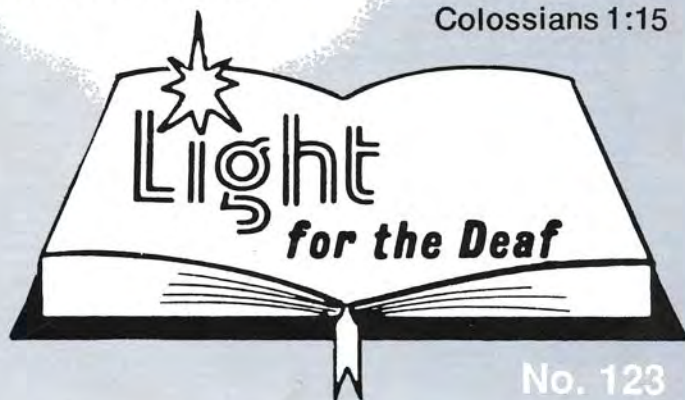




**GOD**

**JESUS CHRIST - GOD'S IMAGE**

Colossians 1:15



No. 123

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 1989

# Personally from Billy

Once again we are happy to present a variety of material in this issue to you. We have had many kind words, both in person and via letter, on our report last issue of our Southeast Asia trip. Here I want to thank you all. Since publishing the last issue, we have heard reports from both **Bob Anderson** and **Roy Price** on their mission trips. Possibly we can persuade them to share their experiences and photographs with us in these pages sometime. Our faith is world-wide, and we need to share it with all hearing and deaf people of the world, not just here in the United States of America. I might mention here that **Sam** and **Ruth Roach**, sponsored by East Frayser Church of Christ here in Memphis, Tennessee, are still in the Philippines. The Lord willing, they will return to the States in February 1990. Please remember them in your prayers, and if you can help financially, even in a small way, please do send your donations to the elders here at East Frayser Church of Christ.

We are grateful that our hearing brethren have taken notice of the deaf work and have given encouragement to it. But they show such surprising ignorance of the deaf that we cannot help but smile. Below are actual examples of correspondence sent to us by our hearing brethren:

**Light for Death**

**Light for the Dead**

**Light for the Blind**

We wonder when these brethren will ask us if we use Braille!

Good reading... and may God bless you!



Billy Leavell,  
Editor



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welcome.

Billy Leavell, Editor

# GOD'S IMAGE

IMAGE MEANS  
*LIKENESS*.

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE...



**N**OW WE READ IN  
THE BIBLE...

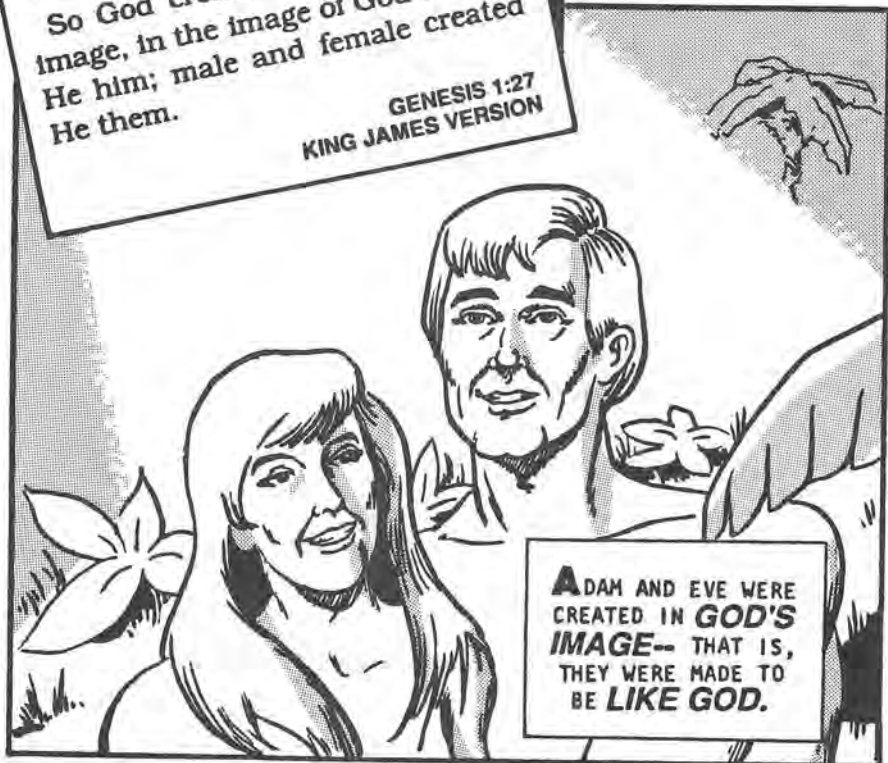
And God said, "Let us make  
man in our image, after our  
likeness..."

