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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 5

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Does the Bible Authorize Women to Preach Publicly?

Allen Webster



God has always had roles for women in His grand plan of redemption. In *All the Women of the Bible*, Herbert Lockyear discusses more than 160 women named in Scripture, including some of its most famous and important characters. It was a woman who carried baby Jesus and delivered him to the world in the Incarnation (Luke 2:7).

At the same time, men and women are different by design and have been assigned different roles. We must turn to Scripture, not culture, to determine God's plans for each.

- Some differences relate to creation and original intent (Genesis 2:18-25). Physiological/anatomical differences show that God intended women to be mothers and men to be fathers.
- Some differences relate to function and assignment (1 Timothy 2:8-15). All on God's team have equal status, but not all play the same position. He assigns different tasks, roles, and spheres to each gender.

These Bible truths do not sit well in a society fighting culture wars. Many want

to remove all gender distinctions in the home, church, and society. In religious circles over the last seventy-five years, social pressure has gradually opened the doors for women to do everything that men do—including preach before men. Did God change His Word in that period to match changing culture? No, Scripture has said—and meant—the same thing for two thousand years (Jude 1:3).

Galatians 3:28 is at the crux of this discussion. It has become a slogan—"neither male nor female"—for uniform roles in Christianity. What does it mean—and not mean?

THE SLOGAN INTERPRETATION MISSES THE POINT OF THE VERSE

Each citizen in the Roman world was classified by three criteria, recognized by this verse: nationality (Jew/Greek), status (free/enslaved), and gender (male/female). In Galatia—fairly typical for the time—slaves were considered property, women were mostly confined, and Gentiles were disparaged by the Jewish community. A Gentile, slave, or woman was persona non grata in a Jewish service. The

gospel removed these criteria for admittance into God's kingdom and worship. The Spirit, "with one stroke of the pen ... solves the three greatest problems of human society—peace, liberty, fraternity."¹

The immediate context of Galatians 3:28 discusses the Christian's inheritance and salvation from sin. Consider an analysis of the passage:

- How were the Galatians God's children—by circumcision or by faith/baptism? By obedient faith. Paul's point in this place is that baptism changed their relationship with God, not their relationship with each other.²
- Now that they were God's children, must they be circumcised to enjoy full fellowship? No, "There is neither Jew nor Greek."
- Who is a descendant of Abraham—those who keep the law? No, those who are Christ's (3:29). Now being a "son" of Abraham has nothing to do with genetics or gender. All faithful Christians—male/female, Jew/Gentile—are "sons" and qualified for the inheritance.

Jesus Removed Racial Barriers: There is neither Jew nor Greek. The first divider, racial antagonism, was neutralized by removing the preferred status of Jews. Since the cross, an uncircumcised Greek is no less attractive to God than a blue-blooded Jew.

While Jesus came to unite, Moses' Law was designed to divide. It created differences to make a separate, holy people and to keep Abraham's line intact.

- Individually, it separated Jews and Gentiles by forbidding marriage between them (Deuteronomy 7:3).
- Nationally, it forbade Israel from making covenants with nations (Judges 2:2).

- Socially, relations were hindered by the Jews' kosher diet (Leviticus 11).
- Commercially, interaction was limited by Sabbath laws (Deuteronomy 22:11; Nehemiah 7:3).

Once Jesus finished His work (Galatians 4:4), Moses' Law was repealed. It was nailed to the cross and replaced with the gospel (Colossians 2:14). This event occurred about sixteen years before Paul wrote Galatians. The majority of Jews, though, still clung to that outdated religion.

Jesus Removed Status Barriers: There is neither bond nor free. The second divider, rank, was corrected by declaring all men free and rich in Christ (1 Corinthians 7:22; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Galatians 5:1; James 1:9–10). No man gets preferential treatment because he is rich and free, and no one is disadvantaged because he is poor, uneducated, or a slave.

