

-JOHN IS TO US-

The Gospel of John was written after Acts 28:28. This is evident from the mention of the rejection of HIS OWN in 1:11. This Gospel contains the good news that one may have eternal life by believing on the only Begotten Son. But the good news is limited to EVERLASTING LIFE. There is no mention of any calling, either to the kingdom or to the Church which is the Body of Christ.

That is the reason the word REPENT is never used. Repentance was required for entering the kingdom. Water baptism is mentioned as a historical fact, but not commanded. The Lord's supper is omitted. All these belong to a past dispensation and have to do with a calling, not with everlasting life. The only requirement for life is TO BELIEVE.

The first 3 Gospels are to the Jews only. They have no good news for Gentiles. But John is world-wide in application. The word WORLD (KOSMOS) occurs 79 times in John, but only 15 times in the other 3.

The AS MANY of 1:12 are a different company than those who were HIS OWN. Since the kingdom was no longer being offered when John wrote, he says that those who now receive Christ become the sons of God, not sons of the kingdom.

To enter God's families, the first step to be taken is the obtaining of everlasting life. This is by an act of simple faith. The next step is similar. Those mentioned in Eph. 2:1 and 5 had already received life and were dead to trespasses and sins, not IN. When they heard the gospel of their salvation which was the revelation of the Mystery. They trusted and were sealed as members of the Body. This act of faith is again mentioned in Eph. 2:8,9. Salvation in Eph. has reference to a calling, not to everlasting life.

So John in this Gospel was no longer proclaiming the kingdom. That phase of God's working was interrupted for the time. Neither was John proclaiming the Mystery. That was Paul's ministry. John proclaimed everlasting life to all.

-OUR TWO MINISTRIES-

No believer today can enjoy the blessings enumerated in the covenant with Abraham. These blessings can only be received thru Israel as a channel. Israel can only be a channel while connected with their land as a nation before God.

No believer today can enjoy the blessings of Pentecost. Neither can he be subject to the conditions and status of 1 Cor. 12. Such blessings were for Jews. They were connected with the proclaiming of the kingdom and the coming King.

No believer today can be blest under the terms of the New Covenant. The N C was for the HOUSE OF ISRAEL only (Jer. 31:27-49). Altho the N C was in partial operation during Acts, it will never be in full operation till Israel is restored as a nation. See 2 Cor. 3 & 4.

Just the fact that a person can not understand and receive the revelation of the Mystery is no indication that he is an unbeliever and will have nothing. In his time Job was a Gentile believer and his hope of resurrection was at the LATTER DAY (Job 19:25). The Gospel of John offers everlasting life to all, Jew and Gentile alike. They will be raised AT THE LAST DAY (John 6:44,54).

Not all believers are members of the Body whether they know it or not. That is a further step by faith and trust (Eph. 1:13; 2:8,9). In John 6:44 the Lord declares, NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM. This pertains to obtaining everlasting life. In like manner those who can hear and believe so as to have membership in the Body have been chosen from the period before the OVERTHROW. Eph. 1:3.

These two companies of believers make it necessary that two gospels be proclaimed today; (1) the Gospel of everlasting life, (2) the Gospel of the Dispensation of the Mystery. The first must precede the latter. We are responsible for both. If we neglect the former, then we will have to be proselyting to preach the latter.

-RIGHTLY DIVIDING-

STUDY to shew thyself **APPROVED** unto God, a **WORKMAN** that needeth not to be **ASHAMED**, rightly **DIVIDING** the Word of Truth. 2 Tim. 2:15.

1. **STUDY** here means to **STRIVE EARNESTLY**. It means to **WORK HARD**. It not only means the study of the written Word, but it refers to every faculty and activity of life.

2. To be **APPROVED** will win the words, **WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT**. It has to do with both faith and works on the part of the servant.

3. A **WORKMAN** is one who produces works. The member of the Body is a new creation, created unto good works. He is to walk in them. That is the way to walk worthy of the calling. The walk is very important. He is not to walk as other Gentiles walk. He is to walk in love. He is to walk as a child of light. He is to walk circumspectly. The walk must reflect the heavenly citizenship. Abraham was first justified by faith, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Again he was justified and that time it was by works. He offered his son Isaac. Then God said, **NOW I KNOW THAT THOU FEAREST GOD**. That was approval.

4. It is wrong practice that makes **ASHAMED**. The servant hid his talent. He was **ASHAMED**. Those who are enemies of the cross and whose god is their belly are the ones who glory in their **SHAME**. Those whose works will be destroyed in the test by fire are the ones who will be **ASHAMED**. The works of the flesh bring **SHAME**. Only the fruits of the Spirit bring approval.

5. The **DIVIDING** here is not the dividing of the Word into dispensations, as is the popular idea. It is a proper division and balance of doctrine and practice. The context has nothing about dispensational teaching. It has to do with doctrine and walk for today. So the one who knows the will of the Father and does it is the one who has the proper balance and wins approval. If we put too much emphasis on doctrine and neglect the practice, we will certainly be **ASHAMED** in that day.

Let us **STRIVE** for **APPROVAL**.

-THE WORDS OF JESUS-

On the very day I am writing this a woman told me that she considered the words spoken by Jesus while here on earth sufficient for her. She intimated that she believed that there was nothing beyond what these words taught that would ever make her any more complete or give her a better position. She was emphatic about it.

Like most professing Christians today, she no doubt has an idea that she will go to heaven some day. Most folks think that being saved and going to heaven are the same thing. They never stop to think that the Word teaches that great multitudes of the redeemed will again live on this earth some day. There is a comparatively small group which has a heavenly hope. There is much confusion on this point today.

