

From the Editor's Desk



'Pentecost' Religion!

Jesus Christ did not establish any religion. But since His death and resurrection, Christianity has become another religion! A true revival took place at the beginning of the 20th century and worship in truth and spirit started. But now "Pentecost" has also become another religion!!



Thomas Ninan

There is no dearth of religions on this earth.

Religions are the attempts of human beings to find God. India is the home of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism and many more. All these religions including others outside India could not satisfy the inner man. So Jesus Christ came to the world to satisfy the spiritual yearning of man and He did not establish any religion. But since His death and resurrection, **Christianity has become another religion!** The so called Christians also started church sacraments and religious customs and idol worship. From 4th century to 19th century A.D. it went on like that in the same fashion. A true revival took place at the beginning of the 20th century and worship in truth and spirit started, though there were instances of renewal and renaissance from the 14th century. Many were attracted by this revival and large numbers from all parts of the world came to the Christian fold. It was because of the availability of the Bible in many languages and the spread of the word of God. People with enthusiasm and energy came together to worship God regardless of place or time. There was great awakening, joy and freedom among the believers. There were songs, prayers, teaching of word of God, speaking in tongues, interpretation and exhortations in the gatherings. People who scattered to various places started new assemblies in those places and all wanted to please God and Holy Spirit was their only guide. But after some 50/60 years things started changing as the original leaders disappeared from the scene. There was still tremendous growth in numbers as new generations of people and born Christians

increased rather than born - again Christians. Instead of being a living organism, the church organization started asserting itself and the qualities of believers and leaders came down. So a mechanism evolved to head and control rather than to lead and nurture. Also false doctrines and different groups began taking shape. Instead of teaching and enforcing the doctrines of repentance, believers' baptism, sanctification / separation, Holy Spirit experience, fellowship, breaking of bread and word of God, 'other gospels' started creeping into the church. Now believers generally do not know what is right and what is wrong. The teachers / leaders are also confused and their aim has shifted from Christ - crucified and a sacrificial life for the redemption of the lost. It has become an organization of cadres. Qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, humility are scarce commodities. Instead, the worldly order has started appearing in the church. No outsiders are attracted to the faith as a matter of fact. There is no truth or uprightness in life. The main intention seems to be money, fame and luxury and the great leap into the spiritual realm has now ended in carnal things. **"Pentecost" has become another religion!**

Yet there is hope if our people stir up and move towards the heavenly call and follow Christ. A total surrender as a whole is required, otherwise it will be difficult to return to the old glorious revival and purity of the gospel. Forget the pride of position and follow Jesus. March towards the establishment of the kingdom of God and not the organization. *Just as Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "thy kingdom come", let that be our goal, too.*

'Pentecost' Religion!

Reflections on being in solidarity with God's purposes!!!

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ"
(Ephesians 1:3-9)

The letter of Ephesians falls into two distinct parts - Chs. 1-3 and 4 to 6. These two parts are regarded as doctrinal and ethical. The first part, that is Chs 1 to 3, though it is doctrinal or theological it contains an extended thanksgiving in which gentile Christians are enjoying something in Christ as members of the body of Christ. Our meditation is from this first part. Here is a reminder of the readers' calling; also it is a reminder of the greatness of the salvation God has accomplished for them.

Turning to the selected periscope, Eph. 1:3-9, epistemology is very clear - traditional liturgical form of an acclamation. In this acclamation God is praised for some action that God has done to the people. Theological nature of this unit is a declarative response to a definite action of God. However, simple repetition of the key words or synonyms is the key feature of the Ephesians and the style of the letter is the use of a traditional liturgical form which is effective for re-enforcing the common religious values.

It is noticeable in this portion that Christians in Ephesus were enjoying something - 'blessings' from Christ by an act of choosing them, by an act of adoption, by acceptance, experiencing forgiveness of their sins and by revealing Gods will to them. And God prepared an inheritance to those who are called.

My reflection evolves from v. 4 of ch. 1:

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world, that we should be holy and 'blameless'

in his sight" (New international Version).

