNTO ME, AND BE YE SAVED, ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**" (Isa. 45:22). He did not even pronounce the words rightly, but that did not matter. There was, I thought, a glimmer of hope for me in that text".

The biographer describes the substitute preacher as inexperienced, unprofessional, under qualified and thus not having proficient reading skills or language which forces him to keep repeating the text. The inabilitys of the speaker did not hinder the work of the

The inabilitys of the speaker did not hinder the work of the Holy Spirit. In fact this so called incompetent speaker was used by God as a vessel to convict and redeem Charles Spurgeon to the kingdom of God! Charles goes on to thank God that the substitute preacher did not preach but rather, kept on repeating the text from the Bible.

Holy Spirit. In fact this so called incompetent speaker was used by God as a vessel to convict and redeem Charles Spurgeon to the kingdom of God! Charles goes on to thank God that the substitute preacher did not preach but rather, kept on repeating the text from

the Bible. Charles is positive that it was the text that specifically pointed to the Person who redeemed him. This biography has been an inspiration for my life and taught me a few things:

Firstly, that our qualification, speaking skills, or our knowledge of God's word are not essential to redeem people for Christ. It's your surrendering and willingness to work for Him under any circumstances that can make us a useful vessel in God's hands. The man was willing and ready to come and preach even though he was inexperienced, unprofessional and the weather conditions were unfavorable to travel to church.

Secondly, God can use the snowstorm day or the harshest times of our lives to reveal Himself to others. Therefore always remember whenever Christians face harsh times, God may be using their situation for the edification of others. For instance, we see Paul's imprisonment leading to the conversion of the jailor, Joseph's troubles and hardships leading to the saving of a whole kingdom and his family from famine.

Always bear in mind that, there is a purpose to every circumstance which God brings.

Thirdly, God chooses the foolish things of the world to shame the wise. God used the so called incompetent preacher on that snow storm day to save a soul, who in turn saved many others. The competent and capable preacher was not very necessary to be present to turn the heart of Charles Spurgeon to Christ. God does not always need an experienced speaker to change the lives of people.

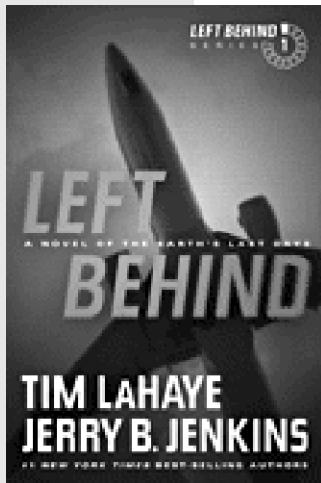


&
JKS



The 'Left Behind' series!

The best-selling novel, "Left Behind", by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins was first published in 1995. It was followed by sixteen sequels, three films starring



Kirk Cameron, and a couple of videogames. As Christians have a fascination for 'Rapture' stories, movies like 'A Thief in the Night' and 'A Distant Thunder' were also made by other producers with the same theme. Another movie on 'Rapture' is being planned by producer Paul Lalonde who made the

'Left Behind' movie. He said: 'We are living in the last days and if the Rapture were to happen today, there are a lot of people who just aren't ready. This is why we need to complete the story as soon as possible'.

But there are many critics who say: "Left Behind is not a good movie. The film received near universal scorn, including from many Christian audiences. It's mainly an airplane-in-peril drama rather than a thoughtful treatment of the story's theological message".

Creating films that preach the Gospel is certainly a noble undertaking, but the methods are just as important as the message. Given Left Behind's cold reception, and the fact that most Christian movies are only attended by Christians, it is hard to justify another sequel. It is better that Left behind takes a well-deserved break from our screens!

Billy Graham statue!

North Carolina State legislators want to erect a statue of Rev. Billy Graham in the U.S. Capitol building's National Statuary Hall. Statues of two significant people from each state are featured in the Hall. The legislators believe Rev. Billy Graham, a native of North Carolina State, would be a better representative of the state than the person whose statue is

featured right now. The National Statuary Hall does not allow living people to be featured as statues, so Graham's



Young Graham

likeness cannot be added to the collection until his death.

Rev. Billy Graham, 96, is a world-famous evangelist and is credited with bringing millions of people to faith through his crusades.

Certainly Rev. Billy Graham is a special person who was chosen by God to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to millions around the world. But many Christians feel that it is totally out of character for a Christian leader to be memorialized in this fashion. A commentator says: "I know he wouldn't want this. I pray that Rev. Graham will come out and nix this project".

