

**The  
Golden Thread  
of  
The Bible**

**Benny B. Bristow**

# Introduction

**W**elcome to the study of "The Golden Thread of the Bible." The five chapters in this booklet will show you the way God has provided spiritual guidance for the human race since the time of creation. You will learn three important truths:

- 1. How Adam and Eve began in a **SAVED** relationship with God.**
- 2. How Adam and Eve sinned and became lost.**
- 3. How God provided a way to be **SAVED** for all who choose to be saved.**

In this study of "The Golden Thread of the Bible," you will learn that this golden thread represents God's love, and how He provided a beautiful way of salvation through His Son.

You will also learn the biblical facts about the New Testament church that Jesus purchased with His own blood.

Finally, you can seek the answers and work four Bible Crossword Puzzles that review these five chapters.

Be assured, that this little booklet, when studied, will increase your knowledge of the Bible as you learn about God's will for your life.

Thanks for taking the time to study "The Golden Thread of the Bible."

—The Author

# The Golden Thread of the BIBLE

## CHAPTER ONE

When studying the Bible, we have before us the most important book the world has ever known, because the Bible comes from God. The Bible is bound into one volume, but between the covers of this book, is really a library of 66 books. [1]

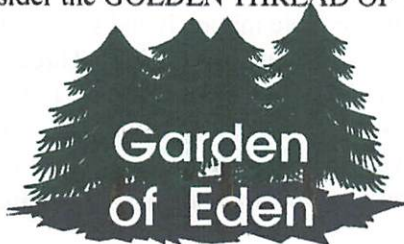


One can find law, history, poetry, prophecy, and biographies, but there is a GOLDEN THREAD that runs through all of these books that is very important and should be known by all. The thread is: **MAN SAVED, MAN LOST, and MAN SAVED.** As one follows this thread

throughout the Bible, it becomes very evident that God's love is fully present. This explains why this thread is referred to as THE GOLDEN THREAD—it is truly a thread of LOVE! [2]



Once you learn the full meaning of the thread, in future study, you will be able to see how all biblical facts are woven around this thread. Therefore, let us seriously consider the GOLDEN THREAD OF THE BIBLE. [3]



The golden thread begins with the origin of man placed in the beautiful Garden of Eden. Here, God bestowed His love and creative power to make man happy. He is first pictured in a saved condition and in complete fellowship with God. When God made Adam and Eve, they were truly Super Stars of His creation. Man was given dominion over all the animals as he gave them their names. [4]

Why did God so favor man? Because he was made in God's image:



*"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth' "* (Genesis 1:26). [5]

*"And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"* Genesis 2:8,9). [6]

All man had to do was dress the garden and eat of its fruit. In fact, there was only one tree forbidden... *"the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."* God specifically told Adam that in the day that he ate of this tree, he would surely die (Genesis 2:17). This was a test tree!



Will Adam and Eve eat of this tree and disobey God? Or, will they refuse it and obey Him? [7]

Unfortunately, they chose to disobey Him, and the moment they ate of this tree, was the moment they sinned. [8]



The word SIN means "missing the mark." God set up His requirement—His mark, but this first couple missed it and sinned! [9]

Thus, the Golden Thread changes from MAN SAVED to MAN LOST. They have now obeyed the devil instead of God, and must face God and the death penalty. They have traded the beautiful Garden of Eden for a world of sin. Let us observe what happened when they finally faced God. [10]

Remember, God had promised death, and it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, death must be met! What type of death? First of all, Adam and Eve must die physically. The "Tree of Life" will be taken from them and in a matter of years, they will die. However, this was not the only death that this couple was facing. They were fac-



ing spiritual death. For you see, physical death involves the body, but remember, man also has a soul made in God's image. [11]

Will God allow their souls to be cut off from Him forever? Someone might ask, "Didn't God promise death?" Yes, and death will be experienced; however, God chose to promise a substitute to pay man's debt so that he might live spiritually. [12]

Please consider, God's long range promise to Adam and Eve. The serpent, representing the devil, along with Adam and Eve, were brought before God, and in Genesis 3:15, God made the following promise: [13]



*"And I will put enmity between you [the devil] and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15). [14]*

In simple terms, God is saying that the Seed of woman will deal a head blow to the devil.

