

Program Transcripts

For June 2018



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY[®]

SEARCH PROGRAMS

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Topics subject to change without notice

JUNE 3 – GOD HAS SPOKEN

When Jesus spoke in the first century, scribes took down His words, and these words are in the New Testament. God speaks to us today through His Son Jesus, and we would do well to listen to what He says.

JUNE 10 – SCRIPTURE IS ALL-SUFFICIENT

God gave to us in the Bible all things that pertain to life and godliness, and we are not lacking anything that teaches us how to live and how to have eternal life. Because the word is all-sufficient, there is no need to change it in any way.

JUNE 17 – WORSHIP IN SONG

Music is one of the most powerful influences in life. God desires our worship in song to glorify Him in spirit and in truth. How we worship God in song matters to God, and it should matter to us.

JUNE 24 – WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

What role has God given to women in the worship and the leadership of the church? Are women to be preachers or elders in the Lord's church? Should women feel cheated if they are restricted from leadership roles?

God Has Spoken

When Jesus spoke in the first century, scribes took down His words, and these words are in the New Testament. We search the Scriptures because they come from God. No other book contains the wisdom, the prophecies, and the righteous commandments found in the Holy Bible. The Bible is the only book in the world that offers objective evidence to be the Word of God. Only the Bible gives real proof of its divine inspiration through its fulfillment of prophecy. No other book can give us the truth about the beginning of time or the end of time. The Scriptures introduce us to Jesus Christ, providing testimony from witnesses of His death, burial, and resurrection. The more you study the Bible, the clearer your knowledge of God will become.

Hugo McCord explained the concept of inspiration. He said: "The Bible was given by inspiration of God as the Holy Spirit worked within select men, revealing to them the thoughts of God and enabling them to use the appropriate words to communicate divine truth without error. God put the Holy Spirit into the writers of the Bible and, through Him, guided them in the writing of the Bible. Thus 'inspiration' may be defined as the process by which God breathed His Spirit into men, enabling them to receive and communicate divine truth without error. The Bible is God speaking!

"The writers of the Bible wrote about both facts that they knew and facts they didn't know without inspiration. The known facts that they wrote about came either from personal observation, existing documents, or oral tradition. Much of what was written by these men came to their knowledge for the first time through revelation from God. Whether they were writing known facts or revelation, inspiration guided them in making known only truth, without error in communication."

Our reading today comes from 2 Peter 1:16-21. Peter is describing how prophetic utterances, the Scriptures, came about through inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"— and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

That's how Scripture came about.

Have you considered the power of God's Words? God speaks and things happen. "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). Each time God speaks in this chapter we see the unfolding of God's creation. God spoke creation into existence. Psalm 33:6 says, "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host." Verse 9 says, "For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." If God could speak creation into existence, then He has far greater power than we can imagine or understand.

The Words of Jesus are likewise powerful and authoritative. Colossians 1:16-17 reminds us,

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” When Jesus spoke, miracles happened.

Jesus taught with authority in the synagogue in Capernaum. “And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ‘What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be silent, and come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, ‘What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him!’” (Mark 1:23-27).

Jesus not only had authority over unclean spirits, He also had authority over nature. This power is shown frequently in the New Testament. Matthew 8:23-27 says, “When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, ‘Save us, Lord; we are perishing!’ He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?’ Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. The men were amazed, and said, ‘What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?’”

God speaks with great power and authority, and all of nature and the universe respond. Man is the only creature that can hear what God says and ignore or disobey Him. When people disobey the Word of the Lord they face great consequences. Some people don't take God seriously, but God has shown through time that He means what He says. Some think God will not condemn anyone no matter what that person does.

When you hear the words of the Lord Jesus, remember that He created you and sustains your existence. Without His power over creation, you couldn't exist. He deserves to be heard! One day the words that He has spoken will be the standard for your judgment. The Lord Jesus said, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48). Since the words of Jesus will judge you, you should know what He said and take it seriously. The words of Jesus will not disappear, and Jesus will not forget what He said. What Jesus said is just as binding today as it was in the first century. Changes in time and culture do not change what the Lord said. No one can ignore the words of Jesus on the Day of Judgment. The Lord said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

The Lord Jesus said, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels” (Luke 9:26). Many people regard Jesus as a great moral teacher, but then they feel free to disagree with Him or ignore Him. What Jesus says about moral issues embarrasses some Christians. They imagine that Jesus doesn't care whether they live righteously or not. They listen to what He says about salvation, but ignore what He says about repentance. They want Jesus as their Savior, but not as their Lord and Master. They want all of His promises, but they dismiss His commandments.

How we respond to the Lord matters, and what we teach and practice will affect how the Lord judges us. Second Peter 2:3 speaks about some disobedient false teachers. The apostle Peter said, “and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long

ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” The Lord is not asleep or idle; He sees and knows what the righteous and the wicked are doing. He will judge us all.

