

EXALTING CHRIST · EQUIPPING BELIEVERS · EVANGELIZING THE WORLD

# CORNERSTONE

MAY - JUNE 2024

## The Seven Signs In John's Gospel <sup>2</sup>

Wine, A Wedding,  
and the Universe <sup>4</sup>

The Doctrine of  
Headship <sup>10</sup>

...and more



...JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE · EPHESIANS 2:20

## That Rock Was Christ

*"He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'"*

*Matthew 16:15*

# Editorial

**I**N 2013, I was in Caesarea Philippi, located twenty-five miles north of the Sea of Galilee at the southwest base of Mount Hermon, three miles south of Lebanon. In the Lord's time this scenic area was dedicated to the worship of Pan, the Greek nature deity. A highway to Damascus snaked through there and travelers often stopped to make sacrifices. At the bottom of a cliff lay a cave and a series of idols lined rockface crannies nearby. According to Josephus a powerful stream of water flowed through the cavern to a very deep pool in the cave. Our Jewish guide explained that to pagan minds, the cave offered a gate to the underworld, known as the "Gates of Hades." He passionately ended his talk saying, "in the midst of all this idolatry, Peter proclaimed that Christ was the Son of the living God."

The Lord Jesus had asked His disciples: "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Then the Lord responded, "But who do you say that I am?" (vv. 13-15).

The Lord still asks that penetrating question today. Like then there are many wrong ideas. Atheists, agnostics, and humanists either deny there was a historical Jesus or at best acknowledge Him as a great teacher. Various cults rank Him as the greatest created being. Many religions place Him among the great prophets. All these erroneous responses and others fail to honor Him for who He truly is.


There is only one correct answer. Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." In response, the Lord Jesus said: "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (vv. 16-18).

Throughout the Old Testament, the word "Rock" consistently symbolized God. Referring to Israel, Moses spoke of the "Rock who begot them," the "Rock of his salvation," and declared that their enemies' rock is not like "our Rock" (Deut. 32:15, 18, 31). Peter's declaration acknowledged Christ as both Messiah and the eternal Son of God. The Lord agreed, ascribing the divine symbol of "Rock" to Himself, proclaiming that through belief in Him sinners can be saved (Exo. 17:6; John 3:16; 1 Cor. 10:4). Upon this confession Christ continues to build His Church today.

Pantheism, deism, and atheism, yesteryear and today have this in common. They all deny the deity of Christ, attempting to veil the glory of the One who is the very image of God (2 Cor. 4:3-6; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3). The Bible stands apart, affirming that Christ is God. It is through the Son of God that we know the living God. It is through Christ our Savior that we enter into a relationship with God our Father. The Lord Himself said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me... And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 14:6; 17:3).

To truly reverence Christ, one must acknowledge Him as God. Christ said in John 5:23, "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him." Notice the words "just as." To truly honor Him one must praise, worship, and obey Him as they would the Father.

Someday Christ will relegate the false gods, cults, and religions of the world to the dustbin of history. The Gates of Hades shall not prevail against truth. Sadly, these doctrines of demons will lead their adherents to eternal punishment (John 3:18; 1 Cor. 10:20-21; 1 Tim. 4:1). Our desire is that all would see Christ for who He truly is, God manifested in the flesh. For "whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God... and this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 4:15; 5:11-12).

"Who do you say that I am?" How one answers reveals the condition of their soul. In Christ is life and He has authority to grant eternal life to all who believe on Him. For He is God, Messiah, and the Redeemer who died for us at Calvary. What is your response? 



### by George T Ferrier

George lives in southern Ontario and fellowships at Bethel-Park Bible Chapel (Brantford, ON). Commended to the Lord's work in 2013 by Bridlewood Bible Chapel (Ottawa), he engages in an itinerant preaching and teaching ministry at North American assemblies, camps, and conferences. He is on the board of Cornerstone Magazine Inc. where he also serves as editor.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 The Seven Signs In John's Gospel

*Bob Upton*

4 Wine, A Wedding, and the Universe

*Joe Wilbur*

6 Come & Hear:  
A Canceled Baseball Game  
The Testimony of John Jackson

8 Report: Door-To-Door Encounters

*Dwight Sabourin*

10 Foundations of the Faith:  
The Doctrine of Headship

*Gary Weeks*

13 When God Remembers

*David F. Brauch*

15 Issues & Answers

*Rick Morse*

16 News & Notices



# THE SEVEN SIGNS in JOHN'S GOSPEL



**A**s I was driving up the north shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota, I saw a green road sign pointing to a scenic overlook off the highway. I had driven past that sign for years, but never stopped to see the view. I would even tell others that I saw the sign, yet I never took the time to visit the scene itself. One day I finally decided to follow the sign and it brought me to a short, winding road up a steep hill. The scene opened into a magnificent overlook of Lake Superior with rocky cliffs over 1000 feet tall.

This was a good lesson to make one realize how often we can see a sign but miss what the sign is trying to reveal to us. The sign itself is not the important thing; what is important is what it points us to.

## The Purpose of John's Gospel

John focuses specifically on seven signs in his Gospel, and at the end he summarizes his purpose for these signs:

*"And Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30-31)*

He writes a singular message to convince you of one thing: that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. He wants you to believe that Jesus is the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. The word Christ means "anointed." There were many anointed ones in Scripture: prophets, priests, and kings were all anointed; they were all sent by God. The important distinction is that this is the

Christ, the only Messiah. He is the only one who fulfills all three offices of Prophet, Priest, and King. John says that if you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, then by believing in Him you have eternal life within you. To help you believe, John gives seven signs that happened before the Cross.

## What is a sign?

The idea behind a sign is what is commonly known as a miracle. There are three words in the Bible that are used to describe these types of events and they are contained together in one verse. Peter says:

*"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know" (Acts 2:22).*

## Signs. Wonders. Miracles.

Scripture uses three words to focus on different aspects of the same thing:

- A "miracle" was the actual event. It was a work of power. It was supernatural. For example, someone who was blind can suddenly now see.
- A "wonder" was the reaction of the people. When the Lord Jesus did these miracles, it says the people "were amazed," "they marveled," "they wondered."
- A "sign" was the meaning of the miracle. The Greek word is "semeion," correctly translated as "sign."



A sign gets us to look beyond the miracle that happened and to see the real significance behind it. For example, a road sign is not the destination, but it is pointing you toward the destination. The signs in John's Gospel are just like that; each one of them is revealing a bigger truth about who Jesus is. The signs were not done just to display His power, they were showing us who He truly is. For instance, in the first sign when He turns water into wine, it shows us that He is the Creator. This proves that Jesus is divine, since only God is the Creator.

