

SOULATATIME

Mark 15:16 — King James Version 1611

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature
Promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Inner City
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Most all pictures link

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Which Church Do I Go To?

Forsake not the Assembly of Yourselves

After a person gets saved, he is best able to grow by finding a good, KJV Bible-believing church with a reputable pastor. Since there are so many churches out there, and many of them born—again churches, there should be a criteria that one should use to choose a church that is going to best represent the church that Jesus started on the seashores of Galilee. There are few things the new believer should look for.

- The church should be a KJV only church: there are over 100 translations of the Bible, and only one can be right.
 The 1611 KJV Bible is what founded America, and it is the Word of God in the English language. A church should only use a KJV, not the KJV in conjunction with other Bibles.
- 2. The Baptists remained the closest to the teachings of Christ: Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, that makes him a Baptist, and this church has suffered the most persecution for remaining as close as possible to the teachings of the KJV (and in times past the Textus Receptus).
- 3. The church should have scheduled church-wide soul winning days: beyond people going soul winning on their own time, a church should have set aside a day(s) for church-wide soul winning to encourage people to go.
- 4. The church should express an interest in helping the poor by having some kind of bus ministry, van ministry or whatever the church is capable of to minister to the poor (Acts 4:34-35): one of the greatest functions of the church is to minister to the poor both spiritually and physically. A church should have some kind of authentic affiliation to the poor and not be condemning the poor from the church's pulpit.
- 5. The pastor should be reputable, hav-



ing only been married once and have having his family in order: the pastor should have a good report in the community and fit the requirements of a pastor given in <u>1 Timothy 3:1-7.</u>

- 6. People in the church should be kind and welcome you openly as a first time visitor; it should be easy to make friends: the kindness of the church members is a reflection on the spirit of the church. A pastor should be nurturing a friendly spirit.
- 7. The pastor should be willing to preach against sin but avoid discouraging the people: the pulpit is an fact a place to correct sin problems, and preaching against sin is welcome, but the pastor should not be condemning people and discouraging the poor.

There may be other things also you may be looking or in a church, but these are the things I felt were most important. If the pastor preaches from the King James and holds nothing back, he should be able to cover all of the doctrines his people need to learn and grow as Christians.



The Conversion of Paul the Apostle Jesus Presents the Gospel On the Road to Damascus

Paul the Apostle grew up at the feet of a Pharisee named Gamaliel, and he was taught in the strictest sect of the Pharisees. Since most of the Pharisees learned to hate Jesus, Paul was taught likewise. He began persecuting the Christians as a young man going from house to house and hailing men and women to prison. Paul was responsible for the imprisonment, persecution and death of many Christians when he began his days as a Pharisee. But there was something about Paul that made him different than the others; he had a certain amount of *compassion* that Jesus used to convert him.

Paul had been given papers to go to Damascus to imprison the people there, but on his way he saw a bright light that threw him off of his horse. Jesus came to Paul this way because he knew Paul's heart and the potential Paul had to be great servant for Christ. Without any rebuke from Paul, Jesus convinced him to be saved and he then humbled himself to Jesus. Paul lost his sight for quite some time before he was able to minister for God, and he spent time with the Apostle Peter and others learning about Christian doctrines.

Paul set out on his journeys as a missionary to win people to Jesus and teach the correct doctrines of Christ, and he was met with much persecution himself. It says in <u>2 Corinthians 11:26</u> that Paul suffered great torturing for the cause of Christ because many of this teachings opposed the teachings of the religious leaders of the providences where he went. Sometimes he was in opposition to the Jews, other times it was an opposition to the Pagans. But Paul was known as the greatest soul winner that ever lived outside of Jesus Christ.

Paul went on to write 14 of the 27 New Testament books, the most writing in the New Testament by any prophet. Many of this teachings were to set the churches in order that he had started on his missionary journeys because some of them fell into great abominations, and some of their teachings became heresy (such as the problem with the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17).

Paul spent a great deal of time teaching the principle of salvation by grace and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9), and the book of Romans deals with repeatedly (Romans Chapters 3-4). Far too often people feel that their good works, if outweigh they their bad works at the time of death, will qualify them to enter into Heaven, but that is not true. Good works are the expected reasonable service of a man to his God and do not qualify anyone to enter into Heaven. Salvation is the result of faith



Paul On the Road to Damascus, pencil by Jim Robinson. Although his early days were full of persecuting Christians, Paul spent the rest of his life preaching the gospel after Jesus met him and converted him. Order print.

in Jesus Christ and the work he did on the cross *only*, and it involves no other ritual or doctrine to be saved from Hell. A person has to realize that he is on his way to Hell and only Jesus can save him by washing away all of the man's sins with the blood He shed on the cross. This was one of Paul's most important messages.

Tattoos and Piercings Their Origins and Meaning

Tattoos today are considered *body art*, and the deep-seated historical meaning of them has been lost in a candy-coated media personality. Very often people today are finding tattoos a popular culture for excitement to be a part of the in-club, whether it be a drug addition, motorcycle club, alcoholic social, or simply to keep up with peer pressure. Tattoos have always had a certain kind of mystique that some people are attracted to. But where do they come from and what was the initial intent for tattoos?