GENESIS 1:26  
KING JAMES VERSION



So God created man in His own  
image, in the image of God created  
He him; male and female created  
He them.

GENESIS 1:27  
KING JAMES VERSION



**A**DAM AND EVE WERE  
CREATED IN **GOD'S**  
**IMAGE--** THAT IS,  
THEY WERE MADE TO  
BE **LIKE GOD.**

**G**OD THINKS SO MUCH OF MAN'S BEING IN HIS IMAGE, THAT AFTER THE FLOOD HE WARNED NOAH--

**IF ANYONE KILLS A PERSON, THEN THAT PERSON MUST BE KILLED.**

**WHY? BECAUSE GOD MADE MAN IN HIS IMAGE!**

**G**OD IS DISPLEASED WHEN WE CURSE PEOPLE.

GENESIS 9:6

WHY?

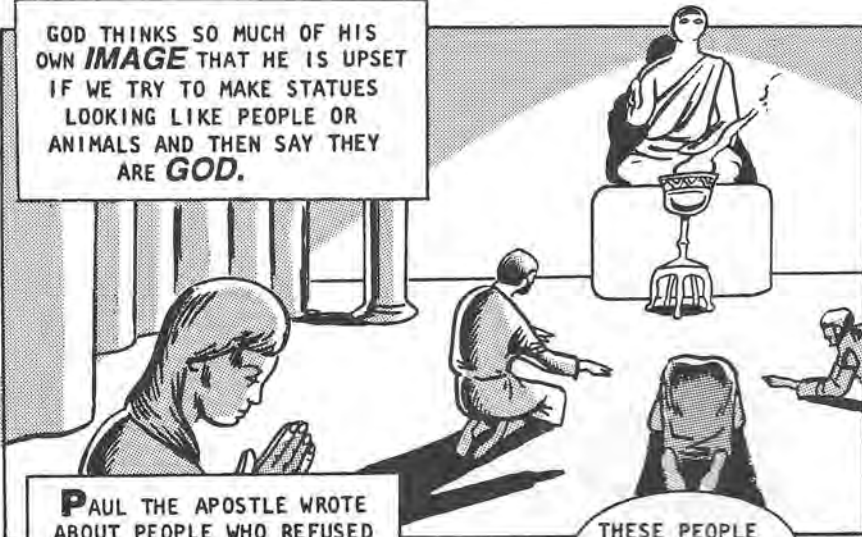
THIS IS WHY!

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

**JAMES 3:9  
KING JAMES VERSION**



GOD THINKS SO MUCH OF HIS OWN **IMAGE** THAT HE IS UPSET IF WE TRY TO MAKE STATUES LOOKING LIKE PEOPLE OR ANIMALS AND THEN SAY THEY ARE **GOD**.



**P**AUL THE APOSTLE WROTE ABOUT PEOPLE WHO REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE TRUE GOD...

THESE PEOPLE SAID THEY WERE WISE.

BUT THEY BECAME **FOOLISH**.

AND TRADED THE GLORY OF **GOD** WHO LIVES FOREVER--

FOR AN IMAGE LOOKING LIKE **MAN** WHO DIES, OR LIKE FOUR-FOOTED ANIMALS OR CRAWLING ANIMALS.

ROMANS 1:22-23

**T**HIS IS WHY, IN MOSES' TIME, WHEN GOD GAVE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS--

**YOU SHALL NOT MAKE ANY CARVED IMAGE OR ANY LIKENESS OF ANYTHING TO BOW DOWN TO THEM OR TO SERVE THEM.**

EXODUS 20:4,5

YOU CAN SEE WHY  
MOSES WAS SO ANGRY!



EXODUS 32:19

BUT LET'S GO BACK TO THE SUBJECT...



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE MEAN WHEN  
IT SAYS GOD CREATED MAN IN  
HIS OWN **LIKENESS** (IMAGE)?