Peter explains, “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment” (2 Peter 2:4-9). Since the Lord has a record of how He deals with sin, we should take Him seriously.

When we become Christians, we recognize Jesus as Lord. Jesus built the church and purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). When we were forgiven, He redeemed us with His precious blood and added us to the church. The word Lord describes Jesus as divine, as the One who created us. Philippians 2:9-11 says, “God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Because He is Lord, everyone will be subject to His authority. He is our Lord and Master, and there is no other. As Lord, He has complete authority over our lives on earth and in the hereafter. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Because Jesus is Lord, His Words will judge our souls and determine our destiny in the hereafter. Hebrews 4:12-13 says, “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” God knows all about you and me; He knows the good and the bad. He knows our thought and our intentions. We cannot hide anything from the Lord; He already knows all our secrets. We ought to listen to the Lord!

I'm thankful the Lord Jesus spoke because He not only teaches right and wrong but also gives us the words of eternal life. He gives us great and precious promises. Paul said, “For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shown in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Without the Scriptures, without the Bible, we would not know many things. We wouldn't know about where we came from, why we're here, or what will happen to us after this life is over. The Scriptures give us hope of eternal life with our Creator, who loves us and wants to bless us eternally.

The Scriptures teach us about God's grace and forgiveness. When we realize the extent to which God has gone to forgive our sins, we love Him more and more. We are all sinners saved by the grace of God through the gospel message by the blood of Jesus Christ when we obey Him. The message of that salvation is found in Scripture and it's crucial. Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to

the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). God powerfully uses His Word to reach into our hearts with the gospel. First Corinthians 1:21 says, "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." God saves people today through that message preached.

Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught of God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me" (John 6:44-45). God works in and through the preaching and teaching of the word to convict men of sin and to bring about faith. Romans 10:17 says, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." When we study God's Word, we come to believe in Jesus Christ and in His teaching. This is why James says, "Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).

The Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, causes us to be born again. First Peter 1:23-25 says, "for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. For, 'All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord endures forever.' And this is the word which was preached to you." When a person hears the preaching of the gospel and obeys it, God causes him to be born again. The gospel story is filled with God's love for mankind and His willingness to send Jesus to atone for our sins and grant us forgiveness. This true story comes from God and has all of His qualities. His goodness and kindness lead us to repent. His love causes us to love Him!

Because the gospel is good news, it brings about a joy unspeakable! Sin is bad news, but forgiveness from sin that condemns us, is good news! Hope for eternal life is good news! The Lord Jesus preparing a home for us in heaven is good news! God has spoken through His Son Jesus and in the gospel message. What a blessing!

Peter, James, and John were on the holy mountain with Jesus when He was transfigured. Moses and Elijah were there as well. Matthew 17:4-5 says Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." God, the Father, was well pleased with Jesus His Son, so He distinguished Him from Moses, the great lawgiver, and Elijah, the prophet. God said, "listen to Him."

Hebrews 1:1-2 says, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world." God is now speaking to us through Jesus Christ. If we want to know God's will, we must go to the words of Jesus and His apostles and prophets that He commissioned to speak for Him. That's found in the New Testament. Jesus is Lord, and there is no other!

If you wish to obey the Lord, then listen to Him. Hear what He says and believe Him. Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." Repent of your sins and turn to righteousness. Confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Be baptized into Christ, immersed in water, for the forgiveness of your sins. God has spoken; let's hear what He says and obey Him. Nothing is so important!

All-Sufficient

God gave us every spiritual truth in the Scriptures that we need to live godly lives and to get to heaven. Today, we'll study the all-sufficiency of the Bible. Because God is holy, we can regard every word that comes from God as sacred. Because our holy God knows everything and is all-wise, we can consider the Word of God as wiser than anything that comes from man. Because God is holy, wise, and loving, we know that every word that comes from God is for our best interest. Because God has the words of eternal life, and because we love Him, we must listen to and obey His words carefully.

Many people in the world do not like what the Bible teaches. Some in the religious world imagine that they can improve on Biblical faith and provide a Christianity that's more pleasing to the world. So they twist the Scriptures to make them say what they want rather than listen to what God actually says. Others in the world believe that Christians ought to change their moral standards so the world can, without shame, feel free to practice things the Bible calls sin. But the idea of changing God's eternal teaching in any way must offend God and it ought to disturb anyone who loves Him.

The Lord Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). We need to pay much closer attention to the Word of God because we need every word that comes from God. God hasn't forgotten anything or neglected to tell us anything that we need to know to live holy lives, to function as the church, or how to get to heaven. We aren't lacking anything; our Bible can guide us into all the truth! Are you reading the Bible?

