

Main Entry: ecclesi- / **Variant(s):** or ecclesio- / **Function:** combining form

Etymology: Middle English *ecclesi-*, from Late Latin *ecclesia*, from Greek *ekklesia* assembly of citizens, church, from *ekkalein* to **call forth, summon**, from ex- out of + kalein to call -- more at **LOW**: church <*ecclesiology*>

I Timothy 3:15

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

The church is built upon the fact that Christ lived, died, and was resurrected and is the divine Son of God. A church founded upon any other reason than this is not the church that Christ built. The church is the pillar and the ground of the truth (**1 Timothy 3:15**). Christ is the way and the truth (**John 14:6**), and in **John 17:17** we find his word is the truth, and in **John 1:1-2** we find Jesus is the word. Consequently, the church is founded upon the word of God which is Jesus Christ, His son and this Truth. We in turn are the pillars of the truth - not the Truth, but the purveyors of the truth inasmuch as we make up the church. As the Word of God or Truth has been left in earthen vessels we act as the ambassadors of the truth today.

Q: What is the church?

A: The church is the body of Christ.

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Ephesians 1:22-23

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Colossians 1:24

Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Ephesians 5:21-25

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Q: Is there more than one church?

A: "Upon this rock I will build my church".

Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

One Church

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Romans 12:4-5

For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

I Corinthians 12:12-13

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Acts 20:28

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Q: Is there salvation in the church?

A: There is salvation in the church and **NO** salvation out of it.

Acts 2:47

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

I John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Acts 20:28

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:19

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Ephesians 3:21

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Q: Who founded the church?

A: Christ founded His church.

Matthew 16:18-19

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Hebrews 8:2

A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

I Corinthians 3:11

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Q: Does it matter what the church is called?

A: (see Scripture below)

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

I Timothy 3:15

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Hebrews 12:23

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Romans 16:16

Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

Ephesians 3:21

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Colossians 3:17

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Ephesians 1:21-23

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Isaiah 62:1-2

For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name

The above verses of scripture memorized and then taught will answer the more common questions asked of the members of the church about the church. All members of the Body of Christ should be able to give a logical and intelligent answer to the unbeliever and to those who are in error, but we must prove what we say with the Word of God to be really effective in our teaching. To be able to readily turn to the scriptures wanted when teaching has a tremendous effect upon the one being taught; although this is not the dominate reason for wanting this knowledge, for we want to know so that we can prove our assertions by the Word of God so that our teaching of the Truth will readily be accepted. A personal worker must not only have a ready answer for the unsaved but he must be able to give chapter and verses for what he contends for.

Also, we must in our work with people learn how to handle them, and we will be helped by this in really having a sincere love for their souls, so that our sympathy and compassion and desire to save them eternally will be coupled with a sincere love for all mankind in general, which of course has it's beginning in our own love for God and Christ.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

2 Corinthians 5:19

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Some of the members of the body of Christ seem not to be fully aware of the heinous and ruinous as well as the eternally fatal effects of denominational teaching upon the souls of men and women. But if the church of God doesn't realize their responsibilities in this matter and go out to propound and teach Christ's doctrine who is going to do it? We warn our children of the danger of fire or water or crossing the streets at busying intersections, etc., and we call such by name and do not try to hide from them the danger of such. And by same reasoning, why should we try to hide the menace to Christianity that there is in the world. They are religious racketeers, perverters of God's eternal word and they corrupt the souls of men and women by their false doctrines and their religious lies. If we could only realize the menace and the danger of denominationalism, we would not hesitate to expose it for what it is, openly and courageously teach against it and warn people of the danger of it. We can clarify the issues by exposing those who undermine and destroy the souls of those who follow pernicious doctrines of men. Let's warn our neighbors, our unsaved friends and even strangers when the opportunity arises, and let us continue to prepare ourselves to teach from God's word as well as to show the error of the great religious organizations which fill the earth and which are nothing more or less than the devil's stronghold upon this earth.

Q: Why are you a member of the church of Christ?

A: (see Scripture below)

First, it is a blood bought institution.

Acts 20:28

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Second, Christ established it.

Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Third, Christ is the head of it.

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Fourth, it is the only institution in the world in which there is salvation.