Seven Signs in John Before the Cross:

1. Turning water into wine
2. Healing the nobleman's son
3. Healing the lame man at the pool of Bethesda
4. Feeding the 5000
5. Walking on the water
6. Healing the blind man at the pool of Siloam
7. Raising Lazarus  
(Some also see an eighth sign in the great catch of fish by the disciples after the Lord's resurrection).

## Many Other Signs

*"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen" (John 21:25).*

John says he had a world full of other things to prove his point, but he chose to be very selective. By the Spirit of God, he wrote down just a few of the many signs that Jesus did, and he chose those specifically to show us exactly who Jesus is. Therefore, the study of the signs in John's Gospel is a wonderful way to see the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## How Do We Know it is a Sign?

John often specifically calls them signs, as in the turning of the water into wine. *"This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him" (John 2:11).* John says this *"beginning of signs... manifested His glory."* The signs revealed who He truly is. How did they see His glory? By the power manifested in these signs. Every one of these signs was designed to make His glory obvious. John says, *"we beheld his glory" (John 1:14).*

Did it Work? Did People Believe on Him?

Andrew: *"We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41)*

Philip: *"We have found Him" (John 1:45)*

Nathanael: *"You are the Son of God" (John 1:49)*

Samaritan woman: *"Could this be the Christ?" (John 4:29)*

Peter: *"You are the Christ the Son of the living God" (John 6:69)*

Martha: *"I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God" (John 11:27)*

Thomas: *"My Lord and my God" (John 20:28)*


**"THE SIGNS WERE NOT DONE JUST TO DISPLAY HIS POWER, THEY WERE SHOWING US WHO HE TRULY IS."**

John shows us that while many did believe, there were many others who did not. Even though the crowds saw the miracles, they did not see the signs. They did not see who Jesus really was. We often sing at the remembrance meeting the stirring hymn "Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands" by Charles Spurgeon containing the following lines:

If now, with eyes defiled and dim, we see the signs, but see not Him; O may His love the scales displace and bid us see Him face to face!

Many of the crowds asked to see a sign, but may we be like those who said to Philip, *"Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21).*

The signs in John are important for two groups of people. They are important for those who do not believe, so that they may put their trust in the Lord Jesus as their Savior; they are also important for those of us who already believe, that our faith may grow. That was the case with Thomas who really wanted to see a sign that Jesus was alive. *"Jesus said to him, 'Thomas because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'" (John 20:29).*

Today, we are not looking for signs, we are to simply believe what He has already revealed in His Word. As we read John's Gospel, let us not miss the point of the signs—to see Jesus for who He truly is: the Christ, the Son of God. 



## by Bob Upton

Bob Upton is from St. Paul, Minnesota where he is in fellowship at Maryland Bible Chapel. He serves the Lord in assembly and conference ministry and seeks to teach the Word of God in a clear, encouraging, and practical way — full of grace and full of truth.

# WINE, A WEDDING, — AND THE — UNIVERSE

**S**ome time ago while working as an engineer a co-worker asked me, “In light of all the science available, how can an intelligent person like you buy into the creation myth?” He was referring to my belief in the literal biblical account of six twenty-four-hour periods when God created our universe and everything in it. My answer surprised him. I said, “Initial conditions.” After a pause, knowing I had his attention, I continued. When we finished talking that day he said, “That makes sense. I never heard it explained that way.” Here is what I told him.

## An Act of Creation

The first miracle recorded in the Bible is God creating everything, including all life along with mankind (Gen 1:1-3:24). And the first miracle of the Lord Jesus, called a “sign,” is found in John 2:1-11 when He changed water into wine.

*On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So, they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” This, the first of His signs, Jesus did*

*at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory. And His disciples believed in Him. (John 2:1-11, ESV)*

It is important to emphasize that this “first of His signs” happened at a wedding. God’s creation itself is about a wedding (see Eph 5:31-32 quoting from Gen 2:24). From this fact alone we may grow suspicious that the first miracle in the Scriptures and the first miracle of the Lord Jesus may be related in some deeper way.

At first glance, it may not appear that changing water into wine is all that impressive. After all, later the Lord Jesus will heal the blind (e.g., John 9; Matt. 11:5), cleanse lepers (e.g., Luke 5:12-13; 17:11-14), calm stormy seas (Mark 4:35-41), and even raise the dead (see Luke 7:11-15; 8:49-56; John 11). By comparison, changing water into wine does not seem very dramatic or even important.

So, what then is so special about changing water to wine? There is only one chemical difference between water and wine. That difference is the element carbon or what scientists call, “the element of life.” They call it that because every living thing is composed of it: from the tiniest amoeba to the blue whale and every living plant and animal in between. Water (H<sub>2</sub>O) is made of hydrogen and oxygen. Wine contains alcohol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O) and various sugars (e.g., C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>), each



of which contain hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon. The Lord Jesus did not just do some mundane thing that day. He *created*.

John 1:14 *tells us* that the Lord Jesus, the “Word,” was the agent of creation. John 2:1-11 *shows us*. That He chose a wedding as the venue for His first miracle suggests to us His very purpose in creating: that He would one day have man as His eternal companion, in a relationship full of eternal joy which will never run dry (John 3:29; 15:11; 17:13).

But looking a little deeper, we notice that He did not just “create” that day. He created in the same way He created the world. This wine was the best wine at the wedding. And whether you drink wine or not, everybody knows that good wine is old wine. To the master of the feast, this was good wine. But was it *old* wine? By the measure of his sense of taste it was certainly old. But how old was it, actually? It was only minutes old. The Lord Jesus had created something with the *appearance* of age.

### Initial Conditions


If the master of the feast were to have guessed the age of the wine, no doubt he would have guessed wrong. But that does not mean his measuring tool (*i.e.*, his tongue) had “measured” wrong. It just means his assumptions regarding the initial conditions were wrong. “Initial conditions” is a mathematical term referring to the starting information needed to solve certain kinds of problems. For example, your car can travel 500 miles on a tank of gas. You go on a trip and when you get there your gas tank is empty. How far did you drive? If you thought to yourself, “500 miles,” then you assumed the gas tank started full. What if the tank was only half full when you started? You need to know those *initial conditions* to answer the question.

If the master of this wedding feast in Cana thought the wine to be old, he would be assuming that this wine started out the way all wine normally starts out: as grapes that got crushed and then fermented, etc. But this time, the wine did not start out that way at all and it would have been impossible for him to know it apart from someone revealing it to him.