GENESIS 1:27

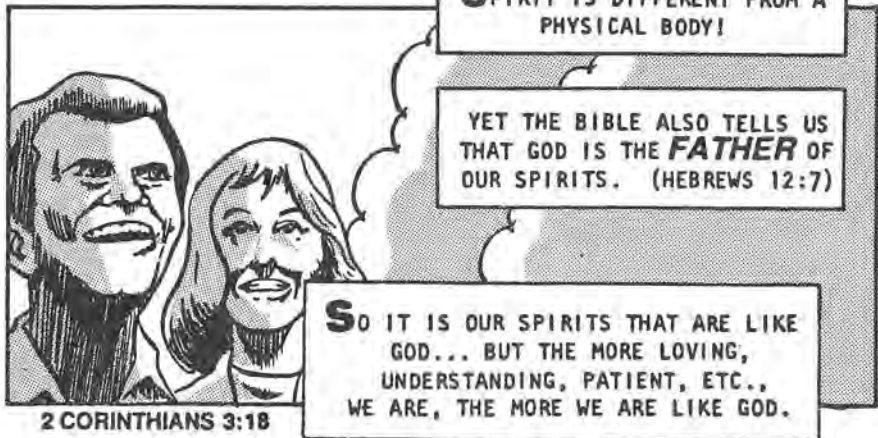
FOR THE ANSWER, LET US LISTEN  
AS JESUS SPEAKS TO THE  
WOMAN OF SAMARIA...



JOHN 4:24

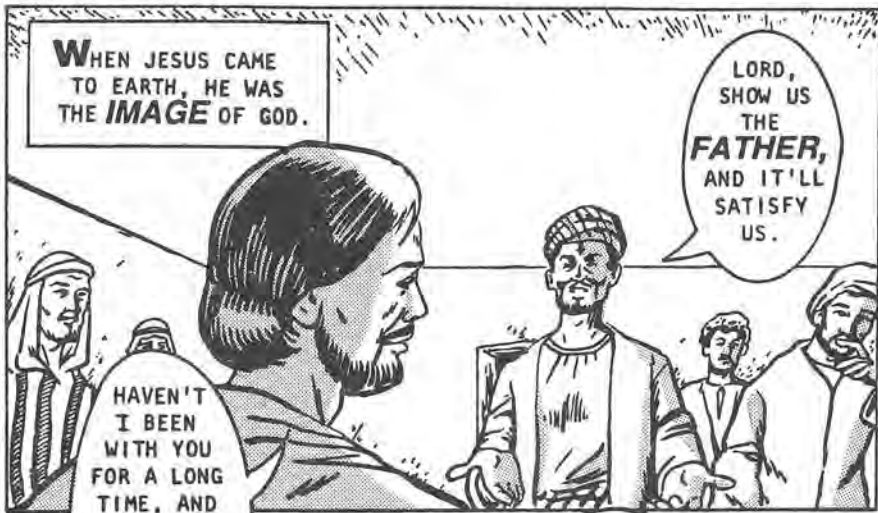
**S**PIRIT IS DIFFERENT FROM A  
PHYSICAL BODY!

YET THE BIBLE ALSO TELLS US  
THAT GOD IS THE **FATHER** OF  
OUR SPIRITS. (HEBREWS 12:7)



2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

**S**O IT IS OUR SPIRITS THAT ARE LIKE  
GOD... BUT THE MORE LOVING,  
UNDERSTANDING, PATIENT, ETC.,  
WE ARE, THE MORE WE ARE LIKE GOD.



WHEN JESUS CAME TO EARTH, HE WAS THE **IMAGE** OF GOD.

LORD, SHOW US THE **FATHER**, AND IT'LL SATISFY US.

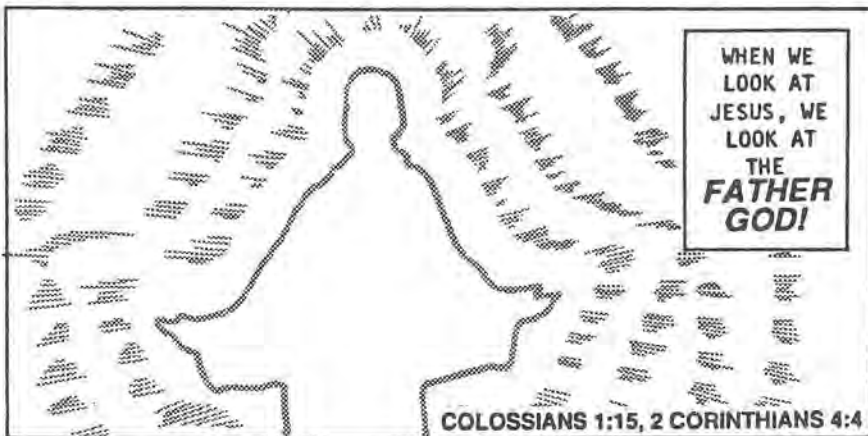
HAVEN'T I BEEN WITH YOU FOR A LONG TIME, AND YET YOU DON'T KNOW ME, PHILIP?