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and 'without blame' before him" (King James version)

For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and 'blameless in His sight' (positively) - that we should be holy, without blame (negatively), before Him. It is to Him the believer looks, walking as in His presence, before whom he looks to be accepted in the judgment (Col. 1:22; compare Rev. 7:15). *"In love, having predestinated us" (Eph. 1:5):* The words 'IN LOVE' qualify the whole thing: "that we should be holy -- before Him".

God's love, lost to humans by the fall, but restored by redemption, is the root and fruit and sum of all holiness (Eph. 5:2, 1Thes. 3:12,13).

When we meditate on the phrases, "To be holy and blameless in his sight", "Path of holiness" and "To be holy and blameless before him", certain

ethical questions are to be raised: what is an acceptable kind of holiness before God? What is an acceptable kind of holy life before men? What is the essence of holiness?

Some characteristics of holiness are contemplated here.

1. Holy Living respects the word of God

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of humans, the



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What is an acceptable kind of holiness before God? What is an acceptable kind of holy life before men? What is the essence of holiness?

way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to become wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Irrespective of the station in life, Christian men and women who are not what they ought to be will give people reason to blaspheme God's Word. The world doesn't judge us by our theology; it judges us by our behavior. The validity of Scripture in the world's view is determined by how it affects us. If unbelievers see that our lives are truly transformed, separate and distinct from the world, then they might conclude that Scripture is true, powerful, and life-changing.

The credibility of the Christian gospel is inseparably linked to the integrity of the lives of those who proclaim it. That's why it is so devastating when well known evangelists or Christian leaders are caught in some sin or immorality. How do you think unbelievers react when they see hypocrisy? They laugh at it, thus blaspheming God's Word and short-circuiting any opportunity we have to tell them about its power to transform their lives. The impact of the lives of men and women who bear the Lord's name is vital to the credibility of the faith and the effectiveness of personal witness and preaching. That's ultimately at stake in the way we live.

2. Holy Living makes the Gospel to flower

Paul states his reason for holy living in Titus 2:10, "That they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect". "Adorn" is from the Greek word 'kosme' and refers to making something beautiful.

What is our primary message to this world about God? Do we want the world to know that God is omnipotent?

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Omniscient? Omnipresent? Immutable? Sovereign? Eternal? The Creator and the Sustainer of the universe? Yes, we do. But by far the main attribute of God we want the unsaved to understand is that He is a Savior.

How will we ever make the good news about God as Savior beautiful in every respect if we don't look like we've been saved? When we live in obedience to God, that in itself will be a testimony against wrong. When those around us see us helping rather than exploiting, hear us talking with purity instead of profanity, and observe us speaking truthfully rather than deceitfully, our example will

itself be a rebuke of selfishness, unwholesome talk, and falsehood. Simply refusing to participate in a dishonest business or social practice will sometimes be such a strong rebuke that it costs us our job or friendship.

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Dishonesty is terribly uncomfortable in the presence of honesty, even when there is no verbal or other direct opposition.

3. Holy living improves our will power

Will Power - it is the power of one's own will. There is no need to control it because you're simply doing it (whatever it is). You're willing yourself to do it. As such will power is more an expression of self, based on an understanding, for example, of the consequences of continuing certain behavior. And because will power (or self-will) is not based on polarity (in this context of the word) one is also more likely to stick to what one has decided because one is not suppressing anything but instead understanding, for example, why one had created a certain desire. Thus when the urge comes up, one does not have to push it away with force - but can merely stop participating because one now has brought oneself to an understanding of oneself and can thus make a directive executive decision.

All will power is given by God. The person holding such power can only use it under the control of the Holy Spirit. No man can use his God given powers unworthily. We then have to consider what power one is expecting to exercise. Do you mean the power to ordain someone to a position in the church, or something more spectacular, such as capable of moving mountains?

God's power is enabling power. God has given us the gift of power, it is important to use it to build ourselves and others in solidarity with divine purposes.

Irrespective of the station in life, Christian men and women who are not what they ought to be, will give people reason to blaspheme God's Word. The world doesn't judge us by our theology; it judges us by our behavior.

It's Important to Maintain a Daily Prayer Life!

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days." (Daniel 6:10)

Daniel was past 80 years of age at this time, yet he was still on his knees thanking God and asking for His guidance and help. Daniel's knowledge of the decree of Darius not only failed to dissuade him from his practice of seeking God's face three times each day, but also created a desire in him to seek God's face immediately. His enemies were correct in assuming that if Daniel was forced to choose between the decree of an earthly king and the eternal word of the King of heaven, he would choose his God (v. 5).