"Youth Forum" . . . (Continuation from previous page)

Fourthly, our lives should be an example for others. Saint Francis of Assisi says preach the word of God as far as possible, but use words only if necessary. So words are not the only things that lead people to Christ. Every Christian should be a living testimony for Christ with their lives.

We see that there is distress and turmoil all over the world and we know that only the knowledge of the Saviour can save them. Young friends, lets always have this in mind that every human is formed in the image of God. Therefore any carelessness, indifference or disinterest shown

towards preaching the gospel whenever an opportunity is given by God will hold us accountable for their blood. This is clearly stated in Ezekiel 33:8. Friends, let us not be selfish and retain the blessing of eternal life for ourselves and have the rest of the world burn in fire of hell. Let the desire to save the dying souls so burn in our hearts that we see preaching the gospel and sharing God's love as the sole purpose of our lives. Would we be able to enjoy our eternal life in heaven when we see our friends dying in eternal fire only because we were indifferent to preaching God's word to them? Let this thought always be

deeply imprinted in our minds that God has gifted us with eternal life and also has entrusted us with a great responsibility to preach the gospel. Nothing can justify a soul in hell except that you have done your part to share the gospel and they declined to accept it.

Therefore, my young friends, let's use all means to preach the gospel to the people around us through our words and our exemplary life, so that people in the dark will be able to witness the great light through us. Do not let our weaknesses or our situation be a hindrance to the expansion of the gospel.

Healing Power of Prayer

Dr. Harold G. Koenig, M.D. of Duke University says that according to a study published in the Southern Medical Journal, prayer can prevent people from getting sick and when they do get sick, prayer can help them get better faster. Analysis of 1,500 medical studies showed that "people who are more religious and pray more have better mental and physical health. Out of 125 studies that looked at the link between health and regular worship, 85 showed regular churchgoers live longer,



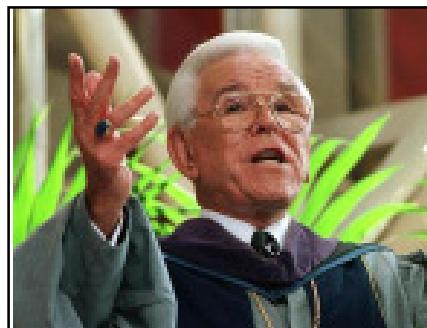
Researcher and writer Tom Knox agreed with the findings. Knox was an atheist who became a Christian after studying faith and medicine. He said: "What I discovered astonished me. Over the past 30 years a growing and largely unnoticed body of scientific work shows religious belief is medically, socially, and psychologically beneficial". In 2006, a study from the University of Texas found that the more often you attend church, the longer you live.

It is the experience of God's people that God answers prayer. As the Psalmist says, "My help comes from the LORD who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:2). Prayer can move the hand of God. Scientific studies only confirm what we know all along!

Rev. Robert H. Schuller passes away!

The Rev. Robert H. Schuller, known for rousing sermons and the iconic glass panelled Crystal Cathedral in Southern California, has died. He was 88. Schuller began his ministry 1955 at a drive-in movie theater. He soared to fame as a megachurch pastor and televangelist during the next few decades. But his empire came crashing down amid family strife and a dwindling

congregation. He sold the Crystal Cathedral to Roman Catholics in 2011. His grandson, Bobby Schuller continues his grandfather's television ministry, 'The Hour of Power' and pastors a new church with a few members of the old church.

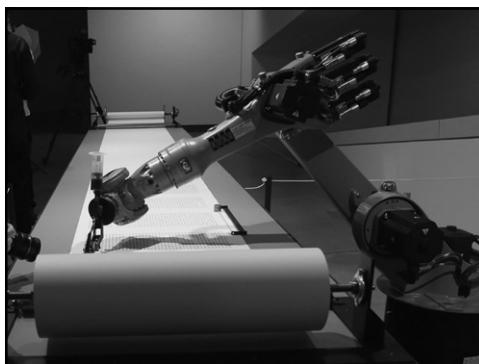


Rev. Robert Schuller

Schuller's theology was a mixture of biblical teaching and the "positive thinking" philosophy. That popular message won him legions of fans, including US Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. At the peak of his popularity, his TV program drew 20 million viewers from 180 countries. The ministry built the Crystal Cathedral in 1980 which was a marvel in architecture.