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 1:22-23

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Acts 2:47

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Romans 12:4-5

For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

God in Christ

II Corinthians 5:19

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Fifth, it was prophesied to begin in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. 5 O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Q: Is it necessary to attend church to go to heaven?

A: We must assemble with the saints upon the designated day to worship God.

Acts 20:7

And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

I Corinthians 16:1-2

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Hebrews 12:23

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

I Timothy 3:15

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Q: Are all the churches striving for the same thing?

A: We must worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

John 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Our faith must be predicated upon the word of God to be acceptable.

Matthew 15:9

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

2 John 9-11

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Use Cain and Abel as an example of acceptable and non-acceptable worshippers.

Q: Can we join the church of our choice?

A: God adds to the church which is the body of Christ.

Acts 2:47

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

1 Corinthians 12:18

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Mark 16:12-16

12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. 14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Ephesians 4:1-5

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

There seems to be some repetition amongst various scriptures above, it is to be desired. The less we have to remember, the more we can remember. These scriptures will answer not only the above questions but many more besides. It is desirable that we not have too many. Sometimes ONE scripture is enough to prove to the erring and the ignorant the truth of God's word.

1 Timothy 4:16

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Matthew 15:9

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

2 John 9-11

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

God intended we all be teachers (**Hebrews 5:14**). How else is the world to be converted? We of course have a right to choose our own method of teaching, but we must teach. The gospel is the only power in this world which will convert or save the souls of men and

women. "The word of God is perfect converting the souls of men and women". If the world is to be converted by gospel they must of course hear it. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God". It is our duty and the duty of every individual Christian to see to it that the world hears the word of God - or at least that part of it which we come into contact with. Everyone contacts someone. "The church is the pillar and the ground of the truth." "My word is truth." Who is the church? You and I. Then it is our duty to see to it that the world hears the word. One reason the Church of Christ does not grow any faster or larger than it does is because Christians have overlooked this great responsibility.

Hebrews 5:14

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Knowing this, our next step is simple—we must prepare our lives for teaching. First requisite for this is knowledge, and we are commanded to add knowledge to our other attributes of Christianity (**2 Peter 1:5-7**). We must—if we obey God's word—fortify ourselves with an understanding and knowledge of God's word; we can't be happy unless we are telling someone the story which will save their souls. Let us all do our part in converting the world and if every Christian would do his and her part we would not have much trouble converting half of the world. The truth is we do not study and we do not teach - "Work for the night cometh soon when no man can work".

2 Peter 1:5-7

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

Q: How do we know we are to meet on the first day of the week?

A: The example is set in . . .

Acts 20:7

And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

The same verse which sets the example for the church to meet on the Lord's day also explains WHY we meet - if we meet, we partake of the bread and fruit of the vine. Also . . .

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Q: Is it necessary to serve the Lord's Supper every first day of the week?

A: Acts 20:7 (see Scripture reference above) tells who assembled, why they assembled, and WHEN they assembled. Every week has a first day, so we keep every first day of the week.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (see Scripture reference above) also . . .

John 6:53

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Q: Has the Kingdom of Christ been established or is it yet to be done at some future date?

A: The Kingdom and the Church are one.

Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Acts 2:47

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Colossians 1:13

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Matthew 3:2

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Peter was given the keys to the Kingdom. If he didn't use them, why did Christ give them to him?

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

s. 2:3 ?

Mark 9:1

And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Luke 22:29-30

And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Hebrews 2:12

Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Q: How do we enter the Kingdom of the Church?

A: This is a question which has trouble many people. The Bible is plain in its teaching—Baptism by immersion makes us members of the Lord's Body which is his church.

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Acts 2:47

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Colossians 1:13

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

1 Corinthians 12:18

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

Born of the water and the Spirit is necessary to enter into the Kingdom and **Acts 2:38** commands baptism and promises us the Spirit.

Colossians 2:12 tells us baptism is a burial with our Lord. Also **Romans 6:3-5**. We do not after becoming a Christian carry the name of Methodist, Mormon, or Catholic, but simply the name Christian denoting followers of Christ. Plain isn't it?