YOU KNOW MY **FATHER** AND HAVE **SEEN** HIM.

THE PERSON WHO HAS SEEN **ME** HAS SEEN THE **FATHER!**

SO WHY DO YOU ASK ME TO SHOW YOU THE FATHER?

JOHN 14:7-9



WHEN WE LOOK AT JESUS, WE LOOK AT THE **FATHER GOD!**

COLOSSIANS 1:15, 2 CORINTHIANS 4:4




WHILE WE ALL ARE  
MADE IN THE  
**LIKENESS, OR  
IMAGE OF GOD,**  
WE HAVE LOST  
THIS LIKENESS  
BECAUSE OF  
**SIN.**



BUT JESUS  
HAS RESTORED  
US TO GOD'S  
IMAGE BY THE  
**LIVING WAY**  
HE HAS OPENED  
FOR US!



HEBREWS 10:19,20;  
JOHN 14:6; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18



AND THERE IS A MOST WONDERFUL PROMISE  
THE BIBLE TELLS US-- WE WILL BE  
**CHANGED** TO BE LIKE CHRIST WHEN  
HE COMES AGAIN.

AND THEN WE  
CAN SAY, WITH  
DAVID--

As for me, I will behold Thy  
face in righteousness: I shall  
be satisfied, when I awake,  
with Thy likeness.

PSALM 17:15,  
KING JAMES VERSION

Beloved, now are we the  
sons of God, and it doth not  
yet appear what we shall be:  
but we know that, when He  
shall appear, we shall be  
like Him, for we shall see  
Him as He is.

1 JOHN 3:2,  
KING JAMES VERSION  
SEE ALSO ROMANS 8:29

And as we have borne  
the image of the earthly,  
we also shall bear the  
image of the heavenly.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:49  
KING JAMES VERSION

Behold, I show you a  
mystery: We shall not all  
sleep, but we shall be  
changed, in a moment,  
in the twinkling of an  
eye at the last trump:  
for the trumpet shall  
sound, and the dead  
shall be raised incor-  
ruptible, and we shall  
be changed.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51,52  
KING JAMES VERSION

ARE YOU A  
CHILD OF  
GOD?

IF NOT, WHY NOT  
BECOME ONE TODAY...  
AND INHERIT THE  
WONDERFUL PROMISE!

BORN  
1940  
DIED  
1985  
OUR  
BELOVED  
FATHER

# ETERNITY

by the Editor

A look at the planets shows the different lengths of days and years they have. Below we look at some of these planets:

**Mercury.** Its day is 59 Earth days. So it has only 3 "days" in 2 of its "years" (orbits around the sun)!

**Venus.** Its day is 243 Earth days. And a year for Venus takes 224.7 Earth days. So you see a Venusian day is longer than a Venusian year!

**Mars.** This planet is the most like Earth in its days. A day on Mars is 24 hours, 37 minutes. But it takes Mars 687 Earth days to complete its year (orbit around the sun).

**Pluto.** This is the farthest known planet at the edge of the solar system. It takes 248 Earth years to complete its year (orbit around the sun). So none of us here on earth ever live long enough to see Pluto complete a year.

The above facts are fascinating. But when we look at **God**, we are even more impressed! From Isaiah 57:15 and Micah 5:2 we learn that God inhabits [lives in] eternity! Jeremiah

10:10 also teaches us that God **rules** eternity (King James Version). The Psalmist said:

"Before there were mountains,  
or land, or the world,  
You were God.  
God, You were always God,  
and You will always be God!"

Psalm 90:2 (EVD)

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament teach that God lives forever. (For examples see Genesis 21:33 and Romans 16:26.)

Elihu was right when he told Job, "No person can count the numbers of God's years" (Job 36:26, EVD). And the prophet Isaiah said this about God:

"Surely you have heard and  
that the Lord God is very  
wise,  
and people can't learn  
all the things He  
knows.