Jesus Removed Gender Barriers: There is neither male nor female. The third great divider, gender, was corrected by making both men and women a "holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices" (1 Peter 2:5). God had no female priests in the Old Testament, but now half of His temple is filled with them. This authorizes women to offer up their worship directly to God through their High Priest (Jesus) instead of going through male priests on earth. It does not, however, authorize them to have authority over man in his worship (1 Timothy 2:12).

Galatians 3:28, in a nutshell, means that when the invitation is offered Sunday, God is just as happy to see a woman walk down the aisle as a man (cf. John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 2:11).

THE SLOGAN INTERPRETATION IGNORES THE CONTEXT OF THE BOOK

Good Bible students always look at context. They consider a book's purpose and examine closely the sentences around a verse in question. What is the purpose of Galatians? What problem is Paul addressing? Is it church leadership? Women preaching to men? Shared authority?

Paul's purpose was to correct Jewish teachers who were undermining the inspired conclusion of the Jerusalem Conference on Jewish-Gentile relations (Galatians 1:6–9; Acts 15:22–29). In Galatians

2, Paul introduces the book's two main questions:

- Must Gentiles be circumcised and keep the law to be saved? (2:1–10).
- Could Gentiles enjoy fellowship with Jewish Christians without it? (2:11–21).

Thus, it is about terms of salvation (2:1–10) and levels of fellowship (2:11–21).

Galatians 2 sheds light on Galatians 3. The gospel opened the fellowship of the church to all six categories—Jew/Greek, bond/free, and male/female. Salvation was now accessible to the widest range of individuals. Enslaved Gentile women (the worst combination to a Jew) were on equal footing with free Jewish males (the best). Galatians 3:28 is not about whether women can preach, but whether they can attend the fellowship meal after the service!

THE SLOGAN INTERPRETATION CONTRADICTS PAUL'S OTHER WRITINGS

Galatians was written by the same apostle who wrote the four great New Testament passages on gender (1 Corinthians 11:2–16; 14:33–35; Ephesians 5:22–33; 1 Timothy 2:8–15). Those who cheer Paul in Galatians 3:28 as a broad-minded genius jeer him in 1 Timothy 2 as a narrow-minded bigot. To them, he goes from a freethinker to a woman-hater in a few pages. To criticize Paul's writings, of course, is to slander one of Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) and—more seriously—to castigate the Holy Spirit who inspired him (1 Corinthians 7:40; 14:37; 2 Timothy 3:16).

Consider the logic. The God of truth does not give contradictory doctrine. He is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). All truth harmonizes, so all verses must be considered in any interpretation. Did Paul really mean to throw out all gender distinctions in Galatians 3 only to reinstate them in 1 Timothy 2? Did he intend to say that men and women have equal authority in one place and then say that "the head of woman is man" in another? (1 Corinthians 11:3). Did he empower women to preach to men and then to restrict them to silence in the churches? (1 Corinthians 14:33–34). Such an interpretation of Galatians 3:28 is implausible even on the surface.



Although this list is not exhaustive, Scripture shows authorized actions for women include:

- Confessing Christ before others, including men (Matthew 10:32–33; Romans 10:10).
- Speaking in “hymns and spiritual songs” in a mixed assembly (Ephesians 5:19; Hebrews 2:12).
- Participating in personal evangelism studies in mixed company (Acts 18:26).
- Supporting evangelism (Philippians 4:3).
- Older women teaching younger women and children (Titus 2:3–4; 2 Timothy 3:15).
- Church work (such as children’s and women’s Bible classes) (Romans 16:1).

A summary of the gender-specific passages shows Galatians 3:28 does not include freedom for women to:

- Publicly present the word of God to mixed audiences (1 Corinthians 14:29–35). In worship, women are to “learn in silence” (quietness) (1 Timothy 2:11).
- Act as a representative of the church (administer church discipline) (cf. Matthew 18:17–20; 1 Corinthians 5:3–5).
- Lead prayer in the presence of men (1 Timothy 2:8). This prohibition is not limited to formal worship assemblies.
- Assume leadership of the assembly (lead singing, preside over any part of service) (1 Corinthians 14:15, 29–35; Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:11–12).
- Be the head of a marriage and home (Ephesians 5:23–33).