1 John 5:8

And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

1 Peter 4:16

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Acts 11:26

And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 6:3-5

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Acts 22:16

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Mark 16:15-16

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Colossians 2:11-13

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

As I have pointed out in former lessons, the denominational world does not believe the word of God. They do not believe in the Church for which our Lord died or they do not believe in the authority of Christ nor the necessity of the Church. Therefore, we must be able to teach those in error that the Church was bought with the precious blood of Christ (**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.). We must teach them that the Church is necessary for salvation. This the denominationalists deny vehemently.

We will now extend our lessons further to include baptism. The denominational world does not believe that baptism is essential to salvation. There is NO DENOMINATIONAL BODY WHICH WILL ADMIT THAT BAPTISM SAVES. Remember this and prepare yourselves to go out and correct error by combating it with the sword of the truth. To do this we must have a ready recollection of God's word combined with the ability to give chapter and verse, thus we wield the sword of truth skillfully and thereby convert souls to Christ.

Q: What is the purpose of Baptism?

A: Specifically, baptism is for the remission of sins.

Acts 22:16

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Mark 16:15-16

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

1 Peter 3:21

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Q: Does it matter by what method or mode we are baptized?

A: Immersion is the mode or form of baptism taught in the Bible.

Most of the denominational world doesn't believe immersion in water was the method practiced by the Apostles. We must of necessity accept that method as the scriptural method of baptism. This is proven in **Colossians 2:12** which says baptism is a burial as well as **Romans 6:4**. The baptism we obey is a form of death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In baptism we die to sin as Christ died for sin on the cross. We are buried beneath the water even as He was buried in the earth. We are resurrected to walk in newness of life even as He was resurrected to ascend back to God. Sprinkling or pouring breaks the form or figure and only immersion fulfills it. Consequently, we know that immersion is the form or mode ordained for us. **Romans 6:16** tells us that Christians obey a FORM – and the form or figure is outlined above. **Acts 8:38–39** says Phillip and eunuch both went down into the water and came up out of the water. Baptize is a Greek word and it means to plunge - to dip and immerse, and it does not mean to sprinkle or to pour. Only men have given immerse the definition of sprinkling.

Colossians 2:12

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Romans 6:4

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:16

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Acts 8:38-39

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Q: Is baptism essential for salvation?

A: There is not a church upon the earth except the church of Christ that will affirm the above questions.

Consequently, we must know our Bible to be able to refute the error of the denominational world. **1 Peter 3:21** says baptism saves, also **Mark 16:15-16**. God adds to the church AFTER baptism (**Acts 2:47**) and we have found we have to be in the church to be saved. **Ephesians 5:26** tells us we are cleansed by washing in the water. We are baptized into Christ (**Galations 3:27**) and God is in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:19**) so we do not have God unless we are in Christ where God is. Therefore baptism is ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION. Without it no one can be saved.

1 Peter 3:21

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Mark 16:15-16

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Acts 2:47

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Ephesians 5:26

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Galations 3:27

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:19

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Q: Are infants and small children proper subjects for baptism?

A: The greater portion of the denominational world teaches that babies must be baptized. God's word teaches that only those capable of being taught—those who are old enough to repent and turn away from sin are subjects for baptism.

Mark 16:15–16 reveals that faith in the gospel is necessary BEFORE baptism and this eliminates infants. **1 Peter 3:21** says baptism removes guilt of sin and gives us a good conscience towards God and as babies are incapable of feeling guilt and do not have active consciences they are not fit subjects for baptism. We have to confess with our mouth that Jesus is the Christ (**Romans 10:9–10**). As a matter of fact there is not one verse of scripture in all the Bible which teaches infants or small children were ever baptized. We should have no trouble refuting such error.

Deuteronomy 4:2

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Revelations 22:18–19

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Galations 5:4

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Just a few statements which trouble quite a number of people and we should be able to give a Biblical answer to them. Ignorance is back of most such statements and if we have a little knowledge about the truth it is usually sufficient to defend our position and to withstand the gainsayer. How about your neighbor? Have you taken the word of life to him? Who have you taught in the last week? These questions are important and the answer to them will indicate your interest in the souls of men and women.

Q: Do we have our heaven and hell here on earth?

