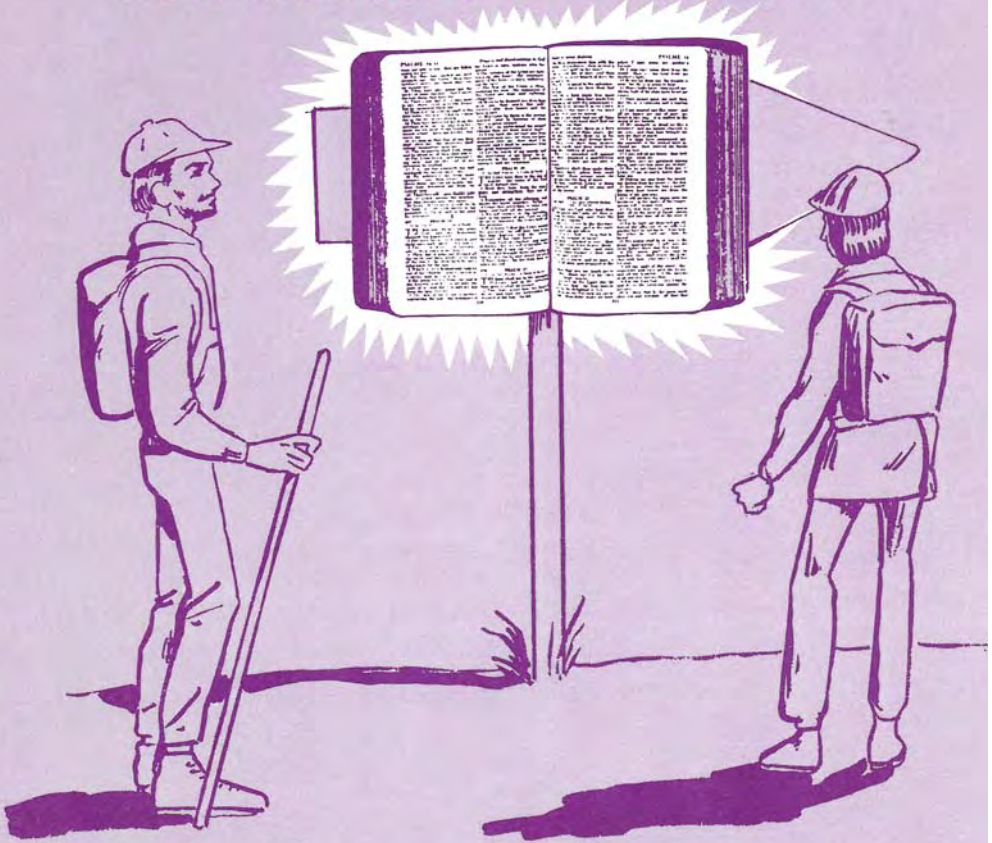




April/May/June 1988

No. 120

The World's Best Guide!



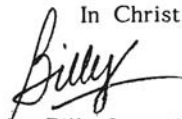
Exalting CHRIST among the Deaf

Personally from Billy

Better late than never! That is an old saying, but still true! As we promised last issue, we are presenting a variety of short selections. We lead off with **Amazing Grace**, a short comic strip which we hope will help you understand, in a small way, the wondrous grace (kindness) our Lord has offered to us through His Son. We also include a page of **The Gospel**, re-arranged to fit our pages. It was originally an advertisement for a gospel meeting at East Frayser Church of Christ in the local newspaper. We thought you would benefit by it also. Then we include brief articles on **Leprosy and Sin** and **Submission**, along with our regular **Question and Answer** department. (We have many questions in file which should last over several issues. (Keep those questions coming in!) And we have selected a couple of short comic strips dealing with the **Lord's Supper**. These strips appeared in **Light for the Deaf** many years ago, and we thought it was a good time to re-represent them. We hope you find them thought-provoking.