Some argue that Galatians 3:28 is meant to be God’s final word, and the other passages simply reflected ancient culture and would not forbid women larger roles today. This view is false for five reasons.

First, it overlooks that Galatians 3:28 itself is cultural. Written to the churches in Galatia (Antioch, Lystra, Derbe, Iconium), it dealt with immediate circumstances (1:6–9).

Second, Greek culture did not necessarily forbid women as worship leaders. The oracle at Delphi, for instance, was well-known. Women served as priestesses.

Third, although some teaching is based upon a custom limited to a location or time (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:2–16), the context shows when this is the case. In 1 Corinthians 11, for instance, the head covering was a “custom” (11:16). It says, “If it is shameful for a woman to be shorn . . .” (11:6).

Fourth, the context shows this teaching transcended time and culture. Paul gave two reasons for women’s assignments—and neither involved custom or culture:

- Man was given precedence in creation. Gender assignments come from the fact that God made Adam first (Genesis 2:21–22; 1 Corinthians 11:7–9; 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:13). God does nothing without purpose, so He had roles in mind on day six. Genesis 1–3 presents three basic ideas about men and women. First, it affirms human sexual distinction—male and female (Genesis 1:26–27). Second, it affirms equality—both made in God’s image (1:26–27). Third, it affirms different functions and status for the sexes (2:7, 18–23). God addressed Adam as the representative. Eve was made from man and for man (2:18–24; 1 Corinthians 11:9).
- Woman was deceived by Satan (1 Timothy 2:14). After the fall, God said to Eve, “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you” (Genesis 3:16). Jesus did not repeal this judgment. Salvation does not cancel childbirth pain nor remove sexual attraction; thus, it does not cancel God’s order of submission.

Fifth, Paul’s teachings were for all churches in all times (1 Corinthians 14:33; cf. 4:17). He gave the same teaching (1 Corinthians 14; 1 Timothy 2) to two different cities two decades apart.

In summary, Galatians 3:28 is not talking about who delivers Sunday’s message or who may pass the Lord’s Supper on Sunday, but on people having access to God through Christ.

Endnotes

¹ J. G. Murphy, “Union with Christ and Its Results,” *The Biblical Illustrator* (2011), https://biblehub.com/sermons/auth/murphy/union_with_christ_and_its_results.htm.

² Roy H. Lanier, “Galatians 3:28—Does It Teach Egalitarianism?” *Spiritual Sword* 27.2 (1996), 21.



In God’s Image

When God wanted to create fish, He spoke to the sea. When God wanted to create trees, He spoke to the earth. But when God wanted to create man, He turned to Himself. “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’” (Genesis 1:26).

If you take a fish out of the water, it will die; when you remove a tree from soil, it will die. When man is disconnected from God, he dies (John 15:1–7).

God is our natural environment. We were created to live in His presence. We have to be connected to Him because it is only in Him that life exists. Let us stay connected to God.

We recall that water without fish is still water, but a fish without water is nothing. The soil without a tree is still soil, but the tree without soil is soon nothing. God without man is still God, but man without God is nothing.

“I am the vine, you are the branches.”

JOHN 15:5

God’s Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God’s Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ’s Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit’s Word: 1 Corinthians 2:12–13

Sinner’s Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner’s Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner’s Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner’s Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian’s Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian’s Work: James 2:24

Christian’s Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian’s Endurance: Revelation 2:10

Watch
on youtube





He's Listening

A man went to his doctor to do something about his bad hearing. He said, "Everyone in my family is complaining about my hearing!" The doctor said he could help and gave him a small hearing aid, saying, "See how this works, and come back in a month to let me know." When the man went back, he said, "Everything is working great!" The doctor replied, "I bet your family is happy about that!" The man said, "I have not told them yet. I just sit and listen. So far, I have changed my will three times!"