Our reading comes from Paul's Letter to the Galatians. This letter deals with some Jewish Christians who were trying to bind laws that were in the old covenant on the New Testament Christians. By doing that, they were perverting the gospel. Let's read beginning in verse 6 through verse 9 of chapter 1.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

The Bible clearly reveals that God, from the time of Moses, wanted His wisdom, His instructions, and His promises to be written down and preserved for later generations. Exodus 24:4 says, "Moses then wrote down all the words of the Lord," and this book was preserved in the Ark of the Covenant (Deuteronomy 31:26). God commanded Moses that every seven years "you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 31:11-13).

This law was vitally important to the Lord. God commanded, "You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2). Again, Moses wrote, "You shall be careful therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left" (Deuteronomy 5:32). A third time God said, "Everything that I command

you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it" (Deuteronomy 12:32). God wanted His instructions to be obeyed just as He gave them without any change at all. So settled was the Word God gave that Solomon said, "Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:6).

We know Joshua "made a covenant with the people... And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God" according to Joshua 24:25-26. We know that "Samuel told the people the ordinances of the kingdom, and wrote them in the book and placed it before the LORD" (1 Samuel 10:25). God told Isaiah to "go, write it on a tablet before them and inscribe it on a scroll, that it may serve in the time to come as a witness forever" (Isaiah 30:8). We know that Ezra "set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel" (Ezra 7:20).

The New Testament uses the phrase "It is written" over 90 times. These uses stress the authority of the written Word of God. In Matthew 22:29 Jesus rebuked the Sadducees because they did not know "the Scriptures nor the power of God." God undoubtedly intended from the beginning that His words and deeds would be preserved in Scripture. What God writes is not just written on paper with ink but stands written for all people in all places for all time.

God has never allowed men to tamper with or to edit His written words. Paul told the Corinthians that they "were not to go beyond what is written" (1 Corinthians 4:6). Later, Paul said that it's disgraceful and underhanded "to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word" (2 Corinthians 4:2). When some Jewish leaders tried to pervert the gospel, Paul said they were accursed (Galatians 1:8-9). When some false teachers tried to change the doctrine that Christ came in the flesh, John said, "Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9). When people tamper with or edit the teaching of God, they can't expect to remain in the favor or grace of God.

At the end of the book of Revelation, John warned against anyone tampering with that particular book. Revelation 22:18-19 says, "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book." Of course, what is true of the book of Revelation specifically, as far as adding and taking away, is also true of every book of the New Testament. We must not add to or take away anything from what God has caused to be written. The Bible just simply doesn't need to be re-written and it doesn't need to be edited; what it needs is to be reread!

So why would God forbid adding to or taking away from His scriptures? It's because God's message is complete and final. It says everything that God intended to say; and to change Scripture in any way challenges God's wisdom and His authority. Changing God's words to suit our culture, or rewriting God's laws to please ourselves, is an act of rebellion and it dishonors God. Changing God's teaching or His moral laws says that men are smarter and wiser than God, or that they know better than He knows. That's presumptuous.

The Lord Jesus promised the apostles, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:26). They not only had the privilege of hearing the voice of Jesus, they also had the Holy Spirit to remind them of the Lord's teaching.

Again, Jesus said to the apostles, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear

them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come" (John 16:12-13). The Lord Jesus knew the apostles would face many problems and would need guidance into all the truth. Jesus didn't withhold any truth; the Spirit guided them into all the truth. If they received all the truth, then no more truth would come in other centuries. They received every truth needed by the church to live as God would have them live and to have eternal life.

The apostle Peter said, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence" (2 Peter 1:3). Peter never imagined that they were somehow cheated out of some spiritual truth that they could only find outside the Scriptures in some human tradition or some feeling they think might have come directly from the Holy Spirit. He never taught that. He never taught that our culture's values would trump whatever God said long ago. He saw that everything we need can be found in the Bible.

Paul also understood the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures. He wrote the young preacher Timothy, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, (that is, the scriptures) which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

Paul didn't point Timothy to later-day prophets, to church councils, or to cultural trends that would correct the teaching of the Lord. He told Timothy to look to Scripture. We must do the same. The Scriptures can make us wise to salvation; they're God-breathed and profitable. We aren't lacking anything when we possess the Scriptures. Acts 17:11 says, "Now these (the Bereans) were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, *to see* whether these things were so." They wanted to know what was true!

Paul said the Scriptures are profitable for teaching. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Christianity is built on teaching or doctrine. The Lord Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). Only the truth can set us free and that's why we need teaching. Acts 2:42 says the early church "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." That teaching is preserved for us in the New Testament.

Paul urged Timothy, "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Paul was interested in perpetuating what had already been taught, not in looking to some later day church canon or supposed prophecy or some council.