We might mention here that we are making plans for me to go to Southeast Asia for a month of evangelism among the deaf there. If the Lord wills, I will depart around August 15. This depends on whether we have all the money together for my trip. As I write this, we now have over \$1,600 raised for the trip, but we need more than \$2,000. There is still a little time left if you want to help share in the expenses for this trip. For further information, contact **R. W. Smith**, elder at **East Frayser Church of Christ**, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38127. I am planning to bring along with me several lessons that I have prepared for use with the deaf, as well as several issues of **Light for the Deaf** that can be adapted for use with the deaf in the **Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia**. I also plan to have a report in **Light for the Deaf** on my trip. Pray for me!

In Christ,



Billy Leavell
Editor



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Amazing Grace!

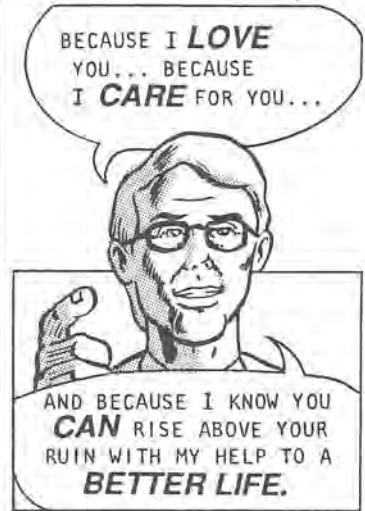
LET US IMAGINE
A RICH MAN,
WHOM WE WILL
CALL **MR. H.G.**,
WALKING ALONG
THE STREET...



WHEN HE SEES SOMEONE
LYING IN THE GUTTER!









AS YOU MAY HAVE SUSPECTED, MR. H.G. IN OUR IMAGINARY STORY REPRESENTS THE **HIGH GOD**, AND THE DRUNK REPRESENTS **MAN** IN HIS SIN.

THIS IS GOD'S AMAZING GRACE!

WHAT IS
"GRACE"?



IT MEANS **KINDNESS** TOWARD
A PERSON OR PERSONS
WHO ARE **NOT** WORTH IT.

WHY DOES GOD
OFFER US **GRACE**?

BECAUSE HE
LOVES US ...

AND
BECAUSE
OF
SIN!

GOD'S
RULES
FOR A
HAPPIER
LIFE

WHAT IS
SIN?



- ① A **REFUSAL** TO OBEY GOD
- ② GOING YOUR **OWN** SELFISH,
STUBBORN WAY

FOR EXAMPLE,
GOD SAYS--

Do not kill.

SO WHAT?
MY WAY
IS
BETTER!

WE COULD GO ON,
**BUT YOU GET
THE IDEA--**

*Do not do
the sins of
adultery.*

SO WHAT?
I WANT
ALL THE
WOMEN I
CAN GET!

SO WHAT?
I WANT
TO BE A
GAY!

SIN IS
**SERIOUS
BUSINESS!**

GOD IS **PURE**
AND **SINLESS**,
AND WILL NOT
LET SIN IN HIS HEAVEN!

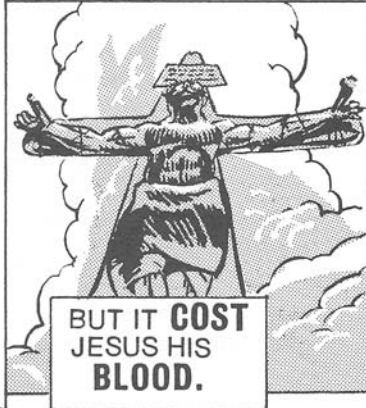


SIN SEPARATES PEOPLE
FROM GOD

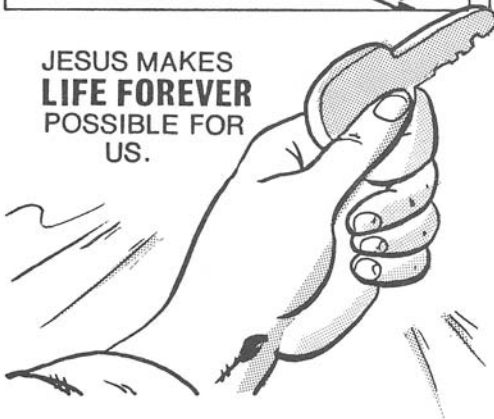


AND LEADS TO
ETERNAL DESTRUCTION!

BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE
FOR US, GOD HAS OFFERED
HIS ALL-IMPORTANT **GRACE**.



JESUS MAKES
LIFE FOREVER
POSSIBLE FOR
US.



BUT IT IS **UP**
TO YOU IF YOU
WANT TO ACCEPT
GOD'S GRACE!

GOD'S WONDERFUL GRACE FOR ALL

But God's mercy is very great, and God loves us very much. We were [spiritually] dead. We were dead because of the things we did wrong against God. But God gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by God's grace (kindness).... You are saved by grace. And you got that grace by believing. You did not save yourselves. It was a gift from God. No! You are not saved by the things you have done. So no person can boast [that he saved himself].

Ephesians 2:4-5,8-9

But Christ died for us while we were still sinners. In that way God showed us that He loves us very much.

Romans 5:8

Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that every person that believes in Him would not be lost, but have life forever.

John 3:16

...God's grace (kindness) has come. That grace can save every person. And that grace has been given to us. That grace teaches us not to live against God and not to do the bad things the world wants to do. That grace teaches us to live on earth now in a wise and right way-- a way that shows we serve God.

Titus 2:11,12

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The Gospel

WHY WAS JESUS
BETRAYED,
CONDEMNED, AND
PUT TO DEATH ON
THE CROSS FOR US?



"FOR I AM NOT
ASHAMED OF THE
GOSPEL OF
CHRIST, FOR IT
IS THE POWER
OF GOD UNTO
SALVATION TO
EVERY ONE
THAT BELIEVETH."

-- ROMANS 1:16

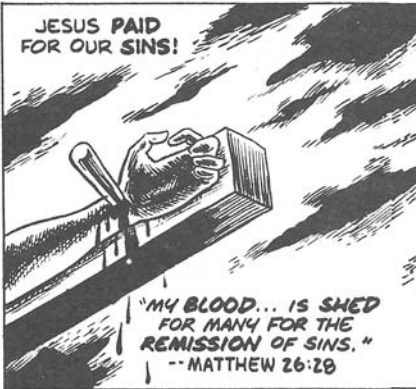
BECAUSE
OF SIN!

SIN

"FOR ALL HAVE SINNED,
AND COME SHORT OF
THE GLORY OF GOD,"
-- ROMANS 3:23

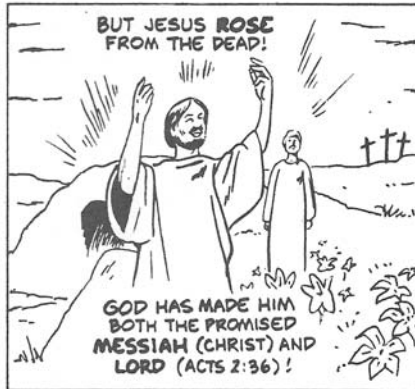
"BUT YOUR INIQUITIES
HAVE SEPARATED BETWEEN
YOU AND YOUR GOD."
-- ISAIAH 59:2

JESUS PAID
FOR OUR SINS!



"MY BLOOD... IS SHED
FOR MANY FOR THE
REMISSION OF SINS."
-- MATTHEW 26:28

BUT JESUS ROSE
FROM THE DEAD!



GOD HAS MADE HIM
BOTH THE PROMISED
MESSIAH (CHRIST) AND
LORD (ACTS 2:36)!

"NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION
IN ANY OTHER: FOR THERE IS
NONE OTHER NAME UNDER
HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN,
WHEREBY WE MUST BE
SAVED."
-- ACTS 4:12

Believe in Jesus.

ACTS 16:31

Repent of your sins.

LUKE 13:3

Confess your faith.

ROMANS 10:10

**Be baptized for the
remission of your sins.**

MARK 16:16, ACTS 2:38



SUBMISSION

by Mike Atteberry

In America today this word is probably the most hated word in our vocabulary. Especially those who are involved in the Equal Rights Movement, National Organization of Women, Gay Rights, Pro-Abortion Movement and Humanism and other people who want to "do your own thing."