Good Sermon

After a long and boring sermon, the people filed out, saying nothing to the preacher. Near the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons.

"Preacher, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!" He was thrilled. "No one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why."

"Well, it reminded me of the peace of God because it passed all understanding and the love of God because it endured forever!"



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Take Care of Your Mother

As Jesus hung on the cross, near death, his mother stood nearby. As He looked at her with John standing near her, He cried, "Woman, behold your son!" Then, looking at the disciple whom He loved, He said, "Behold your mother!" From that moment on, John took Mary into his own home (John 19:25-27). Even while in extreme agony and pain, Jesus made sure that His mother would be cared for.

As we age, the opportunity for us to care for our mothers becomes more apparent. What a blessing it is to be able to serve the mother who loved, nurtured, and cared for us during our young lives.

It is time to repay for all the home-cooked meals, the made beds, clean

clothes, bedtime stories, and reassuring embraces. She read the Bible to us, instructed us in God's principles of right and wrong, and taught us by her example of faithful living. It is now time to be sure that she has all of the care that will assure a safe and fulfilled life.

From the Law of Moses to the letters of the New Testament, children are commanded to honor their parents (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-2; Colossians 3:20). Although the Scriptures seem to be addressing children still at home, the principle of honoring one's father and mother has lifelong application. For those who still have your mother, please follow Jesus' example. Take care of your mother as she once took care of you.—Jay Launius



Just for Fun Word Search

Find the words in blue.
Words go in any direction.

"We see **Jesus**, who was made a little lower than the **angels**, for the suffering of death **crowned** with **glory** and **honor**, that He, by the **grace** of God, might taste **death** for **everyone**. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all **things** and by whom are all things, in bringing many **sons** to glory, to make the **captain** of their **salvation** perfect through **sufferings**. For both He who **sanctifies** and those who are being sanctified are all of **one**, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them **brethren**."

—HEBREWS 2:9-11

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

About the Church of Christ

In order for a church to be pleasing to God, it *must* be the church of the first century. Let's consider some reasons why.

1. The church of the first century was designed by God. The church was in God's eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:9–11). Daniel said the church would stand forever (Daniel 2:44).
2. The church of the first century was built by Jesus (Matthew 16:18), and was purchased with the blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28).
3. The church of the first century had a head, and the head is Jesus (Ephesians 1:22).
4. The church of the first century was not to be changed. Any who take away from the Word of God will have their names

taken away from the Book of Life (cf. Revelation 22:18–19).

5. The church of the first century cannot be improved by any changes men would make.

The church of Christ has no creed book, church manual, or catechism. Its standard of authority for all matters of faith, doctrine, and practice is the teaching of the New Testament (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:3).

Its destination is heaven, the eternal realm of the redeemed (1 Corinthians 15:24; Philippians 3:20–21; 2 Peter 1:10–11).

The different churches that have come into existence since the first one are a result of a departure from and a corruption

of the doctrine and practice of the New Testament church (Acts 20:28–31; 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4; 1 Timothy 4:1–3; 2 Timothy 4:3–4).

The facts about the church of Christ are clearly set forth in the New Testament, and the facts concerning the origin of other churches are available in history. We would do well to become acquainted with these facts in order to build our religious and spiritual life accordingly.

Investigate the church of Christ in your community and compare it to the church in the New Testament. —compiled from material from Charles Pogue and Hugh Fulford

"The churches of Christ greet you."