This woman probably never noticed that nowhere in the words of Jesus while here on earth is there any mention of anybody ever going to heaven. She has probably overlooked the fact that He said, **BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH**. She has not at all grasped the fact that He is coming again to smite the kingdoms of the world and then take the throne of His father, David, and rule over the nations with a rod of iron. Overcomers from the great tribulation will have a part in that rule over the nations.

Popular superstition teaches that the Lord will come part of the way back to earth and call up his people and take them back to heaven with Him. But the Scriptures do not say that. He is coming to the earth itself and those saved ones will be with Him here on the earth for the age. The O T nowhere speaks of the hope of believers as being caught up into the heavens. All had an earthly hope.

It is only in the prison epistles of Paul written after Acts 28:28 that we find where any believers have a hope of being blest in heavenly places. This is not about Israel or the kingdom, but the Church which is His Body. But these are the words of the ascended Lord.

-STUDIES IN JOHN- BML #2.

1. What might John the Baptist have been tempted to do? 1:19-23.
2. Whom did the Jews send to John the Baptist to ask these questions?
3. Who had foretold THAT PROPHET? Deut. 18:18.
4. To what sect of the Jews did these questioners belong?
5. Since John the Baptist was born 6 months before Christ, just how can 1:30 be true?
6. For what purpose was John baptizing with water? 1:31.
7. What does the statement signify, THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD?
8. Can you think of any reason why it should be SIN here instead of SINS?
9. By what sign was John to know the Messiah when he saw Him? 1:33.
10. How did the Spirit appear to John?
11. Could you tell who both the men were to whom John said, BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD!? 1:36.
12. Who was the first disciple to bring another to the Lord?
13. Whom did he bring?
14. To what was Simon's name changed? (This is an Aramaic name and is equal to the Gr. PETROS)
15. What was the command to Philip?
16. What was Philip's home town?
17. Was Philip a good personal worker?
18. What was Nathaniel's estimate of the Lord's home town?
19. What convinced Nathaniel that the Lord was no imposter?
20. What confession did Nathaniel make?
21. Name the disciples that the Lord had gathered together by the end of the first chapter.
22. Do you think the prophecy of verse 51 has been fulfilled yet?

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Do not repeat the questions when answering, but number each one.

Leave plenty of room for my comments and corrections on each answer. Do not give up if you cannot do all of them. Send in what you can. Do it now.

DEAR FRIENDS: The first one to send in the answers last month and become a member of the BML (Berean Missionary League) was Mrs. James Cox of Ill. She is probably wearing her membership pin by now. This pin is sterling silver, is in the shape of a leaf with a cross and a Bible on it, and on top the letters BML.

It is not too late to join us yet. If you can, send the answers to the questions of last month. If that is not convenient, send in the ones for this month and you will be a member. It is OK to have some help and I would suggest that you get together in groups and work out the answers, each one sending in his own individual paper.

How well do you know the stories of the Bible? Can you answer some of these questions without peeking?

1. Who were the brothers of Miriam?
2. Who were the sons of Joseph?
3. Name the three sons of Adam.
4. How old was Enoch when he died? (Be careful with this one)
5. Who was David's friend?
6. Who was Joseph's wife?
7. Who were the sons of Noah?
8. Who was Isaac's wife and what was her brother's name?

These are just samples. It is fun to choose sides and have a "spell-down" using such questions as these. Did you ever try it?

Recently a woman was speaking in a local church and she made the statement that Miriam was the little girl who told Naaman the Syrian about the prophet in Israel who could cure him of his leprosy. Can you detect anything wrong with this? She also stated that Elijah went to heaven in a chariot of fire. Is that correct?

Maybe you have not discovered how interesting the Bible can be. Write to me about your problems in this respect and I may be able to give you some tips that will help.

Again I must remind you to get busy on the questions so I can list your names in the next paper. The state of Ill. was in first. Wonder what states will come next?

Yours in His love, Oscar M. Baker

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

TRUTH FOR TODAY Bible Class began April 4, 1948. We first met at my home on Sunday afternoons. Now we meet each Tuesday nite at 7:45 at my home. Anyone who would like to know more about the Bible is welcome.

TRUTH FOR TODAY monthly paper first came out as a single sheet in July 1948. We have missed only one issue in these 3 years. The paper is free for the asking. It is gladly sent to any of your friends who might be interested.

TRUTH FOR TODAY Radio Bible Class had its first broadcast on Sept. 28, 1948. Up to the end of this June, 143 broadcasts had been made. Listen to it each Tue. nite at 7 over station WRSW FM at Warsaw. It can be found at 107.3 on the FM dial.

Cut down to 2 sheets this time. It is not because I do not have the money to put it out. Folks have taken care of the expense. I just cannot take too much time from the farm work since that cuts into the income. We still have to eat. May get some new equipment that will save time and ease this situation.

Suffered quite a loss this year by getting so much rain on the hay. It is not going to be so good for the cows this winter. Did not have enough here at home, so bought a field of clover and made it too. Poor hay means that I will have to buy more grain.

Our garden has been a great help this year. It has been real nice.

On the morning of June 25th I spoke to the Fellowship at Evanston, Ill. In the evening I was with the group in Milwaukee, Wis. Had a very profitable time at both places. I just hope they can say the same.

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Thanks a lot for all the nice letters and your prayers. Keep praying for us. -OSCAR M. BAKER.

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