The officers lied when they used the word 'all' (v. 7) for that gave the king the idea that Daniel agreed with them. They conspired against Daniel and went as a group against him three times: to get the king to pass the edict (6:6), to watch Daniel pray in his window (6:11), and to make the king enforce his edict (6:15). But no laws or threats could keep Daniel from his times of prayer!

We can safely assume that Daniel never knew that he would be miraculously delivered from the jaws of death. He was advanced in years, and there was no reason for him to suppose that God would intervene to spare his life. However, courage and steadfastness in faith motivated him to continue his walk with God.

Daniel knew he had to obey God, no matter what man might command or how much he might stand to lose personally by such actions.

He did not increase his prayer out of hypocrisy, nor did he try to conceal it out of fear. Daniel's steadfastness is a challenge to us to maintain a daily consistent prayer life as well..!!!

In the midst of very busy and demanding schedules where we are trying to juggle with various priorities in our daily calendar, let us carve some time in order to get closer to God in prayer. The story of Daniel should teach us today the value and importance of daily prayer!

"And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."

(1 Peter 3:13-17)



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God's Book for Mankind:

- Part 8 -

Authority of the Holy Bible

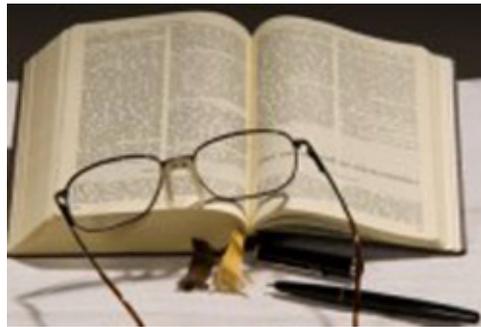


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The Authority of the Bible is above the authority of Ecclesiastical Leaders, Human Reasoning, Human Traditions and Human Experiences & Feelings

The Holy Scriptures, that is the sixty books from Genesis to Revelation, is the only supreme authority on any matter that the Bible speaks of. It is the word of the one and only Sovereign King eternal. It is given to mankind in His great love for beliefs and behavior that is for our faith and practice. God gave it for our safety, protection, purity and well being.



of the Bible and that it does not contradict the word of God. We should see traditions and cultural practices as they are and not equal to the word of God.

4 The Authority of the Bible is above the authority of Human Experiences and Feelings

1. The Authority of the Bible is above the authority of Ecclesiastical Leaders.

The risen Lord Jesus gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to the church. It is their privilege and responsibility to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ. But they are not the final authority. They must do their services according to the infallible, authoritative written word of God.

2 The Authority of the Bible is above the authority of Human Reasoning

God gave us our minds and ability to think and reason. God did not give us spirit of fear but the spirit of sound mind. But our enemy the great deceiver does try continuously to distract and estrange us from our devotion to Christ, the bridegroom of the church.

3 The Authority of the Bible is above the authority of Human Traditions

There are traditions and practices that part of the culture of any people group. The word tradition is found 14 times in the New Testament, (eight times in connection with Jesus, 5 times in connection with Paul and one time in connection with Peter) and none in the Old Testament. Jesus spoke against human traditions that were against the commandments of God

Paul wrote against the traditions of men as they were not in agreement with the word of God. So we should examine and make sure that any tradition we follow is consistent with the teaching

God's people can and do experience the presence, power, and promises of God through out our lives in so many different ways. Some experiences can be similar to the experiences of some others and some can be so different from the experiences of others. So we must not consider any ones experience equal to the word of God.

God made us with feelings and emotions. We sense so many various kinds of feelings and emotions such as love joy, peace as well as hatred, sadness, anger, guilt. There is a large list of feelings and emotions that we experience. Feelings and emotions are very powerful. Some times these feelings and emotions can be based on truth and other times these can be based on falsity. We must remember that our emotions and feelings are also affected by our fallen, sinful, depraved nature. As long as we live in this sinful world there are possibilities that our feeling and emotions can mislead us into error. Feelings and emotions should be controlled by the Spirit of God in line with the word of God and our mind needs renewal on an ongoing basis.

