

**-THE A, B, C'S OF BIBLE STUDY-**

Many who have had their interest awakened to Bible study ask where to begin and in what order to study the Word. Altho all the Scriptures are profitable, yet for those who would like to get the fundamentals of TRUTH FOR TODAY quickly, I would recommend the following;

1. **THE GOSPEL OF JOHN.** John does not deal with any calling such as the KINGDOM or the CHURCH, but his purpose in writing was THAT YE MIGHT BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD; AND THAT BELIEVING YE MIGHT HAVE LIFE THRU HIS NAME. (20:31)

John does not present Christ as the King of Israel or as the Head of the Church, but as the Incarnate Word, the Savior of the world. It is possible for a man to have life and yet make no further progress. For him there is no calling with a hope, nor can he run for a prize or strive for a crown.

2. **THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS.** Here are found further steps in the relationship of the believer to God. The great theme is JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH. It tells how the believer is made RIGHTEOUS. It reveals the great secret of how that God can be JUST and at the same time the JUSTIFIER of the ungodly.

Eph. can never be grasped or understood until the believer has the great foundational truths of the inner portion of Rom., 5:12 to 8:39. The practical truths of Rom. 6 are a prerequisite to the understanding of Eph. 2:1 and onward.

3. **THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS.** Here is truth for the believer who would go on unto perfection. Here is the only revelation of how the believer can conform himself to God's purpose during the present dispensation of grace. The position or calling offered in Eph. is an essential requirement for one who would run the race lawfully. This calling has a hope far above that of any other calling. There is a walk connected with the calling which should balance the doctrinal teaching.

**-DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE-**

No book in the Bible is more perfectly balanced as to doctrine and practice than the epistle to the Ephesians. There are 6 chapters, the first 3 mainly doctrine, and the last 3 practice.

The dictionary says of the word PRACTICAL, "Having to do with action or practice rather than that or theory." Since the basic meaning of DOCTRINE is teaching, it would correspond to that or theory.

There can be no practice that would be pleasing to God without doctrine. Such would be like a man doing a piece of work without observing the directions. Any work or practice presupposes doctrine or directions. We usually expect a man to have the right to know what he is doing and why he is doing it. Certainly he could not be the best kind of workman if he was in ignorance of what he was doing. So it is in the outworking of the doctrine and practice of the present dispensation of the Mystery. We should know something of God's plans and purpose for the ages, and our place in them. No man can walk worthy of the calling except he know the doctrine.

On the other hand, all doctrine and no practice can end in disaster in a short time. The case of Saul, king of Israel, is a classic example. He had the doctrine as long as he was diligent in the practice, but just as soon as he failed to practice the doctrine, then he failed and was rejected. God would reveal no more doctrine to him. An evil spirit took possession and he then turned to the powers of darkness for light since God would no longer speak to him. His tragic end is a warning to all who would fail to balance doctrine and practice.

When a man has light and refuses to walk by it, then he is likely to be given a strong delusion that he may be deceived. He may become the leader of a false sect or ism. The holding of a doctrine without the practice is nothing but having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.

-GOOD NEWS FOR GENTILES-

This good news was for Gentile believers or saints. It was good news for the Jew too. This wonderful revelation was made about 62 A.D. The apostle Paul was writing.

For some time before this, about 21 years, the Gentile had been admitted to the kingdom hope. But although he was blest, he, during all those years, could not be a channel of blessing. Israel, and Israel only, was the chosen channel of blessing to the nations of the earth. To them pertained the service of God. To them was given the oracles of God. No one else could preach the Word or do service to God. The Gentile position still was not much better than that of a dog picking up the crumbs that fell from the master's table.

In the church of Acts 10 to 28 the Gentile was far off in that he could not enter the temple. The wall of partition kept him out. This was a continuous reminder of his inferior position. The promises were to Israel. The covenants were to Israel. The Messiah belonged to Israel. God was the God of Israel. The poor Gentile had nothing except a precarious position which was explained by the picture of the wild olive branch grafted into the true olive tree. You can well imagine that the Gentile believers in the church during Acts felt slighted and inferior.

But the good news written to the saints at Ephesus changed all this. No longer was there enmity between Jewish and Gentile believers as before. There was a new calling and a new hope offered in which Jew and Gentile could be in absolute equality. In the kingdom dispensation that could never be true. But the church which is the Body of Christ allows no differences in members.

This good news had been hid in God from ages and generations. It could not be revealed until the Jew had been given his opportunity to be what he had been chosen to be and had rejected the SALVATION of God. This is somewhat parallel to the revealing of the image of Dan. 9. It was revealed only after Israel ceased to be a kingdom.