ROMANS 16:16

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 31:5

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Chapter to Chapter - Deuteronomy" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 31:3 More About Jesus, Would I Know: 1. The angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26–31); 2. Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1); 3. A manger (Luke 2:7); 4. Shepherds (Luke 2:15–16); 5. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11); 6. Egypt (Matthew 2:13–15); 7. Sitting among the teachers, listening and asking questions (Luke 2:46–47); 8. John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13–15); 9. The Spirit or a dove (Matthew 3:16–17); 10. Forty days (Matthew 4:1–2); 11. Turning water into wine (John 2:1–11); 12. Peter, Andrew, James, and John (Matthew 4:18–22); 13. Born again (born of water and the Spirit) (John 3:3–5); 14. "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:39–41); 15. Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38–42); 16. He raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43–44); 17. Five loaves, two fish (Matthew 14:17–21); 18. He walked on the water toward Jesus (Matthew 14:28–31); 19. To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:36–40); 20. He denied knowing Jesus (Matthew 26:69–75); 21. Simon of Cyrene (Luke 23:26); 22. The first day of the week (Matthew 28:1–6).

V. 31:4 Scrambled Titles: New Testament: 1. Titus; 2. Romans; 3. Timothy; 4. Corinthians; 5. Revelation; 6. Thessalonians; 7. Galatians; 8. Colossians; 9. Philippians; 10. Ephesians.

Which Case of Conversion Shows...? 1. Eunuch (Acts 8:26–40); 2. 3000 on Pentecost (Acts 2:38); 3. Eunuch (Acts 8:38–39); 4. Jailer (Acts 16:33).

Important questions: 1. Yes (Mark 16:16); 2. Yes (Acts 8:35–40); 3. Personal answer.

New Testament Bible Characters

Find answers in Matthew 3:13–17; 8:5–13; 9:9; 26:14–16; Luke 1:5–13, 26–31; 10:38–42; 22:54–62; 23:26; John 4:7–26; 11:38–44; 13:23; 18:28–19:16; 20:24–29; 21:20, 24; Acts 1:23–26; 2:14–41; 4:36–37; 7:54–60; 9:1–6; Colossians 4:14; 1 Timothy 1:2. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. Who announced the birth of Jesus to Mary? _____
2. Who baptized Jesus in the Jordan River? _____
3. Which disciple denied Jesus three times? _____
4. Who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver? _____
5. Which disciple was known as "the beloved disciple"? _____
6. Who doubted Jesus' resurrection until he saw Him? _____
7. Who was the first martyr of the church? _____
8. Whose conversion began on the road to Damascus? _____
9. Who preached the first gospel sermon on Pentecost? _____
10. Who was the mother of John the Baptist? _____
11. Who was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot? _____
12. Whose was the servant Jesus healed? _____
13. Who helped Paul and Silas when they escaped from prison in Philippi? _____
14. Who was the disciple known as "the son of encouragement"? _____
15. Who was the tax collector that became a disciple of Jesus? _____
16. Who met Jesus in Samaria at the well? _____
17. Who carried Jesus' cross? _____
18. Who was the sister of Martha and Lazarus who sat at Jesus' feet? _____
19. Who was the Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to be crucified? _____
20. Who was raised from the dead after four days in the tomb? _____
21. Who was the young man Paul mentored in the faith? _____
22. Who was the physician and author of Luke and Acts? _____

Christ in the Old Testament

Genesis—He is the Creator (1:1; John 1:1–3; Colossians 1:16).

Exodus—He is the Lamb of God (12:5–7, 13; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7).

Numbers—He is the Star of Jacob (24:17; Matthew 2:2; Revelation 22:16).

Deuteronomy—He is the Prophet (18:15; Acts 3:22–23).

Joshua—He is the Captain of the Lord's host (5:13–15; Hebrews 2:10; Revelation 19:11–14).

Judges—He is the messenger of Jehovah (13:18–22; John 6:38).

Ruth—He is our kinsman Redeemer (4:14–15; Galatians 4:4–5; Hebrews 2:14–15).

Samuel—He is the rejected King (1 Samuel 8:7; John 1:11).