The Lord does not become  
tired and need to rest.  
The Lord made all the faraway  
places on earth.  
The Lord lives forever."  
Isaiah 40:28 (EVD)

And Isaiah also says God is:  
"The One who is high and  
lifted up,  
the One who lives forever,  
the One whose name is  
holy."

Isaiah 57:15 (EVD)

How did God begin to be? He had no beginning. He always was! He says, "I am the only God. There are no other gods. I am the Beginning and the End" (Isaiah 44:6, EVD).

In the New Testament, Paul says that "God is the only One who never dies" (1 Timothy 6:16). Peter says, "To the Lord a day is like a thousand years,

and a thousand years is like a day" (2 Peter 3:8).

The most wonderful thing is that we can ourselves enter eternity and share it with God! John 3:16 in the EVD says, "Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that every person who believes in Him would not be lost, but have life forever."

Let us look up to God who lives forever, and believe on His Son and follow Him, for only then can we find life forever!

## The True Meaning of the Word "Christian"

by Leander Moore

"Christian" was the name given by the Greeks or Romans, probably in reproach, at Antioch in Asia Minor. The names by which the disciples were known among themselves were "brethren", "the faithful", "elect", "saints" and "believers". But as distinguishing them from the multitude outside (unbelievers), the name "Christian" came into use, and was universally accepted. This name occurs but three times in the New Testament:

"And the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch" (Acts 11:26). Whether they were called such by people or God we do not know.

"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, 'Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian'" (Acts 26:28).

"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf" (1 Peter 4:16).

You will note in each case, it is always a noun, not an adjective. Although the early disciples

may have been maliciously nicknamed "Christians" by their enemies, we today have adopted that worthy name.


A Christian is a person who follows Christ in His teachings. Christ teaches each person to believe Him, to repent of his sins, to confess Christ as the Son of the living God, and to be buried with Christ in His death by being baptized with water for the remission of his sins; and then he is saved a Christian and at the same time a member of His church which is His body. The Lord adds him to the church after baptism only validated by his preceding steps—believe, repent, and confess Christ.

We today use the name "Christian" as an adjective to describe anything or any person that is Christlike or pertains to His teachings. For example: Christian home, Christian family, Christian school or college, Christian workers, Christian ideals, Christian love, etc.

# The Gospel

"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

MORE THAN 700 YEARS BEFORE JESUS WAS BORN...



THE PROPHET ISAIAH SPOKE OF THE SUFFERING AND RESURRECTION OF THE MESSIAH (CHRIST)!

ISAIAH 53 IN THE OLD TESTAMENT CONTAINS THESE AMAZING PROPHECIES!

"AND WHEN WE SHALL SEE HIM, THERE IS NO BEAUTY THAT WE SHOULD DESIRE HIM."  
VERSE 2



"HE IS DESPISED AND REJECTED OF MEN."  
VERSE 3

"SURELY HE HATH BORNE OUR GRIEFS, AND CARRIED OUR SORROWS."  
VERSE 4




"BUT HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS."  
VERSE 5

"HE WAS CUT OFF FROM OUT OF THE LAND OF THE LIVING."  
VERSE 8

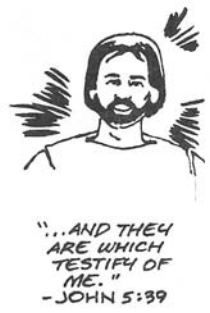
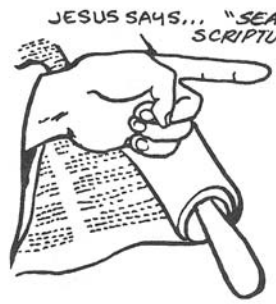


"AND HE MADE HIS GRAVE WITH THE WICKED, AND WITH THE RICH IN HIS DEATH."  
VERSE 9

"WHEN THOU SHALT MAKE HIS SOUL AN OFFERING FOR SIN, HE SHALL SEE HIS SEED, HE SHALL PROLONG HIS DAYS."  
VERSE 10



"... HE BARE THE SIN OF MANN, AND MADE INTERCESSION FOR THE TRANSGRESSORS."  
VERSE 12



The above comic strip, and the two The Gospel strips in the last two issues, were used as advertisements for a gospel meeting at East Frayser Church of Christ last year. We thought you would enjoy seeing these strips. Since they were produced for a hearing audience, we used the King James Version.