The Crystal Cathedral did not fall because it was built on strong foundation. But Schuller's ministry crashed because its foundation was built on wrong doctrines and popular theology which was, in St. Paul's words, "what their itching ears want to hear" (2 Tim. 4:3). Such disasters await similar towers built on unsound doctrines!!

Can a robot write sacred Jewish scriptures?



A robot writing a section of Torah

A Torah-writing robot was developed by the German artists' group 'Robotlab' and was presented for the first time in April 2015 at Berlin's Jewish Museum. While the machine takes about three months to complete the 80 meter (260 feet) long scroll, a Jewish scribe needs nearly a year. Matthias Gommel from robotlab said the robot initially wrote down the Christian Bible in German, Spanish and Portuguese before it was reprogrammed with the help of an Israeli graphic designer to write in Hebrew..



Rabbi Reuven Yaacobov copies a section of the Torah with a quill pen

Can a robot replace the work of a rabbi? No. The sacred scriptures can be copied only by human hands with great reverence to what is being written. Rabbi Reuven Yaacobov said: "In order for the Torah to be holy, it has to be written with a goose feather on parchment, the process has to be filled with meaning and saying prayers while writing - the way it has been done for thousands of years". The robot's Torah can't be used in a synagogue.

We must be thankful to the Jewish scribes for copying the scriptures with great reverence and prayers throughout the centuries. That is the reason why the Old Testament Scriptures available to us now are authentic and the same as the original writings.

Just for a laugh!

"I hope you didn't take it personally, Pastor, when my husband walked out during your sermon", an embarrassed woman said after a church service.

"I did find it rather disconcerting", the preacher replied.

"It's not a reflection on you, sir," insisted the churchgoer. "Ralph has a habit of walking in his sleep".

Children's

LEAVE A MARK !!



"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them"

Several years ago, a pastor from Kerala took charge of a church in Ranchi. A few weeks after he arrived, he boarded a bus from his home to visit another place. As he sat down, the bus conductor arrived and the pastor purchased his ticket. A little later he realized that the conductor had accidentally given him Rs. 2 more than the change required.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the extra change back. It would be wrong to keep it". Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only 2 Rs. Who would bother about this little amount? I will accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet".

But his conscience would not let him keep quiet and so, he handed the extra change back to the conductor and said, "Here, you gave me extra change".

The bus conductor, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new pastor in town?"

"Yes", replied the pastor with wonder. The conductor explained that he had been thinking about going to some church to worship. He just wanted to see what the new pastor would do if he gave him too much change.

He added: "Now that I have seen your honesty, I am joining your church from coming Sunday!"

Dear friends,

We need to leave a mark wherever we are - in school, at play, at college, at church, with friends and everywhere. God wants you to glorify His name through your life wherever you are. Therefore you need to be different from your worldly friends.

Stand up and make a mark for God. It might be difficult but God will honour you. Be an example for others.

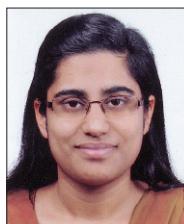


In the Bible we read about Daniel that though, no one was there to tell him or warn him or even discipline him if he did wrong, he chose to obey God and leave a mark!!!

Many times in our lives we tend to go with the world when we know no one is watching, our parents are away or friends are nonbelievers and no one will know if we do wrong - may be telling lies, may be stealing or may be using bad language but remember our friends are observing us, especially the nonbelievers.

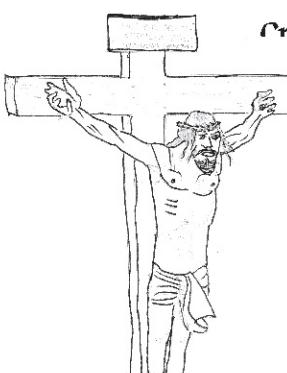
Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. Always be on guard - and remember - we carry the name of Christ on our shoulders when we call ourselves 'Christian'.

Corner



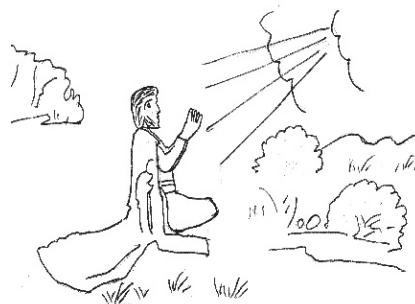
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Crucifixion of Jesus Christ



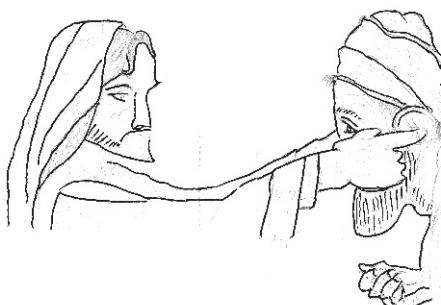
Avinash Sonsare
Nagpur

Jesus praying.....