We should approach the Bible with an attitude of humility, teach-ability, reverence and respect.

Human experiences, feelings and emotions can change, but the word of the Lord never changes. Our God is eternal and his word remains for ever more as the supreme authority.

Scripture References: Psa. 119:89; Matt. 15:1-9; Mark 7:7-9; Rom. 12:2; Gal. 1:14; Eph. 4:14; Colo. 2:8, 18; 2 Thess. 3:6,14,15; 1 Tim: 6:15; Titus 2:15

FAITH :

Mandatory For Christian Living - II

Faith and the Word:

Already we have seen that faith in God is not an idea or a concept but an expression of our commitment to the Word of God. Through this commitment we connect ourselves with the Author and Perfecter of faith. This will enable us to have a fine tuning with God in our relationship. Christian faith is not based on mere transient experiences that we get, but it is firmly incorporated with the Word of God. The faith in the absence of the Word will never be in the right path and will never be able to have favour with God. The outstanding nature of the Christian faith is that it has a resting or a birthplace that is the Logos or the Word. Because the faith we profess is manifested in the living and abiding word, St. Paul remarkably states, "...now faith comes by hearing and hearing by Word of God..." (Rom. 10: 17). So, the true faith cannot be dislocated from the Logos. When we confess our faith we should be clear in our mind regarding the solidarity and foundation of faith. A mere feeling and imagination will not help us to stand amidst of troublesome and tempest situations.

Growing in the faith means growing in the knowledge of the Word. Word of God is the seed-plot of the faith. If our heart is not treasured with the Word we will definitely end up in fruitlessness and eventual total loss. The quality of faith therefore is measured by the quantity of the logos in us. The greatness of the faith is linked to the assurance we have in the revelation of God. Faith does not stand in vacuum, but it needs an axiom. Obviously the Word is the axiom on which the faith moves into our life. Moreover we see in Hebrews, the writer relates faith into the need of obedience to the hearing of Word (Heb. 4.1,2). The people of Israel were not able to mix the faith with the word. Hence they could not enter into the promise of God. This event gives an alarming sound!

Christ-centered faith

The faith we have or we exercise is not centered on any of the visible matters and material

aspects, but essentially centered in Christ Jesus who provides the saving faith. The nucleus of the faith is the redeeming act of the Saviour. When Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way and truth and the life" He has made it very clear (John 14:6). Since Jesus is the way, He is the way of our faith and since He is the truth our faith is based on the truth. Christ is the way of life in our exercise of faith and we have to hold it in the lifeless and sinful world. As long as we abide in Christ Jesus we are able to keep our faith lively and active. We cannot have to live the life of faith outside Christ because He is the author and finisher of the faith. Therefore assuredly we can say that He is the beginning, continuation and consummation of our life of faith.

This is explicitly called the Christ-centered faith.

The writer of Hebrews rightly stated this noble thought in the 12th chapter. Jesus Christ is the forerunner of our faith. He is the giver of our faith. The previous chapter gives a marvelous inspiration to lead a life of faith in the challenging scenario. By looking unto Jesus we

should be able to live in the faith entrusted to us. Because Christ is the final and perfect revelation of Almighty God, He is the exact representation of His being (Heb. 1:3). Jesus is the only tabernacle where the Lord of faith and sinner can meet together. He has tabernacled among us so that we can receive saving faith which saved us from trespasses and sins. This is the excellent beginning of our faith life. While the logos is the declaration of His revelation, where as Jesus Christ is the embodiment of the fullness of God-head. Our faith is therefore vitally linked to the supernatural source. But people often forget this truth and merely focus on the deliverances alone rather than the deliverer. The person who provides deliverance is superior than other things. Here the life of Simon Peter is a



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Growing in the faith means growing in the knowledge of the Word. Word of God is the seed-plot of the faith.

To run our Christian race we need to look unto Jesus, who is highly exalted in glory. He finished His race victoriously even in the midst of suffering and sadness; affliction and agony; rejection and reproach; crime and cross!