It is the same for scientists today. We live in a universe where if everything started out in some “big bang” (what some scientists assume to be the *initial condition*) then everything would have to be very old for it to look the way it does now. But what if there never was a “big bang,” and, as God has told us in the Scriptures, that He ordained the celestial bodies (Gen. 1:14-17; Psa. 8:3), placing them right where they are? How could the “big bang” scientists ever get it right by relying only on their measuring instruments? The initial condition of the universe can only be known by God’s revelation.

I told my friend that day that I did not know much about the methods used to date the earth, and I had no reason to doubt the measurements these methods produce. All it shows me is what I already believe from the Scriptures, that God created the universe with *the appearance of age* – just like the Lord Jesus had

done when He created Adam and Eve and just like He had done when He changed water into wine at the Cana wedding.

I lost touch with that co-worker a long time ago. But I am glad I had opportunities like this one to share things from the Scriptures and illustrate that an intelligent person like him should not be afraid to investigate God’s Word – even *with* a skeptical and scientifically-oriented mind. I hope he did. God’s Word will stand up just fine to honest questions. 



### by Joe Wilbur

Joe Wilbur is in fellowship with the saints in Nokesville Gospel Chapel in Nokesville, VA. In recent years, the Lord has given Joe increasing opportunities to teach God’s Word at several assemblies in PA and VA.

## CORNERSTONE

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# COME & HEAR

“COME AND HEAR, ALL YOU WHO FEAR GOD, AND I  
WILL DECLARE WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR MY SOUL.”

PSALM 66:16

## A Canceled Baseball Game

THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN JACKSON

**I**N the summer of 1997, I was born into a loving home in Yonkers, New York, on the outskirts of New York City. My background is quite consistent, as all my great-grandparents were Irish Catholics who immigrated to the United States. Both the religion and culture consistently made its way down as each generation followed. The religious and cultural titles were intertwined and part of our families' identity. Yet my own spiritual upbringing was less focused on identity and more focused on the substance beneath all the titles. That was due in part to the Lord's working at a Vacation Bible School (VBS) held decades earlier at Bethany Chapel in Yonkers.

On a Tuesday in July 1979, a couple of 11-year-old boys from Yonkers were trying to organize a baseball game in their neighborhood. One of the two was my mother's younger brother Billy Smith. The other was his friend Rob Sullivan. However, the two ran into a problem when they could not find any of their friends that day. What they soon realized was that most of the neighborhood kids were attending Bethany Chapel's VBS, so they went and joined them.

One question that was often on the mind of both boys was death. Rob's father had passed away years earlier and both Billy and Rob often discussed where one goes when they die. Their religious upbringing led them to conclude that heaven awaited those whose good deeds outweighed their bad deeds. At VBS that week, one of their memory verses was Ephesians 2:8-9: *“For by grace you have been saved*

*through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”* This made them question their preconceived notions about earning a spot in heaven.

One of the ladies helping with the program, Colleen Citarella, helped the two boys understand that you could never work your way into heaven. You could go to church every Sunday, complete all the sacraments, and do an abundant amount of good works, but Scripture teaches that *“your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you”* (Isa. 59:2). One sin is enough to separate us from God and there is nothing we can do on our own to reconcile ourselves to Him. God is a perfect, holy, and righteous God who must judge sin. However, the wonderful news is that He is also a loving God who provided a way to judge our sins and forgive us at the same time. That was accomplished through His Son Jesus Christ, who came into the world to pay the price for our sins so that we, through faith in Him, may be reconciled to God. When hearing these scriptural truths from Colleen, both Billy and Rob put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation.

Billy and Rob were on fire for the Lord after receiving His gift of salvation, and their families were soon aware of their faith. Billy would share the gospel with his parents and siblings, whose focus at that time was on a works-based religion. However, as we know from 1 Corinthians 3:6, while man plants and waters, it is God who gives the increase, and over time increase did indeed come.

Fast forward a few decades to the 2000's. My aforementioned spiritual upbringing was on one hand very religious through weekly Catholic masses and K-12 Catholic schooling. Yet, on the other hand it focused more on a relationship with the Lord Jesus through my mom's teaching. Some of what my uncle Billy had shared with her decades earlier stuck with her. Most of my early memories of the Bible were from biblically-accurate videos and children's Bibles.

There is not a day in my life I can remember where I did not believe in God. However, as we read in James 2:19, even the demons believe in God. My spiritual upbringing formed a solid foundation for my future faith, but what I had at this time in my life was merely a knowledge of biblical concepts along with a lack of truly understanding the gospel.

By 2007, my mother felt led to send my two brothers and I to Bethany Chapel's VBS just like her brother Billy in 1979. Over the next few years, my brothers and I took in a lot of theology through our Catholic school, our Catholic church, and the children's programs held at Bethany Chapel.

However, even before attending Bethany Chapel, I had started to develop more interest in what Scripture had to say. This made me appreciate the fact that at Bethany Chapel we went right to the source. We were not being taught what a theologian or an institution had to say, but rather what God had to say as recorded in His Scriptures.

Bethany Chapel has for years held a Friday night kid's program from October to April. My parents sent my brothers and I there in October 2007 and we were able to hear the gospel on a weekly basis for most of the year. One of the nights a year or two into the program, the gospel message became very clear to me, and I told the Lord that I now accepted His gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

In the coming months I struggled with doubt over my faith, but at the beginning of 2010, I was able to put an end to my battle with doubts. In a prayer to the Lord, I addressed my doubts and stressed my belief. After praying, I felt a huge weight lifted from my shoulders. It was on this day that I no longer doubted my standing in God's eyes. I knew my sins were washed away since I had accepted the Lord Jesus' completed work on the cross. After this, I was confident that if I were to die at any time in the future, I would be in the presence of the Lord for eternity. About this time in my life, I began reading the Scriptures every day which helped me grow closer to the Lord.

Through consistent prayer and Scripture reading, I was able to draw close to the Lord, but I was lacking in other areas. I continued attending religious masses out of habit on a weekly basis up until I started college in 2015. I did not stop attending at that time due to falling away from the Lord, but because I was not being drawn closer to Him through attendance at mass.

***“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”***

While I did attend the bi-monthly youth meeting at Bethany Chapel, I sought even more spiritual nourishment. We read in Acts 2:42 that the early church “*continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*” I was lacking in these areas and felt led to begin attending Sunday services on a consistent basis at Bethany Chapel beginning Christmas 2016. Shortly after, my older brother attended with me, and we both publicly shared our faith in the Lord Jesus with the believers at Bethany through our baptisms in August 2017. Since then, the Lord has opened many doors for me to serve Him at Bethany Chapel and through various ministries.

