

My Life Problem

Charles William Whipple

This book was unfinished at the time of Mr. Whipple's death. It is compiled from a rough draft with many comments in the margin and entered into electronic form by Larry Fowler, the grandson of Charles Whipple. Editing was done with the help of Mr. Whipple's daughter, Eleanor Whipple.

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Preface

As Biblical quotes appear in-line with Mr. Whipple's text, and may have no reference stated, it is sometimes difficult to determine whether something is a Biblical quote or not. Therefore the use of *italics* is employed as an aid in separating them from the text. References to many quotes were not added to the text as they would tend to distract the reader. Quotes are taken from a 1933 Bible edition translated by George M. Lamsa and published by the A.J. Holman Company of Philadelphia. This translation is based on Peshitta manuscripts written in Aramaic, the spoken language of the common people during the time of Christ. In many instances this translation appears to correct what may be mistakes in the Greek text. For example, in Matthew 19:24, the text "Again I say to you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle", the word 'camel' is replaced with the word 'rope'. These two words are written the same in Aramaic. This and other differences hint at the possibility of the original New Testament manuscripts being first written in Aramaic and later translated to Greek. The Lamsa translation includes both the Old and New Testaments. For study proposes, the reader may wish to compare the Lamsa text with the more readily available King James version.

Mr. Whipple refers to another Bible translation, the Numeric Bible, as proof of the Bible's divine origin. It is the result of a mathematical approach to editing and correcting the earliest known Greek New testament manuscripts and then translating them into English. This work was done by Ivan Panin and a first edition was published in 1914. Processing the Greek manuscripts through a numeric algorithm produced two significant points of interest. First, it corrected minor discrepancies and errors in the original Greek and second, it proved the Bible could not have been written without the inspiration of a higher power. The translation process and application of the numeric algorithm is described in some detail in the appendix of the second edition.

Although Baptism and immersion are used interchangeably, Mr. Whipple stresses immersion, as the Bible says immersion is required for the new birth while baptism is sometimes associated with sprinkling or affusion.

Lawrence W. Fowler Ph.D.

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A Description of My Problem

My life problem is so comprehensive and my ability to express it in speech is so limited that I shall try to put it in writing. Whenever I have attempted to discuss these matters with others there have been so many obstacles to overcome that the conversation becomes absorbed in minor details and the real issue seldom if ever is touched upon.

We live as individuals, have a mind and will to do as we choose and are very jealous of those rights and privileges. Anything that seems to infringe upon our personal liberties immediately becomes a stop sign emblazoned across our path. So great is this prerogative that it has been expressed in our Declaration of Independence. "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life liberty and the pursuit of happiness." But the very nation that was founded upon this belief immediately passed laws and adopted modes of procedures whereby they could limit the freedom of that individual, without his consent, his life, his liberty, his happiness and any or all of his property, real or personal.

The reason for this is that although a man is an individual, he is also a member or portion of a large unit or society, and those rights which we hold dear are the rights of the larger group, not the individual as he supposes. Only to the degree that the greater group allows or permits is the individual able to enjoy these liberties.

So all inclusive is this power of the larger unit over the smaller that the individual becomes accustomed to its operation and accepts the position without opposition, and goes so far in some cases as to consider the group action as being their own free individual action. For this reason, individual ideas are so coalesced with group ideas that individuals find it almost impossible to discuss matters on an individual basis.

People are as much alike, we might say, as two peas in a pod, and the pattern of behavior is almost identical. This sameness applies to everything connected with the personality of the individual. This is caused by two factors. One factor is that we are born much alike and the other is that we generally grow up under the care of others who direct our development along similar lines. Although the results may appear similar, there is a never ending variation on a more obscure level. Also, inheritance is different, every birth is different, every childhood environment differs, parents, together with differences in economy, location, the influence of friends, relatives and teachers are different. There is infinite variation, as different as fingerprints. Yet the group mores allow only individual variations to the established structure of the particular group. They dictate conformity within a structure so that anything new or outside these limits is taboo. The result is a monotonous similarity of development.

This is the reason we are Republicans or Democrats, why we profess a particular religion or none at all, why we wear the style of clothes we do, why we

enjoy dancing, music, football, why we pass on the right side when we meet, why we speak the same language, and most of our actions are similar. We are the creatures of education and nearly all administered by others, the group units of various kinds, parents and parental substitutes. We have few really creative or original thoughts or actions of our own. We are conditioned by our culture and the individual experiences within that environment.

There are so many elements that enter into the patterns of life that it is impossible for any single individual to understand them all. We are forced, in this complexity, to accept the ideas of other people because we do not have the time or opportunity to do our own research. We have very little choice and for this reason we often are led astray by the faulty reasoning and conclusions of others. Also, all of us want to feel we have some real choice and we are not just puppets. But nevertheless, we are the product of our own choices, no matter where the patterns and education come from, no matter how good or bad the education is, and no matter how satisfactory or difficult our environment. Use of or freedom from these maxims to achieve fully mature use of emotion and intellect is rare.

Children coming into the world receive their first training and education from their parents, immediate companions and their environment. The emotional environment provided by parents during the first two years of life, according to psychiatry, is the basis of mental health. What children are taught helps to mold their future life and character. Much of this education follows a definite pattern chosen for definite results. As a child matures the plans become clearer. Even during infancy and pre-school parents often have conscious or unconscious aims to influence their children's later life in one way or another. It is rare that children are given maximum use of freedom to fully mature intellectually or emotionally.

Escape from the established order is rare and usually requires more friction and difficulties than the child can surmount. At about four or five years of age most fall under organized educational programs which prove to be another formative influence, kindergartens, playfields, primary classes in public, private or church schools. Other early years are hardly less important as the child finds its place within the family. The family continues as the most formative influence all through the long period of human development, even into the teens and early adulthood. Influence from these experiences stretch throughout life even after emancipation from their parents. What children are taught helps to mold their future life and character. Much of this education follows a definite pattern, chosen for definite results. As the child matures the plan becomes more definite. Many parents have definite aims in the pre-school period of infancy, both consciously and unconsciously, to influence their child's later life. Deviation from the established order is unusual and generally difficult..

My personal life problem developed from the realization that a similar psychological dynamic, sometimes called group think, invades our religious as well as our ordinary life. My insights stem from a lifetime of heavenly experiences and Biblical study.

Science is a source of knowledge which embraces the truths that are capable of induction, experimentation or observation. Much of this knowledge

has been classified and made available to others. This lessens the labor involved in arriving at the solution of many problems in nearly all avenues of life and activity.

Often scientific knowledge carries with it certain deductions or conclusions called theories. Some of these theories are accepted at face value by others as practical facts or truths and in the passing of time are subjected to further study resulting in strengthening, weakening or changing the theory. Many theories are accepted by almost everyone as truths, others are rejected as not yet proven or even some considered false.

Not all facts or truths have been proven by science so that the field of knowledge is a virtual labyrinth, sometimes very difficult to deal with in arriving at the correct solution to a problem. I shall use scientific knowledge wherever possible for the saving in time and effort this makes possible, however many statements must be made which have not been determined by recognized scientific methods.

The Origin of My Problem

About seventy years ago I was a little over three years of age and that is as far back into my infancy as I can remember accurately enough to make correct statements or records. I began to tell my companions, usually my mother, about children and places where I was playing. She would question me about where I had been and I soon began to understand that she did not believe that I had been anywhere or that I had played with the children I was telling about.

But the unbelievable visits continued day after day. I was not believed and as I grew older, a serious situation developed. I was accused of telling stories and finally punished for reporting my experiences. I was too young to understand such things, but as I grew older I realized I was different from other children. I could and did make these visits but the other children did not. I did not know where I was going at first. My spirit was leaving my body at home and making visits to Heaven, where I was playing with children whose spirits were over there. I did not learn this all at once but gradually reasoned it out as I grew up.

My parents were Christians and I was kept in Sunday School and at an early age learned a great deal from the Bible. When old enough to really study the matter I discovered that the Heaven of the Bible was where my spirit was visiting. There I experienced all the wonderful beauty and pleasure, and some of the people, angels and spiritual beings as spoken of in the Bible.

Meanwhile my father became an infidel while I was yet a small child. As I grew older my mother wanted me to join the church. My father wanted me to be an atheist because he did not believe in the Bible or God anymore. My father and I became very close and discussed every phase of the matter for a number of years. He could not explain to me how I could be visiting in Heaven if it did not exist, but he very definitely objected to my joining the church.

The result was that I made a very thorough investigation in my own way of church beliefs and religion and at sixteen years of age I joined a Christian church. The minister assured me that the church was as nearly like the church in the Bible as it was possible to make it. They had no name, no organization except their own congregation, no creed, no articles of faith, no books or set of rules or guides of any kind except the Bible.

I was happy and satisfied with the move I had made. I plunged whole heartedly into Sunday School, Christian Endeavor and church work and also made an intensive study of the Bible with the intention of becoming a minister. I studied associated subjects including sermon writing and public speaking. My younger brother went to a Bible college and graduated, becoming a Christian minister and remained a minister all his life. I could not finance a ministerial course of study in college so I studied at home.

Finally, the time came when I thought I was ready to enter the ministry. I was encouraged by the pastor of the Christian church where I worshiped and was ordained to the ministry by a ceremony of laying on of hands by the elders.

This was followed by several years of preaching in various churches while I was still employed as a teacher.

Meanwhile I continued studying and investigating. Also I continued my visits to Heaven, but instead of helping in the original problem, that of the disbelief of religion on every hand, and together with the differences between those who did believe, there seemed to be no established truth here on earth to which one could turn with confidence. Even the non-sectarian Christian church to which I belonged began to depart from its stand of following only the Bible and introduced many non-Biblical innovations which of course left me stranded and alone.

Of course a non-sectarian Bible church with no denominational organization could not split up into separate sects; there was nothing to split. But groups of ministers banded together to make a denomination of their congregations, organize central control and financing together with a united missionary effort. In colloquial terms this amounts to "The tail was soon wagging the dog". Many independent churches have been drawn into this man made modern field of endeavor, but many continue on the defensive, fighting to retain their status as Christian churches, free and independent.

This struggle currently appears to be a losing battle for the independent churches. Group planning, organization, financing and propaganda are robbing the individual of his freedom just as pointed out in non-religious activities. Unless an independent church follows wherever the large group leads, they are branded as antis, obstructionists and old fashioned. Slowly but surely they succumb to the pressure being put upon them. Most members of such churches are Christians and do not realize what is going on, or they learn too late to do anything effective about it.

Since my ordination I have been an elder in the church, but nothing I can say or do has been of any effect in correcting this situation. The entire board of elders, without a dissenting voice, officially refused even to discuss any phase of the matter. What is an individual able to do when the group acts. The implication is that the pastor leads the members of the Christian Church instead of God and the Bible.

Group Control of Religion

A person's religion is, according to general understanding, a personal matter between himself and his God. The individual is either obedient or sinful, does what is pleasing and satisfactory or what is displeasing to his God. The individual is either blessed or punished according to his own behavior. It is a personal matter and we can trace this individual relationship with God in the histories of all peoples as far back as we are able to trace the knowledge of God among men.

But there is a flaw in this picture. Although the individual is to be blessed or punished according to his own actions, the group demands his actions be what they require them to be, not simply what he decides. To be sure the individual does as the group decides, he is trained or educated from infancy in the religion, taboos, habits, charms, prayers and customs of the group or groups coming into contact with him. He is not allowed to decide very many things for himself. Even in Christian homes little children are taught to pray ready made prayers, prepared for them by parents or others. As they grow older they are taught the peculiar beliefs of the groups and many times join these religious bodies at a very tender age. They have not had the time nor do they have the ability to know much about the matters which they have adopted to serve as their lifetime guides. If they are saints or sinners they have become so, not only of their own choice but also by the choice of the group, and they are expected to receive the rewards or demerits individually according to how they yield to the group. What chance has the individual, especially if he yields to such mass treatment and does not rebel. Very few rebel.

Yet the person continues to grow and develop bodily, mentally and spiritually. There comes a time when his reason demands an accounting to harmonize his actions with his mature judgment. He begins to discover what the group has been doing yet only in a small way. No one ever discovers everything that has been done to him. The rebellion of the individual is therefore only partial and comprises only those features of his indoctrination he decides to rebel against. These are few, very few indeed compared with the entire education the group has given him.

Strong influences work in favor of his permanently retaining the group conditioning. One influence is the ever present force of imitation, or the desire to be like others in the group. This also includes the associations it has produced such as friends, loved ones, business, occupations, small groups, schools, lodges, churches and politics. Keeping up with the Jones' really means conforming to the group.

The other reason, much more comprehensive and irrational, is aptly expressed in a popular religious hymn, "Faith of our fathers, we will be true to thee till death". In this is expressed the demands of the group that the individual faithfully accept what has been decided upon for him. So all inclusive is this demand that it has been extended to include even God. Nearly all religions in the world today have abandoned reasoning, investigation, science and other

sources of ascertaining the truth and have substituted faith. In reality, this faith reflects the individuals acceptance of that condition or mass of knowledge and educational seasoning which the group has imposed upon him. With this is included those ideas that the individual does not understand, which seem doubtful, which seem unreasonable and which seem impossible. Yet he must accept them on faith, just faith alone without any other reason than the groups' demand for submission.

Most religious groups have definitely decided upon many of these points and ask candidates who wish to join their group to submit to questioning. The questions they are asked have been carefully prepared and the answers demanded have also been carefully prepared; so the individual has little choice but to conform.

Usually among these questions will be found one overall safety question, just in case they might have left out something important. The question is something like this, "Do you believe the articles of faith as set forth in our statement?". This removes the last vestige of freedom of religious thought and action in what is covered by the articles. However, disagreement is allowed in other areas, even proudly so; for example 'birth control'. And, to keep control of the group they also have provisions whereby anyone not conforming to their demands may be expelled. This condition prevails to some extent in nearly all groups; educational, scientific, political, religious and even recreational. What opportunity does an individual have for development without becoming an outcast? In contrast, maximum individual development probably cannot occur in an environment without norms, traditions, limits and controls. Therefore, absolute freedom from any influence may not be best.

Psychological Elements

Let us look at some of the elements which enter into the consideration of this problem, with the purpose of discovering something that might help in a solution.

The Subconscious

The subconscious is the perfect and complete memory of everything in connection with each person. This memory is always perfect and complete and could very well be what is referred to in Christianity as 'The book of life' from which a persons' acts may be recalled. This subconscious does not die when the physical body dies. There is a spiritual body, a duplicate of the perfect physical body in which the subconscious lives. This spiritual body is born a natural birth the same as the material body and at the same time and with the same parents. The subconscious grows and develops and its body, mind and memory grow and advance in age and accomplishments according to the laws of spiritual development.

I recognize this statement may not appear to be in agreement with modern psychological theory. However, this is the theory I have developed from my own experiences and in my opinion does not necessarily conflict with what is substantiated in the others, although terms differ widely. Truth is truth under whatever name. It is my opinion that the subconscious is the spirit of man.

The Conscious

The reasoning mind of man is the conscious mind and will. The conscious animal is born at the same time, with the same parents and circumstances as the subconscious. The animal body and the spiritual body are exact duplicates of each other in every way, exact fiber and tissue, size, shape and function. The difference between the conscious and subconscious is just the difference between the material and the spiritual, and each is governed by the natural laws that apply to each. The brains are exactly alike and the same thought forms are impressed on both at exactly the same time. The development of both the conscious and subconscious depends upon education, whether that education is just the accidental process of growing up as an animal or being directed by a definite plan.

Both portions of a person, the conscious and subconscious grow and develop into an adult at the same time. The conscious mind is the reasoning, planning, willing mind that directs all voluntary actions, thoughts, deductions and plans of both the conscious and subconscious bodies. The subconscious mind is the memory storehouse and directs all involuntary actions, thoughts, decisions and plans of both the conscious and subconscious bodies.

Thus we see there is an overlapping of personality and control of the conscious and subconscious. The conscious must have the cooperation of the subconscious for memory and the subconscious needs the conscious for its decisions and directive abilities. Neither is complete within itself. It takes both to make a complete human being. The material animal body is the home of both the conscious and the subconscious, as is also the spiritual body, its duplicate.

When the animal body dies the material brain also dies, and its powers of control over the voluntary actions are of course gone as there is nothing to control. During the life of the material body the subconscious has been developing the same as the conscious, but that development has been controlled by the reasoning power of the conscious. After death the memory remains undisturbed in the subconscious and the use that is made of that memory depends upon the development or education which has been directed by the conscious while the two were associated. Man's conscious mind has, by its own choice, directed the development of the subconscious, and its future life, activities, character and final disposition have been determined by the reasoning and decisions of the conscious.

The spiritual body, brain and mind, is the seat of all instincts, emotions, love, hate, jealousy, greed, and the sensations which accompany the use of the five senses of the physical body. All these sensations are retained in the memory. For the conscious mind to benefit from or use these sensations they must be supplied by the subconscious mind.

The conscious calls upon the subconscious at will for these memory sensations and in reality trains the subconscious to supply them. So thorough is this demand and response that many voluntary actions become involuntary in the usual course of living and we often refer to them as being second nature. Walking, talking, reading, singing, skills of all kinds, playing musical instruments, safety actions taken after alarms such as heat, noise, taste, smell, etc. The subconscious has become trained to respond without a new demand being made upon it by the conscious.

In this way each conscious self educates and trains its subconscious and fixes its character. We hear the expression "Let your conscience be your guide" It is not only your guide, it is you. It is your subconscious. Your conscious will direct you in the paths you have decided upon but the decision has been made on the subconscious or spiritual level.

The Creator and Lawmaker

There is a third element that enters into the psychological structure of man, but not of other animals. It is similar to the third side of a triangle, two sides of which are the conscious and the subconscious. Some have called it the superconscious, some God, the Great Spirit, the Heavenly Father, ultimate god, love, and numerous other designations. It is a personality or group of personalities to which the subconscious has direct access, and the conscious non-spiritual self of man has indirect access through the subconscious.

We have learned a great deal about this superconscious spiritual source which the subconscious or spirit of man can contact. It is not a single personality. Sometimes one personality and sometimes several personalities are involved. At least one of these personalities, and possibly more, possesses powers or abilities to act far beyond the range of the conscious man's ability and probably also beyond the power of the subconscious spirit of man. There are lesser personalities in this group, some at least which do not have the ultimate power of the most powerful.

This one ultimate source of power we shall call the Creator. This Creator is a spiritual being or personality with the same or like attributes as the subconscious spirit of man. He it was who created the laws and circumstances which brought into existence the human man or dual personality of a spirit subconscious and animal conscious being. Having created the man and also the law under which he exists He is superior or super to them. Also, He still exists today with the same powers and the same laws as when He created, not only man but all the other features and portions of the material universe in which we live.

We do not know when this creation took place except that it was in the beginning, the beginning of that which He created; which, by observation and reason, was a long time prior to the creation of man. But sometime by some manner, man was created. We know this because we are here. How He created man, the time consumed, the condition of the first human beings we do not know. Yet this much we know, man was created under the same laws of nature or God as were the remainder of His creatures and those laws still exist to this day.

The unreasonable notion that man does not come under the same laws and conditions as the remainder of creation is a theory which has been slowly developed by human beings and incorporated into their religion. Man was not born an individual sinner. He is born a member of a group of sinners. This group sin into which he is innocently born is practically inescapable, but the sin is not the sin of the individual but of the group which has developed it and imposes it upon the individual. The group has attempted to make it appear that the sin is of the individual, that he is the sinner.

That is not true except in so far as he chooses to join in, partake of, or become part of the group sin. As the group starts conditioning the individual from the time of his birth, he becomes enmeshed with them and as time passes becomes another one of the sinful and overpowering group, but not because he was born a sinner. However, I challenge the theory that we are so completely at the mercy of the group that we do not have choice.

The subconscious part of man is the real, true and only complete man or portion or personality of man. The subconscious is the spirit of man, the part that lives after the body dies. This spirit is not a perfect personality, created by God and given to man when he is born, returning to God when he dies as something divine or superhuman, as if it were the personal property of God and under His guidance. The subconscious is the man, it is the instincts, it is the activator, it is the motive power, it is the memory, it is the connecting link with the Creator through the natural laws of all nature. It is the emotions. It is the five senses. It

is all the senses, not only the five we recognize but all the others as well. It is the spirit of man. It is the man. The real true man.

This man, this spirit is not an incorporeal or disembodied idea. It is not an accumulated mass of cosmos or some other imaginary semi-substance. This spirit of man is a real man, with a real body, a perfectly performing body, a body without blemish or flaw, a body created out of the same substance as God, a spiritual body. This spiritual body is born at the same time as the material body of man, created at the same time, grows up through infancy and matures.

It finally becomes a mature adult spirit living in the material body, every organ, particle and fiber of the material being a perfected duplicate part by part of the real spiritual man. But, there is this between the two bodies which are enmeshed together to make a human being. The spiritual body grows according to the real natural laws from the moment of conception to the mature spirit and does not take on or develop imperfections, does not grow old or infirm but remains perfect in form, composition and makeup. When the material body becomes damaged and nature starts to repair it, the pattern, the perfect pattern is still in existence. The material body may or may not be able to reproduce the existing pattern of the spirit, but the spirit remains complete and perfect nevertheless.

A person who has lost one or all the limbs of his material body still has all the limbs of his spiritual body. Also, if a child loses a limb or has a crippled limb, his spiritual body continues to grow naturally to maturity and then remains at perfected maturity. When the material body, what is left of it, dies, the perfect spiritual body lives on. If the spiritual body is not yet mature, the death of the material body does not interrupt its growth, but it continues to full maturity.

The mind of the spirit of man, while it is in association with the material body, develops and grows according to the direction or will of the material mind. The development of the spiritual mind is without limit, but most material minds that are directing that development do not advance beyond the usual circumscribed limits of the groups to which they belong. For this reason we seldom encounter a spirit, still associated with its human body, that develops beyond the commonplace. However, occasionally we find individuals who have broken the strangle hold of the groups to which they belong and we marvel at the accomplishments of their spirits. Attainments are reached which almost stagger the imagination. Feats of mathematics, music, physical prowess, memory and innumerable seeming impossibilities are performed. Some of these feats are detached instances and some become permanent parts of the human personality. Many times this controlled development of the subconscious spirit of man to the spectacular performances has been accomplished by a definite exertion of the material will and its operation has been studied and methods noted. Many other cases have not been so successfully analyzed. The natural laws of these associations still need much investigation and experimentation.