These people want to be free from authority of parents, teachers, bosses, law enforcement, government and **God!** The church is being influenced by these people and their way of thinking. Yes, there are men, women and children in the Lord's church who think it's O.K. to "do your own thing".

But this is *not* so in the Bible!

Webster's Dictionary's definition for "submission" is this: "The condition of being submissive, humble or compliant; an act of submitting to the authority or control of another." In other words, this means to be under obedience, giving up your rights (*self*) to please another person or to yield (*give in*) to another.

Let me illustrate: suppose you are driving down a highway and you see a car preparing to enter the highway. You slow down to let him get on the highway. In the same way, whenever someone like your boss asks you to do something for him, you would be willing to do what he asked. You do this by giving up your selfish desires rather than doing it your own way. Here are some verses from the Bible that tell us to be submissive to those who are over us:

Romans 13:1- Everyone must *submit* himself to the governing authorities...

Ephesians 5:21- *Submit* to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:22- Wives, *submit* to your husband as to the Lord.

James 4:7- *Submit* therefore to God.

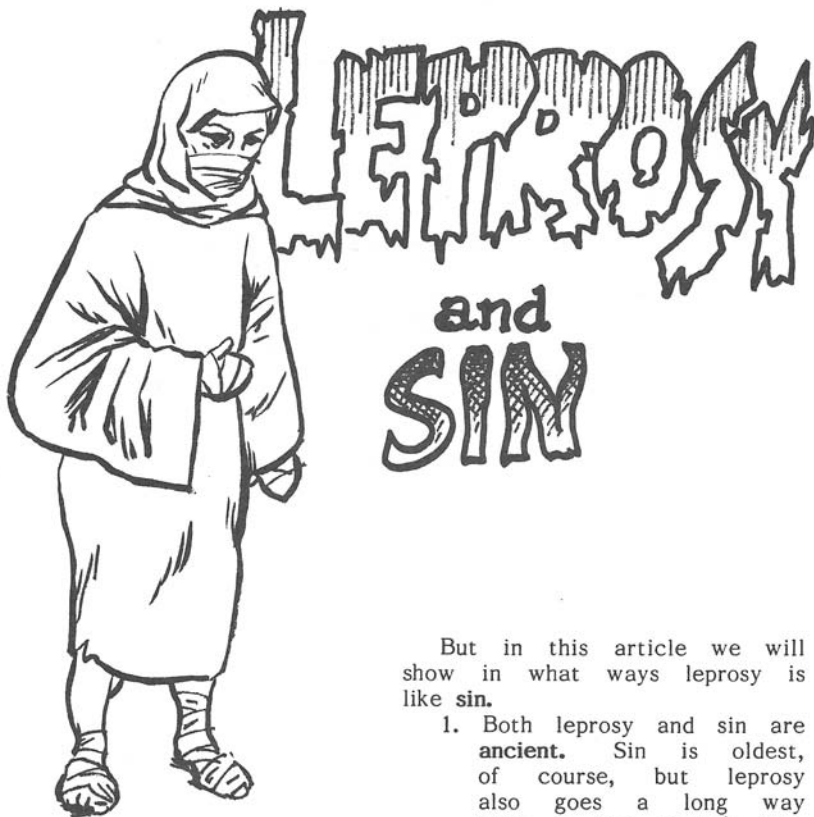
1 Peter 2:13- *Submit* yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men...

1 Peter 2:18- *Submit* yourselves to your masters (*bosses*) with all respect...

Is God's Word considered old-fashioned in today's world? Are we blindly accepting the ways of the world which influence us to "do things our way"? We readily accept and use statements like this:

*This is my body, I'll do whatever I want!
If it feels good, do it!
Nobody can tell me what I can do or not to do!
I'll do it my way!*

Do you have too much pride to *submit*?



The terrible disease **leprosy** is mentioned about 67 times in the Bible.