Kings and Chronicles—He is Lord of lords and King of kings (1 Kings 8:23; Revelation 19:16).

Ezra and Nehemiah—He is the Lord of heaven and earth (Nehemiah 9:6; Matthew 11:25)..

Job—He is our Redeemer (19:25; Titus 2:14–15).

Psalms—He is the Son of God (2:7; Hebrews 1:5).

Proverbs—He is our wisdom (8:22–30; 1 Corinthians 1:24).

Ecclesiastes—He is the forgotten wise man (9:14–16; Mark 6:3).

Song of Solomon—Jesus is the Bridegroom who initiates love for His bride (Song of Solomon 2:4; 1 John 4:19).

Ezekiel—He is the one who sits on the throne (1:26; Revelation 5:6–7).

Daniel—He is the smiting stone (2:34–35, 44; Matthew 21:44; 1 Peter 2:6–8).

Hosea—He is David's great King (3:5; Luke 1:32–33).

Joel—He is the Lord of bounty (2:23–26; Acts 2:16–21).

Amos—He is the rescuer of Israel (9:11–12; Acts 15:15–17).

Obadiah—He is the Deliverer (1:21; Romans 11:26).

Jonah—He is the risen Savior (1:17; cf. Matthew 12:40).

Micah—He is the everlasting God (5:2; John 1:1; Hebrews 7:3).

Nahum—He is our stronghold (1:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10).

Habakkuk—He is the judge of our faith (2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11).

Zechariah—He is the smitten Shepherd (13:7; Matthew 26:31).

Malachi—He is the Sun of Righteousness (4:2; Luke 1:78–79; John 8:12).

"Search the Scriptures . . . which testify of me."

JOHN 5:39

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

Recommended Resource

From Our House to Your House

youtube.com/@HousetoHouseHTH

"From Our House to Your House" is a series of discussions centered on building a godly home. It highlights the significance of creating a home environment filled with joy, grace, and mercy, ensuring that each family member feels valued and supported.

I want to learn more about the Bible!

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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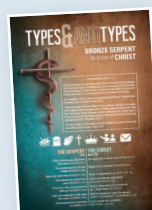
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- ☐ Blessed Are the Merciful
- ☐ The Blessing of Tears
- ☐ Satan's Calling Card
- ☐ Come Home to the God Who Runs



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|  | ☐ Where the Omnipresent God Isn't |  | ☐ God's Refining Shop |  | ☐ If I Don't Preach on Hell |  | ☐ Practical Suggestions for Learning the Bible |



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- ☐ Types and Antitypes - Bronze Serpent



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VOLUME 31:5



Quick Scriptures for

Daily Christian Living

Living the Christian life is a daily walk of faith, guided by God's Word. These carefully selected Scriptures are designed to encourage, strengthen, and direct you in everyday situations—from prayer and decision-making to trials and relationships. Keep these verses close at hand, meditate on them often, and let them shape your thoughts, words, and actions each day.

DAILY WALK



Matthew 6:33 | Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Colossians 3:23 | Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.

1 Corinthians 10:31 | Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

PRAYER AND TRUST



1 Thessalonians 5:17 | Pray without ceasing.

Philippians 4:6 | Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Proverbs 3:5 | Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.

SPEECH AND CONDUCT



Ephesians 4:29 | Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Colossians 4:6 | Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

James 1:19 | My beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

TRIALS AND STRENGTH



1 Corinthians 10:13 | No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not

allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

James 1:2 | My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.

1 Peter 5:7 | Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

LOVE AND FORGIVENESS



John 13:34 | A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Ephesians 4:32 | Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Luke 6:31 | Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

CONTENTMENT AND HOPE



1 Thessalonians 5:18 | In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Hebrews 13:5 | Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Colossians 3:2 | Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Before applying these Scriptures to daily living, make sure your life is right with God. The Bible teaches that we must obey the gospel to be saved (2 Thessalonians 1:7–9). Have you heard the Word, believed in Christ, repented of your sins, confessed His name, and been baptized for the remission of sins? (Romans 10:17; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9–10). Only then can you truly walk in the light and enjoy the blessings of a faithful Christian life (1 John 1:7).