The control of the spirit of man by his material mind may be relinquished and another mind take control of the spirit as is evidenced by the familiar phenomenon of hypnosis. In the case of hypnosis the control of the spirit has been voluntarily surrendered to the other mind, but there are many cases where

this control of the spirit has been taken over by other minds without the consent of the associated human mind. Although this is often being done without the consent of the conscious mind it has been quite definitely established that it is because of a lack of control or an inability to control for some reason. The finding of the reason for the failure of proper control of the spirit by the material mind is one of the serious modern problems. One of the reasons, when it is found, may probably be that the conscious mind of the individual has too often or too completely surrendered the control of its spirit to group conditioning and thus finally lost its natural controlling ability. Another possibility is emotional starvation or distortion during childhood; such as lack of love, parental control or abuse.

Religion and the Human Mind

Religion is the worship of a super-human power or personality, either one or more, real or imaginary. This worship of a super- powerful god seems to be as old as man for it is found in the oldest records. There are many religions and most of them are very similar, so similar in major ways as to clearly indicate a common origin. Some of the common features are: worship in which offerings or sacrifices of some form are offered, prayer made for the good things desired, and the withholding of the undesirable, acknowledgment of power or authority over one, and submission or promise of submission to their will.

The basis of the formal worship seems to have originated from two major themes. One is the acknowledgement of and utmost submission to that god. The other is the correct relationship to be maintained between human beings.

The most important features are those of loyalty to the god from whom believers expect benefits which they cannot supply for themselves and protection from evil. Usually these relate to nature and the elements, or to other beings or personalities such as devils or evil spirits. This evidently arises from the knowledge which the subconscious or spirit has of the superconscious god, who is able to do superhuman things. Not being able to determine who or what this god is has evidently caused the great variation we have.

The second feature, that of human relationship, has been expressed in many forms which have been traced back for thousands of years into the obscurity of prehistoric civilization. One form of statement fairly representative of them is the one made by Jesus, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

This is a simple statement of the community or group feature of religion. It has been stated and restated from the remotest antiquity. Upon it has been based the codes of living in groups, not only religious but also in civil features; the ten commandments of Moses, the present moral code and the civil codes of the governments of the world. Sometimes entire civilizations have had but the one principle in their moral code and therefore but one sin, if we may call it that. We may at least say that they recognize but one evil and that was the breaking of this one group law.

Anything which harmed another individual was the sin. This sin alienated them, not only from the remainder of the human group but it also alienated them from their contact with their god, the super human power that was able to answer their prayers, give benefits and restrain evils. To correct this sin, or remove it and restore the proper relationship again, certain things were required to be done.

The individual must acknowledge the sin, confess or recognize that the harm had been done. He must honestly and sincerely do every thing he knows to do and can do. Or, he must discover what will correct the harm done to others and make full restitution, ask for pardon, anything within his power or knowledge that he can do to right the wrong done.

This done the proper relationship would again be established, not only with the group and the individuals harmed or composing the group. Also his

subconscious spirit was again placed in a correct position to ask and receive from his god. His spirit could again contact his god and thus result in cooperation. Into this almost perfect moral and spiritual civilization went so called Christian missionaries with their denominational inventions and their substitution of faith in their own system of religion and worship, for the simple truthful working native practices. However, this is not completely true as most native practices had their own types of corruption.

This substitution of Christian faith for the real natural working worship of a primitive people ruined their civilization. Instead of love for their neighbors and living at peace and happiness with each other and their god they now had grafted into their group all the complicated sins of Christian lands, doubts and differences about all forms of worship. They took on the evils of modern civilization, that is so called Christian civilization and have lost touch almost completely with their god. They must now depend upon the doubtful and impractical methods of religious confusion as it presently exists in America and other so called Christian countries. Yet, the oldest religious principle in existence, the fatherhood of God and the real true brotherhood of man cannot be destroyed by these denominational inventions. It will live on in spite of them.

The Christian Bible.

I have been a student of the Bible for many years. All through my early life I studied it for the beauty of its portrayal of the relationship existing between the Christian and his God. Everywhere except in church and Sunday school I met people of different denominations. They did not believe as I did, yet many of them accepted the same Bible as I do as a basis for their religion. Most commonly I came into contact with Catholics, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and Mormons. I did not know very much about the religions of other lands, the heathen lands of my time.

As time went on I learned a great deal about this "heathen" part of the world.. They worshipped a God, possibly the same God as I. They had loves , virtues and morality. They had emotions the same as I and had ability to express them in many wonderful ways such as literature, sculpture and painting. They built up civilizations and governments which we studied in history; I came to realize that they were a part of God's universe, possibly a very important part. Then the inevitable questions arose. What about the relationship of God to these heathens?

It must be in the Bible I thought, the Christian Bible, for I believed the Bible to be the inspired word of God.. The Bible took on new significance. The New Testament was the most read by the Christians and treated on Christian things. The Old Testament was the Jewish Bible and told their story. But a new fact began to assert itself. The Old Testament was not strictly a Jewish Bible but was a whole world Bible and the New Testament was not just a Christian Bible but a whole world Bible. Yet, why all the differences between religions? Even the hundreds of Christian religions differed from each other, even though they said they were all based upon the Bible. Was the Bible a book that could be read any way people wanted it to read.

I studied the Bible and the different interpretations placed upon it for years. New interpretations were made into modern English but the various religions continued their same differences and hostilities. Finally I found the Panin Numeric Bible. I did not know such a Bible existed. I had never heard of it. It is a Christian Bible in which the Greek and Hebrew text have been mathematically proven by internal evidence, pattern, and structure to be inspired. Each book, chapter, verse, word and letter has been proven to be definitely inspired. Thus, it has at last become a definite record. All doubtful passages have been cleared up, all variant readings have been settled. I obtained a copy of the New Testament for study. The authentic version does not change any of the usual renderings in such a manner as to affect any basic Christian doctrines. Now we could go forward with certainty.

We have a Bible inspired by God. Why is the inspiration of the Bible so important? Because only God could give man the information he wants Him to have. If the Bible were not inspired it would simply be another story book, worse than worthless. Man cannot invent or manufacture a religion for himself that will be of any value at all. Now that we know the Bible is genuine, true, the revealed

word of God, we are able to go ahead with confidence. We know that what we get from the Bible will be the truth.

Why do I place so much importance upon the Bible's being the true real word of God? It is because immortal life beyond the death of the material body is involved. There is no answer outside the Bible. The material man lives the human life here upon the earth of short duration. Some live but a few minutes, some a few days, months or even years and some for a hundred or more years. After death, life is for eternity. Seemingly this earth life is only a beginning, a creating, a conditioning for the real life to follow. God tells us what He wants us to know about this life in the Bible. If I can live forever, in a desirable or satisfactory existence I want to know how to do It. That is why It is Important to me.

The Solution of my Life Problem.

We might liken this to a jig saw puzzle of many pieces, which in its entirety makes a complete picture, but when not fitted together, is but a large number of irregular pieces, each fitting into several others but none fitting into all the others. Only when the last piece is found to fit into the last opening is the puzzle solved. Then the picture is complete.

Most of the pieces in this intricate life puzzle of mine are the result of considerable time and effort. I cannot even attempt to discuss the various pieces in detail. I may at most take them as I find them and fit them together. Some others, in solving this puzzle, might want to spend time investigating the small pieces, and if such is the case, there are the libraries of literature, the laboratories of science, the physical earth and universe in which we live, the world of people with lives to study and any number of dead civilizations of the past which I am sure afford ample material for such a study. Many of the pieces have already cost the entire lives of many individuals, and the solution of the puzzle as a whole was left for others to solve.

The most that I have been able to do is to fit the pieces together and see that they make a unit, a complete whole, a rational sensible picture. The picture as completed, I can assure you, is not what I thought it would be. It does not match what I believed most of my life. However, it is now solved and the last pieces have been fitted into place.

To begin I shall now consider the pieces of this puzzle. First and most important to me is what I have personally seen and experienced on the visits of my own spirit to Heaven. This was the first because it started when I was three or four years old, before I had been taught anything. I might have been born that way. If so, it would be before I had received any impressions in this human life, however I cannot remember further back into my infancy and I do not want to include unproven theories in my solution.

I have written much about these visits to Heaven and I will not go into detail here but will refer to whatever fits the picture. If others wish to study the details of my visits to Heaven they are available in other volumes.

Second in importance is the Bible. The Bible is important because it is the word of God, the truth written down definitely for us. Some would place the Bible first because everything must fit it, or in other words everything must agree with the Bible. But that is not exceptional, for everything must agree with everything else, not just with the Bible.

In my case I was being taught the Bible in Sunday school, church and home and learned much before my secular schooling had advanced beyond the elementary stage. I entered high school at sixteen.

Third, I would place common sense, human judgment and impressions as received first hand from the many sources with which one comes in contact in life; home, school, parents, companions, the general public and environment. Good sense must be used in dealing with problems that are so complex and

baffling that almost every individual holds personal opinions of one type or another. Just good sensible logic must always be maintained.

Next, I would place the commonly recognized sciences and their accumulation of proven facts. These facts already agree with other scientific facts and make one large segment which all must accept at face value. However in scientific investigation and study much work and experimentation is done and there is a strong tendency to form theories about matters which are not yet proven to be true. Sometimes these unproven theories remain in the picture because no one comes forward with an acceptable proof that they are not true. Sometimes acceptable and seemingly proven theories are upset by later discoveries. Thus, we cannot say that because science holds a certain thing to be true, that it always is true. Science is a body of growing, advancing, changing knowledge.

In addition to these four main groups of truths there is a fifth group which must be dealt with if our picture is ever to be completed. This is the group of facts met with by different individuals and groups which partake of a semi-scientific nature or border line science. Many avenues of these matters have been investigated by experimentation and personal experiences and as in the case of the recognized sciences, theories have been formed, sometimes with a large following. At times the following received by some of these theories is of such proportions as to make it appear the theory is correct, being proven true because of its wide acceptance. Of such a nature are the man made religions of the world. It is certainly very foolish for any individual or group to presume they are able to legislate for God, or make laws and rules for the conduct of God's business, either here on earth or in Heaven. God still governs His creation. In the study and experimentation of religious matters facts are encountered and theories formed which may be useful to us in solving our problem. These are the five main groups which must fit.

In the Beginning

Genesis 1:1, *God created the heavens and the earth in the very beginning.*

Following this verse comes a description of how It was done. Twenty-five verses tell about the creation up until the time man appeared upon the earth.

Genesis 1:26,27, *Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild beasts of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Genesis 2:1, *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all the host of them.*

Here we have as a beginning the true inspired word of God. Common sense tells us that God gave man His word for a reason, expecting it to be understood by mankind. Why would He do such a thing? Let us see what He has told us in the first chapter of the Bible.

The Hebrew name of God, used here and throughout the Bible, is a uniplural word as explained by Scofield in notes in the Scofield Bible. This word God is not a single but a plural God and continues through the entire Bible to be a plural God. It includes the Father or Creator, the Holy Spirit or Mother and the only begotten Son, their Son, a God Family. Verse 27 says, *So God (three of them) created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female (as God is male and female) he created them.* In verse 28 God says, *Be fruitful and multiply.* This is not a sin, It is not indecent, not an act to be ashamed of, but the first command given to man. God himself in His own words explained the mystery of the Trinity in the beginning before He even explained the creation. God was first.

In the first verse Moses says, *God created the heavens and the earth in the very beginning.* This is a general statement covering all acts of creation; heaven and earth being what we know as the earth and everything above or outside the earth, commonly called the universe. Beginning with verse two, He takes up the details of this creation. In chapter two verse one he says. *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all the host of them.* See **Psalms 33:6**, Host refers to the angelic spirit beings that were and are God's coworkers and helpers. As God is a trinity we had best correct our nomenclature before this puzzle becomes too complicated. I will call the Creator Father, Jehovah; the Creator Mother, Holy Spirit; and the Creator Son, Jesus. The three of them considered together will be called God. This will prevent confusion in our solution.

Also, an explanation of the reference to Psalms is in order. The entire Bible is the word of God and is for that reason the best commentary there is for any individual passage or word.. As Scofield has shown in his edition of the Bible,

the word God in the first verse as well as all the other words used to designate God throughout the entire Bible are uniplural and include Father, Mother and Son. I have used the passage in Psalms telling about the creation as an explanation of the creation of the spiritual hosts of heaven. The Bible is its own best explanation of what God has revealed to us. We shall use it as such.

Genesis 2:1, *Thus the heavens were finished and the host of them*, before mention is made of the seventh day, in which no further creation is made. This settles the claim that some have made that angels are the spirits of human beings. They were an original creation included in the first six original days or periods of creation. It also tells us when the seven heavens, the abode of the host of spiritual beings were created. The heavens were also an original creation.

It is well for us to keep in mind, the comprehensive nature of this solution. It includes every human being not just the present day civilizations and the modern religions with their much advertised theories. This solution covers all people and all religions, including the first humans. All of Genesis and the first eighteen chapters of Exodus deal with God's relationship with man before the record of the first organized religion of the Children of Israel. The entire world including the descendants of Abraham were what we might call Gentiles. The Children of Israel, as an organized theocracy and religious worship, was started by the work of Moses. The theocracy came to an end with the choosing of Saul as king, but the formal religious system continued and with changes has survived until the present time.

Thus, we have the first sixty-eight chapters of the Bible dealing with people who were not worshipping under a formal religion. It gives us an opportunity to study some matters without the interference of formality.

The first direct formality given by God for man to obey is found in the seventeenth chapter of Genesis. This formality was not of a religious nature and was not given to the peoples of the world for their observance but to one single man and his descendants. It had nothing to do with his worship of God and no spiritual significance was attached to it. Eternal life was not included in the covenant between Abraham and God, only topics of material significance.

Genesis 17:7,8, *And I will establish my covenant between me and you and descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, and I will be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you, and your descendants after you, the land in which you sojourn, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting inheritance; and I will be their God.*

But this did not include eternal life. Hebrews 11:39. In these first sixty eight chapters of the Bible all people are as one, all are in the same relationship to God as were the first created man and woman. We shall examine these words of God to see just what those relationships were.

Genesis 2:8, *And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

9, *And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

15, *And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to till it and to keep it.*

16, *And, the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;*

17, *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*

Then follows a description of the creation of the woman already mentioned in chapter one verse 27-30; One point is generally overlooked. **Genesis 2:24**, *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh.* Just plain common sense tells us that the original word translated as “flesh” does not mean the same as we usually understand it. We know that they had two bodies of the flesh, were two individuals, or two personalities, and they are dealt with throughout the Bible as such.

We refer to God as one, who is really a Father, Mother and Son, a family. If we consider God, before the Son was begotten, we have the exact image of God, male and female. In that way was God one at the time of creation, and now also. A man and a woman married are one as God is one, being created so by God in the beginning.

The first command given to man was to create a family. In this age we refer to this command of God as sexual. It does not seem at all strange to me that modern scientific investigators such as Freud have come forward with theories which give this so much prominence. It was important. God's first creative act was their Son. Man was created later, much later, but was given the command immediately to create offspring, which they did. In this respect they were god or creators. Creators of what Is a good question to consider? They were not only creators of the material bodies of their children, for all animals come into being following the same laws of reproduction as do human beings. We call these natural laws, or laws of the material world or universe.

As the animals were being created God blessed them and said, Be fruitful and multiply. But He did not say that they were made in His image nor that the pair which mated to produce young were one flesh. Man was a different creation. Man was not created just an animal. Man was created in some respects like God, some creation of man was to be like some creation of God.

Luke 24:39, *for a spirit has no flesh and bones as you see I have*, Read the last chapter of Luke. Here you will find some of the activities of God. Jesus, one of

the Trinity we know as God reveals that He had both a body and a spirit. He demonstrates to His apostles both His spirit and His material body of flesh and bones.

Man was created a spirit as well as an animal. Man creates a spirit in each child he creates, the same as God created His Son a spirit. This is the difference between a man and an animal. This is why a man and wife are one. They create an infant spirit which must be reared, trained, educated, taught the proper use of both material and spiritual faculties.

In a certain sense we could call this spiritual creation natural law just as legitimately as we could the material creation because both the body and spirit of man are created by the same act and both the body and the spirit must advance to maturity together. The character of the personality of each individual human being depends entirely upon the development achieved by that individual. A savage baby raised in civilized society will be civilized and a civilized baby raised by savages will be a savage. The only modifying element in the development will be the native condition or inheritance of the baby. So, a man and his wife become one for the spiritual creation and development of their offspring, setting them aside from the remainder of the world of animals. Otherwise they are as individuals. They do not inherit eternal life as one. **Matthew 22:30**, *For at the resurrection of the dead, men neither marry women nor are women given to men in marriage, but they are like the angels of God in heaven.* Babies are not created in heaven but on earth.

In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. Man was created in the image of God but was not a complete counterpart in every respect. We find two of these differences commented upon in the statement of the creation. One of these differences is suggested by the command of God for man not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This is the first command of God which carries with it a penalty for disobedience, death. Death the same day he disobeys. Death, what kind of Death? We know it was not the death of the animal life or body because his body did not die then. It was not sexual as many have advocated throughout the ages because our first parents reared all their children after this death happened. This first or original sin, so called, and the death or punishment for that sin happened before any children were born.

It was not the death of the spirit, for if the spirit of our first parents died before any children were born to them then no people after that would have a spirit.

I Corinthians 15:44, *There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body.* Another of these differences is suggested by the tree of life also growing in the garden.

Genesis 3:22, *Then the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever. 24, so he drove out the man;* Who was the Lord God talking to there in the garden of Eden when He said, *"The man has become like one of us"*.

3:8, *And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.*

We have here just a glimpse of the original relationship which existed between God and man. How glorious it must have been. We can read of the wonderful creations, the beautiful garden, the ideal conditions of human life, the indescribable circumstances to which man had access for his enjoyment. The crowning glory of this harvest of enjoyment was the companionship of God. Here in this garden of love we find our first parents living in the company of the Creator; Father, Holy Spirit, and their Son. Walking in the cool of the day. Just another one of those wonderful days of love and communion.

I don't know much about this original companionship, how long it lasted, where this particular garden was on earth, where they lived, how they were occupying their time or any other particular details except what God has told us in His inspired revelation. But I do know how wonderful the conditions are in Heaven where people are living now, how glorious the associations are with the Holy Spirit and Jesus, how beautiful the trees and flowers, how delicious the fruit, how satisfying the peace and tranquility of God's loving care and cooperation in all things. I know because I live there many hours each day. Death of my mortal or material body would not be a punishment to me. Death of my spirit would be unthinkable and of course the absolute end of me. That which would be the most punishment or disagreeable thing to me here and now would be the death, estrangement or separation of my spirit from my body so I could no longer have access to the wonderful blessings and associations that God has prepared for me for eternity in Heaven. That I think would be the greatest punishment that could be meted out to any individual, either our first parents or anyone else, then or now. **Genesis 3:23**, *Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So the Lord God drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the path to the tree of life.* **Genesis 3:17-19**, *cursed is the ground for your sake; in sorrow shall you eat the fruits of it all the days of your life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to you; and you shall eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread, until you return to the ground; out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust shall you return.*

So here we have it from God's revealed word. That is what happened that day. Man was driven out of the original relationship of the human with the spiritual. It was the death of that relationship. The human life or personality portion of the human being would not obey God, so access to the tree of life was barred. Man retained his mortal life and body, and his spirit with the body, but the access of the spirit to God was barred. This way of life died that day in Eden.

Critics have said that it is ridiculous to connect the blood or life sacrifice with religion, that God was not the author of It, and its practice is contrary to reason or logic. Let us look at the evidence before us. When did it originate? Why was

the sacrifice made? What was its effect or results? What connection did God have with it?

The New Relationship of God and Man

In Genesis 3:24 we have the statement that God drove man out of the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 4:1,2 we have an account of the life after the expulsion. There is no time lost or words wasted to make this point, for in verse three the new relationship is taken up and fourteen verses are used to describe it.

Cain made an offering of fruit and Abel made an offering of the life of an animal. The life offering was accepted and the fruit offering was rejected. To Cain God said, *Sin lies at the door*. Cain had sinned against God. Sin may consist of either or both of two offences, against love of God or against love of fellowman. This sin mentioned in the seventh verse may have been just a sin against God, for no mention was made of a sin against a fellow human. But in verse eight Cain does sin against his fellow man for he killed Abel. And Cain is punished, not by imprisonment for either a long or short term, not by a fine of any kind, but by being continually conscious of his sin against both God and man.

Genesis 4:13,14, *My transgression is too great to be forgiven. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the land; and from thy face shall I be hidden.*

How was Cain's sin, which broke both sections of God's law different from Adam's sin which was sin only against God? What was the difference in the punishments meted out? Adam sinned against God only. The punishment was the end or death of the direct relationship existing between God and man. But all relationship between God and man did not die. God was still God and man was still His creature, created to be a co-worker, a co-creator with him,

To maintain this relationship God imposed upon man an act of obedience or submission as voluntary evidence of man's sincerity and continued loyalty or faith. He required that some of the animals man was killing for food be ceremonially offered to God. This ceremony was performed by the conscious man as an education or conditioner of the subconscious spirit to assure the avenue of approach to the superconscious God was being kept open for use.

This offering was a reminder, symbolic in a way, of the death man had brought upon himself by disobedience. This offering was not made for its material value but as a mental and spiritual act, an offering of one's self, a declaration of love and loyalty and a keeping of the dual law of love.

Hebrews 10:6,7, *Burnt offering and sin offering thou hast not required. Then said I, Lo I come to do thy will, O God.*

In the book of Hebrews we have this statement of the fact that man through the exercise of his own will keeps his spiritual access to God open and operative. This is by loyal loving obedience.

Here we find also the three personalities of the Godhead, Father, Holy Spirit and Son, being woven into the substance of the subject in such an intimate manner as to assure us of their unanimity of purpose. No man is born a sinner, no man ever was born a sinner and no man can be born a sinner in any sense of

the word. Even Adam was not born a sinner. But through the act of Adam, man's direct approach to God was cut off, or killed, and God no longer lives with man as He did in the beginning.

But God provided a means of approach from the human side of the relationship whereby he could live a normal satisfactory human life. This was through the voluntary offering of the life to God ceremonially. This was not a hardship on man. It was not an expense. The life of the animal was destroyed when man killed it for food. And God commanded that at a definite time and place, and definite animals, always of the edible food variety, that the life be offered as a sacrifice and the portions not edible be burned. It was not required that every animal be used ceremonially, but that some of them be so used. The time and place of the offering was voluntary with man. The point of the entire matter was a definite act of obedience in love to God, acknowledging the relationship of Creator and creature. The life was the only thing required to be offered.