Here are a few passages that mention leprosy:

1. **Moses' hand.** Exodus 4:6.
2. **Miriam's punishment.** Numbers 12:10.
3. **Naaman.** 2 Kings 5:1.
4. **Gehazi.** 2 Kings 5:5.
5. **Azariah.** 2 Kings 15:5.
6. **Uzziah.** 2 Chronicles 26:21.
7. **Simon.** Matthew 26:6.

The Jewish law was strict about leprosy. You may read Leviticus 13-14 in the Old Testament if you want to know what were the rules that Moses gave about this disease.

But in this article we will show in what ways leprosy is like **sin**.

1. Both leprosy and sin are **ancient**. Sin is oldest, of course, but leprosy also goes a long way back in the world's history.
2. Both leprosy and sin are **worldwide**. 11 million people world-wide suffer from it. But sin afflicts **all** people (Romans 3:23).
3. Both leprosy and sin cause **separation**. Lepers (people suffering from leprosy) must live in colonies apart from other people. 3,000 Americans suffer from leprosy and are staying in special hospitals in Louisiana and Hawaii. Sin **separates** man from God (Isaiah 59:2). Sin also separates sinners from God's people (Luke 6:22, 2 Corinthians 6:17).

4. Both leprosy and sin are **contagious**. This means that the disease can **spread** to other people. Leprosy is not easily communicable but can spread to other people by **touch** or **contact**. It is the same with sin (1 Corinthians 5:6, 15:33, Ephesians 2:3, Ezekiel 18:20).
5. Both leprosy and sin can **fool** people. Leprosy starts with a small, innocent sore. The person who has this sore does not think that the sore is a serious one, so he does not give attention to it. But as the disease progresses, the person's nerve endings are destroyed and he cannot feel pain any more. Later the disease will cause the person's fingers to fall off, and maybe even his nose. He looks horrible. Sin does the **same thing!** Sin, like leprosy, seems painless at first. The person may actually enjoy it! But the more the

person sins, the more his conscience will be destroyed. And then the person does not feel sorry for the wrongs he did. The pain caused by sin is gone (1 Timothy 4:2)! In this way sin destroys the person! James tells how sin progresses:

- a. First, there is **evil desire**.
- b. Then the actual act, **sin**, happens.
- c. Finally, **death** (separation forever from God) happens!

Read James 1:14,15.

6. Both leprosy and sin **cannot be cured by people**. See Hebrews 9:14, 1 John 1:9, Revelation 1:5.

Is there a cure for sin at all? Yes, there is! It is the **Lord Jesus!** Read Acts 16:31; Mark 16:15,16; Ephesians 5:26,27; and 2 Corinthians 7:1. Believe and trust in Jesus, and obey Him in baptism. Your sins will be washed away (Acts 22:16)! You will find **life forever** in Jesus!



THE LORD'S SUPPER

(1 Corinthians 11:23-29)




I RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE FROM THE LORD. I AM ALSO TELLING YOU THIS MESSAGE...

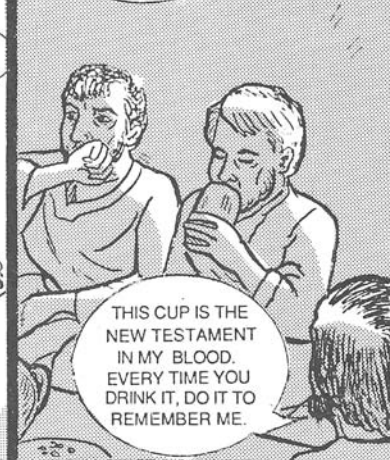
ON THE SAME NIGHT WHEN THE LORD JESUS WAS BEING BETRAYED, HE TOOK BREAD, GAVE THANKS AND BROKE THE BREAD...



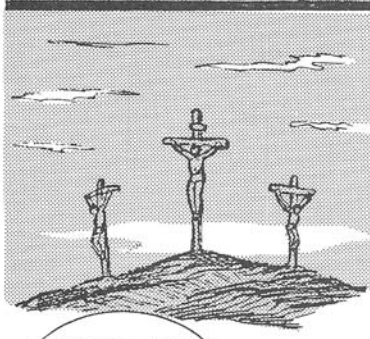
TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY. IT IS FOR YOU. DO THIS TO REMEMBER ME.




