

6 THINGS

I. The Son of God and our lord Jesus Christ is the beginning and end of the scheme of redemption. Over, above, beyond, beside or short of him there is no plan or means or way of salvation (Rev. 1:8). The beginning, heart, center and circumference of the gospel (good news). He came into a world of lost blind men (Satan leading over the cliff). He is light for unseeing eyes. His hand guides aright (recognizable by the nail-prints).

A. The world needs a savior, you need a savior, I need a savior to (1)redeem us from the captivity of imprisonment in death (2) to rescue us from eternal distruction due our deeds.

1. As a result of Adam's sin-expulsion and certain death. We want a redeemer! Who? Abel? Job? Abraham? Moses? David? (Enoch -went on alone and not by his own power, can't help: Elijah-same). What to do? Turn to Solomon: "How dieth the wise man? As the fool") If there is a resurrection, it must come by someone with power over death and decay: (I Cor. 15:57, Acts 17:30-31, Jno. 5:28-29)

2. As a result of our own sins: Rom. 6:23, Matt. 25:41). "But I've never done anything so bad". (Have you ever etc.?) (Rom. 3:10+23) The result is that unless we find somehow, somewhere a savior, our own screams will forever rise from the lake of fire. Who can deliver from such a fate? Call upon the angels, call upon Paul ("who shall deliver me?") There is no one to save you but Jesus, theres no other way but His way. Who is without sin-who can save. (Heb. 4:15-16)

B. Finally the moment for which a groaning world had awaited arrives (Matt. 1:21) Jesus, son of man, Son of God. The only sacrifice for sin (II Cor. 5:21) the only possible release from our deserved doom. (Heb. 9:28-29). (Acts 4:12). Salvation necessary, "must". Nowhere else (V.S. Gov't, Space program, Medicine, Churches, Religious vicars, all the paled-up wealth of the universe). If you turn away from Him there is not the faintest glimmer of hope for you. (Matt. 11:28-29, Matt. 7:21, Lk. 6:46).

II People become badly confused about Jesus and his church. This is partly ~~about~~ or because they do not know what the church is. What do the scriptures say about Jesus and his church? (Matt. 16:18) He is the founder of it.

A. But what did Jesus found when he founded the church? The word "church" is used in the Bible quite differently to the use made of it by many today. (ἐκκλησία) Called-out, or assembly - it was applied to ~~any~~ body of people called out and

gathered for any purpose. It may be called by God or men. (cf Acts 19). But the church we are interested in is the one Jesus promised to build, against which death should have no power.

1. Since the word means an "assembly called out", when we refer the Christ's church, we refer to those called by him out of the world to constitute the people of God. (It is the "church" even when not literally assembled.

Acts 8:2 - contrast with world) (Col. 1:13)

2. Jesus calls through the Gospel (II Th. 2:13-14) therefore those who hear and obey that gospel are the "church". Now since death holds no fears for it's members, we want to know how to get in and stay in don't we? The bible gives the answer: (I Cor. 12:13, Rev. 2:10)

3. Recap: Church=called out of world, called= by gospel, How to be one of that group? Ans. Obey the gospel. (Gospel is word of God without addition or subtraction) *But who obeys gos. is saved!

B. Now see the significance of the following scriptures: (Eph. 5:23, Acts 20:28, cf blood & baptism, Eph. 5:26, Acts 2:47). Observe: (1) the called-out are the church, (2) Called by gospel - obey (3) Those who obey gospel are saved (4) The church are those who obey gospel, therefore saved! (proof Eph. 5:23) Again: (1) One comes into the church by bap. (2) Church saved (3) Therefore one enters saved state by bap. as final step. Again: (God adds to the church all saved (2) all baptized into church (3) Therefore God adds to church by baptism (proof Acts 2:41). Again: (1) Reach benefits of blood in bap. (2) All in church cleansed by blood (3) Therefore baptized. Again: (1) All in church washed from sin (Eph. 5:26) (2) One is washed from sin by bap. (I Pet. 3:21, Acts 22:16) (3) Therefore only the bap. in church. We could continue but it should be plain that only the saved, and all the saved are in Christs church for the thing that saves and the thing that makes one a member of his church is the same thing (v 12. obedience to the gospel).

C. Who founded the church? (Matt. 16:18). Now anybody who wants to can establish a church but Jesus is the only one who can guarantee salvation. (Acts 4:12).

1. Well someone says "can't I be saved and a member of Jesus church and then go out and join a denomination?" (Matt. 15:13) The Ch. is His bride (Rev. 22:2) -should she go flirting with other suitors?

2. Be careful therefore that you not enter

some man-founded church which will be rooted up. His church is good enough. (Mat. 16:18). All those hear the voice of the gospel and obey it are thus separated from the lost and doomed world.