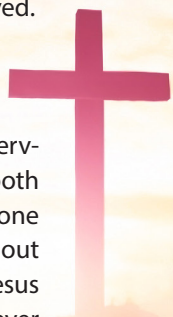


The Love of Jesus

Jesus' love is visible, universal, individual, and costly. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). Jesus loved by leaving heaven, living among us, and ultimately laying down His life. His compassion drew Him to the hurting—He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and wept with the grieving.

Love defines Jesus' mission: He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). His cross is the supreme demonstration of that love—"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Love also shapes how He expects us to live—"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another" (John 13:34). The command itself was not new, but the standard was: We are to love as He loved.

Jesus' love transforms priorities. It reaches the outcast, forgives the guilty, and invites the undeserving. Because His love is both personal and universal, no one is beyond His concern or out of His reach. The love of Jesus has appeared so "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).





Are You Looking for a Church?

A lot of us are searching for a church. Some people want a place that feels like family. Others look for strong preaching, uplifting singing, or programs for children. These are good things—but the most important question is: Is it the church of the Bible?

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, “I will build My church.” Notice—He did not promise to build churches (plural), but His church (singular). The church belongs to Him. It bears His name, follows His teaching, and exists for His glory. When we read the book of Acts, we see what that church looked like in its beginning—devoted to the apostles’ doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42).

The Bible never describes Christians as joining a church of their choice. Instead, those who were saved were “added to the church” by the Lord Himself (Acts 2:47). The same thing happens today when we obey the gospel.

The church is more than a building or a Sunday routine—it is a family, a body, a kingdom. Paul wrote, “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually” (1 Corinthians 12:27). Each member matters. Each one has a place.

If you are looking for the church that belongs to Christ, open your Bible and look for the one that teaches what the first Christians taught, worships how they worshiped, and lives how they lived. That is where you will find the church of the Bible.

We are not perfect, but we are striving to follow the perfect Savior and His perfect Word, and we are striving to be that church.

Are you looking for a church? We are looking for you. Let’s open God’s Word together and grow closer to Him—and to each other. —Matt Wallin

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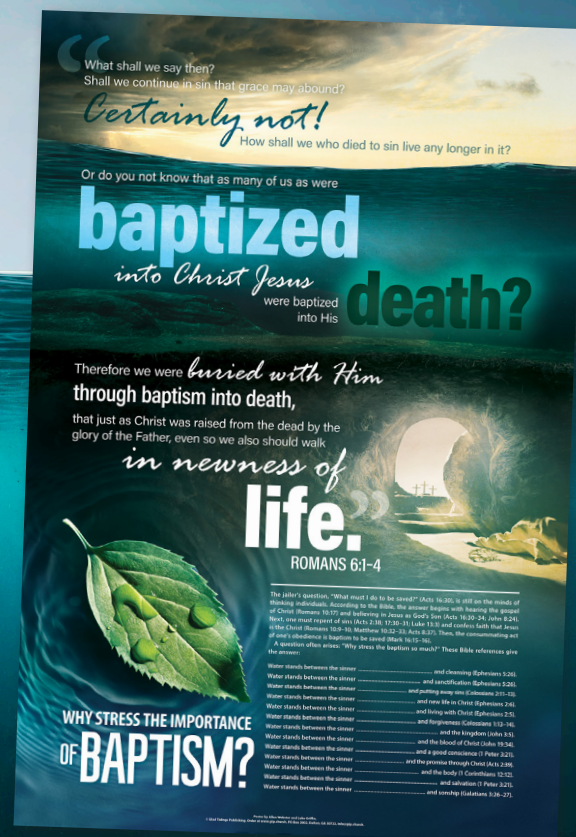
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