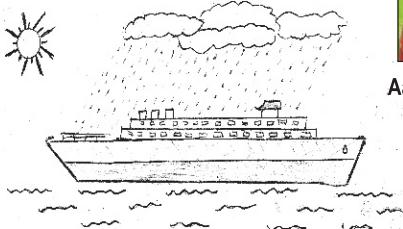
Pooja J. Raut
Nagpur

Jesus healing the deaf



Sanket Sonsare
Nagpur

Noah's Ark



Aaron B. Thomas
Panvel

Interview

Rev. Stanley Daniels

(Mission Director, Tamil Nadu State,
Mission Chairman, IPC Educational Welfare Society)

Q. What are the projects currently running under the IPC Educational and Welfare Society?

A. Theological Seminary, Kottayam and Care Center at Vellore, near CMC Vellore.

Many patients especially those suffering from cancer go to Vellore CMC for treatment but there were no care centres for them, so the seminary started a care center for the needy. Anybody can go and make use of this facility.

Also, mission involvements in different State of India, namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Q. In which States are you focusing more on?

A. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Q. Why?

A. God gave me a special vision and burden for Bihar in 2001. We started our work in Bihar on 21st August, 2007 and from there we moved to other states.

Q. Why did you quit your job in US and come to India for ministry?

A. I never wanted to be in the Ministry. I was a Banker in the US and was happy and content with my job. I served that Bank for a long time. Never expected to come out from my job, but God had a special plan. In 2001 God started dealing with me in different ways. Finally I surrendered to the Lord for full time ministry.

Q. Do you think that God has sent you only to Bihar?

A. No. I believe that God has sent me to Bihar just like God sent Moses to the wilderness. God trained me for village ministry at Bihar. I strongly believe that God has sent me not only to India but also to other countries.

Q. What are the challenges/barriers for village ministry?



*Left to Right: Bro. Sam Skaria,
Dist. Treasurer IPC Kottayam (North),
Rev. Stanley Daniels, Bro. Jaison Varghese*

A. First of all, when we go to the villages, we need to become a part of that society in all aspects; leaving behind our culture, life style, thinking, expectations, food preferences, mode of transport, climatic conditions, style of accommodation, comfort etc. Electricity has not reached in most of the villages which means we cannot avail any modern facility. No connectivity, no fans, no purified drinking water and plenty of mosquitos to spoil our sleep.

Secondly, the missionaries are not preparing the field properly. In the Bible we can see that the sower prepared the field before sowing the seeds, but nowadays most of the village missionaries do not know how to prepare the field. They are directly sowing the seeds, which does not give the due results.

Thirdly, for villagers Christians means nominal Christians who don't maintain any moral and ethical standards in their life. This creates a wrong impression about Jesus Christ and Christians among the villagers.

Fourthly, our missionaries are funded by only Rs. 3000/- in a month.

Nowadays sweepers get Rs. 15000/- per month and minimum funding required for a family is Rs. 15000/- per month in the villages. In the corporate world they say "Employee is the biggest asset" but we don't give heed to the cry of our missionaries. Due to this strategy we are losing quality missionaries.

Q. Why are we doing this?

A. To expand our mission fields and to increase the count of our missionaries with the limited funds we have.

Q. Can we reach the masses if we wait for quality missionaries?

A. Yes. God can do great things. For example, the doors of China were closed for mission work for 50 years. The Pope was not even allowed to fly over China. They were not ready to accept Pope's message. But now in China there are more genuine Christians than any other part of the world. God can do miracles in India also.

Q. What are the solutions for these problems?

A. First of all, we need to understand that every believer is a missionary. We need to understand that the moment we step out of our homes we have already entered the mission field.

Secondly, we need to live according to the Bible and lead a Christ-like life at all time so that people will see Jesus through us. That is the way Jesus targeted the whole world with twelve disciples.

May God bless us all.

Interviewed by:

Bro. Jaison Varghese

(Member, Executive Board,
Suvartha Publications)