III Jesus is the only legislator. Now when we say this, we do not mean that others do not make laws in religion. (Councils, synods, conventions etc). Jesus is the only one however, who has the right to make laws in religion, others are "blind guides" and are headed for the ditch. (Matt. 23:18). He gave his stamp of approval that we may know the apostles were bringing truth (Heb. 2:1-4, Mk. 16:20, II Cor. 5:20). No one else has been appointed to make his will known. (I Cor. 2:13)

A. (Jno. 16:12-13, II Pet. 1:3, Jude 3) All truth or law delivered by apostles.

1. Christ makes all the laws.
2. They've already been made.
3. They are written in N.T.
4. Curse on any change.
5. (Eph. 1:20-23) How dare anyone take upon himself this prerogative. (eg. Krushchev making laws for U.S.)

B. What happens when men have councils and make creeds and laws?

1. Infant baptism (Penitent and believer)
2. Instrumental music.
3. Consolidate organizations. Sacerdotal office. Inherit depravity. etc.
4. When men do it, it is wrong. (pr. 15:26, Jer. 10:23)

IV The only head of the church. Some men seem to have the idea that the church needs a "visible" head. (Eph. 5:23). Now use this analogy: (Suppose a bride's husband goes into a far country - she gets a stand in "vicar"). Now the Lord drew this parallel. The church is the bride of Christ. (II Cor. 11:2)

A. The "visible" and "invisible" fallacy. (Eph. 4:4, I Cor. 12:20). Some want two heads and two bodies.

B. (Col. 1:18). Jesus is perfectly capable of ruling over his kingdom. No man nor group of men should attempt to usurp His position.

C. In reality when there is another head, there is another church and since Jesus is the only head of that can direct in paths of salvation, that church with its head must necessarily perish.

V. Jesus is the only foundation. (Matt. 16:16-18) has been abused much. (Petros, Petra). Jesus did not promise to build his church on Peter but upon bedrock, the grand and glorious truth that announces to all the world the possibility of eternal

salvation, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Hence the church has not been founded upon the weakness of human flesh but upon the divinity of Christ.

A. (Eph. 2:20, (I Cor. 3:11)).

B. "I have laid the foundation, another buildeth thereon" He did this by preaching Christ.

1. "Other foundation can no man lay"

2. John the Baptist, Peter, Alexander Campbell, Martin Luther, John Calvin etc.

C. No other confession is valid.

VI There is another matter of religious confusion we would like to clear up. Mediator. Mediation, in it's broadest sense may be defined as the act of intervening between parties at variance for the purpose of reconciling them. Thus in religion, it has reference to the method by which God and man are reconciled. The mediator is the instrumentality of that reconciliation. (Middleman). Under the old testament we observe the priestly function. (High priest and breastplate).

A. Many still want a priesthood after the flesh. The priesthood has been changed. Jesus is the high priest and performs the priestly office (cf Heb. 6:20)

1. Intermediary priests

2. Intermediary angels, saints etc.

3. Intermediary church

B. What does God say? (I Tim. 2:5) There is only one from first to last. To pray to any other is to dishonor Christ. (I Pet. 2:5) We offer sacrifices, acceptable by Jesus Christ.

C Jesus does not leave this office vacant for another but attends it personally. Thus we can till times kneel shall sound pray to the Father by Jesus Christ the one mediator. (Heb. 7:25)/

D. Now this is the truth in Christ. If you want salvation; if you want a home in heaven you must come to Christ and to no other.

From a Newspaper Ad.

- Rev. 1:8 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."
- Heb. 4:15-16 "For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."
- II Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."
- Heb. 9:28-29 "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."
- II Th. 2:13-14 "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- Heb. 2:1-4 "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"
- Mk. 16:20 "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."
- II Cor. 5:20 "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."
- II Cor. 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."
- Col. 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."

Eph. 2:20 "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;"

I Cor. 3:11 "For other foundation can no man lay than is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Heb. 6:20 "Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made a high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

I Tim. 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

I Pet. 2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Heb. 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

I Cor. 12:13 "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."

Eph. 5:23 "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."

Eph. 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,"

Matt. 16:18 "And I say 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."

I Cor. 15:57
Matt. 25:41
Rom. 3:10+23
Matt. 1:21
Acts 4:12
Matt. 11:28-29
Matt. 7:21
Lk. 6:46
Col. 1:13
I Cor. 12:13
Eph. 5:23
Acts 20:28
Eph. 5:26
Acts 2:47
Acts 2:41
Matt. 16:18
Eph. 1:20
Eph. 4:4
I Cor. 12:20