The origin of tattooing may be found in the Bible as far back as 600 BC in the days of Elijah (1 Kings 18:20-40). Elijah, the prophet of Jehovah, made a contest with the evil Baal priests to call fire down from their god on a sacrificial bullock lain over wood. The Baal Priests then tried repeatedly to call upon their god to bring fire on their sacrifice at Elijah's challenge. The Bible says "And they (the Ball Priests) cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them" in an effort to appease their god to get the fire. After they failed, Elisha mocked them and he called fire from Heaven on his bullock from Jehovah with ease.

Since tattooing is a form of cutting into the skin (with a needle) it is likened unto the Baal Priests cutting themselves. Tattoos are similarly an act of ritual to Satanic gods, although today those gods, or fallen angels, are disguised in attractive personalities in media. Many of the images in tattoo studios are Satanic idols used to worship demons. Marking and cutting into the body is a sin in the eyes of God, and tattoos and piercings represent the black magic of underground occults.



The Common Denominator When Jesus Spoke: *Hope*

When one reads the gospels, he gets a feeling for the words of Jesus—when Jesus spoke there was something different about His words than any other man. Whereby man can make errors, and even the prophets put things into their own words (though their prophecy was without error—they were sinners), Jesus is sinless.

Jesus taught many things while he was here, and some of his lessons were hard to learn. He called sin sin, but he also showed an unparalleled love for mankind. We have to live in our world of sin—Jesus went back to Heaven. He doesn't live here. The more we hate one another and defraud one another, the worse we make this world for us and our children. And God leaves us to live in our sin. I do believe, however, that if you are saved and you fear God and try to follow His commandments, He will always help you in the most distressful times of your life when you have no control over the events of your life.

Jesus said he knew man and what was in man in John 2:23-25, and He did not speak too highly of man. And to think like Him, if we could for a moment, thousands of years of man on the earth still yielded a creation that refused to fear Him in its entirety, although a portion of that creation chose to fear God and live by His commandments. The human race in general failed to honor God, and we live in our abominations. But when Jesus spoke in the gospels, Acts and Revelation, he had a sense of *hope* for the human race. That hope comes from the anticipation for Jesus to reign on the Throne of Israel where He will rule the world with the leadership of God, not

Although many buildings made by man may be *like* the buildings Jesus will erect, they are yet nothing in comparison to the glory of God's cities.

man's philosophies. That is the hope that we should anticipate every day, especially when we read the words of Christ. It seems that in everything He said there is hope for God's creation of man, even though man has disproven himself time and time again. Much of that hope comes from the few people who chose to fear God in history and still do today, that there might be a remnant of whom God can be pleased to bless the whole race of men. There is a lot to be said about the believer who is serving God today, and he may be the reason why we haven't had a destructive world catastrophe yet. Luke 4:18-19 reflects Jesus' words of hope for us.



Jesus gave us the prophecy of the last days in <u>Matthew 24</u>. Although it contains a great amount of suffering, it represents our trial before Jesus comes to reign and the *hope* for of the human race thereafter. In <u>Revelation 21:1-8</u>, God gives us the glory of a New Heaven and a New Earth which is the sign of hope for us that we can anticipate every day—that when Jesus reigns it will be a glorious kingdom with no suffering, no war, no slavery, no social inequality nor discouragement.

A Man's Testimony Being the Best You Can Be to Win Someone to Jesus

God commanded us to go soul winning, and there can be no greater gift we can give back to God than to give the gospel to others with the intent of getting them saved. But many times people are not just looking at our fervency to go soul winning, they are also looking at our *testimony*. James 1:27 explains pure religion as keeping your self unspotted from the world, which means keeping yourself from sin so that you are blameless.

A good testimony in a man is hard to find today. Most of us fall for cussing, concupiscence and many other sins that are a part of our daily life. But a man who strives for a good testimony is a prize in the eyes of God. Although a good testimony is our reasonable service to God, it renders us with potential for a blessing from God. Also, people can not point a finger of hypocrisy at us when we go soul winning if we are blameless.

The foundation of the Christian life is the four posts: Bible, prayer, soul winning and church (see <u>Soulwinner Issue 8 page 2)</u>. If you maintain those four things and actively participate in them, there is a good chance your testimony will be sound. That way when you present the gospel, you are not being a hypocrite with whom people can point out your faults and be hesitant to get saved. It is impossi-

ble to be perfect, but we can consciously be working toward a good testimony.

Close communication with God is a way of having a sound foundation, and you get that by your prayer life and Bible reading. Bringing your needs to God in prayer and talking to him honestly, as if he is your best friend while at the same time reverencing Him as God, will help a man to confess his sins to God and make them right. The peer pressure around us is always provoking us to sin and to veer away from that which is holy and pure because the world is not holy and pure. A close tight relationship with God then reduces the chance of peer pressure effecting our testimony of doing the right thing and having the traits of a Christian.

Reading the Bible makes us knowledgeable about the things of God, the history of the world, the condition of man, and the laws God has for us to live peaceably. It is also a love letter from God, and as the article above indicates, it is a source of hope for the human race. It is possible for us to have a good testimony, although we are imperfect, and that testimony will go a long way in the eyes of a new convert or someone who is interested in the gospel.