# Just Like Us

by Doug Parsons

*This interesting article was printed in Reminder, the weekly publication of Roebuck Parkway Church of Christ in Birmingham, Alabama, and we are reprinting it for the benefit of our deaf readers.*

A few months ago the eyes of our country were upon Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., where the president of that school had been defied by the students. Now that hasn't been unusual in our society over the past two decades, but this president had just recently been appointed by the board. She was rejected by the students for an unusual reason. She was not deaf, and Gallaudet University serves 21,025 deaf students.

It was interesting to read about the first meeting between I. King Jordan, the 44-year-old president who was chosen in the aftermath of that controversy, the Student Body President and the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees. They met to talk about the future of the school. When they came out of that meeting, the President of the student body turned to the new President of the University and said with tears in his eyes, "There was no interpreter." That was true because the new president, I. King Jordan, is deaf as are the students he was chosen to serve. You can appreciate the need of these young people to have someone leading their school who was like them-- who shared their struggle.

The writer of Hebrews supplies a portrait of Jesus in these words, "For we have not an high priest who is unable to

sympathize with our weakness, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). There are times when our hearts also hunger to behold Christ high and lifted up-- to see Him in His majesty and glory. We long to cry out with John, "Behold the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Jesus is both God and like us and He became our Mediator and Redeemer.

He walked where we walk, and He fought the battle we now fight. Christ came into a sin-plagued world, a sin-infested world. Never had there been a human being who has escaped a struggle with his or her lower nature. No matter how disciplined and well-intentioned we may be, sin is part and parcel of the human condition. But Jesus lived and died without ever being contaminated with sin. Now He can plead our case before the Father's throne because He has experienced first-hand all the temptations we face.

Our hope as Christians is not that Jesus is our example. He is that, but far more. He is our great High Priest. He is our forerunner, one who has already passed through the heavens and now mediates in our behalf before the throne of God so that we might come confidently before God, that walking in His steps we might receive mercy and find grace and help in time of need.

# *The New Birth is available today!*

by **Gary Chadwick**

In *Light for the Deaf* #121 we ran an article by Gary Chadwick regarding the New Birth. Tony Demonbreun, hearing preacher for the Church of Christ in Selma, Alabama, wrote us expressing his concern with the article and showing Scripture which refutes Gary's conclusions. We sent a photocopy of Demonbreun's letter to Gary. We asked him (Gary) to grant us permission to print an edited version of his reply to Demonbreun here. (We removed certain personal remarks and cut the letter to fit our space.)

After reading your letter, my initial reaction was to defend my views with the support of the biblical data as evidence, but later on, after further examination of 1 Peter, I began to realize the error of my interpretation. I want to thank you for having brought to my attention the things in my article that may contradict the teachings of the Bible. It is my earnest desire and intention to strive for a better understanding of what the Bible teaches on any given subject.

I know in my heart that you are doing your best to help me **"understand the way of God better"** (Acts 18:25,26) in a spirit of love and gentleness.

Any interpretation that contradicts itself must be logically considered a false interpretation by other Scriptural passages. An interpreter must draw his conclusions as warranted by the biblical data as evidence. This means that I was not a careful student of God's Word and that I misinterpreted the contextual meaning of 1 Peter 1:23. This passage contradicts my views that a child of God

living today is "not eligible to be called a born again Christian". Therefore my interpretation is a false interpretation rather than an "interesting interpretation" in Bro. Leavell's editorial comments on the inside cover of *Light for the Deaf* #121.

When I read your statement that "First Peter was written to both Jews and Gentiles", I checked several Bible commentaries on 1 Peter and James and two books on NT introductions that sat on my new book shelf in the family den room, and all writers were unanimous that 1 Peter was never addressed to only Jewish believers as I once thought. What led me to misidentify Peter's audience was the word **"scattered"**. The word **"scattered"** is a Jewish term denoting Jews who live outside the land of Palestine but who continued to follow the rules and customs of Jewish religion. However I did not know that this term can be applied to Gentile believers when they were forced to flee from Nero's persecution in Rome and to live in foreign lands **"all around the areas of Pontus,**

**Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia**" (1 Peter 1:1).

As 1 Peter 1:23 says in the **New King James Version**, taken from your letter, **"Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever"**. Here is an interesting contrast between two different kinds of seeds--**"corruptible"** and **"incorruptible"**. Two Greek transliteration terms are **"phthartos"** meaning **"decayed, i.e. (by impl.) perishable, corruptible"**, and **"aphthartos"** meaning **"undecaying (in essence of continuance): immortal, incorruptible"** (Abingdon's Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible). The Greek letter **"a"** is a prefix term meaning **"not", "without", or "lacking"**. So let us read the **English Version for the Deaf** for a better rendering of these Greek terms into plain English. **"You have been born again. This new life did not come from something that dies. That life came from something that cannot die. You were born again through God's living message that continues forever."**

It has been made clear to me that Peter did not have in mind two covenant births that I had once thought. Instead, he had in mind two different kinds of births-- **"corruptible"** and **"incorruptible"**. The **"corruptible"** seed brings forth natural birth while the **"incorruptible"** seed brings forth spiritual birth. The seed that brings forth natural birth is styled **"corruptible"** be-

cause the physical body is born to die on earth. The seed that brings forth spiritual birth is styled **"incorruptible"** because the spiritual body is born to live forever in heaven. The apostle Paul says, **"The body that is 'planted' will ruin and decay. But that body is raised to a life that cannot be destroyed... The body that is 'planted' is a physical body. When it is raised, it is a spiritual body"** (1 Corinthians 15:42,44).

A correct understanding of 1 Peter 1:23 is that Peter is trying to tell his readers the permanent nature of the new life given through the Word of God. They must learn to **"love each other deeply"** (v. 22). Why? Because they have been born again, and that is the only way to enter the fellowship of God's people that will last forever (v. 23). So it is very important that they try not to be self-centered, but rather Christ-centered in their fellowship with one another--the kind of fellowship that will deepen and remain for eternity.

I am guilty of using **eisegesis** (reading an interpretation into the text) but in an intentional way. I will try my best to use **exegesis** (reading an interpretation out of the text) from now on. My apology goes out to you and to all readers of **Light for the Deaf** for my mistaken interpretation of the **New Birth**.

We thank Gary Chadwick for his honest admission of error in his article. In case you missed the point of Gary's letter, Gary now believes the New Birth is valid today and that we most certainly can be born again by God's Word. There are many sincere Bible students like Gary who may occasionally err by a mistaken view of the Scriptures' teaching. There is nothing shameful in publicly admitting error when you find it is error, as long as you renounce that error and move on to a more correct understanding of the Scripture. Gary has done this. Now, move on to the next page for an error the Editor made.



# "In the Lord..."

by Frank Rushing

The below letter and article were given to me by Frank Rushing when he recently visited my office. We appreciate his material. Please see my comments at the end of the article.

--Billy Leavell, Editor

I really appreciate very much your work preparing the **Light for the Deaf**. The scripture teachings in this magazine have been loaded with truth. When there is misunderstanding on the meanings of the scriptures, it usually would be corrected. I know you want truth to be proclaimed to your readers. Some articles may be profitable for our discussions, thus we can increase the horizons of our knowledge of the scriptures.

However, I would like to give you my viewpoint on the subject **"only in the Lord"** compared to your replies in your **"Questions and Answers"** section. I am expecting some criticisms from some of your readers, but let us study this passage of 1 Corinthians 7:39. My write-up has resulted from my study of this passage for some years.

--Frank Rushing

## "Only in the Lord"

What the apostle Paul states in 1 Corinthians 7:39 (EVD) is so vital that we should read study and understand its meaning.

I have read some articles in some magazines and books on this subject, and there are

some differences concerning **"only in the Lord"** in this passage.

Now let us quote what Paul states: **"A woman must stay with her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies the woman is free to marry any man she wants. But she must marry in the Lord."** Does this passage give specific direction that this phrase **"only in the Lord"** means that the woman who lost her husband by death, but wishes to marry again, should marry a man who is a Christian? The New Testament nowhere commands a Christian man or woman as to whom they should marry. There is one and only one direction restricting marriage of a widow, and that is found in this same passage above. What about those maidens that are not under that same restriction?

As I study this passage, I believe that the context of this passage not to mean the persons to be married, but to mean **marrying** itself. Let us study another passage: **"Wives, be under the authority of (obey) your husbands. This is the right thing to do in the Lord"** (Colossians 3:18, EVD). **"In the Lord"** in this passage does not mean that the husbands are themselves

in the Lord, but it means the conduct of the wives. This conduct is what is **unto the Lord** and it is designed to elevate the character of the wife, therefore to make her a fit companion of her husband.