IN THE SAME WAY HE ALSO TOOK THE CUP AFTER HE HAD SUPPED...



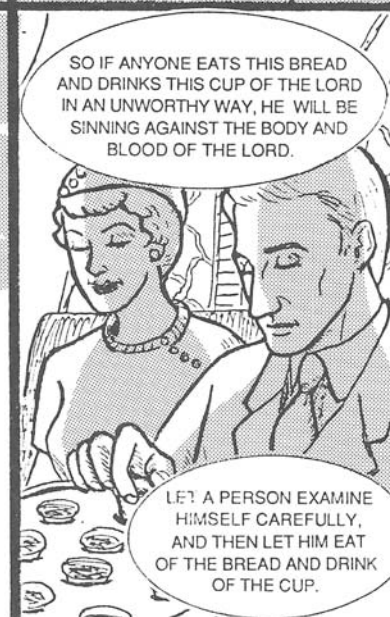
THIS CUP IS THE NEW TESTAMENT IN MY BLOOD. EVERY TIME YOU DRINK IT, DO IT TO REMEMBER ME.



EVERY TIME YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THIS CUP, YOU SHOW THE LORD'S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES.

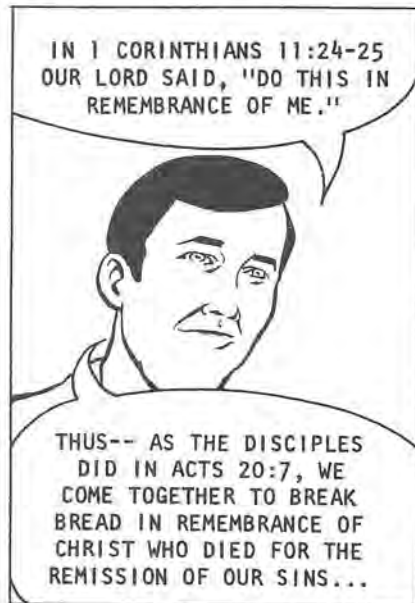


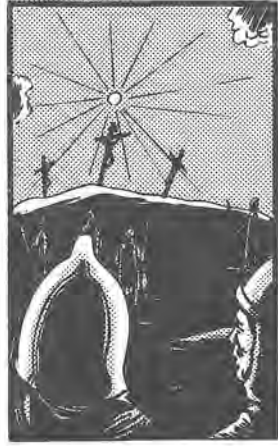
SO IF ANYONE EATS THIS BREAD AND DRINKS THIS CUP OF THE LORD IN AN UNWORTHY WAY, HE WILL BE SINNING AGAINST THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD.



LET A PERSON EXAMINE HIMSELF CAREFULLY, AND THEN LET HIM EAT OF THE BREAD AND DRINK OF THE CUP.

WORTHILY...?





HA! HA! HE SAVED OTHERS-- HE CAN'T **SAVE** HIMSELF!

YOU'RE THE SON OF GOD! IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN COME DOWN AND **SAVE** YOURSELF!



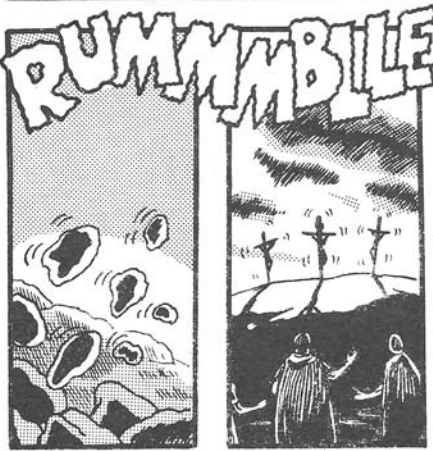
FATHER... FORGIVE THEM...
THEY DON'T KNOW... WHAT THEY'RE... DOING...