True faith is not believing anything we like and whenever we like, for true faith is always determined and bounded by God's word.

big challenge (Luke 5:1-10). Even after receiving a miraculous catch of fishes he deliberately left out his miracle on the shore of Galilee and followed the Master. He realized this fact of faith more than everybody that having Christ in the life is more important than a few achievements.

Not only we have a great beginning of faith in Jesus Christ, our constant living of faith is also in Him. We are not able to lead a truthful and righteous life apart from Christ. Because the scripture reminds us that the righteous can live by faith in Jesus alone. How we abide in him will determine the consistency of our Christian living. However when we make effort to live the life of faith in Him, surely the evil system of the world will try to deactivate our growth and deviate our love from the Captain of our faith. The empty utterances of Satan and his vain philosophy may try to deceive us and lead us to unstable and aimless situations. Nevertheless, we have been called not to be defeated, but by recognizing the need of living in Him and by faith in Him we are able to overcome all these kinds of deceptive words and temptations. The Bible gives encouraging words in first epistle of John: "... and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4). Apostle Paul's words also can be added rightly here: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:12). So, in our constant living in Christ Jesus, the faith is established, rooted and built up in His amazing strength.

Moreover, to run our Christian race we need to look unto Jesus, who is highly exalted in glory. He finished His race victoriously even in the midst of suffering and sadness; affliction and agony; rejection and reproach; crime and cross! As we run our race we must set our eyes upon Jesus who is enthroned in triumph! Now He is not lying down in a manger nor even inside the tomb, but seated in the esteemed glory of God as the Supreme Lord (Eph. 1:20-23). The faith we declare in Him will enlighten our eyes of understanding to see the unseen realms of God among all the desperate and deserted conditions of life and later definitely we will be sustained and strengthened. Because our faith is Christo-centric and founded in the divine Word.

Lastly, we have to remember that in the aspect of faith Christ is the perfecter of our life of faith. Jesus is sufficient to make completion of what He began in our life. In Him we see the completeness of everything. He is the Alpha and Omega of our

faith. It is not our skill and smartness or wit and wisdom that will take us to the perfection but Jesus the finisher of our faith. He is able to complete the work (of faith) He began in our life (Phil. 1:6). Jesus is the one who will see that our faith becomes more and more complete and that it goes on until the day we see Him face to face. He is the perfect and typical example for us to lead our life of faith. Hence, the wholehearted submission to the supreme authority of Christ will help us to reach the finishing point of our race. It is important to remember that we have been given a living faith which is actively believing in the living God, who speaks His Word with power, authority and clarity. Therefore once again we will be able to declare that Jesus Christ is the originator and perfecter of our faith.

Conclusion

We already have seen from our short study

Our constant living of faith is also in Him. We are not able to lead a truthful and righteous life apart from Christ. How we abide in him will determine the consistency of our Christian living.

that faith is mandatory in Christian living. One has to realize the definition of faith - living in accordance with the word of God not on what the modern preachers say. Faith is completely wrapped in God's word and promises. The faith operates within the

limits of His word. True faith is not believing anything we like and whenever we like, for true faith is always determined and bounded by God's word. Our faith is certainly based on the will and way of the Father who is in heaven. We must avoid all kinds of false faith. As we live in partnership with Jesus living faith develops within us which is far removed from false, ungodly, manipulative and self-seeking faith. Faith begins from God and allows us to live in Him and finish in Him. When we say faith comes through hearing of the Word, it involves believing, confessing and acting on the word of God. It is living relationship with Jesus, listening, trusting and obeying. Let us therefore look unto Jesus who is the Pioneer and Perfecter of faith.

- Concluded

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

Real Revival:

It starts in Me!

"I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O LORD, according to Thy word" – Bible

The word 'Revival' is not new to many of us and yet, it is easy to forget what it means. At the root level, 'revive' means, 'bring to life'. Latin root 're' means 'again' and 'vivere' means 'life'. Why would this living person ask to be given life? Revival has to do with bringing new life into our souls. Somehow there was a leak and damage. Our fervency, our prayer life, our giving, our service, our love for God's word and our willingness to stand up to God's moral standards have somehow weakened. Instead of being strong and firm, we are like a plant that needs water. Did you ever walk by a wilted plant? If it could cry out, it would shout, "Water me or I will die!". Once one gives water to the plant, it is revived. It straightens up back. Likewise revival basically means restoring what needs to be restored so that the person can live. If a person asks for revival, he is essentially saying that he is dying and needs another life. This is where most of us are but we do not recognize it.