We now know what God knew from the very beginning of man's disobedience. It has been called original sin. The obstacle to man's right relationship, the situation caused by the act of disobedience, had to be brought out into the open, rationalized and then acted upon. Something definite, positive and sensible had to be done by the sinner. When a life offering was made to God the complex was removed. As long as man fulfilled this condition no harmful results would come from his disobedience. Originally it was as simple as that.

We do not know how often God required this sacrifice in the early ages of man, possibly once would be sufficient for most individuals. But in cases of repeated sin other offerings would be necessary to handle his disobedience. God's part in this offering has been static since He told man how to atone for his disobedience. All man had to do was to obey as instructed. God made the act simple and without cost. The life which was taken was offered to God but the edible portion of the animal could be used for food.

When Moses systemized the worship for the new nation he was leading, these offerings took on definite form, time and distinctive meanings for the first time in the Bible narrative of man.

In the intervening chapters we have a record of God's dealing with man. God insisted on man's living a reasonable life, conforming to the laws of righteousness; these were natural laws. He dealt with the circumstances as they developed. In Genesis 4:20-22, we have a record of the great strides made in this early civilization. This is evidence of the successful working of God's purpose and the success of His plan for freeing man from his sin through the sacrifices.

In the sixth chapter of Genesis we meet a condition which God deals with in another manner. **Genesis 6:5-7**, *And the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart (spirit) was evil continually. *** So the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth.* The cause of this condition as described in the beginning of the

chapter seems to be that the portion of the population who were living according to God's laws, called sons of God, intermarried with those who were not living as they should, until finally the entire mass of humanity had abandoned God's laws. Thus we find early in the life of man the disastrous results of ungodly people marrying godly people.

Genesis 6-9, tells the story of how God destroyed the man he had created, keeping alive only Noah and his family. The original man and God relationship was utterly destroyed and a new start was made. This time it was with sinful men and women, some of them already hundreds of years old. **Genesis 8:20**, *Then Noah built an altar to the Lord *** and offered burnt offerings on the altar.* At least two conditions remained the same as before the flood, man was sinful and the life offering was necessary.

In Genesis 9:11-17, In the rainbow promise, God promises Noah and his family that He will never destroy man from the earth again. In the narrative of Shem's family God again finds widespread wickedness but this time it did not include abandonment of God but rather sinful practices of the community. In Genesis 11:1-9, they were attempting another method of approach to God instead of the one of the life offering. God scattered them abroad at Babel, thus successfully stopping this movement. Yet sin still continued and we find evidence that other gods or idols were being worshiped instead of the Creator.

This incident in the family of Shem is interesting because of the differences in language caused by this wide dispersion. There may or may not have been a diffusion of language in the descendants of Ham and Japheth. This diffusion of language did not destroy the root forms but was evidently a dialect difficulty. This is evidenced by the study of languages and the finding of similar root forms in many scattered countries and languages. It is interesting because where we find similarity of language, we also find the life offering for sin and other related matters that show the approach to God by man's spirit was still of great concern.

The New Hope.

Beginning with the twelfth chapter of Genesis we have a new development in the relationship between God and man. This period of about five hundred years was new, not for the peoples of the earth in general but for one man and his descendants. This man was Abram, living at Haran in Syria, where he had come with his father, Terah, who had died. In the first three verses of the twelfth chapter of Genesis God calls Abram out of his country and from his father's house and says that He will make of him a great nation and in him should all the families of the earth be blessed.

How were all the families of the earth blessed? Because Abram became a great nation? It was not a change in the relationship of God with man. The necessary life sacrifice was not changed. Sin was still holding men in its power and they were slaves to the ungodly practices of their people. The individuals were carried along with the customs and group conditioning of the many tribes and small nations.

In the years and centuries which follow we find evidence that some individuals were still obeying God, still making the life sacrifice as required and being blessed by God. But, we also find much evidence that whole tribes and nations were so sinful and far from God that He allowed, ordered or helped destroy them from the earth. After Noah, God promised He would not destroy man entirely because of his sin, but He did destroy whole tribes or nations which stood in the way of the fulfillment of His promise to Abram or Abraham.

The forceful method God used in developing the family of Abraham into an important nation is a sure indication that the blessing of all the families of the earth was to be important. This blessing was not to be of a material nature, as was necessary for the making of a people or nation, but of a nature which would bless the individual and the family. Not only the individuals or families in the nation forming from Abraham's family, but the blessing was for all the people of the world. God did not again destroy people from the face of the earth, but He did destroy those tribes or peoples where and when and to the extent that it was necessary to bring into the whole world the promised blessing.

Yet, God did not destroy the life sacrifice, nor did He withdraw himself from man, nor condemn any man, family, tribe or people anywhere on the face of the earth. They were still able to receive His help and blessing. This was true not only in the family of Abraham, but in every other family if they would obey the two primary laws which had existed from the time of the creation of man in the image of his Creator; love of God, and love of his fellow man.

History and science prove to us, not as a theory but as an actual fact, that people have lived, developed and advanced in civilization throughout the earth for thousands of years. Some scientists believe for millions of years.

It is clearly apparent that when sin, that is the breaking of the two primary laws of God, was in the ascendancy individuals and whole tribes and nations went down to destruction. With individuals sin broke off the connecting link between man's spirit and God; and with tribes and nations the breaking of the

law of love for others often destroyed whole peoples. We find many examples of this in history, coming down to the present day, even in the recent world wars. Even today hate, not love, is attempting to destroy whole civilizations, and we can experience its workings first hand.

As the access of man to God was conditioned upon the life sacrifice it would be natural to expect the new relationship or universal blessing to do something about that original condition. God the Creator, being the same today, yesterday and forever; the original condition would or could not be changed in the very nature of the laws of the universe or so called natural laws.

The religious leaders of the new nation being developed as a vehicle for bringing this blessing to mankind did not know what it would be. We find many references and prophecies about it in the Old Testament, but as God had not yet revealed it to man, no man neither Jew nor Gentile probably knew what it was. However the Scriptures do speak of a savior and a sacrifice.

The Revelation of Christianity

Galatians 4:4-5, *But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son who, born of woman, became subject to the law, to redeem them who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

Galatians 5:14, *For the whole law is fulfilled in one saying, that is, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

Galatians 3:23-29, *But before faith came, we were guided by the law, while we were waiting for the faith which was to be revealed. The law then was our pathfinder to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But since faith has come, we no longer are in need of the pathfinder. For you are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. For those who have been baptized in the name of Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Aramean, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Jesus Christ. So if you belong to Christ, then you are descendents of Abraham, and his heirs according to the promise.*

Galatians 4:8, *Howbeit then, when you did not know God, you served those things which from their nature were not gods.*

Hebrews 11:39-40, *Thus these all, having obtained a testimonial through faith, did not receive the promise, Because God from the beginning provided for our help, lest without us they should not be made perfect.*

At the proper time, when everything was ready, God revealed to the world His completed plan of salvation, His method of bringing man back into a full relationship with him, including eternal life.

If we have followed closely the revealed relationship between God and man up to the time of the New Testament, or the beginning of the new relationship we have noted the following things.

Men through sin brought death upon themselves. The sin they committed was the breaking of a twofold law. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself. This included every person in the world, Jew and Gentile alike, who was old enough and who had sinned. The death they brought upon themselves was the severance of the close relationship between the human spirit and God, All relationship was not severed however, as God had a plan or method of restoring that relationship by substituting another death or sacrifice, willingly or obediently offered by the individual to God. This kept the relationship operative year by year. **Hebrews 10:3-4**, *But in those sacrifices they remembered their sins every year, for it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats*

could take away sins. The relationship was kept open but the sins were not forgiven by the animal life sacrifice. All down through the ages the great mystery had been how God was going to forgive those sins and restore man to an eternal life. Through the offspring of Abraham prophecies had been made, types and symbols had been set up and the Jewish nation prepared for the coming event so there would be no doubts as to its authenticity.

The Beginning of The New Revelation

The new condition imposed upon man to perfect the plan of salvation, which was put into effect immediately following man's first sin, was started with a miracle. In Luke 1:5-25, the Bible tells about a child John, promised to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age. **Luke 1:80**, *The boy grew and became strong in spirit; and he was in the desert until the day of his appearance to Israel.* **Luke 3:2-3**, *the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went throughout the country around Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

This was so important that it was announced first and John began the practice of immersion for the remission of sins, this now was to replace the life sacrifice practiced since man first began to sin. The next step in the new plan was also started with a miracle about six months later. Luke 1:26-38, The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin, Mary, who announced to her that she would have a baby son and she should call His name Jesus, also that He should be called the Son of God. Luke 1:39-56, Mary immediately went to see Elizabeth and they talked about these miracles and Mary stayed with her about three months and then returned home. In due time Jesus was born and grew up to manhood.

The story as told in the New Testament is well known. Mark 1:1-11, The beginning of the gospel of Christ the Son of God was commenced by John, preaching and immersing for the remission of sins. Jesus began His active work by coming to John and being immersed in the river Jordan. Thus we have something new, or at least it appears to be, coming into the God and man relationship. But it is in reality not new, merely a substitution for the life sacrifice.

For three years Jesus taught openly among the people and carefully explained everything necessary for man to know about the new plan. It was not until His death that it was really fully understood. The Son of God, the Son of the Holy Spirit, the only begotten Son of the Father came to earth as a human being and was made a life sacrifice for the remission of sins by the offspring of Abraham. Thus was the promise to Abraham fulfilled.

Immersion in water was substituted for the life sacrifice and this fulfilled the required sacrifice. The Son portion of the triune God was sacrificed for all the sins of all the people of all the world for all time, both before He was sacrificed and for all time thereafter until the end of the age.

The life sacrifice was made unnecessary because in its stead was given the simple rite of Immersion. Jesus explained in detail to Nicodemus that he had to be born of the water to inherit eternal life. But the simple rite of Immersion did even more than become a substitution for the life sacrifice which rolled back the sins from year to year until Jesus came and made the last sacrifice, which removed all the sins for all people for all time.

It gave to those who obeyed that rite eternal life. For the first time in the world eternal life was offered to man upon a condition easy to fulfill and easy to understand. A sinner entered the water. There he was buried. An eternal saint

of God emerged, raised up a new creature to a new life, his sins left buried, his new estate now a Child of God, a brother of Jesus and joint heir of all his glory.

This rite called immersion In the Bible, a burial in water of a person and their arising from there as Jesus arose from the dead, is the center of the new relationship with man, the only required physical act, the only act which removes his sins, the only act which gives him eternal life, the only act which changes him from a sinner to a child of God.

It was the first thing announced and practiced by John. It was the first act of Jesus. It was performed by John for Jesus before He even started to teach or explain the true relationship between God and man. The apostles were immersed before they were led by Jesus to teach the people. And when they started to assist Jesus they immersed the followers. Not until the immersion of Jesus was fully established was John removed from the picture. Jesus explained the act of Immersion to be the initiatory rite into eternal life.

The last thing He told His apostles just before He ascended into Heaven was, **Matthew 28:18-20**, *All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Just as my father has sent me I am also sending you. Go, therefore, and convert all nations; and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; And teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, to the end of the world.*

Sometime earlier He had told them, **Luke 24:49**, *Remain in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high.* **Acts 1:8**, *But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you shall receive power and you shall be witnesses to me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea also in the province of Samaria and to the uttermost part of the earth.*

The disciples followed Jesus' directions and remained in Jerusalem, the number of names together were about a hundred and twenty. Peter suggested that a replacement for Judas be selected to complete the number of apostles so that there would be twelve. The qualification that he stated was **Acts 1:21,22** *It is necessary, therefore, that one of these men, who have been with us during all the time that our Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John, until the day he ascended from among us, become a partner with us as a witness of his resurrection.* It seemed important to Peter that the new apostle must be a witness to the introduction of immersion by John into the new relationship being established. Immersion was the new and important rite introduced.

Fifty days after the resurrection **Acts 2:1-13**, *when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place and suddenly there came a sound from Heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance.* **Acts 2:14**, *And afterwards Simon Peter stood up together with the eleven disciples, and lifted up his voice and said to them, Men of Jewish race and all that*

dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and barken to my words; Then Peter preached a sermon to the assembled crowd of thousands of people. The recorded portion of His sermon ends with this sentence. **Acts 2:36-41**, *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this very Jesus whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ. When they heard these things, their hearts were touched and they said to Simon and the rest of the apostles, Our brethren, what shall we do? Then Simon said to them, Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus for the remission of sins, so that you may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise was made to you and to your children, and for all of those who are afar off, even as many as the very God shall call. And he testified to them with many other words and besought them, saying, Save yourselves from this sinful generation. And those men among them who readily accepted his word and believed were baptized, and about three thousand souls were added in that day.*

Here we have the first and most important thing being given to the world by the Holy Spirit (one of the triune of God) through Peter. *Repent and be baptized every one of you.* From the beginning of the book of John until the establishment of the church we find immersion taking the most important place, the central act of the individual. It changes a person's spirit, by a new birth, into a new creature, thus restoring once again direct access to God by every individual who is immersed.

Christ's Life Work as Revealed in the Bible

Jesus was God the Son, the son of the Holy Spirit and the Father Jehovah. He was the only begotten Son. The three members of this family make up what we may call the Godhead or the Trinity. So far as man is concerned the three are one and the same. By the power of the Father and the Mother they caused their son to be born a human baby. However, in so doing they did not break up the Trinity, He was still just as much God as He had ever been. This act of coming to earth as a human had to be sacrificed for the purpose of giving man access to eternal life, it was planned from the creation of man. Jesus knew this for he, as one of the Trinity, helped plan it, *He who sees me has seen the Father.*

The primary cause of Christ coming to earth was to establish the rite of Immersion which would make new creatures of men, restore the proper relationship between the Trinity and man, and secure eternal life for all men, for all time, both past, present and future. In order to do this it was necessary for God to come in person, live among the people as a human, meet the same problems, temptations, customs, group education, religious ideas, laws of civil and spiritual government, and show the people first hand what the true situation really was regarding the all important relationship between God and man. He lived among men as a man, worked with them, worshipped with them, truly following the life sacrifice practice with His parents. He truly kept every point in the law, which He himself had given to the Children of Israel. He was the first human being to obey that law in full.

As we have already seen, the subconscious mind of all men, their spirit, is under the educational guidance or conditioning of the conscious man, the reasoning and fact finding or governing common man that all are acquainted with. After the spirit is educated or conditioned, that education becomes a fixed or second nature condition of the spirit; the spirit, if allowed to do so takes over the control of the individual. It may be right, good and proper. On the other hand it may be wrong, bad and improper. God, by living among the people, was able to point out to them, day by day, in each case as it arose, what was truth and direct them toward His will concerning them. He used His supreme power as God and Creator at any and all times that suited His purposes.

We call many of these acts miracles. There were actually miracles happening all the time in the life of Christ, for He was God the Creator. Such miracles as were discovered by Nathanael (John 1:46-51) were really common with Jesus. We see it again with the woman of Samaria at the well. Jesus was God, the Creator himself. He was not performing miracles, He was that power himself, it was His natural self.

At Cana He went to a marriage. His mother was there and she knew He was God. Jesus acted at that feast just as any sensible guest would who possessed the supreme power of the universe. He helped make the party a success. It is foolish for people to try to make out of this act of God, the things they do. All other wine in the world, from the beginning until now was made by God, the same as all other creations. He gave no sanction to drinking, no

condemnation of those who did. He went to the party and had a good time and did the proper thing. If an interpretation is to be made, one might say that He believed in people being happy, having marriage feasts, and that He attended and did what He could to help make it a success. That is what He did. Jesus manifested His glory and His disciples approved of it. So did everyone else, evidently pleasing His mother also.

John 2:13-15, *And the Jewish Passover was nearing; so Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And he found in the temple those that were buying oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers sitting. And he made a whip of cord, and drove them all out of the temple, even the sheep and the oxen and the money changers; and he threw out their exchange money and upset their trays. And to those who sold doves he said, Take these away from here; do not make my Father's house a house of trading.* It had become a custom, the group conditioning had forced the people as a whole to accept a wrongful attitude. God in Christ corrected it.

Following this display of authority and godliness, Nicodemus, one of the rulers came to Jesus by night and said, *We know you are a teacher come from God* Here is another miracle like that of Nathanael and the Samaritan woman. Jesus knowing why Nicodemus had come tells him of His mission without being asked. God had come to earth to make a specific point, and this was His first recorded opportunity to instruct the rulers of the Jews that immersion was taking the place of the blood sacrifice. Jesus embraces the opportunity without any preliminaries. *If a man is not born again he cannot see the kingdom of God;* But how? Nicodemus questions *If a man is not born of water and the Spirit* Jesus answers. *For God so loved the world that he even gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* He closes His instructions to Nicodemus about immersion by saying, *But he who does truthful things comes to the light, so that his works may be known, that they are done through God.* It would seem that Jesus considered it necessary for people to show the condition of their spirit by their deeds. This may be the way in which Jesus instructed Nicodemus to go and do this necessary deed, be immersed and enter the kingdom.

This is not a wild guess on my part, for John the apostle, who was writing this narrative, immediately in the next verse continues with the subject of immersion. **John 3:22**, *After these things, Jesus and his disciples came to the land of Judea, and he remained there with them and baptized.* It is very possible that Nicodemus was immersed at this time. **John 3:23**, *John also was baptizing at the spring of Aenon near to Shalim, because there was much water there. (It required enough water to bury the sinner.)*

There arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. **John 3:26,27**, *So they came to John and told him, Teacher, he who was with you at the Jordan crossing, concerning whom you testified, behold, he also is baptizing, and a great many are coming to him. John answered, Saying to them, No*

man can receive anything of his own will, except it is given to him from heaven. **John 3:30**, He must become greater and I lesser. **John 3:35**, The Father loves the Son, and has placed everything under his hand. **John 4:1-3**, When Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard he made many disciples and was baptizing more than John, Though Jesus himself did not baptize, but his disciples; he left Judea and came again into Galilee.

The immersion of repentance for the remission of sins which had been started by John and had replaced the blood sacrifice in the plan of salvation had now been fully transferred to Jesus; the rulers had been notified through Nicodemus. The Pharisees were well aware that Jesus was the principal in the now well recorded substitution. Jesus went back to Galilee, but the struggle was now out in the open. The Jewish rulers knew what it meant to have immersion replace the sacrifices, and they prepared to do away with Jesus for changing their practices.

Following this, on His trip to Galilee through Samaria He met a woman at Jacob's well. Even in a simple meeting with a strange woman drawing water from a well He discloses His Godship with the ever present miracle and in answer to her needs reveals deep seated fundamentals, not only for her, but for the other villagers and for all others.

The old forms of religion were on their way out and *the time is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will they worship the Father*. No group can henceforth legitimately claim adherence to this or that, *but the time is coming, and it is here, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth*. God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. The woman challenges His authority and He tells her plainly that He is the Christ.

In the three years of Jesus' teaching He meets each individual, group or situation as a separate and distinct problem or project and gives the correct, true answer in each case. Being God He deals with the individual problem, gives answers to the lack of human reasoning and corrects the wrongs which have influenced the lives of people through the maladjustment of their spirits. In studying those cases we must always try to understand what is being taught and why, and be careful not to generalize. The generalizing and standardization of problems did not come until He had completed His work upon earth and turned the problem over to His apostles and disciples. While here on earth He dealt with each case personally. After leaving, His followers took up the problems, not alone as human beings, but as God sent ambassadors, (sent by Jesus, one of the Trinity) and guided along the way by God. (guided by the Holy Spirit also one of the Trinity) Much of the individual instruction given by Jesus does not apply to other individuals, especially those who do not have the same background that He was correcting.

After staying in Sychar for two days and teaching many besides the woman He first met at the well, Jesus and His disciples continued their journey to Galilee and arrived at Cana where He had made the water into wine.

And there was at Capernaum a servant of a king, whose son was sick. This man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee; so he went to Him and

asked Him to come down and heal his son. Here was an individual problem. Jesus met the need and healed the boy immediately. Jesus (God) had restored the boy. With God all things are possible. We call It His second miracle. It was a miracle in the sight of man, and Important enough for John, in writing about It, to call it His second miracle. But with God (Jesus) it was not a miracle, it was just natural. Jesus had already performed many miracles, but humans, not knowing the mind and nature of God seldom recognize superhuman acts. Only the spectacular or interesting acts are called miracles. Jesus met the needs of the individual as he did those of the woman at the well three days before. He did not ask them to believe in him, to believe in God, to repent of their sins, to change their way of life, to promise to do right or live differently in the future. Let us not generalize. He met their problem and solved it as God.

And He came to Nazareth where He had been brought up. On the Sabbath, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue and stood up to read. He read a passage out of Isaiah. The portion He read, as reported by John, was Isaiah 61:1,2, It was a prophecy Isaiah had made about Jesus performing miracles, healing the sick, relieving distress, preaching the glad tidings, and bringing comfort generally to those who needed him.

This time the community as a group needed instruction. He told them plainly that the prophecy was this day fulfilled in their ears. And He proceeded to preach to them those things they needed to hear, not as individuals but as a community. Although He taught them many wonderful and gracious things so that they all marveled, they did not like what they heard after He began to tell them their faults. So as a group, exerting mob violence, they rose up and thrust Him out of His native city, while He was still trying to help them. They led Him to the brow of a hill on which the city was built, planning to cast Him down headlong. They had been asking Him to perform a miracle for the whole mob to see. He did. He walked right through the midst of the mob and went on His way unharmed. This was God and the time had not yet arrived for His life to be sacrificed.

After leaving Nazareth He went down to Capernaum where the boy lived whom He had healed a few days before. Jesus (God) was in the midst of miracles, superhuman acts, almost always dominating the situation. This continually proclaimed to the people the truth of His claim of authority, as the Christ, to tell them the things He was teaching, to change their relationship to God, and to minister to their needs privately.

Capernaum is on the Sea of Galilee and as He walked down to the beach He evidently saw all the sights, the lake and the ships, the distant landscapes and many of the interesting activities to be found on the shore or in the neighborhood of a fishing village. But this was God, with the problem of giving a new revelation to a needy world and He saw things you and I would not see. (superhuman insight.)

He saw men whom he needed to help teach the crowds the new way of life. He stopped and talked to them, just fishermen. It was evidently early morning and they were bringing in their boats, taking care of their nets and gear, and unloading whatever fish they had caught.