Another passage says, **"Wives, be under the authority of (obey) your husbands the same as the Lord"** (Ephesians 5:22, EVD). This helps us understand Colossians 3:18 when it says **in the Lord**.

My understanding is that the widow could select a man, either a Christian or non-Christian, as her husband. That would be pleasing to the Lord as long as she does not violate the teaching of Christ on marriage. For example, it would not please the Lord if the widow married an unscripturally divorced person.

We must bear in mind that 1 Corinthians 7:39 does not specify whether this widow is a Christian or not. So this passage puts us under no authorization to guess or decide on which. But I believe that Paul was talking about either one. If Paul means a Christian, then she must please the Lord by marrying a Christian man as she could elevate the marriage to a level which God will bless. On the other side, if the Christian widow chooses to marry a non-Christian or a man of a different faith, it may not be pleasing to the Lord. Paul stated, **"You are not the same as those people who don't believe. So don't join yourselves to them. Good and bad don't belong together. Light and darkness cannot have fellowship (sharing). How can Christ and Beliah (the devil)**

**have any agreement? What can a believer have together with a non-believer?"** (2 Corinthians 6:14,15). So the widow marrying a non-Christian would not be doing it for the Lord's sake.

What if in this case a non-Christian widow wants to marry a Christian man **"only in the Lord"**? Would that Christian be the victim of 2 Corinthians 6:14,15? The usual interpretation of this passage may not be the right answer and may not be so pleasing to the Lord!

In conclusion I believe the Lord wants every widow to have a good marriage when she remarries. A Christian widow should have a proper sense of her obligations to Christ. She should not marry a non-Christian man because she may not have deep convictions of the importance and truth of her faith as she should have. A non-Christian husband may degrade her usefulness for the Lord as he may have no respect for her faith and may interfere with her service for the Lord as she wishes. He may encourage or push her to join in his society where God may be excluded.

It is the duty of every widow to devote her life to Christ and to follow all the teachings of the Lord. She should marry the man approved of our Lord. But we should understand the definition of **"only in the Lord"** to be **"a woman should be bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if he dies, he is free to marry any man she wants, but let her be guided by the Lord."**

I believe Frank is correct in that **"in the Lord"** does not refer to marrying only a Christian, but to the marrying itself; that is, the marrying must agree with God's will. The Scripture itself does not say that we must marry a Christian, but we all agree that it would be wise. Thank you, Frank, for correcting us!



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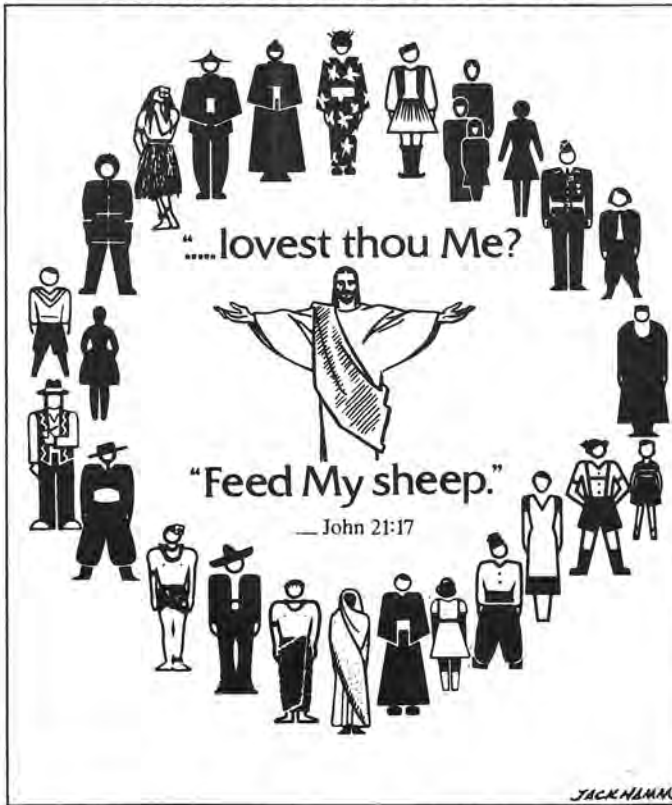
Weekend and evening before  
9:00 P.M. EST  
  
(703) 476-1030 (Voice or TTY)  
(301) 680-0719 (Voice or TTY)

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**Or write:** Fairfax Church of Christ  
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Fairfax, VA 22033  
Attention: Deaf Workshop

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