True revival cannot be scheduled on a calendar. A revival is not a series of church services that take place in a church building over a period of four or five days. Revival can come out of the meetings, no doubt, but the meetings themselves are not revivals. God tells Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones. Verse 5 says, "Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you and you shall live".

Revival has everything to do with life. In every church there are hearts that are cold, hard, callous, resentful, bitter, guilt ridden, dry and lifeless. Without a move of Jesus upon those people, they will not come to a state of conviction and repentance. This is a problem that can



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only be fixed by the prayers of intercession and supplication. To pray for revival means praying for change. The change has to start with the person doing the praying. For revival to take place in my community, that person where it starts should be me. For revival to take place in a church, community, city, state, etc., it has to start with prayer. I mean real prayer. Not our average, minute and a half,

repentance. People will fall at the altar to confess and repent of sin in their lives. Lost people will come to know Jesus. People will have a hunger for the Word of God. People will want to become passionate, devoted disciples of Jesus.

The change that revival brings is uncomfortable. Real revival will reach inside you and destroy everything. You will be wrecked with a deeper understanding of the gospel and a more passionate relationship with Jesus. You will be purged of known sin. Your life as you know it will change to become more conformed to the image of Christ. The very act of this change is gut wrenching. When revival punches a person in their soul, it begins to remove layers of pain, baggage, guilt, sin and whatever else it needs to bulldoze to get that person in right standing with God. Many people pray for revival. Many people pray for change. They want things to change as long as it is them that does not have to change. You cannot have one apart from the other.

Jeremiah says that the heart is deceitful above all else and desperately sick. I know that the closer I come to being conformed to Christ's image, the more He reveals to me that is in me that needs redeeming. Do you see? It is my thoughts, my heart, my plans, my desires, my

actions, my relationships, my passions, my life that need to be changed. I need more of God's redeeming love, grace, and mercy to wreck me. *I need to pray Romans 12:1-2 constantly that I may be both a living sacrifice and have my mind transformed by the infallible, inerrant, powerful, purging sword - God's Holy Word.*

When I, you & pastors revive, the **Church** is revived.

When the **Church** revives, a **City** is revived,

When a **City** revives, a **State** is revived,

When a **State** revives, a **Country** is revived

When a **Country** revives, the **World** is revived

SO WHEN THE WORLD IS REVIVED,

COME, LORD JESUS, COME!!

blanket prayer that we pray to cover our whole life for the day. This goes way deeper.

Prayer changes the person praying. Fervent prayer causes you to understand that unless God works in your church or community, change will never come. When true revival comes, it comes with the force of a tsunami. It brings with it the thunder and lightening of conviction and



Gospel singer sings for rehabilitation of drug addicts!

Gospel singer, Joseph Habedank, who fell into drug addiction and has just recovered from it after a grueling recovery process, is now ready to share his story through music. His new "Welcome Home" album is his effort to help such suffering people. He has written every song on the album and refers to the work as a "kind of sound track to my life of the past two or three years". He says that there are many addicts even in our churches and that his biggest passion in life to help them specially.

It is indeed a great idea and we pray that God may add His blessings to the noble endeavour!

Hillsong Church and their music

Hillsong Church, an Australian mega church is a pentecostal denomination affiliated with the Australian Christian Churches, the Australian equivalent of the Assemblies of God. The church is known famously for their music band which has produced several popular songs, like "Mighty to Save" and "Awesome God". Their music ministry leader, Autumn Hardman, says in an interview: "The secret to the church's success is glorifying Jesus' name. The worship music of our House has always



been an expression of that. Over the years, the genre and the sound have evolved, but the message has stayed the same. We always have been, and always will be about lifting up the name of Jesus. Our motivation as a worship team is first and foremost our love for Jesus, and our desire to make His name great, and our desire to see the Gospel spread and shared throughout the earth with the tools of creativity that have been placed in our hands. Our hope would be that we would serve Jesus and others with every breath we take, and that we would be good stewards of the responsibility and gifts placed within our hands".