He got into Simon's boat and asked him to thrust out a little into the lake, which Simon did for him, and He taught the people for a while from this boat. All the people knew who He was, the Christ, who had healed the boy. Christ, the God, who was living all the time super-humanly. Even in the boat the miracles, the super-human power of God showed forth. He asked Simon to take his boat out into deep water and let down his nets for a draught. He knew Simon had not caught anything during the night. God knows everything. Simon's need just then was to catch fish, an individual need, Christ met it.

The catch was so great that they called for help and their partners came with another boat and that one catch more than filled both boats. A miracle. Really not a miracle, this was just natural living for God, who is superhuman, a miracle himself, from our point of view. He did not call upon God to do these things for him, He was God.

That was the result of this little morning stroll Jesus made down to the beach to see the fishermen come in with their fish and boats. Possibly it was planned ahead knowing the fishermen would be there. It brought a wonderful talk or sermon to the village people and fishermen on the shore, another miracle to prove His Messiahship, and a big catch of fish to help out the four fishermen making their living from the sea. Finally Jesus asked the four fishermen to come with Him and help Him tell the wonderful new gospel. And they accepted, left their nets and went with Jesus; Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, with their partners, James and John, Sons of Zebedee.

This was one of the greatest mornings in the history of the world. Jesus, by meeting the needs of the individual set in motion a chain of events affecting every individual who ever lived or who ever will live, This was not an accident, not just a common incident in the life of this little fishing village. This was an act of God.

And on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue and taught and they were astonished at His doctrine; for He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. He had authority, for all authority was his, He was God. In the synagogue was a man possessed of an unclean spirit, the spirit of a devil. The spirit that had taken possession of the man (taken control of the man's spirit) knew who Jesus was and became alarmed *and he cried out, Saying, Jesus of Nazareth, what have we in common? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, Holy one of God.* Here was God facing an unclean devil who was really challenging Him before a crowd of people in the synagogue. Jesus did not side step the issue. This was a man in need of individual help. A devilish spirit had control of him. Jesus did what the man needed even though the devil had control of him, very probably in such a way that he could not ask for help himself. *And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Be silent and come out of him.* And he did come out. And the people were all amazed saying, *with such a power he commands even unclean spirits and they obey him.* And His fame spread throughout the region. Jesus lived super-humanly all the time. He was always in the midst of situations needing His help and proving Him God.

After the services in the synagogue were over they went home with Simon and Andrew. James and John were also with them. When they arrived they found Simon's mother in law sick with a great fever. Of course Jesus healed her immediately and she arose and ministered to them, probably helped prepare the meal or helped in serving it. The Jews were very careful not to perform regular work on the Sabbath but they all liked to eat.

Later in the day, toward evening as the sun was setting, they brought Him all the sick people of the entire neighborhood, those that had diseases and also those who were possessed with devils, and the whole town was gathered about the door of Simon's home. He laid His hands on them and healed all that were sick, and cast out the devils, not allowing the evil spirits to talk back to him, for they were crying out and saying, *You are the Christ, the Son of God*; for they knew that He was the Christ. What a Day. What a Christ; what a time He had that day helping people with just the help each individual needed. Here was God helping His people to understand him.

Very early in the morning He arose and went out to a solitary place to pray. When they discovered He had left the house, Simon and some of the others went out to look for him. When they found Him they told Him everyone was hunting for Him, and the people came and asked Him to stay. He said to them, I must also preach the kingdom of God to other cities. *And great crowds followed him from Galilee and from the ten cities and from Jerusalem and from Judea and from across Jordan.*

A leper came and asked to be healed. Jesus healed him and sent him to report to the priest and conform to the laws then in effect regarding a healed leper. This increased His fame still more and great numbers came to hear and to be healed. And again He withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

It was a needy world of sick, lame, lepers, demon possessed and just about every problem that could affect a man. They were meeting an ambassador with power from God to heal anything and everything. Miracles, super-human acts, God given advice, a new perfect gospel, love for hate, hope for despair. Christ, God himself, helping each individual as He had need.

After a few days He returned to Capernaum again. As was customary, He was teaching the crowds gathered out of every town of Galilee and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. Still the miracles continued. Among the throng listening to Him were Pharisees, Scribes and doctors of the law from Jerusalem and elsewhere. These men were the religious authority in high power among the Jews. They were listening as the crowd carried up a man with palsy who had to be brought on a bed. The crowd was so great that they could not get through so the bearers went up on the roof, removed some of the roof tiles and let the bed down in front of Jesus as He was teaching.

Jesus knew the religious authorities were listening and He knew their thoughts. Consequently, He changed His procedure a little for their benefit, that they might witness a miracle which would prove to them that He had power to forgive sins, a power which belonged only to God. In this way He proved to them that He was God.

Jesus said to the palsied man, *Your sins have been forgiven.* The religious authorities reasoned in their hearts; *this man blasphemes*, only God can forgive sins. They had been watching Him heal all manner of sick, even lepers, and casting out devils, and knew that He claimed to be the Christ, but they still refused to acknowledge His claims. **Matthew 9:4-7**, *But Jesus knew their thoughts; so he said to them, Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier to say, Your sins have been forgiven, or to say, Arise and walk. But that you might know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins, then he said to the paralytic, Arise, take up your quilt and go to your home. And he rose up and went to his home.* We have no record of the reaction of the religious authorities but it impressed the crowd as a whole. They were amazed. They never saw it in this fashion. Jesus (God) was still in the midst of miracles. He was still molding His teaching and help to the individuals in need of His ministrations.

After this there was a feast of the Jews and Jesus went to Jerusalem. While at the pool of Bethesda He saw a man who had had an infirmity for thirty eight years. Jesus said unto him, *Do you wish to be healed?* *The sick man answered, Saying, Yes, my Lord: but I have no man, when the water is stirred up, to put me into the baptismal pool: Jesus said to him. Rise, take up your quilt and walk. And the man was healed immediately, and he got up and took his quilt and walked.* It was a Sabbath and also against Jewish law to carry his bed on a Sabbath. Again Jesus had performed a miracle healing an individual, paying no attention to the group laws or dogmas set up by the organization. *So the Jews said to him who was healed, It is not lawful for you to carry your quilt.* Help for the helpless.

He answered, saying to them, He who healed me told me, Take up your quilt and walk. Later the man learned that it was Jesus who had cured him and told the Jews. Then they sought to slay Him because He had done these things on the Sabbath day. Jesus was interfering with the mass group education or propaganda training of the human spirit and was substituting the correction of the individual spirit, both physically, mentally and spiritually. He was setting the human spirits on the right road to eternal life. He did not tell or explain everything to everyone at once, but met each need individually as it arose.

He answered the religious authorities by saying, *My Father works, even unto now, so I also work.* If we just think it through we will immediately realize that God works every Sabbath and every Sunday. How foolish even to imagine God not answering prayers on a Sabbath, or not granting any petitions or giving other help on Sundays. Imagine God stopping His work on the Sabbath.

Neither God, the Father, nor the Holy Spirit, nor Jesus, nor the angels nor other spiritual help abandon their regular work on the Sabbath. The very fact that Jesus broke the Jewish law proves that the law was wrong, for He kept every portion of the law perfectly, the only human that ever did. Several times Jesus repeated the commandments that were necessary to be obeyed to inherit eternal life, but nowhere did He include observance of the Sabbath. There might be

several explanations of why He did this. When God gave Moses the commandment, *remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy*, Moses or some later scribe may have added to the original thus creating a wrong commandment. Or the commandment may have accomplished the work for which it was given and was therefore no longer in effect. Or later, the Jewish law makers may have changed or added to the commandment in such a way as to make its obedience unworkable. Jesus, in no uncertain words, condemned those who sought to fasten unnecessary laws upon the people.

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because He had not only broken the Sabbath but also had made himself equal with God. He was God, the Son of the Father, the Son of the Holy Spirit. Jesus answered them and explained in detail to those in authority why He broke their Sabbath laws. Read all of John 5:19-47 for a full explanation. He did not again refer to the Sabbath incident but told them plainly that He was doing the work of the Father, that they were working together as one to give eternal life to the people, and that they could even raise the dead to life. But He condemned them for their wrongs and told them that if they had followed or believed Moses they would have believed in him. *If you do not believe his writings, how then can you believe my words?*

The next Sabbath He went through the grain fields and *his disciples plucked heads of wheat, and rubbed them in their hands and did eat*. Again He was criticized. Again He answers them pointing out times when their own authorities broke the Sabbath, and that even in the temple itself. But I am greater even than the temple, for I am Lord even of the Sabbath. He was God who established the temple, and gave the original Sabbath commandment.

Following this, on another Sabbath He found a man with a withered hand. They were watching Him and asked, *Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?* They wished to accuse him. *And he said to the man whose hand was withered, Stand up in the center. Then he said to them also, Is it lawful to do good or evil on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it? but they were silent. *** He said to the man, Stretch out your hand, and he stretched it out and it was restored.* God was at work on the Sabbath day. And they were filled with anger. The Pharisees went out and consulted with the Herodians on how they might destroy him.

All through history and even today, even in our own present day Christian churches, those in authority fight strenuously to destroy the influence of any who attempt to oppose or point out how they are corrupting the truth by their propaganda and mass education of the group. I myself have met them and experienced this attitude.

Luke 6:12-19, *It came to pass in those days Jesus went out to a mountain to pray, and he remained all night in prayer to God. And at daybreak he called his disciples; and he chose twelve from them, whom he called apostles: . . . And Jesus went down with them and stood up in the plain: and a large group of his disciples and a large crowd of people from*

all over Judea and Jerusalem and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon came to hear his word and to be healed of their diseases; And those that were suffering from unclean spirits were healed. And all the people wanted to touch him, because power proceeded from him, and he healed them all.

Jesus had now been preaching and healing for about two years and at least half of His ministry was over. He had chosen twelve men from His followers to be apostles. He had been making Simon's home in Capernaum His headquarters. This last great multitude He had ministered to was fairly representative of the entire country from north to south, from the east and to the western coast, Tyre and Sidon. Then, He made a change in His approach. He had been dealing with individuals and with isolated cases of people breaking the laws of God. The crowds had grown too large to deal with as individuals anymore. Those He could not minister to crowded in just to touch him.

He withdrew from the crowd and found a place, a natural pulpit on the side of the mountain, probably just west of Capernaum near where He was living. Here He could talk to a vast multitude spread out in a sort of natural arena or plateau. And, He spoke to them at great length. But the subject matter of His talk was different. He did not talk to them as individuals but as a group. He gave them the great basic underlying truths of correct living and righteousness which the world so badly needed and still does. This great discourse has been called "The sermon on the mount."

Christ's Sermon on The Mount

Three chapters in Matthew (Matthew 5,6 and 7) are devoted to this sermon. A sermon by God to His people, for all people of all the earth for every age of man. The sermon is preached to a crowd but applies to everyone.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up to the mountain; and as he sat down, his disciples drew near to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them saying,

1. *Blessed are the humble, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* There is a Heaven, There is a kingdom there. Even the poor in spirit go there. I can assure you that it is wonderful.
2. *Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.* There they will meet their departed loved ones to live together forever.
3. *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.* The time will come when the ordinary person, the meek, will be able to enjoy his rightful blessings here upon the earth.
4. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be well satisfied.* Your efforts to live righteously will not be lost, you will be blessed.
5. *Blessed are the merciful. for they shall have mercy.*
6. *Blessed are the pure in heart. for they shall see God.*
7. *Blessed are the peacemakers. for they shall be called sons of God.*
8. *Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
9. *Blessed are you when men reproach you and persecute you and speak against you every kind of evil, falsely, for my sake. Then be glad and rejoice, for your reward is increased in Heaven.*

What a wonderful introduction. The people who are doing good and living righteously, often having a hard time just to keep going, are to receive the reward they are entitled to in spite of all the odds stacked against them. Truth will triumph. *You are indeed the salt of the earth, ... you are indeed the light of the world. ... Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in Heaven.*

It is well to notice here that the individuals are being commended not the organization. The organizations, the groups, scribes, lawyers, Pharisees, those who were dictating the terms of religious life and worship are condemned. The individuals are commended for their acts of righteousness and warned that they must exceed the righteousness of the Jewish church authorities. All of Christ's

emphasis is placed on works and obedience to God's real laws and no mention is made of faith. It was probably assumed that they believed in God. It is also equally true that many who were listening did not believe in Him personally. In the present day church, altogether too much emphasis is placed upon faith and not enough on works. Those who preach salvation by faith alone preach a false doctrine.

The commandment of Moses, *You shall not kill*, was to remain in full force, and to it also was added, *Whoever is angry without a cause or shall insult or call another a fool shall be in danger of hell fire*.

For the Jew living under the law, He said, *If it should happen therefore that while you are presenting your offering upon the altar, and right there you remember that your brother has a grievance against you, leave your offering there upon the altar, and first go and make peace with your brother, and then come back and present your offering*. Then Jesus especially calls attention to the fact that He is including any and all differences, even those with strangers. Settle your differences while you have a chance, lest you get into worse trouble, possibly even be sent to prison. The group might not judge justly; better settle with the individual.

You shall not commit adultery, not even look on a woman to lust after her. Better pluck out your eye if it is going to condemn you to hell. *Who divorces his wife, except for fornication, better cut off his hand before he signs it. It is better for you to lose one of your members, and not have all your body fall into hell*. Jesus, God, the Creator, knows how man was created with a material body and a spiritual body. Better to lose part of his material body if in so doing he can save his spirit for eternal life.

Do not swear or take an oath to strengthen your testimony. Do not swear at all, either by heaven or by God, or by the earth, or by Jerusalem or by thy head. Let what you say be either yes or no, anything more is evil. You shall not hate your enemy nor require an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth. But you should love your neighbor as yourself. Your neighbor may be your enemy. You should also love your enemy. Everyone loves his friends. This is a group condition. Pay no attention to the restrictions but love everyone, enemies as well as friends. This is the second important law of God, the breaking of which is a sin. *You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your might. This is the first commandment. And the second is like to it.*

You must love your neighbor as yourself. Even if someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if they sue you and take away your coat, let them have your cloak as well, and if they force you to go one mile go with them two. Give to him that begs and do not refuse him who would borrow from you. Love these people and treat them like you would like to be treated. You therefore must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. You desire to go to Heaven, to your heavenly Father, therefore act like him as best you can. God wants works, not just faith.

In Matthew, chapter 6, Jesus again emphasizes that we must act independently of the group, not do as they do, not follow the practices which they have established. *Therefore when you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, just as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the market places, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you that they have already received their reward. Let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing.* If your spirit is right with God it is a secret relationship between you and God, not to be publicized but to be enjoyed by you alone. The meaning is very clear. Your deeds, your works, your thoughts, your spiritual life, your prayers, all of your personal relationships with God are yours individually. Do not recite them before the group, either in the synagogue or on the street. They are your own, personally. *When you pray enter into your inner chamber and lock your door. Your Father who sees in secret shall reward you openly.* Just remember, God knows your needs before you ask him.

Therefore pray in this manner:

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, as in Heaven, so on earth. Give us bread for our needs from day to day. We might say just as correctly, Give us this day what we need. For God knows what we need, not only bread, but the other needs of the material body, for the maintenance of life and the enjoyment of it. *And forgive us our offences as we have forgiven our offenders.* In **Luke 11:4**, it reads, *and forgive us our sins, for we have also forgiven all who have offended us.* Jesus explains in Matthew 6:14. *If you forgive men their faults, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. but if you do not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive even your faults.* This seems to about cover everything or anything that could be forgiven by either man or God, sins, debts, trespasses. We forgive others as we in turn would like others to forgive us, because we love them.

Obey the second commandment of Jesus. If we do not obey the second commandment of Jesus, God does not forgive us. *Do not let us enter into temptation but deliver us from evil.* When we recognize that man consists of two personalities, one represented by the conscious mind and the other by the spirit, we can understand this prayer which Jesus gave to His disciples as a suggestion or pattern.

Our conscious mind guides the training or education of the subconscious spirit, either according to our own decisions or decisions which are pressed upon us by the groups with which we are associated. After the spirit is trained it takes over most of the control of the whole man. A large part, a very much larger part of the individual than most of us realize, is controlled by this subconscious spirit. This spirit is our only, but very efficient, contact with God, our Father. Father, we ask in prayer, deliver us from whatever is evil in these secret relationships and let us not be led into the temptations that are continually presented by the group conduct about us. Help us to keep our spirit right and our prayer contact with thee clear.

The remainder of the sixth chapter of Matthew is devoted to what Jesus told the multitude to do to avoid having their spirit wrongfully conditioned. When you fast, wash your face, anoint your head, prepare yourself for a pleasant happy experience. Avoid all show or pretensions of grief. You, should keep it a secret. God knows you are fasting for the improvement of your relationship with him. That is enough, keep the group out of it. God is the one who answers your prayers, not the group.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures buried in the ground, but in Heaven where neither rust nor moth destroys and where thieves do not break through and steal, for where your treasure is there also is your heart. Heart here means the affections. All the affections, all the love, hate, loyalty and other feelings have their seat in the subconscious mind or spirit of man. No man can serve two masters. Either your spirit will be devoted to God and His will or your spirit will be controlled by evil. What are the evils that we pray to be delivered from? Property of any nature that moths could destroy such as clothing, things that could rust, iron, steel, brass, machines etc, things that thieves could steal, money, jewels, furniture, almost anything.

Take no thought about the customs or fashions of the day, what you shall eat, drink or wear. Live your own life, keep out the enslaving group that continually is corrupting your spirit and disrupting your contact with the Father. Your Father knows what you need and He will take care of you even as He cares for all His other creatures. He cares for the material things of the universe, He makes the sun shine, the rain fall, the seasons progress, the trees grow, the grass and, the flowers, the fruit and the corn. He cares for the creatures He has created and not even a single sparrow is overlooked. No man, not even Solomon in all his glory and in his subservience to the plaudits of the group, could by such methods even approach the care the Father gives.

But first seek the kingdom of God and righteousness. Keep your spirit free from the temptations of the groups around you and all these things which you need will be added unto you. Serve God. Obey him. God is a spirit and you must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Live by faith, the faith that will cause you to obey him, to do something about it, to do the works which will save you. Pray, but help God answer your prayers by obeying His commandments.

Matthew, chapter 7. This is a general statement of those common or everyday situations in which we meet temptation, that is to break one of the two human conduct laws; first, love God, second love your neighbor as yourself, a digest of the law and the prophets.

Judge not that you may not be judged. Live your own life in your own way. Let your neighbor do the same. Let your light so shine that others seeing you will glorify God. The greatest area of judgment and criticism is among the customs or fashions of conduct prescribed by the group, the keeping or breaking of which has no connection with sin or man's relationship with God. The pros and cons do not matter at all. The serious problem is related to the attitudes and results which make the individual conform to the group pattern and the criticism, judging and coercion.

Often sides are taken and separate groups develop, dislike or criticism of the other group breaking down the love of each for the other. Thus disagreement about trifles produces sin. Once I considered dancing a sin. That attitude was produced by this group conditioning. Other groups could see no harm in it. The result was unnecessary friction. I made a special visit to Heaven and questioned Jesus himself personally face to face about dancing. What did he tell me? Do not attempt to judge others. Teach the principles of right conduct and you will have fulfilled your part. Do not commend or condemn but let others make their own individual choice. He will be the judge. This plainly showed me the facts of how the group influences the individual, and the evils that can result from attempts to have people adhere to non-essential customs and fashions. Sometimes it is wise to avoid hate and violence, to just keep quiet. *Do not give holy things to the dogs, for they might turn and rend you.*

Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. Ask what? Seek what? *Whatever you wish men to do for you, do likewise also for them;* Ask for the good things, those things which Jesus has not already emphasized in His formal statement; that is daily bread or temporal needs. God knows what you need in your daily life, and these He will provide, the same as an earthly father would provide for His children.

Knock and it shall be opened to you. Enter in through the narrow door. Ask and the way will be shown to you. Broad and easy is the wrong way, and the crowd, the group, is shouting it to you with all their persuasiveness, but do not follow. The way unto life is narrow and straight and difficult to find and few find it. Most follow the crowd the wrong way. But ask and it shall be opened unto you

Beware of the prophets from the crowd. Do not listen. Size up the crowd, think of their character, their habits, their good and bad points. Are they living from day to day producing good fruit? Do you think they have found the way to live perfectly as your Heavenly Father would have you live? Are they a living testimony of obedience to his way of life? Are they the salt of the earth? Ask your Heavenly Father to show you the way to live, the way to love, the way to enter into eternal life by the only gate that leads to salvation.

Thus by their fruit you will know them. This examination of the members of the group to see if their fruit is good or bad is suggested by Jesus, almost commanded. It is not judging another. It is a necessary part of the information which the individual must have to make his choice.

Jesus dwells at length on this important point. He warns particularly to examine carefully even those who are in seeming places of power or authority.

Matthew 7:22-27, *A great many will say to me in that day, My Lord, my Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name cast out devils and in your name do many wonders? I have never known you, keep away from me, O you that work iniquity. Therefore whoever hears these words of mine, and does them, he is like a wise man who built his house upon a rock. And the rain fell and the rivers overflowed and the winds*

blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because its foundations were laid upon a rock. And whoever hears these words of mine, and does them not, is like a foolish man who built his house upon sand. And the rains came and the rivers overflowed and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell and its fall was great.

Obedience is necessary. Doing the right thing is necessary. Faith which keeps you from doing the right thing is wrong. Faith that leads you to works of obedience will save you. Faith without works is dead.

Following the Sermon on the Mount.

When He came down from the mountain great multitudes followed Him and He returned to Capernaum to His home there with Simon.

A Roman centurion, whose son was sick of the palsy, sent elders of the Jews to request Jesus to come and heal him. When Jesus was not far from the house the centurion met Him and suggested He not come to his house. *I am not good enough for you to enter under the shadow of my roof; but just say a word and my boy will be healed.* I am also a man of authority, having soldiers under me, and what I tell them to do, they do. *So Jesus said to the centurion, Go, let it be done to you according to your belief. And his boy was healed in that very hour.*

Here begins again the miracles in which Jesus ministers to His neighbors even as He would like to be ministered to. The centurion had asked and it had been given to him. Several points should be noticed here. This was not in the physical need or daily bread category. It was something outside the model prayer. It was the same individual help that Jesus had given before. It was not a promise of eternal life and did not show terms of salvation other than the fact that he believed thoroughly that Jesus had the authority to heal at His command.

The next day He went to Nain and many of His disciples and many people went with him. They met a funeral procession. The only son of a widow was being buried and He saw the widow's grief. **Luke 7:14,15** *Then he went and touched the bier, and those who carried it stood still. And he said, Young man, I tell you, arise. And the dead man sat up and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother.* Here need was met by Jesus without request, without even any display of faith, without prayer or other preliminary requirements.