Second, the Scriptures are profitable for reproof. Scripture teaches us convincingly what is right and wrong and rebukes us for our sins. The psalmist cried out, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:9-11). Reproof leads us to repentance. Repentance is a change of heart that leads to a change of ways.

Reproof gives us a need for the third thing profitable in Scripture, and that's correction. The Scriptures move us to repent and to correct our wrongs and to leave false teachings for the truth. Acts 18 introduces us to a Jew named Apollos who was an eloquent preacher, but he was only acquainted with the baptism of John and did not know about baptism into Christ. Acts 18:26 says, "he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately." Apollos didn't get angry at Priscilla and Aquila for their correction. When we have the right attitude and we get corrected, we shouldn't get angry but should humbly change and thank God for the truth. Repentance brings healing to our souls; that's why repentance is so very important.

Fourth, Scripture is profitable for training in righteousness. The instructions of the New Testament and the examples found in Scripture train us how to love and care for others, how to serve and worship God, how to evangelize, how to restore the fallen, and how to be the church that Jesus built and the one He loves. It teaches us how to live godly lives and how to go to heaven. It teaches us to be like Jesus. We need the examples of the New Testament to guide us in doing good to others. It's in Scripture that we learn how to forgive, how to be patient, how to endure hardship, and how to serve.

The gospel message is all-sufficient for all time. We must preach the gospel that the apostles preached in the first century. First Peter 1:22-25 says, "Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.' And this word is the good news that was preached to you." Psalm 119:160 says, "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever." Everything we need, all truth, is found in this book. Let's stay with the book, and let's find the things that God has for us to know. The same gospel that purified souls in the first century will purify souls today. There's only one imperishable seed planted in the hearts of people that cause them to be born again into Christ. That seed existed in the first century and it will last until the end of time. If we corrupt or change that seed, it won't produce a truly born again person. It'll produce something else outside of the truth. Our souls are purified by obedience to the Lord's gospel truth, not by obedience to a gospel reconfigured to suit some human tradition or our culture.

Hebrews 2:1-3 says, "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?" God has not called us to follow our feelings or to be like those who surround us; He has called us to obedience to His inspired and all-sufficient Word. Second Corinthians 10:18 says, "For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends." Are you paying close attention to God's Holy Word?

The New Testament teaches all that we need to know to become a Christian and to live the Christian life. We can know the truth and be saved. To become a Christian, believe with all your heart that Jesus Christ is God's Son. Repent of every sin and turn to what's right. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Be baptized into Christ, immersed in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you're baptized, God forgives your sins, and adds you to His church. You become a child of God. After you've become a Christian, stay close to God by living faithfully and abiding in the Words of Jesus.

Worship in Song

God desires our worship in song to glorify Him in spirit and in truth. Because the Bible is inspired of God, we can trust it to keep us on the right track. God's Word is a light to our paths and a lamp to our feet (Psalm 119:105). We go to God's Word as the authority for all that we do.

I love to sing hymns. I can't remember a time when singing hymns was not a part of my life. Jackie and I had the song "Be With Me, Lord" sung at our wedding, only we changed the words to "Be with Us, Lord." Jackie and I sang spiritual songs with our four children because we wanted to instill in our daughters the love that we had for God. Now our girls are old enough to sing hymns and spiritual songs with their children. Some of the happiest moments of my life have been spent worshipping God in song.

Hymns and spiritual songs praise God, teach valuable lessons, and stir the heart. Singing involves the whole person: the heart, the mind, the voice, and the lips. Songs send a message of love, thanksgiving, and adoration. By singing, we praise God and build up one another. The Lord blessed us greatly when He instructed us to sing from our hearts.

The music of the church provides a great blessing, but it also has challenges. Many focus on the music they like and lose sight of what the Lord desires or requires. Others go far beyond what the Lord asks. Since the Lord seeks those who worship Him to worship in spirit and in truth, we have to ask what the will of the Lord is. What is the Lord's way for us to worship Him in song?

Our reading today comes from the book of Ephesians 5:17-21. Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus; many of them were pagans. He wanted them to have true worship, the way God wants it.

So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

To learn the truth about Christian worship in song, we've got to go to the New Testament. So let's review the relevant passages pertaining to musical worship among Christians. The first mention of singing a hymn in the New Testament is found in Matthew 26:30, and Mark 14:26. The Lord was instituting the Lord's Supper; "And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

In Acts 16:16-25, Paul and Silas had been beaten and thrown into prison with their feet in the stocks for healing a servant girl. The Bible says, "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them." These are simple statements about Christians singing.

In Romans 15:9, Paul speaks of the Gentiles glorifying God, "as it is written, 'Therefore I will give praise to thee among the gentiles, and I will sing to thy name.'" This quotation emphasizes how a congregation with one accord and with one voice should glorify God (Romans 15:6).