Hillsong praise songs are sung in churches worldwide. We can certainly say, Amen to what Hardman says. Yes, it is all about Jesus that should be our love and declaration!

Evolution is a theory in crisis!

Dr. Stephen Meyer, Director of the Center for Science and Culture at the Discovery Institute and his colleagues in the Intelligent Design community has proved that evolution as we know it is a theory in crisis. Neo-Darwinism, which is the latest iteration of Darwin's theory, seeks to address some of the gaps in the nineteenth-century biologist's understanding. But Dr. Meyer, who is a fellow at the Discovery Institute, argues that Neo-Darwinism actually widens, rather than closes, those gaps. In his first book, "Signature in the Cell", Meyer addresses perhaps the most glaring problem with Neo-Darwinism: It's a theory about the origins of life that doesn't actually explain the origins of life. "Theories which try to account for life evolving from non-life," he explained in our interview, "have utterly failed to account for even the simplest features of the crudest living cells, and that fact is almost universally acknowledged within



Dr. Stephen Meyer

evolutionary biology". In his latest book, "Darwin's Doubt", Meyer takes his argument a step further, and shows that even if the first hurdle could be overcome, natural selection acting on random mutations still couldn't produce the sudden appearance of animal varieties we find in the fossil record. He says: "The Darwinian mechanism lacks the creative power to account for that kind of morphological innovation. For that science and human experience uniformly point to one explanation: intelligence".

Bill Nye, an ardent promoter of Darwinian evolution, try to convince people that if one believes in "Intelligent Design" or in other words, the creation story of the Bible, technological and scientific research will all come to a stop! By that argument they are implying that Bible is against science! Such people assume that modern technology and social progress are connected to a theory about certain type of fish learning to walk 360 million years ago! The god of this world has certainly blinded the eyes of people from seeing the truth of an Almighty God whose sovereign intelligence can be seen in the wonderful creation of the universe.

**Travelodge removes Bibles
from hotel rooms!**

Travelodge, a hotel chain of England, has decided to remove Bibles from its guest rooms. The company said in a statement: "the decision was made, as we live in a multicultural society, to make the hotel more accessible to a diverse group of travelers. In order not to discriminate against any religion, customers who would like a Bible can pick a copy from the hotel reception desks while staying at the hotel". The Church of England expressed its regret for the situation: "It is both tragic and bizarre that hotels would remove the word of God for the sake of ergonomic design, economic incentive or a spurious definition of the word 'diversity'".

Somehow or other, devil devices methods to keep away people from the word of God!

Spain, ripe for the gospel

Pastor Juan Carlos Escobar, president of Assemblies of God, Spain, speaking in a Pastors' conference said: "Our country is known as a cemetery for pastors and missionaries because there are strongholds of unbelief in the Spaniards". Escobar explained that although the gospel has been present in Spain since the first century, the number of evangelical Christians has remained

small through the years as Roman Catholicism has dominated the country. According to statistics, over 70 percent of the population in Spain is Roman Catholic, with only one percent identifying as Christian. The remaining percentage identifies as non-religious. But he recognizes an openness to the gospel in recent years. Pastor Escobar said: "All through history, we have seen religious darkness in Spain. But God has always had a faithful remnant of men and women. Now we are seeing an incredible growth in the last 25 years. It has not been an explosive growth, but it is a sustained growth". The Assemblies of God has a goal to plant 1,000 new churches by the year 2020. They have 800 workers trained to plant new churches.

We agree totally with Pastor Escobar when he says that the biggest spiritual warfare that we can do against the devil is to plant churches. Every church is a center of training and preaching; it is an agency of God. If we do it in every neighborhood, in every town and every city, the Church takes a hold and the influence of the devil will be reduced. Amen!!

**China plans to nationalize
Christian theology!!**

China's 'State Administration for Religious Affairs' thinks that Chinese

Christian theology should adapt to China's national condition and integrate with Chinese culture. China's state-run news website said that the national theology "will encourage more believers to make contributions to the country's harmonious social progress, cultural prosperity and economic development". Christian leaders believe that a nationalized theology would focus more on politics than religion.

The main purpose appears to be to remind Christians that their allegiance is to the country, and the Party, first.

Can duct tape cover God?

