

## The Church: Held in Esteem

### I. What is the Church:

- A. Matt. 16:18 – Jesus: "I will build my church."
- B. Eph. 5:25-27 – Jesus "gave himself up," i.e., died for the church.
- C. 1 Cor. 11:17-18 – "come together in the church"
- D. 1 Cor. 14:18-19 – "how be it in the church"
- E. 1 Cor. 12:27 – "ye are the body of Christ"
- F. 1 Cor. 14:23, 26 – Come together for edification
- G. Eph. 4:11-16 – "body unto the building up of itself in love"
- H. Heb. 3:12-14 – Preserve against unbelief

### II. What Does the Church Mean to the Child of God?

- A. Eph. 3:10-11 – A planned people
- B. Matt. 25:34 - A prepared people
- C. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 - A purchased people
- D. Titus 2:14 – A redeemed people
- E. Titus 2:14 – A possession of God

### III. Does the Church Mean Anything to You?

- A. Matt. 7:13-14 – Few will find it.
- B. Matt. 22:2, 14 – Many are called, few are chosen.

### IV. What is Required for Acceptance?

- A. Matt. 7:21-23 – "he that doeth the will of the Father"
- B. Rom. 1:1-5, 16 – Gospel is the power of God...
- C. Rom. 16:26 – To bring disciples to an obedient faith

## R.W. Officer

R.W. OFFICER (1845-1930) was arraigned before the Baptist Association which met with Poplar Creek Church, Limestone County, Ala., on the charge of heresy. Dr. J. R. Graves examined him as to his "soundness of faith."

Dr. Graves: "Do you believe in the doctrine of total depravity?"

Officer: "Paul said: 'Hold fast the form of sound words.' (2 Tim. 1: 13.) Peter said; 'If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.' (1 Pet. 4:11.) Is there any such form of sound words in the oracles of God as total depravity?"

Graves: "Total depravity is a doctrine which Baptists believe the Bible teaches; and if you don't believe the doctrine, you are unsound. What do you believe about it?"

Officer: "Am I to be examined by the Bible or by what the Baptists believe?"

Graves: "By the Bible."

Officer: "Then, what does the Bible say about total depravity?"

Officer: "I am willing for you to examine me; but how will you examine me by the Bible unless you take what the Bible says?"

Graves: "Do you believe in total depravity?"

Officer: "Do you believe you have a case of total depravity? I do not believe I have a case of it, and unless you avow it for yourself, I am unwilling to apply the doctrine to you or any of the rest of my brethren, if the Bible does not plainly teach it."

Graves: "I have been informed that you make baptism a condition of pardon; in other words, you teach water salvation. When is the sinner pardoned?"

Officer: "Paul says the sinner is freed from sin when he obeys from the heart the form of doctrine delivered him. (Rom. 6:17,18.) 'Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.' I take it that we rise from the waters of baptism to 'walk in newness of life.' (Rom. 6:1-5.)"

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Hash and Eggs,  
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given to him, wrote unto you; as also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, knowing *these things* beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own stedfastness. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen" (2 Pet. 3:14-18).

The term "wrest" is "to twist, to torture." Vincent's Word Studies, defines the term, saying, "originally, *to hoist with a windlass or screw*; to twist or dislocate the limbs on a rack. It is a singularly graphic word applied to the perversion of scripture."

With the warning comes also the responsibility to be prepared to "take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand...Stand therefore..." (Eph. 6:13-14). The apostle John understood prevalence of false teaching, saying, "believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 Jn. 4:1).

"Original sin, in Christian doctrine, the condition or state of sin into which each human being is born; also, the origin (i.e., the cause, or source) of this state. Traditionally, the origin has been ascribed to the sin of the first man, Adam, who disobeyed God in eating the

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forbidden fruit (of knowledge of good and evil) and, in consequence, transmitted his sin and guilt by heredity to his descendants” (Encyclopedia Britannica).