I thank God frequently for the many blessings of which I am unworthy, the chief among them being the gift of grace through the Lord Jesus. While I remain a sinner who succumbs to sin daily, I know my eternal fate is sealed not because of what I have done, but because of what the Lord Jesus has done. My heart's desire is to continue to grow even closer to Christ my Savior and serve Him well with the time He has allotted me on this side of heaven.

All scriptural references are from the NKJV 



### **by John Jackson**

John Jackson is in fellowship at Bethany Chapel in Yonkers, NY where he serves as the chapel's treasurer and within the assembly's various ministries. John works as an investment advisor representative at Stewards Advisory Services, a wealth management firm with a focus on individuals and ministries within the assembly landscape.



# Report: Door-to-Door Encounters

**S**haring our faith door-to-door, is it a disappearing ministry? It can be controversial with endless information available online. Some say, “Why bother people, the Lord can reach them in other ways?” Yet, the Lord said “Go” (Matt. 28:19). Surely door-to-door witnessing fulfills that command.

Starting out can be daunting unless one is fortunate enough to have an experienced friend alongside. I have appreciated considerable help and encouragement from a friend of mine, who was a missionary for 15 years, and who is currently an elder in his local assembly. He says, “How can you not do door-to-door when you know that the Holy Spirit will open up the hearts and minds of some of the people you meet for a significant Gospel conversation? Seeing God work in this way is a sheer delight and wonder every time. Do not do door-to-door in your own strength; it will discourage you. It requires serious spiritual preparation. To God be the glory.”

When God puts a desire into our hearts and we respond, He empowers us by His Spirit and rewards us for obedience. Hebrews 13:20-21 says, *“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

**“When God puts a desire into our hearts and we respond, He empowers us by His Spirit and rewards us for obedience.”**

## Methods

Methods can vary according to the location and one’s individual preferences. Ringing doorbells with face-to-face contact is a direct method. Prayer before, during, and thanksgiving after are crucial for both those who accept the Gospel, as well as those who refuse it. Two examples of face-to-face contact are distribution of Scripture and doing Bible surveys. In summertime, if it is evident that there are kids in the

home, we offer an Awana brochure for the fall. Some difficulties I have experienced include barking dogs making it difficult to hear, loose stones on the steps, the door opening just as we were putting literature in the door handle, and a mailbox falling off while placing literature.

Unfortunately, tears are also involved in this ministry knowing that, *“...narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”* (Matt. 7:14). However, we also know that *“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy!”* (Psa. 126:5).

## Normal Approach

When I ring the doorbell, if there is no reply, I leave a *VIA Magazine*<sup>1</sup> in the mailbox, so that it is easily visible. If the doorbell is answered, I remove my sunglasses, make eye contact, and speak clearly: “I’m from the Bible Chapel, could I leave you a Scripture?” while showing the pocket-size “Living Water” Gospel of John. If the answer is yes, I reply, *“the gift of God is eternal life,”* or some other Scripture. Speaking the Word of God is important (Isa. 55:11). *“So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* (Rom. 10:17). I like to speak the Word of God along with written Scriptures since we have no way of knowing if they will read any of the literature. Depending on weather and response, further conversation can be pursued.

## Attitude is important

*“The joy of the LORD is your strength”* (Neh. 8:10). We have found being joyful and relaxed usually brings a better response.

Colorful clothing can differentiate us from other groups. When we work in pairs, we work across the street from each other; only one goes to each door. Using this method we have given out 300 Gospels in six months.

Many work from home and are available any day of the week. We often meet new immigrants, retired folks, moms with kids, babysitters, and maids. Most people are very polite, more will accept a Gospel than refuse it.

We find that neighborhoods, streets, and even different sides of the same street have their own character. All have needs; we live in troubled times. Printed Google maps are invaluable for precise record keeping of last home approached, number and type of literature given, and completed streets.

## Some Interesting Experiences

An older gentleman with a small barking dog, picked the dog up, and when the dog bit his hand, he kindly said, “that’s



enough of that” and he took a Gospel. Another man answered the door together with his ten-year-old son. The man hesitated as to what to do. The boy said, “Yes I would like it,” took it and left. The dad seemed fine with his son reading the booklet.

Often it is not obvious how long to wait after ringing the doorbell. On one occasion, after waiting for what seemed an appropriate time, I placed a *VIA Magazine* in the mailbox. Just then the door opened. When the man was offered the Gospel, he refused. Thinking that he would not be interested in the *VIA* magazine either, I attempted to retrieve it from the mailbox. The gentleman thinking that I was taking an important pamphlet, grabbed it, and took it into the house. He was right!

On a cool windy day, a young boy who appeared to be Hindu, opened the door wide to invite me in; he took a Gospel when I thanked him for his kindness. On several occasions, a new immigrant who could not speak any English answered the door, and a youngster accepted the Gospel on behalf of their parent.

At one home I saw the blinds move, then no one answered. My sister Diane, who was with me, noticed that the woman had gone to get a head covering before answering the door. She accepted the Gospel, reading the cover verse and a few other verses inside before telling us she couldn't keep it. We were encouraged, knowing that the Lord can use the verses she read.

Several women have stated that they were in search of a church. Only one of these has come that we are aware of. One woman at a bus stop said she was in search of “a beautiful church.” I gave her a Gospel with my assembly's address on the first page. The bus came before we could finish our conversation.


One woman at the door impatiently said that she was busy, so I left. Several houses later she came running up, apologized for her initial response, and requested a Gospel. On another occasion, a woman accepted the Gospel and I left. Several houses later she caught up with me and asked if I had a debit machine? When I replied no, she handed me a handful of change and asked me to pray for her. I asked what she wanted prayer for. She did not know. This was one of several occasions when I regretted not keeping the address to do a later follow-up.

One woman answered the door and said she was in the middle of a meeting on her phone. When I said “Sorry” and started to leave, she said “Oh no, stay, I can listen to you and my meeting at the same time.” She then took a Gospel. Several times somebody said, “I don't want it, but my wife or mother will read



it.” Another man told us that he didn't want a Gospel, nor did his neighbor.

In conclusion, door-to-door outreach has two things going for it; first, it works, and those involved in this ministry know the joy of experiencing first-hand the working of the Holy Spirit. Second, this is one more way of confessing the Lord Jesus before men (Matt. 10:32).

<sup>1</sup>*Via Magazine* (<https://viamagazineonline.com/>) is “Bible based reading for the whole family.” It is a 22-page publication of interesting stories, Scripture, and gospel explanations handed out freely to hundreds of thousands annually. 