In 1 Corinthians 14, there are two references to singing. Verse 15 says, "I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also." Here the emphasis in singing is in the spirit and the mind. Verse 26 says, "What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification." The early church edified each other by teaching songs.

Ephesians 5:18-19 says, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord." The emphasis in this passage is on speaking to one another and in making melody with the heart to the Lord. The idea of having concerts or of playing

instruments in worship is absent. There were no choirs, because everyone was to sing.

Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." The emphasis again is on singing words that teach and admonish. These are activities that require the heart, the mind, and the lips.

The writer of the book of Hebrews twice mentions praising God in song. In Hebrews 2:12 he quotes from Psalm 22:22, "I will proclaim Thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will sing Thy praise." Again, the idea is verbal, proclaiming, and singing. Hebrews 13:15 says, "Through Him (speaking of Jesus) then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name." The last mention of Christian worship in song is found in James 5:13, which says, "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises."

In each of these instances, the music described in Christian worship emphasizes verbal communication: singing, speaking, teaching, admonishing, making melody in your hearts, confessing, giving thanks, proclaiming, and the fruit of lips. The clear instruction of the New Testament is that we should sing from our hearts praise to God. Instruments of music cannot speak, cannot teach, cannot admonish, cannot give thanks, cannot praise, or proclaim, cannot confess, or make melody in the heart. Instruments of music really fail to do any of God's instructions. They are additions that go beyond the instructions of the New Testament.

The fact is there is no reference in the New Testament to the use of instrumental music in Christian worship. That's startling! Neither Jesus nor the apostles commanded them. The New Testament gives no example of churches using them in worship. God desires singing from the heart, but He's silent about using instruments.

Someone says, "Phil, why do you bring up instruments in Christian worship?" Most people think churches have always used instruments of music in worship. They're surprised that some churches don't use instruments, and they think it's peculiar. The early church, however, didn't use instruments; and some churches, like the Orthodox churches, have never used instruments. The word *a cappella* is a reference to singing unaccompanied and means "in the manner of the church."

Early Christians actually rejected instrumental music in worship. For several centuries, they strongly opposed using instruments. Not until the thirteenth century did churches widely begin using an instrument of music. Both Jews and Greeks used instruments in their worship. But converts to Christianity knew this, but they still sang unaccompanied. They consciously said no because they had no God-given reason to use them.

Dr. Everett Ferguson, a well-known historian of the early church said, "It is quite late before there is evidence of instrumental music, first the organ, employed in the public worship of the church. Then recent studies put the introduction of instrumental music even later, than the dates found in reference books. It was perhaps as late as the tenth century when the organ was played as part of the service. This makes instrumental music one of the late innovations of the medieval Catholic church."

As late as 1250 AD, Thomas Aquinas, a philosopher and church leader, said, "Our church does not use instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal, that she may not seem to Judaize." Thomas Aquinas understood that harps were for Jews, not for Christians. Instruments of music came along as an innovation brought in because, frankly, people wanted them, not because the New Testament gave instructions for them.

God has revealed His will in His Word. The Lord promised the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all the truth (John 16:13). "All the truth" means the New Testament teaches us everything that God wanted us to know to have eternal life and to live the Christian life. Nothing is

missing. We shouldn't imagine that God has somehow forgotten something.

When God revealed all the truth, He did not need to say more. To think that we need more and we need to introduce some new practices denies that we have all truth from God in the first century. When we aren't content with God's teaching but go beyond God's teaching, we're actually showing dishonor to God instead of honoring Him. Starting new practices, going beyond God's teaching, is presumptuous. It fails to listen to God and it builds on sand.

The Lord said, "If you abide in my word, then you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). Christ here reveals the mark of a true disciple; a true disciple abides in His word. He doesn't add to it, take away from it, reinvent it, or change it. He stays in the boundaries of the teaching and instructions of the word. The person who stays with the word will know the truth, and the truth will set him free. When you leave the word or you tamper with the truth, or you end up with something that's not from God, you end up with man-made religion.

Someone says, "Phil, don't you know that David played the harp?" Yes, I'm well aware of passages like Psalm 150 or 2 Chronicles 29:25. And I also know that David lived a thousand years before Jesus Christ. David was not a Christian; he was a Jew, and we're exploring how Christians worshiped, not how the Israelites worshiped. We don't offer animal sacrifices as David did. David lived under the old covenant, while we live under the new covenant. According to 2 Chronicles 29:25, God approved of harps in the worship of the temple under the old covenant; but the New Testament, the new covenant, never speaks of the use of instruments of music in Christian worship.

Some say that the word "psalm" and the Greek word psallo, used in Ephesians 5:19 for "making music in the heart," permits us to play instruments. While it's true that many years before the New Testament, the Greek word psallo meant to pluck on a string or play a harp, but the word changed in meaning over time. How did this happen?