-PU-

This is an old disease. It has been known from the beginning of the history of man. It even at one time afflicted one of the highest created beings, the archangel Lucifer and caused his downfall. It is no respecter of persons. It strikes the rich and the poor. It strikes the noble as well as the peasant. It has caused terrible destruction among God's people.

Its first symptoms are pride, arrogance, boastfulness, and intolerance. It causes an abnormal appetite for the praise of men. A man afflicted by this dread disease will go to almost any length to obtain that praise. It will affect his veracity. His honesty will slip away. Finally his testimony will be almost completely paralyzed and useless. In the final stages of failure the unfortunate victim will snarl and bite at most anybody in sight because of persecution complex.

PU is mentioned 6 times in the Scriptures. Six is the number of man and his failure in the flesh.

1. In 1 Cor. 4:6 it is in connection with men glorying or boasting. (Symptoms).
2. Found in 1 Cor. 4:18. Some have exalted themselves over the people during Paul's absence.
3. The next verse. Same setting.
4. 1 Cor. 5:2. Many have failed in the walk. They have neglected practical teaching and have even fallen into fornication. PU is usually found in those who neglect the practical teachings of the Word.
5. In 1 Cor. 13:4 we learn that love vaunteth not itself, is not PU. A man cannot have this disease and at the same time love his neighbor as himself. Love is a vitamin that prevents PU.
6. In Col. 2:18 we find, Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, INTRUDING INTO THOSE THINGS WHICH HE HATH NOT SEEN, vainly PU by his fleshly mind.

Do not hastily condemn these unfortunates, but pray earnestly for them that they may be delivered.

Pray for me that I may not fall victim to this terrible plague.

-ONE-

I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE. It made no difference in what manner God chose to manifest Himself, He was always ONE. Our God is ONE GOD, so Israel were taught in the wilderness, and that is truth yet today.

Since God in all His manifestations is still one God, it follows that He has but one mind and one will. Thus it was that He could say THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF. Again the Son said, I CAN OF MINE OWN SELF DO NOTHING.

Just as surely as God cannot lie, neither can be tempted of evil just so surely He cannot work independently in any manifestation. In the temptation of the Lord in the wilderness, Satan hoped to be able to bring about this very thing. He probably did not realize the true nature of the Lord and His oneness with the Father. He may have imagined that the Lord was a creature like unto himself and therefore subject to temptation. At least that is what he is teaching many of his dupes today.

Every act performed and every word uttered by the Lord when here on earth was determined and decided upon by Himself as the Father. His manifestation in the flesh was as a servant. He was in perfect accord with Himself as Father in all things. Any limitations were self-imposed. He was never on the level of man in knowledge and power. At times He chose not to know or to reveal His knowledge. If He at any time seemed powerless, it was because He chose not to use His power.

When God manifested Himself in flesh, He had but one object in view -- redemption. He could follow no other course than the one He did and accomplish His purpose. He might have blazed forth in all His glory in the temptation and destroyed Satan on the spot. But where would that have left you and me? Under condemnation forever.

God's way was the way of the cross. Our guilt made it so. Our sin allowed no alternative. Our sin nailed Him to the cross.

Let us never forget our responsibility, but always praise Him for His matchless grace.

-CROSS, TOMB, SUFFERINGS-

The only meeting place for the sinner and God is at the cross and the empty tomb. At the cross the Lord became sin and suffered, the Just for the unjust. As a lamb He was the substitute, taking upon Himself the penalty of sin (death) and died for the sinner. But that was not enough, for death had past upon the whole race for the sin of Adam, so that in Adam all die. Since the time of Adam men are already dead. So there is need for release from the power of death. That was manifested by the open tomb. It is the resurrection power which gives a man a new life.

Resurrection life has two aspects. It is first manifested here and now by spiritual life in the believer. VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, HE THAT HEARETH MY WORD, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM THAT SENT ME, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, AND SHALL NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION; BUT IS PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE. The common supposition concerning this verse is that eternal life is conditioned by hearing and believing. But the only one who can hear and believe is one who has eternal life. This verse tells us that the main characteristics of those who have eternal life are hearing and believing. Eternal life is received as a gift, not on any imposed conditions. The possession of eternal life is a guarantee against any possibility of condemnation. Only the dead come into condemnation.

But if the believer would then have fellowship with Christ, he must go back of the cross and the empty tomb to the Lord's sufferings. Suffering must precede the reigning with Him. If we would fellowship with Him, we must take up our cross and follow Him and be identified with Him in His sufferings. There is no other way to have the mind of Christ. There is no other road to take if we would share in His glory. It will cost us the whole world in order to share in His manifestation in glory. The way of the cross, the empty tomb, and the fellowship of His sufferings is the only way that leads home.