## by Dwight Sabourin

Dwight was saved in 1984. He and his wife Trish fellowship at Bridlewood Bible Chapel in Ottawa, ON Canada, and have two grown sons and eight grandchildren. He is actively involved with door to door ministry, prison evangelism, and other ministries as the Lord leads.



# FOUNDATIONS *of the faith*

## The Doctrine of Headship



GOD'S ORDER AMIDST  
THE DEVIL'S DISORDER

*“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<sup>1</sup>*

**F**irst Corinthians was written to believers in the brazenly corrupt city of Corinth. All manner of evil prevailed in ancient Greece amidst pleasure seeking and pagan idolatry. Corinthian believers had baggage and lots of it. In 1 Corinthians 10:31, Paul emphasized believing and behaving to “the glory of God.” The verses and chapters following 1 Corinthians 11:3 also concern the “glory of God” contrasting God’s divine order and man’s natural disorder. With “the glory of God” as our context, we shall address three phrases in verse 3: the head of Christ is God; the head of every man is Christ; and the head of woman is man. This is God’s order amidst the devil’s disorder.

### The Head of Christ is God

What does this mean? The word “head” within our context denotes authority or positional influence. As believers, we glory in the triune God, eternally pre-existent in three divine Persons. Yet, how are we to understand and apply the statement “the head of Christ is God?” Since Father, Son and Holy Spirit are individual beings co-equal in essence, how is Christ under the headship of the Father and yet equal? The short answer is that Scripture declares it. Human illustrations though limited, are helpful.

Consider a task force in business or government. The board, parliament, or congress may delegate a sub-group to study or solve an issue. Once the matter has been studied or solved, task



force members return to their original functions within the main body. There was no change to their equality of standing or status while they were seconded to the task force. There was, however, a modification to their role or function. Though sent by and reporting to the main entity, their status as equal members of the sending entity is not diminished. In their temporary assignment as a task-specific group, they report to their functional authority. The distinction of being subordinate to the functional authority ceases upon completion of the assigned task.

Enter the Lord Jesus Christ, heaven's task-specific force of one. Sent by the Father, the "Lord from glory" came to resolve the greatest of dilemmas by the sacrifice of Himself. The first Adam failed, leading to chaos and confusion. The last Adam is the victorious Christ, restoring God's spiritual order amidst the devil's disorder (Col. 2:13-15).

The first Adam, as head of the first creation, failed in His God-appointed privilege and responsibility. Adam was designated steward of all things including the Word of God as well as his wife. God gave him one commandment and one consequence for disobedience - "you shall surely die" (Gen. 2:17). While Eve was drawn into a dialogue with the serpent, Adam remained silent when he should have been speaking. He was responsible for protecting himself and his wife. Instead, Adam stood by, caved in, and heeded the prompting of his wife rather than obeying the truth of God's Word. Rather than being faithful to his assigned position, by heeding the voice of his wife (Gen. 3:17) Adam submitted to the lying serpent, "You will not surely die" (Gen. 3:4-5). The deceiver employed a "Five D" tactic to undermine God's order: distortion, doubt, denial, deception, and destruction.

Incalculable suffering and disorder was the outcome. As Head of the new creation, Christ restored God's order through suffering by humbling Himself and becoming obedient unto death "even the death of the cross."

When did it happen? In the foreknowledge of God, "before the foundation of the world," the eternal Godhead foreordained, chose, and elected the eternal Son of God to be heaven's "Task Force One." Within the context of redemption and salvation, we read in I Peter 1:20 of Christ, "He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world..." In I Peter 2:4 Christ was "chosen by God and precious." Verse 6 declares Christ to be "a chief cornerstone elect, precious..." The words "foreordained," "chosen," and "elect" declare that Jesus was predestined before the foundation of the world to be the Savior of the world (John 3:16-17). God became the Head of Christ prophetically before the foundation of the world and became the head of Christ practically when He was "manifest in these last times for you" (1 Pet. 1:20).

How did it happen? God did it. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream declaring, "...do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of

the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 1:20). The virgin birth and incarnation were pivotal in God effecting His great salvation. Could there be a more staggering statement than Colossians 2:9, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." The Greek word "theotetos" translated "Godhead" appears just once in the New Testament<sup>2</sup>, a singular emphasis to the deity of Christ as Immanuel, God with us.

Why did it happen? Ah, wonder of wonders! Consider Isaiah 57:15: "For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'"

Consider the magnitude of God. He declares that He inhabits eternity. The Hebrew word is "ad" meaning "perpetuity."<sup>3</sup>Eternity has no past, present, or future. No dimensions exist in eternity. Thus, the High and Lofty One declares His omnipresence, omnipotence, and omniscience.

Consider the magnanimity of God. Before the foundation of the world the Godhead enjoyed perfect fellowship, no conflicting agendas, or tensions. Harmony and peace abounded. Enter mankind. What indescribable trouble and trauma ensued! By divine foreknowledge, God knew the horrible hassles to follow. Why would the eternal God consider creating man? Some decry, "If God knew that trouble, sin and death would take place, why did He bother?" My reply to the gainsayers is, "Do you have children? Did they keep you awake at night with diapers and crying? Do your children fight? Are they ever disobedient or rebellious? Do they ever get sick? Did you know before you had children that you were likely to face such issues? Then why did you have children?" The answer is usually predictable: "We had children because we wanted to start a family."

## "In Christ, God has forever joined humanity to Himself and Himself to humanity. To God be the glory!"

Consider I Peter 2:9-10 addressed to the pilgrims of the dispersion: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy." Such glorious truths invoke boundless worship and praise. In Christ, God has forever joined humanity to Himself and Himself to humanity. To God be the glory!

### The Head of Every Man is Christ

Years ago, at an assembly conference in Asia, I began a men's meeting by asking a simple question. Slowly raising my right



hand, I asked, “How many of you would agree that you are the head of your home?” It appeared that most hands went up. I was bewildered. How could so many well-taught Christian men agree with the question? They may have been baited by the visual of me raising my hand, or perhaps they were not paying attention to the question – hearing without listening?

The rest of that meeting was given to reviewing the phrase, “*the head of every man is Christ.*” The headship delegated to men is not detached from the headship delegated to Christ, the ultimate head of the home. Brethren, let us be ever mindful that we are responsible and accountable to Christ, our Head. Indeed, Christ is our example, pattern, and help for faithful and unwavering servanthood. He is the loving bridegroom who gave Himself to redeem His bride.