A dedication plaque displayed in an elementary school in Texas read: "Dedicated in the year of our Lord 1997 to the education of God's children". The plaque that has references to God was covered with duct tape after receiving a complaint from the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), an atheist organization. Many parents and community members are upset by the district's decision.. The school's district attorney suggested to heed the demands of the organization because he felt the school would not win in the court if a lawsuit followed.

It is sad to see that even judges will not support references to God in public places! But duct tapes cannot ever cover the glory of God Almighty!!

Quotable quotes

"Do all the good you can - By all the means you can - In all the ways you can - In all the places you can - At all the times you can - To all the people you can - As long as ever you can" - John Wesley

"Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop" - Wanda E. Brunstetter

"Worry about tomorrow steals the joy from today" - Barbara Cameron

"A sum can be put right: but only by going back till you find the error and working it afresh from that point, never by simply going on" - C.S. Lewis

"As long as you do things for God, you are a 'Hall of Famer' in heaven's list" - Rick Warren

"We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts" - A.W. Tozer

"If you are too busy to pray, you are busier than God wants you to be" - Wanda E. Brunstetter

"Remember as you go about your day that you may be the only Jesus some of your friends, neighbors, and family will ever see" - Wanda E. Brunstetter

"God wants the whole person and He will not rest till He gets us in entirety.

No part of the man will do" - A.W. Tozer

- Selected

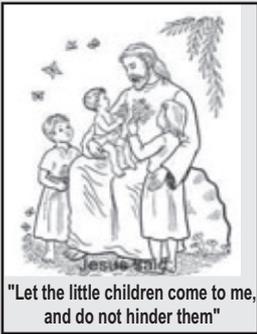
Children's

CORNER



Dead birds don't flutter !!

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12)



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

Jenny and Margret were good friends. Jenny was a Christian and even though she was going through a very difficult time, she would often share the gospel to Margret. Margret being an atheist never believed that God exists and always thought Christian life is too tough and not worth the effort and struggle. Moreover, Margret argued that comparing her life with Jenny's she was living a much happier and better life and so did not feel the need for God.

One day they went hunting together and as usual Margret kept on arguing about the non-existence of God. Jenny's life seemed to be tough and Margret could not see God helping her right away. Jenny did not know what to say and felt that she would never be able to answer Margret. Just then they saw a flock of birds flying overhead. Margret shot at them and two fell to the ground. One bird was dead but the other was just wounded and so trying to escape. As Jenny

went to pick them up she heard Margret advising, "Leave the dead one and go after that wounded bird". Jenny suddenly realized that this was the answer to Margret's question. Pointing to the wounded bird that was fluttering desperately to escape, Jenny said, "You said my Christianity isn't any good because I have to struggle. Well, I'm like that wounded bird, struggling to get away from the devil. But you are like the dead one! You need not struggle because you are already in the clutches of the devil".

Friends, Christians have struggles because they need to resist the devil and flee from his schemes. Christian life is tough as we fight the temptations and overcome trials. But all these will make us only stronger Christians. Struggles in life show that God is at work. Many times we feel that our non-Christian friends have easier life with very little struggles or hardships. Worldly people give in to devil's ways like stealing, telling lies, copying in exams, cheating etc which may seem to make their life easier for a short time. However, when we consider eternity we can understand that the struggles of this life are for a short time until we fulfil God's purposes in our lives and be transformed according to His plan. Bible says in James 1:12: "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him".

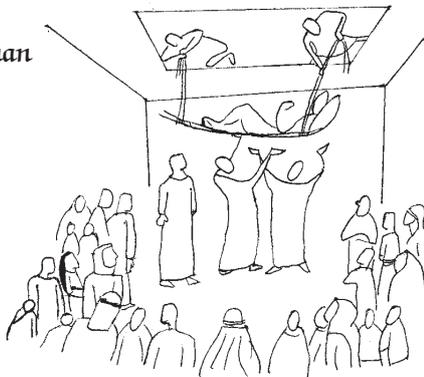


Juby Anoop

Jesus heals the paralysed man



Pheba Susan Sam
Kerala



Story of Good Samaritan



Rufos Roymon
Bahrain

My Grand Father preached the Gospel



My Father preached the Sociology



I am preaching the Science



Banage P.K.