The rumors of Jesus' work went forth throughout Judea and all the region round about. John in prison heard it and sent two of His disciples who inquired of Jesus. **Luke 7:20-22** *Are you the one who is to come? or are we to expect another? So Jesus answered, saying to them, Go and tell John everything that you have seen and heard, the blind see and the lame walk and lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear and the dead rise up and the poor are given hope.*

After their departure Jesus told the people. **Luke 7:28** *there is no prophet among those who are born of women who is greater than John the Baptist; and yet even the least person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.* How could this be? Here is the explanation.

Luke 7:28 *And all the people who heard it, even the tax collectors, justified themselves before God, for they were baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and the scribes suppressed the will of God in themselves, because they were not baptized by him.*

The kingdom of heaven was not yet established. Even John was not yet a citizen of the new kingdom. Until John it was the law and the prophets, but John came as the last of the Jewish prophets introducing immersion, which was for the remission of sins, replacing the Jewish law of sacrifices. Some of the people accepted this change but not the Pharisees and lawyers, who of course would not be immersed by John or by Jesus. But the least in the kingdom of heaven is assured eternal life and was of course greater than John or any other prophet or any individual who ever lived who had not been immersed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The point being made here is given in Luke 7:30. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the council of God against themselves, not being immersed. The command of God was to be immersed, to change the plan of sacrifice from a blood offering to a new birth. Those of the people who were wise were accepting the proofs of His Messiahship, were accepting His teachings and were being immersed.

Then He began to upbraid the cities where most of His mighty works were done in the region of Galilee; Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum, because they, like the Pharisees and the lawyers, would not repent and be immersed. *For if in Sodom had been done the works which were done in you, it would be standing to this day. At that time Jesus answered saying, I thank thee O my Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hidden these things from the wise and the men of understanding, and hast revealed them to children. Isaiah 35:8, And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; and there shall be no road beside it; fools, shall not err therein. Isaiah 35:5,6; Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame shall leap as a hart and the tongue of the dumb shall be loosed; for waters are bursting forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.*

In the wilderness John proclaimed immersion for the remission of sins and ushered in the ministry of the son of God, the Christ.

Matthew 11:27-30, *Everything has been delivered to me by my Father, and no man knows the Son except the Father, nor does any man know the Father but the Son and he to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. Come to me, all you who labor and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and meek in my heart (spirit) and you will find rest for your souls (spirits). For my yoke is pleasant and my burden is light.* Let us reject, or at least forget all the dogmas and doctrines, creeds and statements, laws and ordinances heaped upon us by councils and other organized theological legislative bodies, and accept the simple truths Christ is trying to give us.

Condemnation of The Group Attitudes.

Simon, a Pharisee, desired Jesus to eat with him. Notwithstanding that the Pharisees were plotting to kill Him and were spying on Him to discover reasons for keeping His program of changing their Jewish law from going into effect; He accepted the invitation and sat down to eat.

A woman who was a sinner learned that Jesus was eating in the house of Pharisees. **Luke 7:37,38**, *She took an alabaster cruse of perfume and stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and she began to wet his feet with her tears, and to wipe them with the hair of her head, and she kissed his feet and anointed them with perfume.* In this incident we find Jesus as usual in the midst of His miraculous spiritual power, administering to the individual needs of the people. On one extreme was Simon, from the highest class and a self righteous Pharisee and on the other extreme a woman, possibly from the lowest class of the people. Simon was looking for an occasion to deny Jesus' claims and thought within himself, If Jesus is a prophet He would have known the character of this woman and not allowed her to touch him. This was one of the group laws the Pharisees helped preserve. He evidently assumed Jesus was also in the same lower class for he did not touch him, either by kissing Him as was usual or by washing His feet. Simon was keeping the laws which the group had made, the same as church members today keep the laws which their particular church has made. Yet, keeping man made laws is not the answer to the God man relationship.

Jesus, miraculously knowing all the facts said to Simon. **Luke 7:40-46**, *I have something to tell you. There were two men who were debtors to a certain creditor; one of them owed him five hundred pence, and the other fifty pence. And because they had nothing to pay, he forgave them both. Which one of them will love him more? Simon answered saying, I think the one he forgave more. ... When I entered your house, you did not give me even water for my feet; but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not kiss me; but she, since she entered, has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume* He did not seek forgiveness for he considered himself righteous.

This woman washed His feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair and anointed them with fragrant perfume, honoring Him and seeking forgiveness, believing that He would minister to her needs. *Her many sins are forgiven for she loved much. But he to whom little is forgiven, loves little. And he said to the woman. Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace.*

Of course as we would expect, those who sat eating with Jesus immediately began to question His statement within themselves; that her sins were forgiven. They did not think so. But it was true. Jesus, God, had personally forgiven her. Go in peace. What had Jesus done for her? He had removed the guilt from her

subconscious mind, her spirit, which was keeping her from living a normal peaceful life. Her subconscious personality was again in the right relationship with God. Jesus had not given her eternal life, had not given her salvation as we might call it today, but He had met her individual needs in answer to her secret prayers.

Luke 8:1, *And it came to pass after these things Jesus was traveling in cities and villages, preaching and giving good news of the kingdom of God. And his twelve were with him. And the women who were healed of diseases and unclean spirits, Mary who is called Magdala, from whom seven demons went out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuzas the steward of Herod, and Susanna, and many others who ministered to them of their wealth.*

And the people wondered at His ministry. The crowds gathered again so great that they could not so much as eat. And He healed them all. Among others was a man blind, and dumb to whom He restored sight and speech. God was at work. All the people said, *Is not this the son of David?* (The Messiah.)

Conflict With the Group Law Makers

Where the crowds followed Jesus and were being taught and healed the Pharisees, lawyers and scribes mingled with them and tried to make them believe that Jesus was acting on authority of the prince of the devils and not on the authority of God. But Jesus, knowing their thoughts explained to the crowd by a parable. A house divided against itself will fall. I cannot cast out devils by the prince of devils for he would not allow his kingdom to be destroyed. But I am on the other side. I cast out devils with the finger of God to bring to you the kingdom of God. He that is not with me is against me. By your words which you speak you shall be justified or you shall be condemned. I am against the prince of devils and for God and His kingdom. Whosoever speaketh a word against me, it can be forgiven him. Sin against the heavenly Father can be forgiven. But the law regarding the remission of sins has been changed. Blood sacrifice will no longer be used to roll back your sins from year to year until the coming of the deliverer. I am the deliverer. I am immersing you now for the remission of your sins. I am immersing you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, that you may be a new creature, free from the Jewish laws these scribes and lawyers are fastening upon you, which they will not help remove from you even with their little finger. But whosoever will not be immersed in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit cannot be forgiven. Those who have been immersed will be the citizens of the Kingdom of God.

Either make the tree good and his fruit good, or else make the tree corrupt and his fruit corrupt, for the tree is known by its fruit. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart (spirit, subconscious) brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. **Luke 11:27** *A woman out of the multitude lifted up her voice and said to him, Blessed is the womb which bore you and the breasts which gave you suck. He said to her, Blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it.*

Jesus came to earth from Heaven for two easily understood reasons. First, to bring eternal life to the spirit of man; second, to make the human life also happy; to make the conscious life a fitting prelude to the eternal life to follow in Heaven. To do this He summed up for the entire human race of mankind all laws, rules and prophecies into two simple laws, easily understood, easily obeyed. Love God with all your heart (spirit) and your neighbor as yourself. To assure the entrance of the spirit into eternal life after the death of the human body He commanded that individuals be immersed completely, in water, for that purpose, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The blessings God offered were upon conditions which must be obeyed, which all could understand and easily do.

Faith

For God so loved the world that he even gave his only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your might. Strive to conduct yourself perfectly before God. Let us consider some of the words or terms in which the word of God has been revealed to us, so that we may more correctly understand the word of God, the Bible.

The term 'heart of man' does not refer to the organ of the human body which pumps the blood to sustain life. The word 'heart' as used in the Bible encompasses not only our love and hate, but all our affections. It is the actual seat of the affections. We know that the subconscious mind is the seat of all the affections, of all the sensations, not only of the subconscious mind, but also of the conscious mind, the entire personality. This is the spirit of man, the soul of man, the heart of man.

The heart of man is not a sensation, not an intangible thought or imagination, but it is the seat, the foundation, the base on which every sensation is established. It is the center of life, it is the life of every individual, every animal, whether human or not. But with man God went a little further in His creation. The spirit, soul, life or heart of man was given an attribute not given to other animals. That was the possibility of eternal life.

As a man thinketh in his heart so is he. Upon the base or heart, or in the heart are the thoughts, the feelings, the sensations, the imaginations, the affections. It is the brain of the subconscious, the container of the thoughts, the seat of the memory, the permanent substance of the character. (Heart is used here in the broader sense as used in the Bible)

The first, greatest, most important and all important of the thoughts, sensations, or emotions based in or upon this heart or subconscious brain foundation is faith. Faith is a thought. Faith is a brain product. Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. Faith is not an act, it is a sensation. Faith is belief with more or less proof. Faith is the impression made upon the subconscious by every bit of evidence received by it through any of its receiving channels, the five primary senses, the less recognizable senses, the decisions of the conscious mind as well as the intangible sensations of the primary spiritual emanations.

Ordinarily we classify only a very small proportion of the sensations we receive as faith, but they are all just as truly faith as the part we choose by our conscious mind to call faith. In practice we actually give the most prominent position to the decisions of the conscious mind and the impressions they make upon the heart or subconscious. But just as truly, faith is the subconscious brain conditioning brought about by every sensation received from every source, from the first moment of infancy until death in the material world, and throughout eternity in the spiritual world. Upon this fact is based such present day religious

dogmas as purgatory, the second chance, soul sleeping, reincarnation, transmigration etc. etc.

Every act from infancy throughout life is based upon faith, upon the decisions and impressions of reality in the subconscious. In this way we learn to walk, to eat, to speak and to react to the world in which we live. But we always react according to the dictates or decisions of the spirit. As a matter of fact this faith or decision becomes second nature or habit, and in time makes up our permanent adult character.

Faith is not the reality. The act based upon faith is the reality. To believe in swimming is not the reality, but the act of swimming, in which the functions of the body react to the habits and conditioning of the subconscious is the reality. Faith must be first, but without action a person will drown.

Faith justifies an individual in the acts he performs that are based upon his faith, but the reward, the benefits, the results of that faith are brought about by acts, either of the conscious or the subconscious. Even the demons or evil spirits have faith, but it is of no benefit to them because their acts based on that faith are not correct acts. James says faith without works is dead. Show me your faith without your work, but I will show you my faith by my works. What kind of acts, what acts, What works? This is the essential question. Read the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.

By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice.

By faith Enoch pleased God.

By faith Noah prepared an ark.

By faith Abraham went out not knowing where he went.

By faith Sarah was blessed, because she judged Him faithful.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob.

By faith Jacob blessed both the sons of Joseph.

By faith Joseph foretold the deliverance of his people.

By faith Moses forsook Egypt and kept the Passover.

By faith they passed through the Red Sea.

By faith they encompassed the walls of Jericho.

By faith they subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Here we see an array of the acts performed by the people, all based upon faith. But these all died in faith, not having received the promise of eternal life. All these received a good report through faith, but not the promise. God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

What new thing was provided for us that had not been revealed to the elders mentioned in Hebrews? What new act based upon faith was possible? The list of works accomplished seems to include most kinds of activity. Not until the coming of Jesus was this new act revealed to man. Not until Jesus had died and returned again to His Father was it fully understood. Not until the gospel was proclaimed by the power of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was it acted upon by the people.

Men and brethren what shall we do? They did not ask, What shall we believe? They asked, What shall we do? **Acts 2:38** *Then Simon said to them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus for the remission of sins so that you may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise was made to you and to your children, and for all of those who are far off.* God in the person of the Holy Spirit had guided or directed it. The crucified Christ was now substituting for the blood sacrifice, for all people, for all who had through the sacrifices been rolling back their sins from year to year, for all who would now be immersed, and for all who were afar off, everybody.

Whosoever will may come, Jew, Gentile, bond, free, every race and color, every person saint or sinner, old or young. All who believed on Jesus could become a new creature, a brother of Jesus the Son of God and a joint heir with Him of all the heavenly blessings, the supreme blessing being eternal life. **Acts 2:41** *And about three thousand souls were added in that day.*

The Establishment of The Church

Acts 1:15, *And in those days Simon Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (there were there a number of men, about a hundred and twenty),* After Jesus ascended into Heaven a group of disciples and the eleven remaining apostles returned into Jerusalem to an upper room where the apostles were living. In the company were the women, and mentioned particularly was Mary the mother of Jesus with His brethren. These all continued, with one accord, in prayer and supplication. Jesus had told them to wait in Jerusalem until they received the power of the Holy Spirit, through the Father, after which they were to be His witnesses throughout the world.

It has not been revealed to us how many disciples there were at the time of His death. There must have been a great number of them for Jesus had been followed by multitudes for almost four years, and many thousands had been healed. Also, the disciples had been immersing, taking up the work of John, but soon greatly extending the group of disciples. But these disciples were scattered throughout the country and did not constitute a church or an organization. So far as we know there had been no attempt to form them into an organization or church. Years afterward Paul found a small group of disciples worshipping at Ephesus who knew nothing further than the teachings of John. The disciples of Jesus at this time were those whom Jesus had ministered to personally, healed and helped with their needs, but to none of whom was eternal life promised at any time.

The church started as an organization after Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost. This beginning was with about three thousand. There was also the group of one hundred and twenty who had waited for the instructions of the Holy Spirit to launch the church. And they continued steadfast. The apostles taught them the doctrine. They had fellowship together in breaking bread, and in prayer.

Here in Acts we see the new church. They are a group of new creatures, the first citizens of the new kingdom, the first human spirits to enter into eternal life, the first people to receive the blessing spoken of to Adam and Eve the first sinners, later promised to Abraham, and always looked forward to by the people after that. They were a happy, thankful, praying church. The Lord was adding daily to them those who were being saved from their sins by immersion. And the church grew dramatically.

There is no indication in the New Testament of an earthly organization with a definite government or any rules to follow or any officers to rule or direct the group. It was a single church. Christ was the ruler, the way, the truth, the life. He had left the earth after giving the apostles and disciples instructions about how to build the church. This church was the kingdom of Christ. He was the head, he was the ruler; he was the King. All authority had been given to him. One member of the Trinity, one third of the heavenly family, the Mother God, the Holy Spirit was delegated by the Father to guide the disciples as they spread the gospel, the glad tidings of the change that had been made in the Jewish law, brought about by the sacrifice of Christ and His resurrection. They went

anywhere and everywhere spreading the news and the Holy Spirit went with them and guided them. The apostles continued the miraculous healings, but never to the extent that Jesus did.

No purely human person ever did or could perform miracles as Jesus did for He was God, He was superhuman, He was the Creator, He was not only the creator of man but of everything else, even the laws of the universe itself. No man ever did or could do the things that God did while here on earth. These miraculous powers displayed by the apostles through the aid of the Holy Spirit were confined to the work of establishing the gospel, of substituting the law of Christ, not only for the Jewish law, so thoroughly described in the Old Testament or Jewish Scriptures, but also for all other laws for all people throughout the entire world. The Gospel was for all, Jew and Gentile alike.

One must remember that Jesus came to earth as a Savior for the whole earth, not for just a small nation of Jews. It had been thoroughly demonstrated to the Jewish people that Jesus had substituted the new gospel for the Jewish law. It was necessary that this gospel be proven applicable to the whole world and Jesus so instructed His apostles and disciples.

Nowhere do we find any indications that they were to be performed beyond the period of the establishment of the church. Also nowhere do we find any indications that the authority of any of the apostles or disciples extended beyond those acts necessary to the establishment of the gospel or that they could pass on their powers or authority to succeeding generations or organizations.

We find no precedent in the revealed word of God that any form of organization or government was adopted or that any officers were either chosen, elected or ordained. There is no evidence even of a central authority group or officer. We have an instance of Paul and others going to Jerusalem to consult with the Apostles over an argument where one faction at Antioch in Syria tried to carry over into the new church some of the Jewish laws, and the other faction claimed that it was not necessary. The apostles at Jerusalem settled the matter by stating that it was no longer necessary to obey the Jewish law. This decision was not a decision by the apostles as a council or directive body with authority, but just a restatement of Jesus' teaching and gospel. Nowhere at any later time is this matter referred to in the Bible as a matter decided or settled by the apostles.

It seems apparent that every matter connected with the formation of the new church was attended to as it arose. One matter which has often been of concern to some Bible students is the statement that they had all things in common, and no man held anything individually.

Jesus had shown them an unselfish life, He had told them to love their neighbors as themselves. He had told them to love their enemies, to give to those who asked, to loan to those who would borrow, give one coat to the needy if you had two, and to forgive whatever debts were owing to you.

Eternal life was promised as a reward for being immersed into a new creature, old things were left in the watery grave. They did just as Jesus had taught. They obeyed him. They loved as new creatures in a new life of love. They took what they had, put it into a common fund and then distributed as each

had need of it right or wrong? They had not been taught by Jesus or any other Bible character to do this. They did not have to do it. It was not commanded or ordered. They did it out of their love and thankfulness for the wonderful gift of eternal life they had been given. It was an expression of love.

In a large group of people there are many chances that perfect conditions cannot be maintained for long. In Heaven the spirit of man does exist among perfect conditions and therefore the law can and is kept perfectly, but the earth is not yet a perfect place. So it proved in this case. Some of the people complained that they were not given their proper share of the common property or needs of life. Doubtless many of these claims were true. So they met this condition with a temporary expedient. The apostles and those who were busiest with teaching and immersing suggested picking out seven good, trustful men and assigning them the matter of seeing that everyone got enough to eat at their meals. They may possibly have helped handle other concerns as well.

Then another matter arose. Some sold their real estate or other possessions and joined in the community effort with the rest, but did not love their neighbors as much as they did themselves. They held back part of the money and did not put it all into the common treasury. In short, they lied to the church. We have no record of other similar cases of discord but these two indicate what may happen when a group, even of Christians, decides to bind upon the group something beyond what was required of the individual.

The community effort soon died. It could have been maintained if all the people had been perfect. But lacking perfection, it could not be legislated into the group or even into the individual Christian lives by the group. The community effort has been tried again and again but has never succeeded.

One result of this community effort seems to have been considered successful and was adopted by other groups besides the Jerusalem church. This was not a doctrine, a command or a necessity but just a convenient expedient. Other churches selected deacons to attend to some group matters, though possibly they soon expanded beyond the matter of seeing that food was provided for everyone equitably. The needs of each church were taken care of by each individual group.

Any group needs one or more people to look after matters pertaining to that group and so leaders were chosen for that purpose as the occasion demanded. Among the Jews, before the beginning of Christianity, elder men were chosen for that purpose and the idea of having elders to head the group was naturally carried over into the church. The congregation would select such elders as the need arose. Both elders and deacons were temporary officers serving in each church and not part of any organization, had no power to legislate for the church and no power to continue in office beyond the wishes of the congregation. The spread of the gospel was still an individual matter and disciples went everywhere telling the news.

The Spread of The Gospel

Let us look at the recorded cases where people were converted from the Jewish or other religions and accepted the new gospel and became new creatures.

Acts 8:5-13, *Then Philip went down to a Samaritan city and preached to them about Christ. And when the people of that place heard his word, they gave heed and listened attentively to everything Philip said, because they saw the miracles which he did. And when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself also believed and was baptized. (Simon the sorcerer)*

A man of Ethiopia who had come to Jerusalem was returning, sitting in his chariot reading Isaiah the prophet. *Philip ran thither to him and said, Do you understand what you are reading? And the Ethiopian said, How can I understand unless someone teach me? And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Philip told him the good news of Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came to a place where there was water; and the eunuch said, Behold, here is water; what prevents me from being baptized? And when they came up from the water, the spirit of the Lord caught Philip away and the eunuch saw him no more and he went on his way rejoicing.* We notice how obediently Philip was immersing those who believed the gospel of Christ.

In Acts 9, we have the account of Paul's conversion. He was stopped on the road to Damascus by Jesus and directed to go into the city and wait for instructions. Jesus had made him blind so his companions led him into the city. There He waited and fasted for three days. Jesus, in a vision, said to a disciple in the city, *Arise and go into the street which is called Straight and enquire at the house of Judah for Saul of the city of Tarsus; for behold, he is praying. And he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hand on him to restore his sight.* Ananias was frightened, but Jesus said, *Go, for he is the agent I have chosen for myself to carry my name to the Gentiles and Kings of the children of Israel.* So Ananias went to Paul, restored his sight and Paul was immersed; Acts 9:18. Paul was then a new creature, having been born a new creature by a birth, or a resurrection from a watery grave. Paul immediately began to preach the gospel to others and we shall see He preached and practiced the same gospel as the others who had been instructed first on the day of Pentecost by the Holy Spirit, through the preaching of Peter.

Peter had been confining his work to the Jews alone but in the tenth chapter we have an account of how he was made to understand that the gospel was for the Gentiles, for everyone, not just the Jews. Cornelius was a Gentile, and after Peter had preached to them, and they believed the gospel, the Holy Spirit fell on

them like it did on the Jews at the day of Pentecost. Then Peter declared *Can any man forbid water, that those people who have received the Holy Spirit, just as we have, should not be baptized? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* so they became new creatures the same as the Jews.

As Paul proceeded with his work of preaching the gospel he was directed to cross over from Asia to Europe. There they converted a woman named Lydia at Philippi. The Lord opened her heart to give heed to what was said by Paul. And when she with her household were immersed she besought them to come to her house and stay, and they accepted the invitation. So the first converts in Europe were immersed into the new way by Paul,

Paul continued to preach there in Philippi and soon got into trouble because he was teaching the people about the change in the custom of offering sacrifices. He was teaching that immersion had been substituted for the blood sacrifice in the remission of sins. He and his companions were arrested and put in prison. Read the story in Acts 16, Paul preached to the jailer and when he had believed was immediately immersed the same hour of the night.

In Acts 19, there is an account of Paul's preaching at Ephesus where he stayed two years. He found there a group of about twelve disciples. When he questioned them he discovered that they had not received the Holy Spirit, In fact had never even heard about it. *By what baptism then were you baptized? They said, By the baptism of John. Then said Paul, John verily baptized the people with the baptism of repentance; saying to them that they should believe on him who should come after him, that is, Jesus Christ. When they heard these things, they were baptized in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Notice particularly that these disciples were not acceptable to the Holy Spirit just upon their faith. Not only did they believe but had been immersed by John. It is not the act of Immersion in water that is commanded. Immersion In water by John had removed their sins, but had not made them new creatures nor given them eternal life. The plan of salvation was quite plain and easily complied with, but it must be complied with. There are no substitutions possible. No church or group can legislate for God.