The worst aviation disaster in history occurred when the captain of a B747 made a hasty decision to take-off without clearance disregarding the promptings and cautions of his co-pilot. On March 27, 1977, 583 people were incinerated as a KLM B747 collided with a Pan American B747 on the ground during an unauthorized attempted take-off in fog at Tenerife, Canary Islands. The captain ignored his head – the company approved Operations Manual. He also disregarded the promptings and cautions of his co-pilot. The investigation concluded that the fundamental cause of the accident was the captain attempting to take-off without clearance. The disaster led to significant changes in how airline crews are trained. Today, the captain is no longer considered infallible, and combined crew input is encouraged during aircraft operations.<sup>4</sup>

Dear brother, single or married, we are to co-operate fully with our Head the Lord Jesus Christ. Distractions and deceptions abound. However, never replace God’s Operations Manual, the Bible, with anything or anyone else. As captains of our flight through life, headship means cautious and careful consulting with Christ our Head. Proceeding independently without consulting or adhering to God’s manual has led to many family and societal disasters.

### The Head of Woman is Man

Headship is rooted in the mind of God. Christ willingly submitted Himself to His Father’s will. Christ was single-minded, persistent, and determined to cooperate fully with the One who sent Him. The task of accomplishing salvation was in view. For the joy set before Him our Savior endured the cross and bore our sins in His own body on the tree.

How is a wife to respond as her husband’s helper? (Gen. 2:18,20) King David declares, “*I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth*” (Psa. 121:1-2). The Holy Spirit employs the same word for help in reference to Eve helping Adam as when referring to the Maker of heaven and earth drawing near to help His creation. The Hebrew “*Ezer,*” means help of God.<sup>5</sup>

In aviation terms, God has appointed husbands to the left seat and wives to the right seat. Husbands did not appoint themselves to the left seat and husbands did not appoint their wives to the right seat. To resent, resist, or rebel against our appointed seats and roles is to foster an unsafe environment on the flight deck. Our children, the passengers, are trusting us to fly the family flight as per God’s Word. There is much at stake – the glory of God.

As a young First Officer (FO), my captain and I landed in Montreal one evening about 9:30 pm. As we disembarked and proceeded to the operations center, Flight Dispatcher, Ken Harper was in a “flap.” The FO for the outgoing flight had not arrived and he could not be reached by phone. The standby FO was also unreachable. The aircraft was being readied. I would not be legally able to fly the outbound flight due to monthly flight time restrictions. The Dispatcher needed two pilots but had just one available.

Ken then asked the captain from my flight if he was willing to “crew” the short thirty-minute flight to Ottawa overnight plus the return next morning? After phoning home to confer with his wife, my captain agreed to crew the flight. Facing the two ex-navy carrier pilots Ken announced, “Gentlemen, I have two captains but only one left seat. Are you prepared to accept the designations that I am about to give?” They heartily agreed.

The scheduled captain of the outbound flight was assigned the left seat as pilot in command with attending privileges and responsibilities. My captain was designated to the right seat as FO with attending restraints and limitations. I was warmly amused as two experienced captains equal in standing and status accepted their assigned roles to complete the task of delivering passengers, crew, and cargo safely to the desired destination. Problem solved.

The Father and the Son are equal. Brothers and sisters, we are also equal to each other (Gal. 3:28). May we joyfully embrace the example of God and of Christ and faithfully fulfill the roles and responsibilities delegated to us. “*Let all things be done decently and in order*” to the glory of God! (1 Cor. 14:40)

<sup>1</sup>All references are from the NKJV

<sup>2</sup>Strong, James, *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc. Publishers, 2010) <sup>3</sup>Ibid

<sup>4</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenerife\\_airport\\_disaster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenerife_airport_disaster)

<sup>5</sup>Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance 



### by Gary Weeks

Gary and Claudette Weeks are in their 42nd year as Commended Workers. The last 28 years, Gary and Claudette have been in fellowship with and commended by Markham Bible Chapel in the Toronto, ON Canada area.



# WHEN *God* REMEMBERS

*N*

any people believe that memory is a key to a satisfying life. Yet as the years go by and we attain more knowledge, we reach a point where we start

losing memory cells. Currently, some forms of dementia are at pandemic levels in the general population world-wide. It has been estimated that one of every two individuals reaching the age of 85 will be afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease.

However, there is great news. Our eternal, immutable, and omniscient God always remembers. The phrase "God remembered" typically implies that He is about to act on behalf of an individual or group. In addition, His remembering comprises ministering to the full realm of need that His created beings experience – physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Note that Psalm 144:3 reads, "Lord, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him?" God even remembers the sparrow: "...not one of them is forgotten before God." (Luke 12:6) Here are a few examples of the 73 times that the Bible records that "God remembered."

### **God Remembered Noah**

Perhaps, the most striking biblical example of God remembering both man and beast involved Noah when He granted survival from the most devastating world-wide event to date, namely the flood. His means was the ark. Note that Genesis 8:1 reads, "Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided." Soon after Noah, his family, and the animals disembarked the ark, God initiated another promise of great significance. Genesis 9:15-

16 states: "and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God has certainly delivered on that covenant made some 4000 years ago.

### **God Remembered Abraham**

Additionally, God remembered Abraham and delivered on His promise to spare from death all the righteous people in Sodom. Thus, Lot and his immediate family were rescued. Genesis 19:29 reads, "And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt." God's remembrance took the form of a merciful, physical rescue of each family member, save for Lot's wife who disobediently chose to look back (Gen. 19:26).

God remembered His promise made to each of the Old Testament patriarchs to give their posterity, among other benefits, a land flowing with milk and honey. Exodus 2:24 reads, "So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob." Psalm 105:8 states that God remembers this covenant forever - the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations. God never fails to remember the extent of all His agreements with mankind. In essence, they have no termination date.

### **God Remembered Rachel and Hannah**

There are two remarkable Old Testament accounts of God remembering to grant baby boys to two God-fearing but barren and sorrowful women. Initially it was Rachel, for whom Jacob



labored 14 years for the privilege of marrying. God opened her womb and gave her Joseph (Gen. 30:22-24). Moreover, God did the same for Hannah. 1 Samuel 1:19-20 reads, "... the Lord remembered her. So, it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son and called his name Samuel (meaning "heard by God") saying, "Because I have asked for him from the Lord." Thus, God's remembrance of Rachel and Hannah benefitted them emotionally and spiritually as well as physically.