### -THE FOURTH DIMENSION-

Nothing in all the universe can so well illustrate the 4 dimensions as can the love of God. We can take the most powerful telescope and look into far corners of the heavens, but nothing there is as infinite as the love of God. We may measure time, and we may also measure space, but who can measure the love of God? We may try to express our own love, even to the extent of giving all that we possess including life itself, but we fall far short of the expression of God's love. The measurements of God's love may be found in Eph. 3:18,19.

1. The breadth. It includes all nations who once were FAR OFF. It also includes the nation which once was NIGH. It includes all us Gentiles who once were reckoned as ALIENS from God's people and STRANGERS from the covenants of promise. It also includes the JEW.

2. The length. Long before the overthrow of the world, we who are members of the Body were CHOSEN in Christ. We cannot measure this time. In the ages to come, He will still show us riches of grace in kindness toward us. Who can measure the ages to come?

3. The height and depth. These make one dimension. His love has reached down into the depths of the pit of trespasses and sins and lifted us up and seated us with Christ at the right hand of the Father far above all principality and power in heavenly places. There is no depth to which His love cannot reach. It is not limited by any height.

4. The fulness. Fulness is used in connection with the measure of the fulness of Christ in Eph. 4:13. It is also a dimension, as well as breadth, length, depth and height. In Christ was all the fulness of the Godhead. Christ in us, the members of His Body, is the hope of glory. The goal of the ages is that God should be all and in all. That can only be accomplished when all that is evil and not of God has been totally eradicated from the whole of creation. That is the only conceivable condition under which God can be all and in all. His love will find no opposition.

### -TRUTH FOR TODAY-

In all the ages past, no prophet, no apostle, no preacher has had a message that can in any way transcend that message which is ours to give, the gospel of the dispensation of the Mystery. The glories of the kingdom have been described and set forth by the prophets and apostles, but no one can set forth and describe the glories that are ours in the heavenlies in Christ. No one is able to describe our spiritual blessings which are in a realm far above all.

We can find psalms and songs which tell of the glories of the kingdom, and even of the new heavens and earth with their New Jerusalem, but when it comes to the glory of being manifested with Him in the heavenlies, we find few words to express it. In connection with the tabernacle and temple worship, Israel employed many singers and those that performed on instruments of music, but where groups meet today to study about the hope and the calling of this dispensation, music seems to be inadequate. There is not much of it. The Word, not music, is the main attraction.

Great multitudes of those who were looking for the kingdom, forgot the glories of the King and let their minds dwell on the pleasures and ease of the great kingdom. But the Mystery is not known apart from the knowledge of Christ. The dispensation of the Mystery and the Mystery of Christ are inseparable. One cannot be known outside the other.

Any attempt to mix kingdom and church truth will result in a lapse into carnality. These two truths mix no better than oil and water. The mixture is unpalatable to the average congregation, so it has to be coated and flavored with a great deal of entertainment so they can take it. Out of this mixture come man-made creeds and rituals which appeal to the flesh.

Let us beware of all these appeals to the flesh and seek to win Christ and be found in Him. Let us seek to know Him and the power of His resurrection. Let us not shrink from fellowship with His sufferings.

## -STUDIES IN JOHN- BML #1.

1. To what time does IN THE BEGINNING refer? Gen. 1:1; 2:4.
2. What part does the LOGOS or EXPRESSION of God have in creation? Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:3.
3. What do the words IN HIM WAS LIFE signify? Cite other references that speak of Him being life.
4. Explain the DARKNESS of 1:5. APPREHENDED may mean OVERPOWERED.
5. How can you account for the fact that neither the birth of the Lord nor that of John the Baptist is recorded in this gospel? Does it mean to infer that both come full-grown down from heaven?
6. Why must there be a witness to the light? Men ordinarily can see a light. 2 Cor. 4:4.
7. In the light of Jn. 1:10 do you think the mass of humanity would recognize its Creator if He were to appear on the earth today?
8. What was His reception by His own people, Israel? Where does this place John's gospel, before or after the final rejection of God's Salvation at Acts 28:28?
9. Why are not believers called children of the kingdom in verse 12? Does Acts 28:28 have any bearing on this?
10. In verse 13 it is suggested that WHO refers to the Lord and not to believers. Do you think this likely in view of the context? Why?
11. What does verse 14 mean in the light of 1 Tim. 3:16? Dwelt equals TABERNACLED. A TABERNACLE was a TENT.
12. Explain how that Christ was both before and after John. 8:58.
13. The law condemns to death, Rom. 7:9. By whom came the law?
14. Grace gives life. By Whom did grace come? 17.
15. Why has no man seen God at any time? 4:23,24.
16. What was the office of the WORD in the world? Verse 18.
17. Where was the Lord in the beginning and where is He now? Verses 1 and 18. Compare with Eph. 2:6.
18. Why did John write this book? 20:31.