The Evidence of Common Sense Reasoning

It is very evident to me that there are points in my problem which must be settled by common sense or logic. This is concerned largely with harmonizing the conclusions which have been established by various means but which seem to contradict each other.

Let us first clarify our understanding of the kingdom. There are not several kingdoms, with different laws and different terms of admission. There is a God and the entire expanse of the universe is His realm. But God is three personalities, so there can be the Kingdom of Jehovah, Kingdom of Christ, and Kingdom of the Holy Spirit. Also there can be the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of the earth. And if there are other inhabited planets there could be kingdoms there to be considered with the other names. But the three personalities of the Trinity of God are one God and the entire universe is the realm, so there is but one kingdom.

There is but one American realm or kingdom. There is not a legislative kingdom, an executive kingdom, a judicial kingdom, a separate kingdom in each state, in each county, township and municipality. There is not a kingdom of health, labor, interior, etc. there is but one kingdom with its varying functions called by names which identify them to us.

Without taking space to quote chapter and verse let us look at the Kingdom of God, the greatest kingdom in the universe. When we really stop to think about it we are amazed at its simplicity. It is not even as complicated as the United States government.

The kingdom is sometimes described as a whole, which includes every spirit in the universe; sometimes just the spirits in Heaven, sometimes just the spirits on earth, or elsewhere in the universe. Sometimes the kingdom is spoken of as including the disciples of Jesus, sometimes spoken of as the church on earth, or in Heaven, sometimes as those who have been redeemed or become new creatures, sometimes as the Bride of Christ, and others we have not mentioned. There is but one kingdom, but in this kingdom which God rules are good, bad, men, angels, demons, worlds, galaxies of stars and all the elements and parts that make up the entire creation.

The Bible does not reveal everything to us. That would be impossible. We do not need to know everything. We could not, even if we wished to. God has already revealed to us everything we really need. What we need now is the common sense to understand what has been revealed.

The Question of Original Sin

God is the God of every human creature who was ever born upon the earth. God does not have favorites but treats all alike. He is the God of every people, nation, tribe, or race and of every individual in every period of the history of the world. He is just as much the God of the pigmies and savage tribes of Africa as he is of the Pope of the Roman church, or the bishops, officers or ministers of modern day churches. He is God to the criminal, to the convict, to the prisoners, to the slaves, to everyone in the slums as well as those in mansions.

Great congregations of fashionably dressed people, sitting in cathedrals and churches which are as beautiful as art can make them, singing hymns and hallelujahs to the tones of melodious pipe organs are of no more concern to God than the inmates of concentration camps, mental hospitals, prisons or leper colonies. The same laws, the same love, the same answer to prayer, the same salvation, the same blessing, the same opportunity for eternal life are just as much the concern of God for me as for the greatest doctor of philosophy or preacher on earth now, or of any who have ever lived, even David, Solomon, Moses, James, John or Paul. We are all in the same position and relationship to God, always have been and always will be.

Civilizations may come and go, nations rise and fall, religions may be invented, lived and practiced by millions of people over thousands of years of time and finally discarded for some more advanced or more educated form of worship, while God still rules in His kingdom, the same old way, the same kingdom, the same laws, the same Heaven. Man's wanderings have not changed God in any way, the same yesterday, today and forever.

God shows no favoritism and never has. The changes, the differences, the rise and fall, the good and bad, the successes and failures, righteousness and sin, are man's creation, are now and always have been.

James 1:13-17, *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither does he tempt any man: but every man is tempted by his own lust; he covets and is enticed. Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin; and sin, when it has matured, brings forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren, every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness nor shadow of change.*

. God created Adam and Eve out of the earth, out of the natural material elements, an original and complete creation without the aid of man in any way or particular. God created mankind with the freedom to sin if desired and God told them what would happen if they did. And man did sin and death followed according to the law of God in which there is no possibility of change or variableness.

God made man male and female and told them to have children. This, man proceeded to do after he had become a sinner, after he had been punished for the sin he had committed, but not before. From that day forward to the present

time every person has been created by his parents according to God's natural laws, not by God as Adam was. The children of Adam, his descendants, were not perfect human beings when they are born, like Adam was before he sinned, but are like Adam was after he sinned. Neither their material bodies nor their spiritual bodies were absolutely perfect but they inherited everything from their parents according to the natural laws of genetics.

The children of Adam, also his later descendants sinned by choice the same as Adam sinned and with exactly the same consequences, death or separation from God. That was the law given to Adam. It continues as the law of his descendants and always shall be the same. Each individual is dealt with by God for his own sins, not for the sins of Adam, Eve or Cain or of anyone else. God deals with the individual not the race.

How my ancestors lived, what they believed, what good or bad deeds they committed are no concern of mine except in my inheritance from them of physical or spiritual qualities or tendencies which are capable of being transmitted by inheritance. Their relationship with God, their obedience or disobedience of the law was their own responsibility, it is their own foundation or acts upon which their own chances of eternal life are based. My hope of eternal life will be based upon my own acts, not upon my mother's or father's acts or omissions. Their sins are theirs, mine are mine.

If my inheritance from my parents is of such a nature that I cannot choose, and my acts are not my acts but those of another, then I am not a human being in the usual sense of the word. I am just a human animal, an irresponsible imbecile or an idiot. Just how God would deal with such a case I do not know. I have not found an explanation in the revelations of God to man.

My inheritance from my parents might conceivably be of such a nature as to impair my choice. In Exodus 34:7, such a situation is suggested, but even here it is stated that it will by no means clear the guilty, the inheritance going sometimes as far as the third and fourth generation. All are guilty of their own sins, but no one is guilty of any one else's sins, not even of Adam's.

Let us look at Paul's explanation of Adam's sin and its effect upon the human race. **Romans 5:12**, *Just as sin entered into the world by one man, and death by means of sin.* That one man was the first man Adam. That death was the separation of man's spirit from direct association with God. "So death passed unto all men, FOR ALL SINNED. Death came to them when they sinned, but not because Adam sinned. For until the law (the law given by Moses) sin was in the world. Those in the world before the law was given to Moses sinned, even as Adam sinned and with the same consequences. Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression. The law of death was a universal law and covered all sin, whether like Adam's sin, or any other kind of sin.

But sin is not imputed where there is no law. At the time Paul wrote this he was referring to the two laws that had been in effect in Israel up to the coming of Christ. The first universal law given to Adam and the special Mosaic law given to the Jews. Jews only. The sin of breaking the law of Moses was not imputed against those who were not under the law of Moses, but the rest of the world still

sinned and were punished by death under the universal law, so all mankind was still under the death sentence, some by the universal law, and the Jews by both laws. If you consider this carefully you realize that under the Jewish law there was only a very small fraction of one percent of the population.

The operation of the law of sin and death was not affected very much by the Jews. Their nation was small and not very influential. The reason we attach so much importance to it is because it was used by God to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus and as a setting for the establishment of the church. Through the Jewish nation, its laws and religion, prophecies were made, types and shadows set up which helped to establish the Christian religion throughout the world, including the Jews themselves.

Immediately, at the very instant in time when the blood sacrifice of Christ as the Savior was completed; at the moment of his death upon the cross; at that exact time the Jewish special laws and prophetic national life, government and religion were repealed and the new gospel of eternal life and forgiveness of all sins of all the world for all time established. This was done through the institution of a universal sacrifice, the death, burial and resurrection into a new life, a new creature, by the immersion in water of each individual. The temple veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies was torn down. The Jewish order ended then. From that moment forward all people, Jew and Gentile alike, exactly alike for all people for all time, had access to God and eternal life individually through immersion. God's special use and care of the Jewish religion and nation came to an abrupt end.

In connection with this abolition of the special Jewish order and blessing it is profitable to read about it in Paul's letter to a Gentile church which had been started in Ephesus. It is only six short chapters and is Paul's first letter, after his imprisonment in Rome, to the church he had helped establish. There is much evidence to support a general belief that the epistle to the Ephesians, although delivered to the church at Ephesus, was addressed to all the churches. It was sent by Paul from Rome at the same time the letters to Philemon and to the Colossian church were sent, being taken by Tychicus.

This letter was addressed to Christians, those who were familiar with the gospel, who believed in Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit, and had been immersed into eternal life. Paul does not give to them the first principles necessary to obey in order to become Christians. He does not command faith, repentance or immersion, but he does commend them for having fulfilled these conditions and for receiving the benefits.

Paul, in **Ephesians 1:1**, addresses *saints and believers in Jesus Christ*.

Eternal life was planned by God before man was created. **1:4**, *He has chosen us through him before the foundation of the world*. **1:5**, Christianity and accepting it was predestined from the beginning **1:7**, *and in his blood, forgiveness of sins* **1:9**, *and made known to us by the mysteries of his will* **1:10**, for all people *in heaven and on earth* **1:11**, inheritance obtained, not given to us, but predestined according to the *good judgment of his will*, and not that the man was predestined as has been taught so long. The reason that eternal life was predestined was because God knew

man would sin and provided for it from the very beginning. **1:13**, *the gospel of your salvation, in Him you have believed, so you are sealed with the Holy Spirit that was promised. 1:14, which is the pledge of our inheritance of eternal life.* The remainder of the chapter is a commendation of their faithfulness in obeying the gospel and its blessings.

Ephesians 2:1, *And he has quickened you also who were dead because of your sins and trespasses. 2:5,6 ... has made us live together with Christ by whose grace we are saved, and he has raised us up with him (from the watery grave of immersion) and seated us with him in Heaven, through Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 2:8, *For it is by grace that you are saved through faith; not of your doing; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast, predestined from the beginning for those who through faith toward Christ and obedience to Him were immersed unto life eternal, saved by obedience, not by good works, not by a moral life, not by circumcision, not by being in the commonwealth of Israel, but by the blood of Christ.*

Thus does Paul throughout the Ephesians' letter explain the heavenly blessings inherited by those who have in immersion buried their old sins and come forth new creatures.

The Sin Cursed Heathen World

When the church was started and the years following in what we call the apostolic age, the Bible makes no distinction between sinners, whether they are Jews or Gentiles, civilized or barbarian. At the present time the so called Christian world makes a very marked distinction between our modern civilization and that of what we call the backward countries or underprivileged people. We in America are trying to help these backward people to raise their standard of living. This raising of the standard of living of foreign countries is being done by two agencies, the government and the religious organizations.

However, their purpose in helping these people is not the same. The government is helping them so as to create an ally in case of war or aggression, to help them resist their enemies, those enemies which America says are their enemies. The organized religious people are helping them raise their standards of living for the purpose of making it easier to convert them to their religious belief and thus increase the size and strength of their particular kind of religion.

So far as government help is concerned everyone knows we are doing what we are for political and military purposes and unless that help produces the expected results we would stop. Our concern is not the individual but the group. God's concern is the individual, not the group. Exactly the same thing may be said for the religious groups with the added explanation that modern habits and customs have so obscured the issues that very few people understand them.

Sin condemns men to spiritual death. All people everywhere, in America or in foreign lands, all people, in the church just as in darkest Africa. To belong to a church does not remove a man's sin. What is sin? There is but one sin. That one sin is lack of love for either God or your fellowman. How is that sin removed and eternal life secured? One way only. That sin must be buried in a grave of water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Our faith that God will do this for us is our only hope of life.

All people are the same to God. All who have not obeyed are lost. They continue to be lost until they do obey. Obedience or death. Life or death. Might we use some of the strong language God has used in the Bible for those who have not obeyed His commands? We do not like to hear the bad news. We all like to hear the pleasant and likeable things. But truth is truth as surely as God is God.

Genesis 2:17, To the first man mentioned in the Bible. *In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.* **Genesis 3:17**, *Because you have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it, cursed is the ground for your sake.* Man is punished for his own disobedience of God's command. Note that there is no lack of faith mentioned.

Genesis 6:5, *And the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was evil continually,* **6:8**, *But Noah found mercy in the eyes of the Lord.* **6:22**, *Thus did Noah, according to all that God*

commanded him, so did he. 7:22, Everything in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was on the dry land, died. All these died because of their acts of sin, disobedience, not for lack of faith, not for lack of adherence to group laws and customs. 19:25, Sodom was destroyed for wickedness. God overthrew those cities and all the inhabitants.

Exodus 15:26, *if you will diligently harken to the voice of the Lord your God, and will do that which is right in his sight, and will obey his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will bring none of these plagues upon you which I have brought upon the Egyptians for I am the Lord your healer.*

In Exodus, God is working particularly with the Children of Israel. The principle of obedience is the same as it had been for everyone since creation and would remain the same for everyone, Jew or not. But the Jews were being organized into a nation, a peculiar people, for a very special purpose and given laws and ordinances not applicable and in many cases commanded by God not to apply to any one except the Jewish nation. This purpose was the coming of Jesus and His sacrifice to do away with the blood sacrifices by means of immersion.

This distinction between the Jews and those not especially chosen by God was important because the Jews were a very small minority, even a small minority of the descendants of Abraham and Isaac, whose descendants were all blessed of God and worshipped God by blood sacrifices the same as the descendants of Jacob. They became a great and mighty host of people, true to God, and their religion and worship endures to the present time.

Abraham's oldest son Ishmael shared with Abraham in the first covenant with God. He was thirteen years old and Abraham's only heir when he and Abraham were circumcised. Ishmael had twelve sons and became a great nation. Abraham was eighty six years old when Ishmael was born. After Sarah died he married Keturah and had six other sons, younger than Isaac. Isaac was thirty-seven years old when his mother died. Besides these, Abraham also had quite a number of concubines who bore him many sons; they also became the heads of tribes and nations.

Then also Isaac's oldest son, Esau, married three wives and had sons and his descendants developed into a great nation. While the children of Israel were in Egypt these other descendants of Abraham grew into strong nations and occupied nearly all the land east of Egypt and were continuing to worship God with the original blood sacrifices.

Into this country the Children of Israel returned, having been worshipping God in Egypt in the same manner as other descendants of Abraham. But after this there is a distinction being made between them for a special purpose, and their new religion must be kept free and separate from all others, even from the form of religion which they had been using for hundreds of years, even from the religion of Abraham, Isaac, Esau, Jacob and their other descendants which had been given by God to their forefathers.

Now the laws of Moses were introduced, which were to remain in force only among the Jews until Jesus the Christ came to abolish the blood sacrifice for the entire world. It was first to the Jews because that was where it was happening, but it was for all the rest of the world also, for the descendants of Abraham and all other people even those afar off. Obedience to God's revealed word, to His commandments, to His laws, was still the condition of His blessing. **Genesis 26:5**, *Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.*

During the lifetime of the Jewish nation, from the giving of the law through Moses until the death of Jesus on the cross, there were two authentic religions on earth. First, the original and simple command to love God and to love your neighbor, with the simple blood sacrifice as a means of relieving the individual's sin. His guilt was a result of the sin, or the breaking of the love command. The sin was not forgiven, only rolled back from year to year until the sacrifice of Jesus would be made, to become the basis for the complete forgiveness of all these rolled back sins.

Second, the Mosaic law was especially for the Jew and for no one else, and even for the Jew for a limited period of time. The sins of the Jews were expanded to include the entire authentic law of Moses until Jesus became the last blood sacrifice under that law. The law of Moses was merely an expansion of the law of love, and that original law was still in effect as Jesus told us. Then Jesus became the last blood sacrifice. It was a perfect sacrifice, made by God for all the sins that had been rolled back awaiting that sacrifice. Also it was the substitution of immersion in water for the forgiveness of all sins committed after that sacrifice.

After Jesus' sacrifice a third authentic religion came into existence with the establishment of Christianity. Both of the first two were done away with only as far as the blood sacrifice was concerned and the Law of Moses, but the original law of love in both of these religions was still in effect and was the law of love which we emphasize so strongly in the Christian religion. However the law of love is not a Christian law, not taught first by Jesus, but is the original basic law of obedience to God which was given to the first man and has been in full force and effect over the entire world ever since.

Jesus, while here on earth before His sacrifice, while He was personally instituting the change from blood sacrifice to immersion, went up and down the land explaining the working of this simple law of love of God and neighbor. Jesus did not give new laws, all He did was to explain the original relationship between God and man which had existed from the time man was created and first sinned. He particularly condemned the interpretations and new meanings which the group, through the priesthood, scribes, lawyers, and legislative bodies had made in the true and original intent and application of this law of love.

Jesus definitely and thoroughly explained to the people that this love of God and neighbor was a matter for each individual, that love and obedience was from the heart (spirit) of man, and that sin was the breaking of that law by the Individual.

No merit is derived from obeying church rules or laws or by observing days or times or seasons. No merit exists for supporting man made worship plans, churches or other organizations of any kind. No merit exists for helping to build beautiful buildings, supporting social activities, helping in philanthropic drives and other man made schemes of substituting human works of charity and good will for obedience to God's law of love.

Each individual is obligated to God to first rid himself of his sin by immersion and thus purify his spirit in order to be in the right relationship with God. Then, and only then can God, working with man through his obedience to the law of love, bring about the results desired by God. God must have men freed from their sins.

Did you ever know of a perfect man or woman? No, not one. Jesus was perfect. Yes. But Jesus was not just a man, Jesus was God. God came to the earth to redeem man from his sinful condition and as a part of that plan lived here on earth as a man, in a human body, under ordinary living conditions. He was subject to any and all temptations to not observe the law of love. He gave us an example of a perfect human life.

Yet there is one very important point to consider in connection with this God-man relationship that makes sense amid a great mass of contradictory ideas. The instruction by Jesus was, **Matthew 5:48**, *Therefore become perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect*. But no man ever obeyed that instruction. Jesus also told them, **.Matthew:28:19**, *Go therefore and convert all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. That is the only way God provided for the gospel to be told to the world. By the mouth of imperfect men.

Nowhere has God said He will teach men the gospel without man's help. It is true that God promised those who would be immersed in water and become new creatures spiritually, that they would, at the same time, receive the help of the Holy Spirit to guide them in their work. But nowhere has God promised that these imperfect men would be so guided that their gospel message would always be the true gospel. The gospel message as given to us in the Bible is a story with many ramifications, touching practically everything connected with human life here upon earth. It explains carefully and in detail the destruction of the law of Moses and the substitution of immersion for the blood sacrifice for the entire world. It also explains the operation of the moral law, men's relations with each other, in the home and family, in the church and in the nation. It also explains God's dealing with men physically, mentally and spiritually. Then too, it incidentally touches upon scientific and historical material.

Men, in teaching the gospel, use their own judgment in selecting what material to talk about, its application and importance. The matters they select and the vehicles of presentation to the people are the results of imperfect human judgment, and God has no other way of presenting the truth to the people.

God must present the gospel through imperfect and sinful men. There are no others. The Holy Spirit helps and guides in many ways but does not compel. The fact of participation by the Holy Spirit in the work of the ministry does not

guarantee that the ministry is correct and sanctioned by God. Man has always been left free to speak and act of his own free will. The free will acts of man are not given the seal of approval of God, either of the Father, the Holy Spirit or their Son Jesus.

Here is presented to our judgment a many sided problem in relativity. God has truths to present to the world to help them attain the eternal life He has planned for them. God has entrusted that message to imperfect sinful men's judgment. God has given the help of the Holy spirit for this work.

Let us use logic now. God is helping man teach. Man teaches both truth and falsehood. God is helping teach the truth, but now comes the difficulty. Is God helping the falsehoods also? Can God so control the teaching that the truth is effective or productive of the results He desires and the falsehoods do not produce destructive results? Can God be on both sides of the question at the same time? If the matter is both good and bad and cannot be separated, and God, is helping the good He is also, in a sense, helping the bad. If that is the case we have a peculiar situation. The growth and success of some particular form of teaching or organization which claims God's help carries with it a confirmation by God of not only their truth but also their falsehoods. Success of any matter, whatever its nature, does not necessarily prove its truth or its approval by God, nor does failure or unpopularity of any matter prove its falsehood.

Let me illustrate what I mean by a very personal experience. I was a Christian, immersed when I was sixteen years old. My wife, now immersed, was at that time a Methodist, sprinkled when she was a baby. Desiring to have peace and uniformity in our household we went to the Methodist minister about the matter. He said there was no confirmation of infant baptism anywhere in the Bible but he knew it was proper because of the wonderful success and growth of the Methodist Church.

This poses the question, is the success of a matter a proof of God's help or approval or both? Possibly the success may be the result of purely natural causes or natural laws of the universe. The operation of those laws does not prove or disprove God's approval of any matter of either doctrine, practice or organization because of its success. That success may be due to purely natural causes

To think that you are being loyal to God, that you are loving God, that you are doing God's will by following or supporting the practice or organization in any way does not make it so. If faith in something makes it right, then everything is right for there are as many kinds of faith as there are people. We sing the song, Faith of our Fathers, as if it were something to be proud of, something wonderful, something approved of God, whereas the fact is that the faith of our fathers has produced the confusion and difficulties that are to be found today in the religion Jesus gave to the world in perfect form and sealed with his life's blood.

Let us use logic in our religion. The Bible, the only true standard, the only word of God we are certain about, should be our guide, our only guide, not the faith of our fathers, our preachers or our churches.

Here is what Jesus says of false teaching. **Matthew.13:24**, *The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. And when men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. But when the blade sprang up and bore fruit, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the landowner came and said to him, Our lord, behold, did you not sow good seed in your field; whence did the tares come into it? He said to them, An enemy did this. His servants then said to him, Do you want us to go and pull them out? But he said to them, It might happen that while you were pulling out the tares, you might uproot with them also the wheat. Let them both grow together until the harvest; and at the harvest season, I will say to the reapers, Pick out first the tares, and bind them into bundles to be burned; but gather the wheat into my barns.*

The wheat and the tares, the good and the bad, the true teaching and the false were both subjected to the same natural laws, the same soil, the same fertilization, the same care and cultivation and in that sense of the word were blessed by God, for He is the author and sustainer of the natural laws. But this parable plainly tells us that God did not approve false teachings and the success of the true teachings did not carry with it approval of the false.

Success, large harvests, great churches, successful organizations and accomplishments, great revivals, great moral and spiritual awakenings only mean that they are the natural results of the work the servants are doing. Unless the fruit produced is a new creature, who has buried his sins in the watery grave and come forth out of that grave a new man, an heir to eternal life, the blessings of God which he has so much enjoyed and on which he has so built his hope, will be of no avail. Have we not done wonderful things in thy name? The judge will say, Depart from me, I never knew you

God has no choice in the matter. His work must be done by sinful men. If God did not use sinful people to do His work, His teaching and preaching, the work would not be done at all. There are no other people. As I said before, it is a matter of relativity. If the teaching is true a worth while harvest is the result. If the teaching is false the harvest truly may be great, but the net results may be a small percentage of wheat.