AND NOW WE DRINK OF THE CUP OF THE VINE IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHRIST'S BLOOD-- WHICH CLEANSSES US OF ALL OUR SINS.



THEY TOOK SO BLAMED LONG FOR THE BREAD TO BE PASSED! WE'LL MISS THE BEGINNING OF THE GAME!
AND BARELY JUST TIME TO GRAB A COUPLE OF HAMBURGERS, TOO!



Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:27

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The answers given to the questions below are the responsibility of the Editor. You may direct all queries to LIGHT FOR THE DEAF, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38128.

Q

If a person doesn't attend church for a long time, can he become worn out? Does he sin?

A

We are not sure what you mean by becoming "worn out". Of course the person who does not attend assembly sins (Hebrews 10:25), but he does not suffer any physical fatigue (tiredness). Maybe, though, he is tired of doing good! There is a verse that answers this: "We must not become tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time. we must not give up! (Galatians 6:9).

Q

Are those many churches that are not New Testament churches who baptize people playing and fooling around with people because they (the churches) don't understand the Bible when they read it?

A

"Playing and fooling around with people" means that the person or persons is/are not sincere (honest). Many of these non-New Testament churches hold on to men's traditions, not to Jesus' teaching as shown

in the Bible. Some of these churches' members are sincere and are ignorant that the Bible teaches differently from their group's teachings. We cannot see in their hearts, so we do not know which are sincere and which are not. But we should try to reach them with the pure New Testament gospel. And here we must be careful that we ourselves not "play and fool around" with people! Teaching the truth is serious business!

Q

Does God hate sinners because they won't listen or obey God?

A

No! John 3:16 tells us that God loves all the world. This includes even the worst sinner! Paul tells us this most amazing truth-- "While we were God's enemies, God made friends with us through the death of His Son (Romans 5:10)". God hates sin, but not sinners.

Q

If a person continues to pray and talk to God every day, will God forgive that person for his sins? If not, that means God will not forgive that person, right? If God will not forgive that person, then God will let that person have trouble with other people. Right?

A

Just because a person prays to God every day will **not** guarantee that God will forgive his sins. That person must **obey** God. Jesus talked about people who honored God with their mouths, but did not really make Him an important part of their lives (Matthew 15:8). Praying is good, and **should** be done, but we must live the **kind of life** God wants us to. The apostle John says, "**So if we say that we have fellowship with God, but we continue living in darkness (sin), then we are liars— we don't follow the truth.** (1 John 1:6)" This means that we must **stop** sinning if we want to have fellowship with God. But John goes on to tell us the good news: "**But if we confess (admit) our sins, then God will forgive our sins. We can trust God. God does what is right. God will make us clean from all the wrong things we have done** (1 John 1:9)."

Q

If a person gets along with God in prayer for a long time during his life and then dies, then Jesus will come to take him up to heaven?

A

When we die, we will not go to heaven right away. We remind you of what Jesus said: "**A time is coming when all people who are dead and in their graves will hear His voice. Then they will come out of their graves** (John 5:28-29)." They could not be in heaven if Jesus says they would be

in their graves! The evidence that we can find from the Bible shows that we will rest like we are asleep. When Jesus comes again, we will all be raised back to life and taken to heaven with Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

Q

If a person in Christ happens to die from cancer, will the person's holy spirit quickly go to heaven?

A

We are not sure what you mean by the person's "**holy spirit**". There is only **one** Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:4). We can only guess that you are talking about the person's spirit who has been made holy by his accepting the Lord Jesus Christ. Our answer to this question is the same as our answer to the previous question. A Christian, no matter how he dies, will not go to heaven right away. But he will go there when our Savior Jesus Christ comes again.

Q

If a person won't listen to God or if he leaves God's Word, will God remove that person's name in heaven? Does this mean the person who is a Christian but not a non-Christian?

A

It means **any** person who would try to change God's Word! Read Revelation 22:18,19.

Bible Truths

Illustrated



When people sin,
they earn what
sin pays-- death.



But God gives His
people a free gift--
life forever in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (EVD)



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