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS; For a long time I have tried to think of something I could do for you, some way of helping you to see truth in the Word of God. I hope you will take seriously the questions in the first column on this page and send me the answers. You need not repeat the question, but number the answer. All folks are young who are not old. I will not place a limit.

If you send in the answers to these questions, you have joined the BML (Berean Missionary League). I will send you your membership pin when I return your corrected paper.

A BEREAN is one who searches the Scriptures for truth (Acts 17:10,11). A BEREAN is one who receives the WORD with all READINESS OF MIND. A BEREAN belongs to the NOBILITY.

A MISSIONARY is one who loves to tell the good news to others. This does not refer to any special time or place. Anyone who will walk worthy of the calling everyday and everywhere is already a missionary. The people of the world read your life like you would read a book. Your acts and speech will betray the fact that you have been walking and talking with the Lord.

Nowadays no one wants to miss anything that may be coming to him. In Eph. 1:3 we find;

What? Spiritual blessings.

How many? All.

Where? In heavenly places.

How kept? Safely in Christ.

The Lord can be very real to you in your life. Only by knowing and feeling this reality can you have power to walk as you ought. His presence will give you strength to overcome temptations. You can always rejoice in Him.

Write to me. Tell me your problems. I shall be glad to give you all the help I can. I would like to pray for you and I would like to have you pray for me. I need your prayers.

I am not sure that I can send the pins to foreign countries, but will be glad to have young folks there join us anyway.

Yours in His love, Oscar M. Baker

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

TRUTH FOR TODAY, Radio Bible

Class can be heard over radio station WRSW EM each Tue. nite at 7. The work is progressing on the new towers so we hope to be also on AM in a few weeks. Watch this column.

TRUTH FOR TODAY Fellowship meets each Tue. nite at my home at 7:45 for Bible study. You are quite welcome to come any time.

TRUTH FOR TODAY, the monthly paper is free for the asking. If you have friends and relatives who might like to read the paper, send me their names and addresses.

TRUTH FOR YOUTH, a new feature this month. It might be a good idea for the young folks who meet for study to work out the questions together. Am waiting to hear from U.

Have some more of the Companion Bibles ordered. Send for yours now. \$10.80 each postpaid.

Have been cutting clover hay today (6-11). Expect to rake it up and bale it this week. That makes this paper late and the next may be later yet. I need a time stretcher.

RECEIPTS FOR APRIL, 1951:-

B61 Ind. \$25., B62 Ind. \$1., B63 Australia \$2.75, B64 Australia \$5., B65 Ind. \$1., B66 Ill. \$2., B67 Tex., \$5., B68 Ind. \$1., B69 Ga. \$1., B70 Tex. \$5., B71 Ill. \$5., B72 Mich. \$10., B73 Ind. \$1., B74 Australia \$2.75, B75 Ind. \$25., B76 Ill. \$5. Total receipts for April \$97.50. Expenses \$90.07. Thanks for your help in getting some new equipment.

Wheat is in bloom, but the crop does not look too promising.

I am sure all of us Bible teachers enjoyed the the conference at Grand Rapids, Mich., May 24 and 25. Really appreciated the fine hospitality of the Hazekamps and the Fellowship there.

Books by E. W. Bullinger: THE APOCALYPSE (New reprint) \$2.15. THE FOUNDATIONS OF DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH \$1.35. THE TWO NATURES IN THE CHILD OF GOD 40¢. Prices postpaid.

New reprint of THIS PROPHECY by C. H. Welch \$1.37 postpaid.

Other books by C. H. Welch: JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER \$2.05. THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING \$1.35. PARABLE, MIRACLE, AND SIGN \$1.50. DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH \$1.37. THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS 85¢. 11 pamphlets \$1.60. Vols. 33 and 34 of Berean Expositor \$1.37 each. Prices include postage. Subscription to Berean Expositor 85¢ per year.

One copy only of THE SEPTUAGINT GREEK AND ENGLISH, Bagster \$5.15, postpaid.

I have some uncorrected carbon copies of my radio script that I can lend for reading. Some who are isolated from fellowships might like to read these.

Am planning to be with the Grand Rapids Fellowship Sunday July 1, both morning and evening.

Some of you have never written to me yet. I would like your news and views. Don't forget it.

Thanks so much for your prayers.  
-OSCAR M. BAKER.

TRUTH FOR TODAY  
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