### God Remembers Israel

Throughout the history of Israel, its residents frequently accused Yahweh of forgetting the nation. In answering He stated in Isaiah 49:15, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely, they may forget, yet I will not forget you." There is an intensely strong affinity between a typical mother and her baby. The latter is continually in her remembrance - so God is with Israel.

God knows the frailty of mankind in general, and has continued to remember the instability, i.e., the fragility of each person's constitution. Psalm 103:14 reads, "For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust." Another verse which relates to this thought is Psalm 136:23: "Who remembered us in our lowly state, for His mercy endures forever."

### Christ Remembered During His Passion

During His earthly walk, our omniscient Lord was actively mindful of all things. At the beginning of His passion, He remembered the sufferings that were destined for Him. John 18:4 reads, "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward, and said to them, 'Whom are you seeking?'"

During His passion, the repentant thief who was crucified alongside Him asked, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). Jesus answered him (strongly and unequivocally), "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise" (v. 43). In essence He told him that He would remember him. Even while enduring excruciating agony He remembered His mother and arranged for her care with John the son of Zebedee (John 19:25-27). Moreover, John 19:28 reads, "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished,

that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" The Lord, knowing the Scriptures said "I thirst" to fulfill them.

### God Does Not Remember the Believer's Sins


On the other hand, there are some situations where God deliberately chooses not to remember. One of these is when anyone confesses their sins to Him. Isaiah 43:25 reads, "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins." This promise to Israel is repeated in the New Testament for our benefit. Hebrews 10:16-17 states, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds, I will write them," then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

### Our Great High Priest Remembers Us

Resurrected and now in heaven at the right hand of the Father, functioning as our Great High Priest, our Savior is mindful of us who constitute His Church. Hebrews 6:10 states, "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

### Let Us Remember Him

Finally, our Lord places a high valuation on our remembering Him as New Testament saints, for He established His remembrance feast saying "...do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19; I Cor. 11:24-25). Is it not appropriate that to the best of our ability we honor the One who remembers us by remembering Him?

All scriptural references are from the NKJV 



### by David F. Brauch

David has been involved with the assemblies for most of his life as a teacher and elder. He and his wife Joanne fellowship with the saints at Wauwatosa Bible Chapel (Milwaukee, WI) and are engaged in a prayer ministry for them as well as Christian workers.



# ISSUES *and* ANSWERS

“Search the  
Scriptures...”

John 5:39

## Did the Lord Jesus Christ claim to be God?

Various “pseudo-Christian” groups, cults, and religions question the truth that Christ is God and seem to be adept at stating their case. While we may admire their zeal, their belief systems are not founded on biblical truth. Anticipating such opposition, the Gospel of John was written *“that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”* (John 20:31). Consider these passages from John’s Gospel:

### John 8:24, 28, 58

In each of these three verses the Lord Jesus Christ claims the divine title “I AM” as His own. First given to answer Moses’ question about what God’s Name is (Exo. 3:14), the Lord Jesus here claims it for Himself. The Jewish leaders who heard Him certainly understood what He was saying, as their immediate response demonstrates (8:59).

### John 13:19

In the upper room, our Lord was preparing the disciples for life after He had returned to Heaven. He gave them details of what would happen in the next twenty-four hours, as well as in the weeks, months, and years ahead. He explained that He was telling them these things now, so that when these events came to pass, they would understand and believe His claim to be the eternal “I AM.”

### John 18:6

Later that night, as He was betrayed in the garden, we hear Him once again uttering the words “I AM” in relation to Himself. As the soldiers arrived, He stepped forward, answering their query about His identity with this title, which at once sent them sprawling to the ground.

### John 5:19-23

On the surface, it may appear to some that the Lord Jesus was not claiming deity here, as He said He could do nothing of Himself apart from the Father. However, He goes on to define His statement by reminding them that everything He did and said was in complete harmony with the Father, something which no mortal could ever claim. He continues by stating that all should honor Him as they honored the Father, which is only plausible if He and the Father are equally God.

### John 10:28-33

When the Lord Jesus claimed oneness with God the Father (v. 30), the words He chose indicated much more than being united in purpose. He was saying that He and His Father were also of the same nature. Speaking of the word translated “One,” Greek authority Marvin Vincent states that it “implies unity of essence, not merely of will or of power.”<sup>1</sup> The Jews present understood exactly what He was claiming, as both their reaction (v. 31) and their explanation for it (v. 33) demonstrates.


### John 14:7-9

When Philip asked the Lord Jesus to show them the Father, and they would be satisfied, His reply says all we need to know. He claimed that since they had seen Him, they had seen the Father. There was neither deception nor delusion in His claim to be co-equal with God.

### John 17:5

The Lord God stated several times that He would not share His glory with another, yet here we find the Lord Jesus Christ speaking of a glory which He shared with the Father, prior to the establishment of this earth. That glory was as rightfully His as it was the Father’s, because they are co-equal.

John’s purpose for his Gospel account was to establish the Sonship of Christ, which was known and understood by the religious elite of that day to be a claim of equality with God. Though they did not believe Him, they correctly understood that He was claiming to be God. Like them, doctrinal systems today which deny the deity of Christ are heresy and do not lead to eternal life (1 John 4:15; 5:11-13).

<sup>1</sup>Marvin R Vincent, *Vincent’s Word Studies in the New Testament Vol. 2* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1990), p.197 

by Rick Morse



Rick lives in Berwick, Nova Scotia with Janie, his beloved wife for over 40 years. They are in fellowship with the saints at Bethany Gospel Chapel in Dartmouth, NS. Saved at age 21. Rick is active in his home assembly, and has ministered at a number of assemblies in Atlantic Canada. He contributes to Choice Gleanings calendar and has authored several books, with his speaking and written ministry centering on a love for apologetics and expository teaching.

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## Spring Bible Conference

► **May 17-19, 2024**

*1350 Garfield Ave. NW Grand Rapids, MI*

The Christians at Northwest Gospel Hall invite you to join them for their Spring Bible Conference, taking place May 17-19. Chris Schroeder from Richmond, MI will be speaking on the topic of "Evangelism." For those traveling from a distance, lodging options are available in the homes of local believers. For more information, please visit [northwestgospelhall.org](http://northwestgospelhall.org) or contact Rob Wagner at (231) 679-5916.

## Vessels of Honor

► **May 24-27, 2024**

*15800 Calvary Road, Kansas City, MO*

Vessels of Honor is a young adult conference that seeks to honor the Lord Jesus Christ by grounding this generation in the word of God. It is open to anyone age 18 or older. The 2024 theme for the Vessels of Honor conference is "Are you helping to strengthen your assembly to do good work?" Nehemiah 2:18b "...So they strengthened their hands for the good work." The general session speakers are Rob Sullivan and Warren Henderson. Seminars will also be provided by David Dillon, Susie Sullivan, Hannah Kratzer, Amy Price, and Anne Moffitt. Visit their website, [www.vesselsofhonor.org](http://www.vesselsofhonor.org), for more information or to register. There is an early registration discount for registering by May 10.

