
-CIRCLES-

When the Lord was on earth, there were circles of believers about Him. The innermost circle seemed to be taken by Peter, James and John. They were the ones who were given the glorious privilege of seeing Him in His glory at the transfiguration. The next circle was the 12 who went with Him wherever He went during His earthly ministry. They had the great honor of having the mysteries of the kingdom revealed to them and also to them was given the great commission which was to be carried out by the nation Israel. Then there was a wider circle, that of the 70, who were sent forth to tell the news of the kingdom. Later a still wider circle was made up of the 120 about whom we read in Acts 1. The number of these is not mentioned until after the ascension, but they are called His disciples, so they must have been taught of Him. Last, we are told that after the resurrection, the Lord had appeared to about 500 which makes the largest circle of those we know to have been really disciples.

During the Millennial kingdom there will also be circles. The inner circle will be the 12 who will reign with Christ over the 12 tribes of Israel. The confines of the holy city will be still another circle, and a still wider one will be the borders of the promised land. Outside these circles will be the nations.

In the new earth, the inner circle will be the New Jerusalem which will be peopled with Spiritual Israel. The rest of the saved of that realm will be outside the city, but will have access to the tree of life and perfect earth.

In the heavenly places, the abode of the church which is the Body of Christ, will also be circles. The inner one will be made up of those who suffer and reign with Him over principalities and powers. Faithfulness will determine one's nearness to Christ.

It is not wrong to seek a place near to Him. But we must remember the conditions by which it may be obtained.

-WHAT IS THE ANSWER?-

In the NT are various statements or truths which seem to be at variance with others. One verse gives the key to the whole problem. Do you know what it is? (Answer on last page)

1. The Lord encouraged meekness and held that the inheritance of the earth would be the reward for it. Paul said to put affections on things above.
2. Paul in one place commanded to keep the feast (passover) but later says let no man judge you in regard to feasts.
3. In one place it is emphatic that the Jew is first, but in another it is taught that Jew and Gentile are on a common level in an 3-fold joint equality.
4. Paul at one time discouraged marriage, but at another said that it was the right thing to do.
5. The Lord called Gentiles DOGS and limited His ministry, as well as that of the 12, to Jews only. But Paul had orders from heaven to preach to men everywhere the unsearchable riches of Christ.
6. At one time the Jewish Christians were zealous of the law, even to the end of Acts. Then they were under a dispensation of grace and not subject to law later.
7. At one time the hope of believers was to see the Lord coming in the air. At another, they await in heavenly places His manifestation to principalities there.
8. At one time all believers were blessed thru faithful Abraham. At another they have all spiritual blessings in Christ.
9. At one time Paul was hoping and was confident that he would be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. But at the end he expected to be offered up, to die.
10. At one time believers had great and miraculous gifts. These ceased.
11. At one time a gospel was preached in which repentance was the condition for receiving blessing. But the gospel of John does not have the word nor does Paul ever give it as a condition to the Gentiles.
12. John preached only one Baptism. The Christians were to have two baptisms. Now Christians are limited to only one baptism. Why?

-SATAN'S CREED-

It is divided into 3 articles;

I. HATH GOD SAID! This not only is a denial of God's Word, but was also designed to make man question the goodness of God. Satan himself abode not in the truth. He tries to get man to follow his way. It is evident on every hand that he has been quite successful. Today it is the fashion to question the Word. Men would teach God and show Him how He could have written His Word better. Can God be just and destroy the ungodly is the prevailing question. It is better that we consider how that He can be just and at the same time the Justifier of the ungodly. God's Word will stand.

II. YE SHALL NOT DIE. Satan teaches that man has an immortal soul which can never die. He seeks to prove it by having demons impersonate the dead in seances and spiritist demonstrations. He makes men think they are speaking with the dead. He also goes a little farther and also teaches that man has a soul that leaves the body and goes to some place or other when he dies. But God has said that the soul that sinneth shall die. The only escape from death is either resurrection or rapture. But Satan will do everything possible to deny the truth and hope of resurrection. Eternal life is the gift of God to those who are in Christ. Immortality alone is in Christ. There is no promise of life or resurrection to those outside of Christ. He is our only hope.

III. YE SHALL BE AS GOD. Satan aspired to be as the Most High. He holds out the same bait to man. Man has so deified himself that the fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Satan would have us believe that all men have a spark of the divine in them and can live apart from God. But he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. The end of Satan is utter destruction. He will be no more. The same fate awaits those who believe his lies.

These 3 lies are propagated by every false religion. Beware! Believe God.

-MARRIAGE-

In the beginning it was not the purpose of God that people should be exchanging mates. However, that was the common practice of those who were overcome by the great flood.

In the case of Israel, there was a law given by which a man might put away his wife. It was where he found out that she was unclean because of fornication before the marriage. Deut. 24:1-3.