A: Heaven and hell is not remotely connected with this earth.

Proof of the Bible's divine origin is needed to make people who make this assertion believe in the commandments of Jesus so that they will accept the fact there is a heaven and hell which is not remotely connected with this earth. This kind of statement can be refuted by showing the Bible to be divine and one of the methods by which to prove this is the prophecies. **Deuteronomy 28:49-56** is prophesy relating to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and is true in every detail. But the account in Deuteronomy was given by Moses more than a thousand years before it actually occurred. Various prophecies relating to the Christ are found in the Old Testament. For example, **Zechariah 11:12-13** tells of the price of Christ's betrayal—the thirty pieces of silver. Other scriptures foretell of his death and the method of punishment. After using these prophecies to prove the divinity of the Bible, then take **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** and prove that God's word teaches a heaven and a hell. Or use **Matthew 13:37-43; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:10-15**. [Due to the length of these references, please refer to your Bible.]

Q: How can we know the Bible is divine?

A: Proof of the divinity of the Bible is in the Bible itself.

But the most amazing thing about the Bible is that the central theme of the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation is Christ. Christ is the Messiah who is to come and give his life that we might have salvation. This theme runs throughout all the pages of the Bible like a golden thread binding it together, giving it meaning and coherence and above all proving its divinity. Inasmuch as many of the prophecies could not have been understood by those who wrote them, we can reason that God must have guided the minds of those who wrote the Bible. It is quite apparent to the student of the divine word there was but one source from which all this information and prophecy came. Look up the prophecies and familiarize yourself with them so that you can use them when needed. **Isaiah 7:14** and those written above will prove adequate in most cases. Practically all of the Old Testament prophecies have been fulfilled, most of them in Christ's lifetime. There is not a contradiction in the Bible. It took eighteen hundred years to written and forty different writers; this is humanly impossible!

The world acknowledges that Christ lived for it is 1975 A.D., (anno Domini, *i.e.*, in the year of our Lord), all over the world and every time that 1975 is written it tells us the Savior was born because the times of antiquity and the present times are divided by the birth of Christ. Before Christ came into the world is referred to as B.C. (before Christ) and the present times A.D. (after the birth of Christ). This is a simple and apparent fact but it has a telling effect upon some who never thought about it.

The prophecies are additional as well as irrefutable proof of the divine origin of the Bible. Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. AN EVENT which was prophesied about 2,000 years before it happened by Moses in **Deuteronomy, 28:49-56** is confirmed in Josephus history. Josephus was an eyewitness to this historical event and the besieging and the falling of this city. This prophecy, however

came true as did all of them. Daniel tells us of the fall of the great Babylonian empire, as well as the rise of the Media-Persian Empire. **Dan. 2:28-44** tells of the coming of Christ's Kingdom. **Dan. 5:25-31** we find the Medes taking over the Babylonian Kingdom even as prophesied by Daniel. **Dan. 4:17-26** confirms these prophecies and all that was prophesied here came just as it was foretold. This could not have been if God had not guided the minds and the hands of the authors.
[Due to the length of these references, please refer to your Bible.]

The books of the Old Testament were all recorded and translated into Greek about 300 years B.C. in Alexandria, Egypt and this will upset the infidels assertion that some of these prophecies might have been written after they have happened. **Isaiah 40:22** tells us the world is a circle and **Job 26** gives us more important information along this same line. But we cannot teach the infidel unless we have information of this kind so as to bring him up to the Bible and when he is convinced that only a divine author could have made the prophecies and given much evidence of its divine origin, he will as a rule be ready to accept the gospel when he is taught. We must remember that information about the Bible and a knowledge of the prophecies will lead the denominational world to the gospel as most of them are infidels. We must learn to teach after once gaining the knowledge necessary to withstand the gainsayer and to be able to teach constructively the unlearned and the infidel. We cannot teach as we should without the knowledge of the prophecies relative to Christ and his virgin birth. **Isaiah 7:14** and **Psalms 22** and many in **Psalms 69** were given to us hundreds of years BEFORE He came to this old earth in the flesh. *[Due to the length of references Job 26, Psalms 22, and Psalms 69, please refer to your Bible.]*

Isaiah 40:22

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.