Yet there are also other factors which enter into the net results of the harvest. That is the size of the field and the proportion of wheat and tares. A small field of nearly pure wheat will often yield a much greater harvest than a large field which is nearly all tares. Another factor also is the quality of the wheat. Some wheat may be much more desirable than other kinds if one considers quality as well as quantity.

In considering the quality of the teaching, or the fruit produced, there is also a big problem of its relative value. It is true that no man will enter eternal life unless he has been immersed and has become a new creature. This joint heir with Jesus Christ is a valuable help, the most valuable help there is in teaching the word of God, but even he is not a perfect man. He is a sinner because he is still in human form. But now he has an advocate in Jesus, a Helper, and God will

forgive him whatever sins he commits after he has become a child of God and is still living in the flesh under human conditions. While in the human form he may teach anything he chooses. The Holy Spirit helps him but does not compel him to be always true.

This child of God, this saint, may teach what is erroneous and have great success and the very things he teaches may be in denial of the truth. Although he has been immersed himself and also teaches others that they should be immersed he may teach that eternal life is given because of faith in God and Christ, and not because of obedience. Death came by disobedience and life comes by obedience. He may teach something else.

Common sense tells us that no man is going to obey the command to be immersed for his sins, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit unless he believes in them first. Belief comes first in matters concerning the mind and spirit of man, but faith simply justifies man for performing the necessary acts of obedience.

Immersion as an act in itself does not make a man a new creature, it is the acts of obedience culminating in the act of immersion that makes the man the new creature. Those acts of obedience begin first by hearing the word of God. What he hears must be the word of God, not the opinions or decisions of some group of people. He must know that he has sinned, broken the law of love, and that he cannot enter into eternal life as a sinner. He must know that Christ came to save him from the inevitable resulting death, and accept Christ as his Savior. He must be sorry and willing to change his way of life to conform to God's word. This is called repentance. He must be willing to acknowledge his allegiance to Christ or acceptance of Him as Savior. This is called confession.

Man is a living animal with an active working mind, capable of receiving impressions and making decisions. He is also capable of deep feelings and emotions. He has a spirit commonly called his heart, but considered today as the subconscious mind. This heart is the seat of the emotions and controls the involuntary acts of the man. These involuntary acts make up the greater part of the man's life, and are difficult to change after the heart is once set to a particular line of action or habit.

As a man begins the process; let us say of regeneration of his spirit; the subconscious heart is operating along the line of the sinner and his emotions, acts and consequent habits of life. He hears about Christ and his saving power. He hears or studies until he begins to realize that his life is geared to a sinful way and there is an avenue of escape. He contemplates the possibilities of eternal life. There comes a time when he desires to make the change and that decision of the voluntary mind becomes strong enough to change his subconscious mind. Then his habits, his emotions, his feelings, his love and all his subconscious acts are changed. Physically and spiritually he becomes a different man, different in life and habits.

Usually this change in spirit comes about as a matter of course over a period of time and depends upon a number of conditions. With children and young people in religious homes it usually comes as they begin to study and understand the situation. Often the change is almost or quite imperceptible.

With older people it sometimes comes within a short time and with some quite suddenly. With some, especially those who have been deeply sinful, or who think their sins have been particularly condemning, the change is very violent and emotions may run very high. Great importance is readily assigned to anything that contributed to the change. But a real and important change has taken place. On the day of Pentecost three thousand at one time cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" They were not told that they were saved. They were told what else they must do.

One of the most natural things in a person's religious experience is to attach undue importance to this change of heart which has come about through a decision of his mind to accept Christ. He is filled with joy and love of God. He now looks upon God and Christ and the Holy Spirit with a feeling of nearness never experienced before and he often regards with disgust those things which he once loved.

.But this change in the heart is different for each individual. With some it is very marked and accompanied by high emotions. With others there is hardly a perceptible change in life or feelings. It is all due to the individual and his natural reactions. This change was not caused by God. This is not the beginning of the new life of the creature.

This reaction is the result of obedience to the second step or act of obedience, that of repentance. Repentance is the giving up of the old habits of life and changing over to the Christ like way of life. Christian repentance is the change in the spirit or heart of man from sin to righteousness. There is also one other requirement and that is to confess one's faith before others.

This change of heart is a perfectly human change within the person; related to physical, natural, mental and emotional laws. The change that God makes in man in the process of regeneration is the same for all individuals. All become new creatures with their sins forgiven regardless of their condition, age, knowledge or feelings. That moment is when they arise from the grave of immersion a child of God, born of the water and the Holy Spirit.

The emotional feelings that come from the change in our subconscious mind (spirit) from sin to righteousness in the process of regeneration may occur at any time. In some it occurs at the first realization that Christ can save him, with some after long and difficult study, with some after a deep spiritual upheaval or disaster, some before and some after repentance, some after publicly confessing that they have accepted Christ as their Savior.

With some it does not occur until after immersion and, then often not immediately. It is related to the individual's personality and his mental and emotional needs; not being controlled directly by God, but by the relationship between the conscious and subconscious minds of the man. It may occur at any time. With many individuals the change is so slight and unnoticeable that many think there has been no change at all.

There is a widespread belief among certain religious organizations that this emotional feeling or consciousness of the new feeling in the spirit of man is an attestation to the work of the Holy Spirit within the heart. Some think that this consciousness of new feelings and attitudes is proof of salvation. It is not proof.

However, it does represent a profound and fundamental change. A change in attitude, motivation and emotional direction, but this is not so different, except perhaps in degree, from many changes in life's direction, such as from the inspiration of a beloved teacher or the sacrifice of a friend that brings a new and profoundly meaningful perspective on life. Some churches will not accept members until they have had some form of feeling or experience or change of heart to show that they are already Christians. This, as it may be seen then, is based on man's interpretation of his exhilaration.

Because of such an obstacle to church membership many who have never had this experience are kept out. Also, many who want membership in the church explore their emotions to find a sensation they can use for this purpose. At Pentecost, the first church, three thousand were immersed into the church. That church was made up of immersed new creatures in Christ, not of three thousand men who had a feeling that they were already saved.

The Bible is a large book and contains God's word regarding his relationship with man from the time of creation. But not all of it is to be believed and obeyed for the purpose of becoming a new creature and heir of eternal life. Much of it is devoted to proper relationships, explaining how it has been or should have been functioning with various individuals and groups. Explanations are given of how the laws of God operate and how the powers of Satan influence the spirit of man

All of these Bible teachings are true and should be believed. They help us know and understand God and how he wishes us to live here on earth. Man is corrupt and at the moment when he arises from the watery grave all his sins have been forgiven and Jesus becomes his surety of the inheritance of eternal life. However, man cannot remain sinless because he is a human being and makes his own decisions. Nevertheless, he now has an advocate in Christ. The Bible explains how this new relationship works. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, *forgive us our offences* **Hebrews.7:25**, *Therefore He is able to save forever those who come to God by him, because he lives forever to make intercession for them.* **9:15**, *He became the mediator of the new covenant and by his death he became salvation for those who transgressed the old covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance.* **10:12**, *But this man after he had offered one sacrifice for sins, sat down on the right hand of God forever.* **15**, *The Holy Spirit is also a witness to us.* The Father, the Holy Spirit and the Son, that is the complete God is the surety that we have forgiveness now under the new covenant when we ask for it. Read about this in Hebrews. It is the word of God. It tells how and why sins are forgiven and the new creature kept in a correct relationship with God.

People in general do not read their Bibles enough. They read about the Bible, books and opinions of men. Those who teach, even from the pulpit, teach about many different things and usually everything they tell us is true. But they are human and not perfect. They form opinions of their own. A doctrine is started. Others take it up. It grows and becomes popular. Great churches are built upon these doctrines and opinions. There is always at least two sides to every human opinion or doctrine. Some are many sided and may have hundreds of opinions.

Is God blessing this teaching and the preaching and the books? The truth is mixed with falsehood. Humans have promoted sects and factions based upon many shades of opinions. Fewer churches now accept the Bible as the actual word of God. Yes, God is blessing this teaching. He has no choice. Both truth and falsehood are sown in the field. But because God is compelled, by the very nature of the universe and the laws of nature which He himself has created, to bless the false teaching along with the true, that does not prove that the false is true. Because of this mixed blessing, man is unable to discern correctly between truth and falsehood. If God stopped the false portion of the teaching He would have to stop the true teaching also, and that would destroy the harvest, though small.

Let us see what condition has developed in the world after two thousand years of teaching truth and falsehood mixed. Immersion in water was commanded to replace the blood sacrifice; and eternal life was promised to those who obeyed. Forgiveness through prayer by Christ's sacrifice and mediation could make that life certain.

I will not quote writers or authorities for the historical support of these statements but they may be verified in religious libraries by anyone.

Before the end of the first century, some had embraced the opinion that it was the water applied to the body of the person that brought about the new birth instead of the act of being immersed in water as John and Jesus had commanded and practiced. So, for sick or infirm people they poured the water over them and in extreme cases they merely sprinkled a little water. Later, the inconvenience of providing adequate facilities for complete immersion brought about the substitution of sprinkling in many more cases. The false and the true were both taught and the false gradually gained upon the true until the organized church at its council decided that sprinkling was acceptable and it became the doctrine of the church.

Thus in the Roman Catholic Church, which as an organization had bodily taken possession of the Christian Church and made it a state religion, the opportunity of immersion and with it the blessing of eternal life was abolished. That false doctrine is still maintained within the Roman Catholic Church. Today we see the largest church organization in the world calling itself Christian, whose regular members are not Christians and have not become new creatures and have not inherited eternal life. The adoption of this doctrine and the abolishment of the act of obedience which brings about eternal life was followed by many centuries of sin and degradation called the dark ages in history.

However, through the years and centuries since Immersion took the place of the blood sacrifice there have been people who have taken advantage of its heritage. There has never been a time when immersion was stopped entirely. Small groups of Christians kept it alive even though the powerful Church hunted down, persecuted and killed as many as they could. Not only was the Roman Catholic Church teaching and practicing falsehood in stopping immersion but in many other ways it was perverting God's word and building up an organization which was deluding its members and leading them astray.

The individuals and groups who were opposing the Roman Church throughout the world, finally after many centuries, gained strength enough through the Protestant reformation to form opposing organizations. Some of this opposition to the Roman Church was concerned with re-establishing the place of immersion Instead of affusion (the act of baptism by sprinkling), but most of the opposition was along other lines of false doctrines, practices and organizations.

As a result of these influences a large majority of the Protestant churches carried over affusion and did not abolish this error. Consequently many repentant sinners have not been baptized by immersion as Jesus was. **Matthew 3:16**, *When Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water; and the heavens opened...* These churches are not made up of new born heirs to eternal life, but simply of repentant sinners who have had a change of heart and think that this change on their part is proof of salvation.

God's part in regeneration is the giving of eternal life to the new born creature when he arises from the watery grave. God has no more part in the feelings of joy and exuberance that comes over a repentant sinner in the realm of religious belief than he has over the feelings of joy experienced by people in other matters of great importance to the individual, such as winning an athletic event, baseball, football or a political office. Enthusiasm and pleasure over purely natural and human actions and reactions are no more God given than are the results of rainfall or other natural phenomena, which apply alike to all people, saint or sinner.

Many of these Protestant reform churches also carried pedobaptism over from the Roman Catholic Church. Pedobaptism is infant affusion which usually prevents later immersion of the adult and may prevent him from becoming a child of God. Other Protestant reform churches abolished affusion and restored immersion in its proper form but changed the Bible's teachings on the purpose of immersion. **Acts 2:38**, *Be baptized, every one of you for the remission of sins.*

Briefly stated, the new doctrine says that baptism is the outward form of an inward change. In practice and teaching, in the churches, this doctrine places the new birth at the time of belief and the joy of the individual over the acceptance of Christ as his Savior as proof of the work of the Holy Spirit. This removes obedience to God entirely from God's plan of salvation and places the responsibility for salvation entirely upon God, not upon the individual.

Many teach that man can do nothing whatever toward his own salvation. Some even teach that God saves just those he wants or elects to save. They teach that salvation is the gift of God and not that the gift was the Christ. Also, some teach that when a person once believes, he is saved, it is forever. He can never be lost. They expand the teaching that a person can do nothing toward his own salvation, to also include that he therefore can do nothing to lose it either. Once saved always saved. They place everything entirely in the hands of God.

Man must accept God's decision in the matter, salvation if God wills it, damnation if God wills it. Thus these false teachers take away from man his ability to make a choice in the matter, remove his free will to reason in his conscious mind, and to change his subconscious mind so his life habits and loyalty to God will be in control. This subconscious mind, heart, man's spirit, is

the difference between man and the animals, so in removing man's choice, man is reduced to an animal.

The one ray of light through all this falsehood and deception is the fact that God is still God and His word remains the same, His plan the same, His plan of salvation the same, always has been, and always will be. All these great churches, organizations, doctrines, creeds, divinity schools, social programs, missions and ideals, with their millions of believers and followers, popes, bishops, elders, ministers, pastors, committee chairmen, presidents, and such do not change God's plan in any manner, not even in a minute particular. God remains the same.

Christ told Nicodemus, he must be born of the water. This applies to everyone, not just Nicodemus. If and when someone, who believes in Christ, is born of the water he receives eternal life and not before. Nowhere in the Bible have I been able to find any command or intimation that a person had to believe in immersion, the command was not to believe it but to do it. In these Protestant churches, that falsely teach that eternal life comes before immersion and that immersion is just a form or symbol, many of the so called saved members are later immersed, some many years later. They are immersed when they have obeyed Christ's command, then they do become new creatures in reality. That fact is one good point amidst the great mass of false teaching. In churches such as these it is possible to become a real Christian. In those churches which do not immerse at all one cannot become a Christian.

Presently, most of the people in the world are not new creatures, not heirs of eternal life, not Christians. All the Catholic and Protestant churches that reject immersion are keeping the people from becoming Christian, while at the same time calling themselves Christian. It is quite common to call our civilization a Christian civilization, our country a Christian country and our achievements Christian accomplishments. There are of course some Christians but a very small percentage of the population, and even only a very few in our largest churches. Very few church members are living the Christian life we find described in the Bible. Nevertheless, the moral principles taught by Christ were truth and when followed, reap benefits so that today we have a keener social conscious than ever before, as reflected in the steady growth of hospitals, missions and welfare plans, to express the principle of love.

Christianity today is a sort of moral habit practiced by people who belong to churches. They have little in common except the name Christian and the proposition that each individual has religious freedom to believe whatever he chooses, and do whatever his conscious wills as right,

The name Christian is used in common but there are so many differences among believers that they adopt various names to indicate their differences or peculiarities. They have chosen to follow these under the proposition of religious freedom. A more reasonable or common sense practice would be to drop the name Christian and be called only by their own peculiar name such as, Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Brethren, Mormon, Four Square, Pentecostal, Reorganized, United, Truth, Scientist,

Church of God, Disciples, Unitarian, Universalist, Northern, Southern, New Age, Apostolic, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc.

The only claim they have in common to the use of the name Christian is that they believe in Christ. But that claim is doubtful for their belief in Christ has few points in common. They agree on little else except possibly that His mother's name was Mary. They do not agree on who was His father. Many of those who believe God was His father also believe they are sons of God, and that by living the kind of life adopted by their church they can finally achieve a status similar to his. They look upon Christ as a man who was able to live a superhuman life, and that by following His example they can become like him. Such a belief sees Christ as wholly human, not deity. No man can ever become a God.

What has this miscellaneous religious background called Christianity done to our civilization during the past centuries and what will it do in the future? Christ, Christianity and the original Churches of Christ brought a few definite and easily understood doctrines into the world. Among them were, love of God, love of our neighbors, love of our enemies, remission of sins through immersion, help of the Holy Spirit to live and act righteously, and help to teach others with a goal of eternal life in Heaven as a consummation.

But what has actually been done? In general, during the first years, the church followed as closely as they could the pattern Christ had given them. They loved God, they loved their neighbors, they loved their enemies. None of them would harm anyone, even those who persecuted them. None of them would fight in any army because that would be killing their enemies instead of loving them. They used love instead of force to win people. Their religion was freedom, love and righteousness

Then, the Roman nation took over the church and made the Christian Church a national religion and institution. It was no longer a religion of freedom and love following the pattern given by the apostles and early disciples. It became a compulsory adherence to the beliefs, practices and government as decided by the councils of church and state.

At that time it was a state criminal offense not to be a Christian, and disbelief was followed by imprisonment and death. The persecutions and deaths under the state church were many times more severe than they ever had been while the church remained free. Millions of people were tortured and killed because they would not obey the edicts of the church. Thus, the church became a non-Christian church and has remained so to the present day.

In spite of the millions upon millions who were killed the resistance continued and the freedom of the individual to choose his own religious beliefs was not entirely destroyed. After this murdering by the Roman Catholic Church had gone on for about a thousand years the resistance finally, under Luther and others took on the form we now call Protestant.

At first this resistance was not an attempt to re-establish Christianity according to the Biblical pattern, but to reform the Roman church. This was never done and gradually the Protestant churches gained in strength and following. They adopted many of the tactics of the Roman Catholic Church and some of the points of similarity which were retained brought further disgrace.

The foremost and most disastrous of those retained features was the practice of the group as a whole in dictating to the individual members or church what they must believe and practice, thus removing from the individual his opportunity to worship God of his own free will. The reason given for this usurpation of the individual's right to choose for himself was to assure that the correct and true religious practices would be followed. However, in reality, the opposite is what happened. The individual is forced, coerced or induced to conform to the church program, much of which is erroneous. Thus, all Protestant church members must bow to the will of their governing groups, whether right or wrong, whether Christian or non-Christian.

This practice of compelling the individual to bow to the will of the group or face excommunication started at the time the Romans took over the church and has continued to the present day. Today, February 20, 1954, while I am writing this the Seattle Times carries this headline and news story on the front page. "Presbytery unfrocks minister as Heretic. By Associated Press. Detroit, February 20, The Rev. Claude Williams, wartime industrial chaplain of the Detroit Presbytery, was unfrocked today as a minister of the Presbyterian Church. Williams was notified of his dismissal by a special judicial commission appointed by the presbytery to try him for heresy and for teaching and preaching communism. Williams said he was angry about the notice, It said the commission had dismissed the charge of communist teachings and leanings. Williams' conviction as a heretic was the first such conviction handed down by a Presbyterian Church court in more than a generation. Williams, long a controversial figure because of his radical interpretation of the social gospel, was notified that he was convicted of violating rules of the presbytery and the church, regarding regular reports of his activities during the last seven years."

In the days of Calvin he would have been executed, very likely by being burned alive as Calvin did for many non-conformists. Today in America, where church and state are separated, the church is not allowed to execute anyone, but they still retain the teachings of Calvin and sing lustily, "Faith of our fathers, we will be true to thee till death." The singing of this hymn has lost its essential meaning in America because those who sing are not faced with death for their religion.

What is this religion called Calvinism that has caused the death of so many martyrs? The Encyclopedia Americana has this to say. Calvinism -- The system of religious thought which maintains that God is the sovereign ruler of the world and every good thought comes directly from him, Calvin proclaimed that some were born to life and some to damnation. Regeneration could be obtained only through the spirit of God acting upon the human heart. God will keep to the path of righteousness only those to whom he has given regenerating grace. He who is elected will continue in the way of righteousness. God foreordains everything that comes to pass and the world moves forward according to His plans. The fall of man was predestined and all have inherited Adam's sin and the accompanying punishment. A later softened form, not Calvin's, has God permitting man to fall. This softened form is the usual belief accepted by Calvinists at the present time.

This extremely harsh form of Protestantism caused another milder form to be proclaimed which gained wide acceptance, yet retaining the feature of the church compelling the individual to subscribe to the form the group had decided upon. This form of religion was called Arminianism and again I take my information from the Encyclopedia Americana,

“Arminianism -- A revolt against unconditional election as taught by Calvin. On the question of predestination it teaches the following.

1. God decreed to save through Christ those who believe in His Son and who persevere in faith and obedience but leaves in sin the unbeliever.
2. Christ died for all, but no one except a believer has remission of sins.
3. Man can neither do nor think anything truly good until he is born again through the Holy Spirit.
4. All good in the regenerate man is brought about by the grace of God, but this is not irresistible.
5. Those who are truly converted have power given them through the Holy Spirit and help of Christ, so if they desire the aid and are active, no power can take them away from Christ.”

Upon these two forms of Protestant teaching most Protestant churches have been built. Let us examine these two leading forms of religion in more detail to see how they agree or disagree with the Bible and logic or common sense.

Let us consider Calvinism first. As a first error Calvinism maintains the right of the group to dictate to the individual what he shall believe and practice and what interpretation he shall put upon the Bible. They maintain the right to judge and punish those who differ from them in faith and practice. In certain respects it might be right for them to judge and punish the members of their own church but only on the basis that it is not a church of Christ. God is the judge and the only authority for condemning or punishing members of His own church. No man made court has that power.

They assert that God is the sovereign ruler of the world. This claim is not that of spiritual matters alone but also of the political governments of the world, and under this claim those convicted in church trials were punished by the state. Thus church and state were one with God ruling over both. And after centuries of struggle and the sacrifice of millions of human lives, the horrible and ghastly doctrine still persists to a large extent in both Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. Even in countries like America, where church and state have been separated by political law, the church continually shows its retention of the doctrine through the use of politically appointed or approved, representatives. Some countries even send ambassadors to the Roman Catholic church in Rome.

They believe God foreordains everything that comes to pass and the world moves forward according to His plans. Man is pre-selected to eternal life or death before he is born and he can do nothing about it at all. God will keep the good, good and the bad, bad as long as they live and neither faith, obedience, good works, virtue, righteousness or anything else can change it. Man is either saved or damned and can do nothing about it. Man can do nothing about his

own salvation. The doctrines of predestination and foreordination together with the assertion that man can not do those things that are necessary for his salvation are man made doctrines, made by the group.