The Jews sang psalms with instruments in the Temple, but when they were outside of the Temple they sang without them, they didn't have the instruments. Musical worship in the temple was limited to the Levites who had choirs with many instruments, but the worship outside had no musical instruments. Jews regularly sang psalms for hundreds of years without any use of the harp. They chanted psalms and many of their daily prayers without any instrument at all.

So when the Jews used the word psallo or the word psalm, they normally thought of singing the words of the song unaccompanied. It never occurred to early Christians, who knew Greek better than we do, that the words psallo or psalms meant we should or could use instruments in worship. If those words had pointed to instruments, why did the early church refuse to use them? Why did it take many centuries before someone started using them?

Others ask, "Phil, aren't people playing harps in heaven?" Yes, John's visions found in the highly figurative book of Revelation speak of harps in heaven. Saints in heaven also wore crowns and cast them before the throne of God. Angels and people in heaven say many things in heaven that Christians are not allowed to say on earth according to 2 Corinthians 12:4. Heaven and earth are very different.

Our task is not to imitate what's done in heaven, but to obey Jesus and His teachings in the New Testament. If harps in heaven means the church ought to play harps, why didn't the apostles and the early church understand they were supposed to play them? Why did they refuse to play them for centuries?

Someone says, "Phil, that's just your tradition." The word tradition speaks of what has been passed down, with authority, from one generation to another. We have an authority in Scripture for singing. It's the use of instruments that is of human origin. That's the human tradition; singing is the divine tradition.

Someone says, “The Bible doesn't condemn playing an organ!” That’s true; it doesn’t say that. But neither does the Bible specifically condemn burning incense, praying to saints, using roast lamb in the Lord’s Supper, offering animal sacrifices, substituting sprinkling for immersion in baptism, or baptizing infants. Just because the Bible doesn’t specifically condemn something doesn’t mean that God approves it.

These things, like using an instrument of music in worship, come not from God but from men. The right question is not “Where does the Bible condemn an instrument in worship?” but, “Where does the New Testament instruct us to use instruments of music in Christian worship?” To act without God’s instruction is presumptuous. It’s building on sand. If the Bible were to include everything that God condemned, it would surely be too large to carry. The Lord has chosen to instruct us in positive terms what His will is for our lives and our worship. He has shown us the way, which rules out all other ways. There is “one baptism” (Ephesians 4:5), and that means that there cannot be other approved baptisms. The Bible says there is only “one gospel” (Galatians 1:6-9) so that condemns any other gospel. The Bible says there is “one body” (or church, Ephesians 4:4). That means there cannot be any other approved churches.

The specific instruction to sing means one should sing. There’s no authority to add other forms of music. When God instructs us through His Word, He tells us what He expects. We shouldn’t expect God to exclude all other possibilities with a series of “don’t do this and don’t do that.”

If I order fried chicken and mashed potatoes at my favorite restaurant, I’d expect the waitress to bring just what I ordered. If she brought me liver and onions, I would say to her, “This is not what I ordered; I ordered fried chicken and mashed potatoes.” Telling her what I want specifically excludes everything else. Wouldn’t it be ridiculous if I had to go down the whole menu and tell her everything I don’t want? We should listen to God and do what God asks us to do in worship.

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:24-27, the Lord told this story: “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

Wisdom is hearing God’s Word and doing it. Foolishness is hearing God’s Word but doing something else that you want to do. I can read clearly in the New Testament the Lord’s instructions about singing in worship. Not one word of the New Testament is said about using instruments of music in Christian worship or turning it into entertainment. They weren’t used in any church at all for hundreds of years. Let’s put singing in worship on one side and singing with instruments on the other. They’re different, aren’t they? Which is wise and follows the Lord’s teaching, and which is foolish by failing to do what God says? Which does the Lord’s will and which is an innovation of man?

In the same way, we should come to God in faith and obedience. If there’s sin in your life and you’re not a Christian, you’re not yet a child of God. Why not become one today? You can do so by believing Jesus is the Christ, by repenting of your sins, by confessing Jesus as the Son of God, and by being baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). That’s how people became Christians according to the Scriptures, and how you can become one too. Be wise and follow what the Lord teaches. You’ll never regret doing the right thing.

Women in the Church

In the beginning, God created us male and female in His image and in His likeness. But does God give the same role to women that He gives to men? Today, we're going to explore the role of women in the church. God said, "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts'" (Isaiah 55:8-9). God's ways are not always our ways; but God's ways are always right. We may not understand God's ways or agree with them, but God's wisdom far exceeds ours, and through time, God's wisdom proves right every time. So, we follow the One who is utterly trustworthy. Psalm 19:9 says, "The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether."