Concerning this doctrine, it has been affirmed, in an Encyclopedia Britannica report, “The doctrine has its basis in the Bible. Although the human condition (suffering, death, and a universal tendency toward sin) is accounted for by the story of the Fall of Adam in the early chapters of the book of Genesis, the Hebrew Scriptures say nothing about the transmission of hereditary sin to the entire human race.”

Follow the reasoning of the previous statement and answer this question: “If the doctrine has its basis in the Bible, how can the statement be true in light of the fact that “the Hebrew Scriptures say nothing about the transmission of hereditary sin to the entire human race. In the Gospels also there are no more than allusions to the notion of the Fall of Man and universal sin”? “No more than allusions!” An “Allusion, in literature, is an implied or indirect reference to a person, event, or thing or to a part of another text” (Ibid).

The documented truth: “St. Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430), first developed the doctrine of *original sin* in a logical and comprehensive format,” (maranathamedia). Will you place your eternal life in the doctrine of a man (354-430 A.D.) developed over 300 years after “the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints”? (Jude 3). ret

One Life, One Road  
Choose the One less Traveled  
Matthew 7:13-14

### The Church: Held in Esteem

M	F	E	W	C	H	O	S	E	N	J	C	M	K
A	O	B	E	D	I	E	N	T	E	U	H	F	Y
N	D	T	C	D	E	V	R	E	S	E	R	P	L
Y	I	O	H	P	O	S	S	E	S	S	I	O	N
C	S	G	C	L	R	P	N	F	K	Y	S	W	L
A	C	E	R	A	B	E	F	A	A	B	T	E	E
L	I	T	U	N	K	U	P	E	E	I	M	R	P
L	P	H	H	N	H	Y	I	A	W	L	T	J	S
E	L	E	C	E	F	W	K	L	R	E	C	H	O
D	E	R	E	D	E	E	M	E	D	E	Y	J	G

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>BUILD</b>	<b>TOGETHER</b>
<b>PLANNED</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>CLEANSED</b>
<b>REDEEMED</b>	<b>POSSESSION</b>	<b>FEW</b>
<b>DISCIPLE</b>	<b>MANY CALLED</b>	<b>GOSPEL</b>
<b>OBEDIENT</b>	<b>FAITH</b>	<b>POWER</b>
<b>FEW CHOSEN</b>	<b>PRESERVED</b>	<b>CHRIST</b>

(R.W. Officer, Continued from Pg. 3)

Graves: "But what does that mean?"  
Officer: It means what it says."  
Graves: “What do you believe are the conditions of pardon or remission of sins?”  
Officer: "I believe just what the Bible says on that subject."  
Graves: "But what is your interpretation of the Bible on that subject?"  
Officer: "Suppose I have no interpretation of the Bible on any subject."  
Graves: "But you have; all denominations have their interpretations of the Bible. We, as Baptists, teach that repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ secure pardon. What do you think about it?"  
Officer: "The Bible says: `Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.' (John 3:5.) 'He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.' (Mark 16:16.) To believers, Peter said: `Repent, and be baptized . . . for the remission of sins' (Acts 2: 38.)." (Edited) ret

## The Church: Held in Esteem

With Him is

### Plenteous Redemption

Psalms 130:7

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Phone 405.916.4723	Volume II	Joneschurchofchrist@gmail.com 0009

#### Weekly Reading:

Acts 10:1-48; 11:1-18

Romans 6:1-23; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12



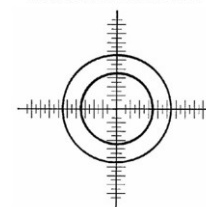
Luke 16:19-31

**Your Choice**  
**Choose Wisely**



Revelation 4:4

#### In the Crosshairs



### Hash and Eggs

**Hash:** “to chop into small pieces;” “to talk about often to find a solution;” “confuse, muddle” (Webster’s)  
**Eggs:** “a person possessing a specified quality”; “to incite to action” (Webster’s)

Conversations can often turn out to be a plate of hash and eggs: especially in the realm of religion. When Peter wrote concerning the day of the Lord, words of encouragement and warning, saying, “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for these things, give diligence that ye may be found in peace, without spot and blameless in his sight. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom

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