## Timotheos Project

► **June 16-19, 2024**

*Pine Bush Bible Camp*

*76 Bible Camp Rd, Bloomingburg, NY*

Consider attending the third annual Young Men's Intensive Bible Study for men aged 16-26 who are active in their assemblies and serious about being discipled. Register on the Timotheos Project website: <https://www.timotheosproject.com/register>. For more information contact John Jackson or Ezequiel Montes: [timotheosproject@gmail.com](mailto:timotheosproject@gmail.com).

## IBF Conference 2024

► **July 3-7, 2024**

*Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN*

They prayerfully plan to hold the 45th Indian Brethren Fellowship (IBF) family conference with the theme "Discipleship" (John 8:31-32). The speakers are Brs. Viji Roberts (Mississauga, Canada), Thomas Rajan (Dallas, TX), and Jon Glock (Dubuque, IA). They request prayer that the Lord may bless His people and be glorified. Please visit <http://www.ibfus.org> for additional updates.

## West Virginia Bible Conference 2024

► **July 21-26, 2024**

*Bluestone Camp and Retreat*

*36 Middle Camp Rd, Hinton, WV*

The West Virginia Bible Conference invites you to their annual family camp held July 21-26 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat near Hinton, WV. Christian fellowship, fun activities for all ages, and a time to come apart to hear God's Word surrounded by beautiful mountain scenery make this a very enjoyable week. The speakers this year will be Tim McNeal (KY) and Ray Gonzalez (OH). For more information contact Brent Jones at [brentandhope@frontier.com](mailto:brentandhope@frontier.com) or 304-466-4738.

## Guelph Bible Conference Centre

*2024 Summer Camps*

*485 Waterloo Ave., Guelph, ON N1H 3K4*

Victoria Day Weekend (May 17-20; Sean O'Byrne); Family Camp A (Aug 4-10; Matt Dent, Bruce Scott); Family Camp B (Aug 11-17; Sean O'Byrne, Rob Sullivan); Family Camp C (Aug 18-24; Rex Trogden, Jamie Martin). For more information on these as well men's conference, children, youth, and day camps see [www.guelphbiblecc.com/](http://www.guelphbiblecc.com/) or call 519-824-2571.

## Holy Scriptures and Israel Bible Society Tours 2024

*Footsteps of the Apostle Paul: September 16 – 28 |*

*Israel: November 2-11 | Israel and Petra: November 2-13.*

Contact: Sid Bhatt (US) 704-930-8179 or [sidbhatt0718@gmail.com](mailto:sidbhatt0718@gmail.com) / Dave Smith (CAN) 905-641-3053 or [beyondadream@travelonly.com](mailto:beyondadream@travelonly.com).



## Bible Conference on the Bay Harvey Cedars Bible Conference

► September 9-13, 2024

Ocean County, NJ

Enjoy five days on the scenic Jersey Shore at this deluxe conference center. The invited speaker is Steve Herzig from The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry. Conference cost is \$450 pp. Special day trips are also scheduled for the week. For more information, visit [www.knowtheword.com/conferences](http://www.knowtheword.com/conferences) or send the full amount to Know the Word c/o Mark Kolchin P. O. Box 305 Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734.

## Manager/Maintenance Opportunity

Shepherd Christian Community which is owned and managed by Frostproof Gospel Church, Frostproof, FL is prayerfully seeking a brother or a couple to manage/maintain the compound and homes. It is a salaried position and housing will also be provided. Any interested person may contact John Chacko at [shepherdoffice@gmail.com](mailto:shepherdoffice@gmail.com) or 586-201-0093.

## Bible Based Conversations

Bible Based Conversations are 30-minute gospel videos now available on Youtube. These talks originate from Samuel Moore's weekly Gospel program for a radio station which covers the west coast of Ireland, the west coast of Scotland, and the Scottish Islands. Samuel fellowships with an assembly of believers in Northern Ireland and was invited to begin producing these talks during the Covid pandemic. Sam decided to produce these "Bible Based Conversations" on video as well, and new videos are frequently added to his Youtube channel. They are available for viewing on Samuel Moore's Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@samuelmoore6386/videos>.

## Greenwood Hills Bible Camp

7062 Lincoln Way E,  
Fayetteville, PA 17222

This is a great summer to come to Greenwood Hills (PA)! Join them for Summit Week in June (age 16+) or for girls or boys camps in July. See the camp preview videos online! Three long weekend conferences are available (Memorial Day with Mark Swaim speaking, July Weekend with Alive Teen Program with Tom Irwin and JP Swinski, Labor Day with Keith Keyser) and one full week (August 3-10 with Mike Attwood and Steve Price). These are great times of edification and fellowship for all ages. Looking for an intensive study? Consider Men's Intensive Bible Study (August 25-28 with Mike Attwood). Register at [GreenwoodHills.net](http://GreenwoodHills.net).

## Keyholder Serving Opportunity at Greenwood Hills

7062 Lincoln Way E,  
Fayetteville, PA 17222

Greenwood Hills Bible Conferences and Camps, near Gettysburg PA, is looking for an on-site, year-round, Keyholder. This individual or couple would serve alongside Greenwood Hills board members and ministry and team leaders. The Keyholder provides a presence on the grounds, opens and closes buildings, meets vendors, inventories food and takes on other serving opportunities as they are gifted and able (to be further discussed with the board). The Keyholder will be provided with a home, utilities, and food during events. It is envisioned that the Keyholder would be commended or self-supporting. For more information contact Bruce Hulshizer: [bahulshizer@hotmail.com](mailto:bahulshizer@hotmail.com).



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# AMIDST US OUR BELOVED STANDS

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Amidst us our Beloved stands  
And bids us view His pierced hands,  
Points to His wounded feet and side,  
Blest emblems of the crucified.

What food luxurious loads the board  
When at His table sits the Lord!  
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet,  
When Jesus deigns the guests to meet.

If now, with eyes defiled and dim,  
We see the signs, but see not Him,  
O may His love the scales displace  
And bid us see Him face to face!

Thou glorious Bridegroom of our hearts,  
Thy present smile a heaven imparts;  
O lift the veil, if veil there be,  
Let every saint Thy beauties see.

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CHARLES SPURGEON (1866)