Where in the world would any of us be without the women in our lives? They are indeed precious in so many ways and a blessing to the church. I've been blessed with a godly mother, with a faithful and loving wife for over forty years, with four precious daughters who are all well-educated and very talented. I also have eleven delightful granddaughters. Do I care about all the females in my life? Of course I do! I want every good thing for them and want them to serve God. I want all my children to be saved and to remain in the truth.

The best thing you can do is to love and serve God faithfully and help others to love and serve God. Obeying God is an act of love. The Lord Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). If you want to bless your family, lead them in loving the Lord Jesus in every way. Don't pick which laws you like and ignore the others. We are to "observe all things" that Jesus commands us. This touches every aspect of our lives.

Our reading today is from 1 Corinthians 14:33-37.

for God is not *a God* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. Was it from you that the word of God *first* went forth? Or has it come to you only? If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment. When God created Adam and Eve, He created the male first and the female later. God created her to be a "helper fit for him" (Genesis 2:18). First Corinthians 11:9 says, "for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake."

The distinctive roles the Scriptures place on men and women are not cultural traditions of bygone eras but God's plan for humans made in His image.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God said to the woman, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you" (Genesis 3:16). This declaration from the beginning applies to God's order in the home and in the church. This is God's declaration for all time.

God's Word, thousands of years later, says, "But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3). Some have assumed that because man is the head of woman, this makes women inferior to men. The relationship, however, between Christ and the Father is like the relationship of woman to man; consequently, being in subjection does not mean being less than equal. Paul

said the Lord Jesus was equal with the Father but took the form of a servant in Philippians 2:5-8. Just because a woman is to be in subjection to a man does not make her less than him. Any man who treats women with disrespect is failing as a Christian.

When the Lord chose people to lead and teach the church, Christ chose men. The twelve apostles were all men, not six men and six women. The seven servants chosen to feed the Grecian widows in Acts 6 were all men. When the Scripture lays down the qualifications for elders and deacons in 1 Timothy 3:1-14, they are required to be husbands. The absence of females in this matter is no accident.

The Scripture gives women in the New Testament various, praiseworthy roles of teaching and service. Women may evangelize privately as Priscilla and Aquilla did with Apollos in Acts 18:26. Philippians 4:2-3 describes Euodia and Syntyche as fellow-laborers with Paul in the gospel. Paul instructed older women in Titus 2:3-4 to teach and train younger women to love their husbands and their children. Acts 9:36 describes Dorcas as a woman "full of good works and acts of charity." Some women had spiritual gifts; Acts 21:9 says Philip the evangelist had four daughters who prophesied. Women were the first at the tomb of Jesus, and the Lord sent them to tell the apostles of His resurrection. Women often traveled with Jesus and His disciples and supported His ministry.

Faithful Christian men should treat their wives with honor and respect. First Peter 3:7 says, "You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered." When men treat women with disrespect, it's clear this behavior hinders their prayers to God. Godly men honor women; ungodly men mistreat them.

The New Testament limits the roles women may play in the assembled church and in the leadership of the church. The Bible says, "as in all the churches of the saints. The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only? If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment" (1 Corinthians 14:33-37). It is clear women are not to speak to the whole church to impart teaching.

Paul gives four reasons for this restriction on women. First, the Law says this. It may refer to Genesis 3:16 and the female's subordination due to the sin in the garden. It possibly could come from man's priority in creation: "Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man" (Genesis 2:22). Numbers 30:3-12 also notes that a woman's vow must be approved either by her father or by her husband. If he opposes the vow, her pledge will not stand.

Second, "it is shameful for women (not just wives) to speak in church" (1 Corinthians 14:35). "Church" here refers to the assembled body as in 1 Corinthians 11:18. Paul calls the act of a woman speaking in church "shameful" or "disgraceful." While some hold culture as the source of the shame, it likely means this shame instead arises from God and His Law. In fact, the pagan cults of both Corinth and Ephesus had women as their high priestesses and teachers, according to Bruce Morton in his book, *Deceiving Winds*. The Lord's commandment was actually counter to the pagan culture of Corinth! God's teaching came to change the world; we

must not let the world change the church.

Third, "Let your women keep silent in the churches." This practice was not merely one to be kept in Corinth but in all the churches. "Keep silent" is from the Greek word *sigao* and means to hold one's peace and say nothing. The instruction to "keep silent" is given three times in this chapter. First, a tongue speaker (even if male) is to "keep silent" when no interpreter is present (verse 28). Second, if one prophet is speaking and another receives a revelation, "the first one must keep silent" (verses 29-30). Third, "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak" (verse 34). "Speaking" here is a general term which would apply to public talk: leading prayer, preaching, prophesying, tongue-speaking or interpreting.