The priests were to be holy. They were to marry only virgins of their own people or tribe. They could not marry a widow, a harlot, a whore, or one divorced from her husband. Lev. 21:7, 14.

A later provision allowed a priest to marry a widow of a priest. Ezek. 44:22.

When the Lord was talking with the Pharisees in Matt. 5:31, 32, He cited the law of Deut. 24, but added that this was done because of the hardness of their hearts. Unbelief!

We have the same account in Mark 10:2-12. But for the disciples there is no divorce for any cause. Luke 16:18 agrees. Adultery was never a ground for a divorce, but for a stoning!

In the dispensation of the Mystery, divorce is not mentioned. The members of the Body are to live on a higher plane than that of carnality. The relationship of husbands and wives is set forth in Eph. 5:22-33. The wife is to submit herself to the husband as head. The husband is to love his wife as his own body. If he loves his wife, he loves himself. No man hates his own flesh. He will nourish it and cherish it regardless of what the circumstances may be. He will have no more thought of casting her off than of cutting off the members of his body and throwing them away. In the Church which is the Body of Christ, no provision is made for the desires of the flesh.

We have God's laws and desires for us plainly set forth. Men have always come short in past ages, but without excuse. Each must suffer for the wrong he has done. Let us walk worthy of the calling and in His will.

-STUDIES IN JOHN- #19

1. The Lord said that He was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then who must be the OTHER SHEEP of 10:16?
2. Do you think the last part of verse 16 has anything in common with Eph. 1:10?
3. Does the Father love obedience? 17
4. Does the Lord have perfect control of His life? How?
5. When there was a division among the Jews, what was the argument on each side? 19-21
6. At what time of the year was the feast of dedication?
7. Would John have needed to have explained this if his readers were Jews?
8. Did the Lord really withhold evidence from the Jews that He was indeed the Christ?
9. Why could they not know the truth?
10. Is a wilful old goat very likely to hear the Lord's voice and follow Him?
11. What gift does the Lord give to the sheep who hear His voice and follow Him?
12. What is it that can never happen to one who has received this gift?
13. Can Satan snatch any of the sheep of the good shepherd? (The word MAN in verse 28 was added by the translators)
14. What added power makes the believer secure? 29
15. What was the Lord's real identity?
16. What was the result of the revelation of His identity on the Jews?
17. What question did he ask them?
18. Had they understood when He revealed His true identity? 33
19. Can you find the OT reference for verse 34?
20. How does He say that they should recognize and believe Him? 37, 38
21. What did they attempt to do?
22. Did they catch Him?
23. Where did He go?
24. Why did so many believe John even tho he did no miracles?
25. Did the witness of John concerning the Lord bear fruit?
26. Have you also believed on Him?

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: only those who are walking close to the Lord are aware that there is a conflict on. I do not mean that you are actually to engage in a fight of any kind. What I do mean is that your relationship with Christ will make you conscious that the warfare is a reality.

You will begin to feel it in the subtle temptations that come along. You will find that at times it will be almost impossible to sidestep compromise.

The problems of the young folks have changed little since the earliest days of Christianity. In the days of Rome they had mixed crowds at the public baths and no bathing suits. Today the bathing beaches are almost as bad. What to do?

There was also the problem of the theatre. At that time they had gladiator fights and other bloody combats as well as much with an immoral tone. There has been no change. What to do?

Gambling has been popular since the earliest times of history. It still shows itself in many church affairs, the circus and carnival shows, and even pervades the schools with their carnivals and other ways of raising funds. Ususally these are in violation of state law. Remember the soldiers who played with the dice on Calvary? What to do?

Filthy conversation is also as old as history. It shows the blackness of the heart. Listening to dirty stories shows one's appetite mentally and spiritually. Oftimes you are caught in the presence of these things. What to do?

Lying and dishonesty get to be the thing not only in high government places, but also in the classrooms. What to do?

Gentiles have been noted for their immorality. In may be that in your school or group chastity of boys and girls is a joke. If you are a Christian, what to do?

No, your problems are no different from those of young folks ages ago. They are for your trying. Overcome and you gain moral uprightness. Overcome and leave a testimony for the Lord.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

AM; Your editor is glad to hear from so many who have been getting the TFT radio program on AM. If you have not gotten it yet, tune to WRSW 1480 Tue. nite at 7. Write if you get it.

TFT; The paper is put out monthly as the Lord permits. There is no price on it. Some have been doing some real missionary work by lending or giving copies to friends and neighbors. About 1600 copies were printed last month. Back numbers are still available back to #38. You may have sets for yourself or friends. Thanks so much for all the new names you have been sending in. We would like to double the circulation, if possible. Can you help?

BIBLE CLASS; At 7:45 following the broadcast in the WRSW studios. You are welcome. Bring somebody along. Questions are welcomed.

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-BOOKS-

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