They say man is either saved or damned and can do nothing about it, that man can do nothing about his own salvation. Thus, the doctrines of predestination and foreordination deny a person's ability to do anything necessary to be saved. Is man then simply an animal? Did God create him in the image of a beast of the field? Did God compel him to become a sinner foreordained to the tortures of hell fire or did He give a solution by providing a Redeemer? Christ Himself said the opposite **Matthew 11:28,29**, *Come to Me all you that labor and carry burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and meek in my heart and you will find rest for your souls.* **Matthew 18:11**, *For the Son of Man is come to save that which was lost.* This is clearly doing something. Did Christ tell the truth or was it a lie? When He spoke to Nicodemus it was about doing something, being born again. The question is who lied, Christ or man made doctrines that declare we can do nothing?

Does the man who says we can do nothing tell the truth or is he the liar. I use the word liar correctly for the authorities who wrote these doctrines for their own advantage were literate and had the Scriptures to study. It was not done because of poor judgment but because of the despotism they were establishing.

Arminianism revolted against some of the doctrine of the Calvinists but still did not remove them entirely. First, they give salvation to those who believe on Christ and persevere in faith and obedience, not in obedience to Christ and the Bible, but to the church and group doctrines.

Second, They teach salvation to those who believe on Christ when the Bible gives salvation to those who are immersed into Christ and become new creatures, not simply believers

Third, They teach that a man can do nothing good until he is born again and then they accept members into their churches who have not been born again of the water and of the Holy Spirit. So, according to them non church members can do no good and according to the Bible their members are not Christians. Thus, nothing good is done at all. When we look around us at the things being done by so called Christian church members today, wars, crimes of every description, hate, greed, robbery gambling and other things forbidden by God and Christ, we wonder just which church members are being guided by the Holy Spirit. There seems to be a very small minority today, especially if one considers the average attitude of a Christian about war.

Fourth, They say all good is brought about by the grace of God. What do they mean by grace? They say a sinner can do no good. But in spite of this at the same time they preach that he should. Is it a good thing to follow the advice of their own preachers or is it an evil thing? Why do they preach and urge people to do good? Why do they send missionaries out if people can do nothing good? Is it doing good or evil to accept Christ as our Savior? Is it a good or an evil thing

to submit to a burial in water while we are yet sinners in order that we may be born again into a new creature, our sins left behind in the watery grave?

They are right on the negative side of the question which says that the doing of good is not irresistible. A man can sin after he accepts Christ. Once right does, not mean always right.

Fifth, On this point they are right. Those who are truly converted have power given them through the Holy Spirit and the help of Christ, so if they desire the aid and are active, no power can take them away from Christ. But this is only true after they have been immersed.

Yet Protestant doctrines are full of contradictory and confusing creeds and statements; which have turned Christianity into a meaningless religion. No one knows what a Christian believes, or how he should live and act, not even the Christian himself. And the results? Look at the world today. There are hundreds of different kinds of Christianity; groups made up of almost every type of belief that can be found. Man will never agree on man made doctrines. The Bible and the Bible alone holds the truth and the way to eternal life.

There is no need to continue arguing over church doctrine and church claims. Certainly we know man cannot make laws for God. God's laws are laws of nature; all of them: those of his spiritual nature just the same as those of his material nature, the same as all the laws of nature about us.

These laws, all of them, were created by God; they are fixed from the time of creation to eternity. Men cannot change nor modify them. All humans can do is to discover and use them. Moreover, man's belief about their operation has nothing to do with it. They operate exactly the same whether man believes them or not.

Also, strange as it may sound to some; belief in God, belief in Christ, belief in Mohammed or anyone else, has nothing to do with this. Fire will burn, water will drown, flowers will smell fragrant, a cup of cold water will relieve thirst, love will overcome fear, music has charms. And, all else in the universe operates the same with or without belief; belief in anything or belief in nothing.

Scientists know this, and recognizing the true facts have tested, experimented, proven and used these laws of God in thousands of ways, to the wonderful advancement of the civilization and happiness of human beings. It is no wonder to me that scientists reject this unnatural, unscientific religious legislation. They ought to and so should the rest of us. We should use logic and common sense.

The common sense thing to do would be to study and discover the spiritual laws underlying the spiritual world and the spirit of man. It is wrong to try to legislate these laws by creeds and councils. It is just as impossible as attempting to legislate other natural laws. No scientific advancement was made until belief was thrown out and man left free to act. Since belief was ruled out astrology died and astronomy advanced, alchemy died and chemistry advanced, witchcraft died and psychology advanced. This same advancement is found everywhere in the realms of man's life when the tyrannical rule of the group beliefs have been discarded and logic allowed to operate.

When Christ said in the sermon on the mount **Matthew 7:12**, *Whatever you wish men to do for you, do likewise also for them; for this is the law and the prophets.*

Luke 6:31 *Just as you want men to do to you, do to them likewise,* Luke was giving a summary of the natural, moral or spiritual law which had existed from creation. This same law, or summary of the law that is commonly called the “golden rule”, was not given to men by Christ during his earthly ministry. It is not Christianity. It is natural law. It had formerly been given to the Jewish nation by Moses.

Leviticus 19:18, *you shall love your neighbor as yourself.* Yet even then it was not really a new law given to the Jewish nation. It was natural law. It is to be found repeated in the old civilizations of the world thousands of years before Jesus.

Paul makes reference to this summary of the natural moral law in his writings. **Romans 13:8-10**, *Owe no man anything, but love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. Which says, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not covet; and if there is any other commandment, it is fulfilled in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Love does not work evil to his neighbor, because love is the fulfillment of the law.* The fulfilling of what law?

The natural law which has existed all over the world from creation for every man has always been binding, and it is not a Jewish law, a Chinese law, a law of India, of Africa or of any of the nations or religions of the world. It is not Christianity, but is included in Christian teachings because it is a true natural law. It is a law which must be obeyed and all men who obey that natural law receive the benefits of that obedience whether Christian or heathen just exactly as when they obey any other natural law.

If any person, Christian or heathen obeys the laws of health he becomes a strong healthy man physically. If any one, Christian or heathen obeys the laws of mental development he becomes a strong man mentally. If any one, Christian or heathen obeys the law of love, of moral and spiritual development he becomes a strong man spiritually. Spirituality is by no means a Christian monopoly. Great development spiritually is found among all races and in every age since creation. Great physical development, great mental development, or great spiritual development does not give any man eternal life or salvation. Eternal life is not obtained by obedience to the natural laws of the universe. Salvation does not come by works. No man however good he is can earn eternal life. It cannot be earned. Christianity is not works. Christianity is not moral living. Christianity is not giving to the poor. Christianity is not building great churches, creating great foundations, schools, colleges or even hospitals and orphanages. Christianity is not living lawfully under the sects of one's country. Christianity is not living up to the creed or discipline of any church or group, whether they claim to be Christian or not. Man is not saved by works. Christianity is not a development, an attainment, an education, a condition, a state of mind, prayer or worship.

These things encompass the possibilities open to all human beings and some of these which we hold so dear apply to animals as well. People have long known about the development of affection in animals, horses, dogs, cats, cattle

and in other animals. These are not spiritual attributes or development for animals do not have spirits. They have a subconscious mind which controls their involuntary thoughts and actions in very much the same manner as man. Many of these good works we teach as Christian behavior may be observed in animals as well as in men; for instance when a dog saves the life of a child. But that does not make them Christians, nor does it give the animals eternal life.

Religions believing in reincarnation that include animals in the cycle of growth of man's spirit, from the original pure atom or particle of spirit in space through minerals, original elemental life, development of vegetation, water creatures, birds, beasts and finally many human stages until the stage is reached that gives us eternal life, are manufactured religions, just inventions of men's imagination.

Psychologists study the mental behavior of animals and thereby learn much about the mind and how it works. However, there is one great difference between the subconscious mind of an animal and the subconscious mind of a man. Man's subconscious mind has been given the power, the right of eternal life. This eternal life is a continuation of the life of the subconscious mind of man after the death of the material body. The subconscious minds of animals die when their material bodies die. We are calling this subconscious mind of man which differs so greatly on this one point, his spirit.

Spirituality is the state or quality of the development of this incorporeal ingredient in the subconscious mind of man, which does not exist in the minds of animals, in vegetable matter or in any of the elements which compose material substances, in the molecules, atoms, structure of the atoms or even in the elemental spirit which fills all space throughout the universe.

The eternal life prolongation of man's mind was a special creation of spirit, differing from all other creation and governed by different laws, for man was created in the image of God. The laws governing this special creation are natural laws in the sense that they are the same always, made at the time of creation and will continue the same till the end of time. But they are nevertheless applicable only to the spirit or eternal life subconscious mind of humans. These laws do not apply to angels and the great host of spiritual beings that continually carry on the work of the Creator in the universe. Nor do they apply to animals either.

There is this great difficulty underlying the position of man as it exists in the world today. The broad field of human activity is governed by natural laws which apply not only to mankind but to all nature about us, to the universe of space, stars, moon and sun, gases, atmosphere, mineral, vegetable and animal life. Our human life, development and happiness, depends upon our observing and obeying these laws. These laws govern everything that is not spiritual. This is enough for animals and if man were just an animal he need concern himself no further. But we have spirits and spiritual laws must be also obeyed if we are to obtain eternal life. We must observe both codes of law. This is where the difficulty arises.

We must observe both codes of law and as we are living just one life here on earth we must intermingle the two laws. We want to have natural material

comfort, enjoyment and happiness on earth and as a matter of scientific fact we must maintain a lawful obedience to these laws to even live in freedom in the society or company of other human beings. Upon this background we build our character and personality. In reality this is just another way of saying that we condition, control and educate our subconscious minds.

For most people in the world I believe obedience to natural law is about the limit of the conditioning their subconscious minds receive. And for everyone, natural law encompasses the great bulk of such conditioning. Yet there is the spiritual law to take into consideration by those people who wish to obtain eternal life. Most people do not pay it much attention.

God made the spiritual laws as well as the material laws, so we might call them both natural laws. There is this difference between the two codes of law. One code is natural, material and corporeal and the other is natural, spiritual and corporeal. Thus we see that they overlap because they are both natural and corporeal, but many of the corporeal laws also have an incorporeal nature. Also material laws and spiritual laws overlap in the ends to be achieved by the observance of the laws. We find many points common to both sets of laws.

The Commandments of Moses.

The ten commandments of Moses as given to the Children of Israel are given as spiritual laws. Let us examine them.

First – *You shall have no other gods except me.*

This is a strictly spiritual law. Its observance has nothing whatever to do with material laws. It cannot be proved or disproved by science or reasoning. We cannot identify this God by any natural means. If we obey this law it must be entirely based on faith. It is entirely incorporeal and spiritual.

Second – *You shall not make for yourself any graven image, you shall not worship them, nor serve them.*

This is a mixed law though entirely incorporeal. There is no law either material or spiritual governing the making of articles of various materials or metals, either after original ideas or in the image or likeness of objects already in existence.

The portion which forbids worshipping these objects or images is both material and spiritual. It is material because the act of worship is a submission of the mind of the individual to the will or supposed will of the image. As there is no life, mind or will in the image this purpose of worship must be supplied from outside sources. There must be an incorporeal purpose and this purpose may be supplied by the individual's own thoughts imaginations or inventions It may be, and usually is, supplied by the group to which the individual belongs, original purposes being quite rare.

This material portion of the law is further complicated in that among these invented purposes there are some which do not even have a material object or image, but just an incorporeal purpose. These purposes, which are the real objects of worship are so mixed up together and intertwined within the groups customs, habits and association that it is difficult for the individual to distinguish them. Even when the true facts and relationships have been discovered, many individuals would rather submit to the conditioning of their subconscious mind than to act in a manner differing from the group.

It is spiritual because the subconscious mind of man is his spirit which is capable of attaining eternal life. God gives eternal life to man when his spirit is conditioned and developed according to his purposes, and not when it is developed according to human purposes. When the will and purposes of man are also the will and purposes of God then the spirit becomes a child of God and an heir to eternal life.

The spiritual implications of this second commandment are not easily discerned. There is much of it which seems just material so that people are drawn into its meshes almost without knowing what is happening to them. Much of it is passed up as foolishness. For this reason the group purposes gradually gain a stronger hold upon our spirits until frequently it becomes impossible to throw them off.

Let us see how it works in life. Why do people carry lucky pieces or coins in their pockets? Why do we attach importance to an opal as an object of personal adornment? Why are birthstones so popular? Why does a bride wear something white and something blue, something old, and something new? Why, for so many tokens? For the same reason that primitive people began wearing amulets, bracelets, anklets, ear rings, nose rings and makeup. These are submissions to a form of worship and recognition of spiritual values in their simpler forms as well as to practices and religions as they became fastened upon the group. As time passed these incorporeal values were assigned to definite objects and later to images which were supposed to represent those values. In this manner idol worship came into the world.

If there were no God or Creator as we know Him through the revelations of the Bible then all these rabbit's feet, lucky pieces, images, crosses and worship of saints, gods, devils, cows and crocodiles might make sense. It would be a simple case of conditioning man's subconscious and to bend it to the will of the group.

There is a God. Man does have a spirit. Man may obtain eternal life. God lives and rules and still dictates the laws man must follow. The same creation, the same God, the same law, the same obedience from the beginning to the present time. It is only material to make an object but it is spiritual when spiritual values are attached to it. For true understanding we must divide the second commandment into two parts. Man may make images but he must not attach any spiritual significance to them, either of his own invention or that dictated by the group.

Third – *You shall not take a false oath in the name of the Lord your God.* This is entirely spiritual but is not a separate or different commandment.

It is connected very closely to the first, second and fourth commandments. Jesus said in **Matthew 22:37**, *love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.* Keeping the third commandment is necessary to help us accept, honor and give first place in our spiritual, subconscious personalities to God. It is one part of the great commandment.

Fourth – *Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.*

This is a commandment given only to the Children of Israel or Jewish nation. Its purpose was to keep alive the worship of the true God within this nation and assure its continuation until the perfected spiritual law of forgiveness of sins and eternal life had been established through the teachings and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It had not been known or observed previously as a group spiritual conditioning act anywhere in the world. It was not repeated by Jesus or any of His disciples or followers. The early disciples met on the first day of the week to pray and commune, not by commandment of either Moses or Jesus, not because the Jewish Sabbath was changed into a Christian Sabbath and moved forward one day, but because Christ had requested them to observe communion. A number of factors evidently helped in the selection of the first day of the week for

this observance but nowhere is there a commandment to that effect. It is not Christian.

There is one major factor which must be taken into consideration in every detail of the establishment of the early church, and for which there is to be found no logic or human reason as an answer. That is the guidance of the Holy Spirit. She had direct charge of establishing the church, and whether her reasons are the same as we decide are merely a matter of conjecture. At all events, one thing is certain, the Holy Spirit did guide them in their work, but never gave them a single commandment or reason for her actions.

One of the reasons for communing on the first day of the week may be because Jesus arose from the dead on that day. Another reason might be because the disciples were Jews and were observing the Jewish Sabbath and they might have taken the next day as the most convenient opportunity. The disciples did not immediately drop their Jewish religion or habits and many things took time to change. The practice of having one worship day every seventh day may have been the reason the disciples adopted it. So far as human judgment is concerned, one day is as good as any other for worship, for congregating, for communion; whether every seventh, tenth, ninetieth or any other regular time or even no regular time. It is practical and profitable for the subconscious mind to be conditioned to a regular time, but no spiritual significance can be attached to any of the details or arrangements for these worship periods.

Fifth – Honor your father and your mother; that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God gives you.

This is the first commandment with the promise of a reward. This is an example of group conditioning of the subconscious mind, the forming of habits of treatment within the immediate family group. It is spiritual in the sense that man's subconscious mind is his spirit. So far as present day science and sociological concepts are concerned it is purely material. Love, the basis of a correct relationship between God and man, and also between man and man is the real basis of this commandment. It is the first and most important of the necessary group relationships.

The group relationships presented to us in the last six commandments are material laws common to all human beings, and applicable to every race and condition of man, not just the Jews. These group relationships carry their own rewards and punishment and they have from the creation of man. God's concern is in the natural and material benefits to the men who obey them. God did not promise either punishment or eternal life to man for their observance. The growth and development of the desirable social qualities of man's spirit was the real concern of God. Man was created to live eternally with other spirits, both human and heavenly; angels, workers, helpers, creation forces and manifestations as well as companions of Jehovah, the Holy Spirit and Jesus.

Sixth – You shall not kill.

This is not a spiritual but a natural material law for the preservation of human life. Even the first murderer, Cain, was not punished for the murder, but for breaking the great commandment of love for God and man. God will forgive any of man's transgressions, the breaking of any natural or material law or

commandment except the rejection of the Holy Spirit. **Genesis 1:27**, *God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him.* Man was created a couple, a pair, a male and a female, with the first commandment ever given being to raise children, a family, God was the real family, the first family, the male and female creation with a son whom we came to know as Jesus.

God said in **Genesis 2:24**, *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.* Man was the image of God. Jehovah and the Holy Spirit were the first and perfect male and female and the only item in the commandment of love that God will not forgive is the failure to recognize that oneness of spirit, personality and relationship of God and the Holy Spirit. Without that love man is lost forever, just another animal.

These last six commandments, being material and beneficial to man in his group relationships, have brought about a very grave error in the present day church. Spiritual values have been assigned to them far beyond common sense, logic, reason or basis in the Bible.

Some say that all sin has only material connotations and man receives his only punishment here and now upon the earth. Likewise all good that man does receives its only benefits here and now in his earthly life. There is no heaven. There is no place that Christ has prepared where we shall live with Him and our loved ones. They base salvation entirely upon faith and man can do nothing to help himself. No good deed of any kind is acceptable to God, They even say that immersion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, from which he arises a new creature through a new birth is not true. That it is not necessary to do this even though Jesus told Nicodemus it was. They have changed immersion to sprinkling and are now saying that no water at all and no baptism at all is necessary. They call it an outward symbol of an inward change, which may or may not be followed according to the wishes of the candidate.

Although the beliefs in a great many of the Protestant churches differ slightly across denominational lines, nearly all of them reject one or more of the basic facts as revealed in the Bible. Most of them reject the Bible as being the inspired word of God while not actually admitting it. They then accept the Bible as their only authoritative rule of faith and practice. By this subterfuge they are able to adopt any rule or practice they wish.

Seventh – *You shall not commit adultery.*

Eighth – *You shall not steal.*

Ninth - *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

These three are mostly material, concerning the relationships between people in the group. However, they are also spiritual in the sense that they affect man's spirit and help condition it. Love is a quality of the spirit and obeying these laws helps the subconscious spirit grow and develop in ways acceptable to God. These laws should be obeyed by everyone even if there were no God and people were just animals. Breaking these laws breaks the second half of the law of love; that for our fellow man. This sin can only be forgiven by prayer after a man becomes a new creature. God does not forgive sinners until they love Him enough to accept His Son as their Savior.

After a sinner is born a new creature of the water and the Holy Spirit, he is a child of God, joint heir with Christ, and God hears and answers his prayers. Before he is born of the water, the Spirit of God does not forgive his sins.

Tenth – *You shall not covet your neighbor's house, you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is your neighbor's.*

A simple statement would be “Thou shalt not covet”. Covetousness is excessive or immoderate desire. It is the only one of the ten commandments which is neither simply material nor spiritual. It does not directly effect a person's relationship with any other person or with God, but is wholly and completely self contained, self conditioning. It is one of the many qualities with which the spirit of man may be trained, which will make him a desirable personality, character or companion, not only of other people but of God and the spirits with whom he might live throughout eternity. This has to do with one's own spiritual development.

There are many more of these desirable qualities of the spirit neither material or spiritual which help make man into the perfect being God desires. Here we will mention a few. **Galatians 5:22-23**, *love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; there is no law against these.* There is no law for them either. **2 Peter, 1:5**, *Giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love, for when these things are found among you and abound, you are not empty nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he who lacks these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. For this very reason, my brethren, be diligent; for through your good deeds, you make your calling and your election sure; and when you do these things, you shall never fail, For by so doing, an entrance shall be given freely to you into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 3:14, *I press toward the goal to receive the prize of victory of God's highest calling through Jesus Christ. Therefore let those of you who are perfect think about these things;* **Philippians 4:8**, *whatever is true, whatever is honest, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is any praise, think on these things.* **Ephesians 5:2**, *Walk in love as Christ also has loved us. But let not immorality or any uncleanness or covetousness be heard of among you. Neither cursing nor foolish words nor insults nor words of flattery; but instead of these, let thanks be offered. Watch therefore, that you live a glorious life, not as foolish men but as wise who take advantage of their opportunity. And do not become drunk with*

wine, wherein is intemperance; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to your souls in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, sing with your heart to the Lord. (heart is spirit)

There are numberless other commandments and recommendations for man to follow for the conditioning of his subconscious mind, his spirit. Along proper and helpful lines to prepare his spirit for the life eternal. They also help him to live properly in his present social environment. These are not overt acts of either sin or righteousness but are primarily training of the individual spirit.

This overlapping and intermingling of so many laws, rules, commandments and doctrines have made religion very confusing. The laws of God, spiritual laws, natural laws, material laws, scientific laws are fixed. They are the same yesterday, today and forever. It is the privilege of man to discover and use these laws. If man chooses to attach undue importance to some of them, to use them wrongfully, to confuse or ignore them, then he must encounter the results.

But there is a bright side to this matter today. There has been a great deal of deep study, scientific investigation, careful experimentation and recorded results along many contributing and analogous lines. The people of the world are learning how great masses are being conditioned by small minorities, and little by little are finding the means of resistance and counter attack. The final, permanent solutions to many of these problems are still to be found and put into practice, but progress is being made.

In reference to war, man is learning slowly but surely that the natural law, *Thou shalt not kill* is not only a saying but is a real primary fundamental law. We have passed through two, so called world wars in which millions of people were killed. The purpose behind these wars was the acquisition of power by a minority for purposes of extending territory and commercial advantage over great masses of people.

We are slowly learning that love of our fellow men is much more desirable than hate. Cooperation is much more desirable than competition. However, we are also trying to build up cooperation along warlike lines. A new emphasis has been placed upon the old law of conditioning the subconscious mind of man. War is being extended from the physical killing of the body to control or slavery through the education and training of the subconscious. Religious forces are still being used very much as they have been in the past to prepare the spirits of warriors and keep them in condition. Organized religion, its machinery and personnel are used. Ministers and specially trained men are sent to war with the armies as advisors, priests and chaplains.

The uselessness of trying to reconcile, "Love your enemies" with "Kill your enemies," is gradually and surely demonstrating the lack of Christianity today. Both the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches have always hated and killed their enemies.

The only hope for Christianity and for mankind is a return to the teachings of Christ. There is only one set of natural laws and if we all adhere to them, the differences between various Protestant sects and even with the Roman Catholic Church will disappear and we will all inherit eternal life.