Fourth, Paul says this is "the commandment of the Lord" (14:37). Some gifted Christians likely objected to Paul's instructions (14:36), so Paul boldly declares the source of this "commandment" is the Lord himself. There is nothing cultural or temporary about the Lord's command to the churches.

Some object, "What about the women who were praying and prophesying in 1 Corinthians 11:4-5?" The primary subject of chapter 11 has to do with wearing veils and not with speaking in church. The "custom" or practice of the day was for women to have long hair and wear a veil. Breaking from this custom was "disgraceful" and against nature. Some gifted women may have thought their spiritual gifts gave them the right to speak in the assembled church. If the women were speaking in the assembled church in chapter 11, Paul eventually tells them to stop it in chapter 14. Women likely spoke in other settings than the assembled church, such as gatherings of women or in private. Whatever the case, the command of the Lord was to end the practice of women speaking in the assembled churches.

We have this teaching confirmed in 1 Timothy 2. Paul said, "I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling" (1 Timothy 2:8). Paul chose "men [adult males] in every place to pray." The phrase "in every place" is a specific term speaking of the place where congregations assembled to worship. First Corinthians 1:2 uses the term to describe the place where the church assembled. Clearly, God wanted males to take the lead in prayer and worship.

If women are not permitted to lead prayer, surely they are forbidden to preach. Women are to learn in quietness, not teach! First Timothy 2:11-12 says, "Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence." Asserting his apostolic authority, Paul did not permit women to be public teachers of men or to exercise authority over a man at church. She cannot rule or subjugate men to her will at church. Paul does not permit her to take these roles, even if elders, preachers, and other men allow it. No person has a right to ask or to permit any female to do what is contrary to God's instructions.

To be quiet or silent (*hesuchia*) here means to be at rest, a spirit and an attitude of tranquility arising from within and causing no disturbance. They were to focus on learning, not teaching and to remain quiet, to say nothing. This learning was to take place with "entire submissiveness." "Entire submissiveness," is a complete, voluntary surrender of one's rights or will. It is to give precedence to others; she is to "subordinate herself in every respect." This is not speaking merely of subjection to her husband; this is speaking broadly of women subjecting themselves to the leadership of men in the functions of the church. "Submission" does not mean one has inferior value or worth but rather that one recognizes one's role in a relationship. As we

noted, Jesus was not inferior to God according to Philippians 2:5-8, but He willfully subjected himself to his Father.

The theological basis for saying women cannot preach arises from the beginning with Adam and Eve, not a cultural bias from Paul himself. "For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression." (I Timothy 2:13-14). This teaching reveals God's order of life, God's way. According to historian Everett Ferguson, the writers in early church history give evidence that "Women were not appointed as elders, nor did they take public speaking roles in the assembly as prophets, teachers, or leaders in the assembly. Where women did take these roles in heretical and schismatic groups, this practice was a basis for objection to these groups." While times change, God's Word does not change.

We should use our talents for the Lord, but we shouldn't assume talents permit us to engage in activities and roles God never meant for us. King Saul was not a priest and sinned by presumptuously making a burnt offering at Gilgal, rather than waiting for the high priest, Samuel (1 Samuel 13:8-14). Though he was king, Saul had no right to make this sacrifice. By presuming he could act without authority, Saul lost his place with God. King Uzziah also became proud and transgressed against the LORD by "entering the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense" (2 Chronicles 26:16). Uzziah was not a Levite, so Azariah, the priest, and eighty others rightly withstood him. God punished Uzziah for his sin. God will not let an unmarried or childless man be an elder, either.

Even Jesus, as the Son of God, could not serve as a Levitical priest in the temple because He was from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14). Jesus didn't feel cheated because he couldn't function as a Levitical priest in the temple. Giftedness does not grant the right to overrule God's laws. The Scriptures demand that anyone who leads must meet the qualifications. Rather than feeling cheated by God's limitations, we should focus on the things we can and should do to serve God. With joy and thanksgiving, let's follow His will and not our own.

Someone objects, "Isn't being limited unfair to women?" No. God has given women marvelous roles in virtually every other area than in the leadership of the church. God has given women some roles that men will never be able to fill. Should men object and feel cheated? No. Our task is to pursue the work God has given us to the best of our ability rather than envy what God has given to someone else. In God's eyes, every member of the body, the church, is valuable though they have different functions.

First Corinthians 12:14-19 says, "For the body [the church] is not one member, but many. If the foot says, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be?" Yes, God has a place for everyone!

Please let Jesus be Lord of your life. Trust His ways; they are higher than our ways. Believe in the Lord Jesus; turn from sin and selfishness to serve Him; confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and be baptized. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. When you're baptized, God washes away your sins and makes you His child. Become a Christian today!