Since we can now read the entire history of the Bible, we know that the Seed of woman" is the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was born of a virgin. [15]

As we study further through the Bible, we learn how God made plans to bring this Seed of woman into the world to experience death for lost mankind. *"But 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" (Hebrews 2:9). [16]*

God chose a man called Abraham to begin a special nation through which this "Seed of woman" would come. In *Genesis 12:2*, God appeared to Abraham and said:

*"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing" Genesis 12:2). [17]*



This promise involved preparing the nation through which the Messiah would be born. Many books of the Old Testament are devoted to the development of this nation, their laws and worship to God, along with their mistakes. [18]

In the following chapter, we will look specifically at this nation as God developed it for His purpose of bringing salvation to lost humanity. [19].



# A Nation For Salvation

## CHAPTER TWO

This nation that God prepared to bring the Savior to earth, was first known as the Israelites, and then later referred to as the Jews. Please note further that God also promised Abraham a spiritual blessing. It wasn't enough to give him a nation, but out of this nation must come the Savior. Therefore, God said further to Abraham: [20]

*"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"* (Genesis 12:3). [21]

*"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice"* (Genesis 22:18). [22]

This promise involved preparing the nation through which the Messiah would be born. [23]

**PROMISE - Salvation**  
**Seed of Woman - Gen. 3:15**  
**Through Abraham**  
**A Nation - Gen. 12:2,3**  
**A Spiritual Blessing, Gen. 22:18**

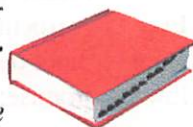
Many books of the Old Testament are devoted to the development of this nation, their laws and worship to God, along with their mistakes. [24]

This nation was first known as the Israelites, and then later referred to as the Jews. Please note further that God also promised Abraham a spiritual blessing. It wasn't enough to give him a nation, but out of this nation must come the Savior. Therefore, God said further to Abraham: [25]

*"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"* (Genesis 12:3). [26]

*"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice"* (Genesis 22:18). [27]

As this nation grew and existed over the years, God raised up many prophets to foretell the coming of the Christ. These men often referred to the fact that the Messiah would SAVE mankind. Isaiah even told of His death of sacrifice (Isaiah 53:2-8). [28]



Man's only hope to live spiritually is contained in God's promises. [29]

Therefore, this part of the GOLDEN THREAD of LOVE deals with promises for mankind to be saved. This salvation is the most important thing in the world. [30]

With this background, we should now be able to see the purpose of the Bible. You have perhaps noticed that the Bible is made up of two major divisions—two testaments. What is a testament? A testament is a covenant—thus, two covenants. [31]

## TWO COVENANTS

OLD	+	NEW
WILL		WILL

To further explain, a testament or covenant is also a will. Therefore, God has made two covenant—two wills. The old covenant [Old Testament] was made to one nation ONLY—the nation that came from Abraham—the Jews. Why did God make this covenant ONLY with the Jews? For the purpose of planning a covenant for ALL nations. [32]

God did not plan for the old covenant [Old Testament] to be permanent, but to exist until the new one (for all nations) would be given. God allowed Jeremiah, one of His spokesmen, to foretell the following about His covenants: [33]

*"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to*



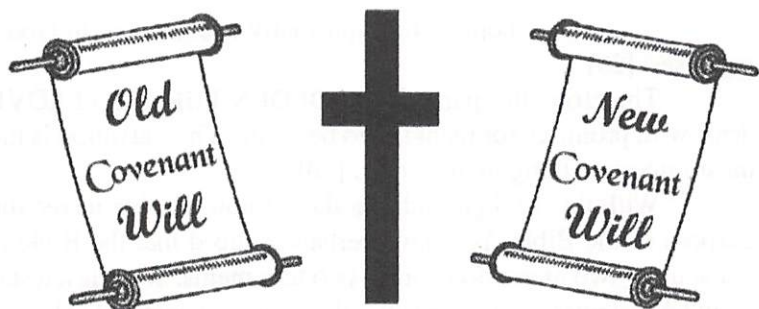
**Covenant**

*lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (Jeremiah 31:31-33). [34]*

## Two Covenants

### Jeremiah 31:31

Please note that God kept this promise, gave a New Covenant, and the cross of Christ stands between the two covenants.



When Christ died on the cross, the Old Testament or (old will) was fulfilled, and the new will, the New Testament was set in force. The apostle Paul verifies this in these words: [35]

*"having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross"* Colossians 2:14). [36]

The Hebrew writer, while discussing the old law wrote: *"then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first that He may establish the second"* (Hebrews 10:9). [37]

Paul teaches: *"Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are **no longer** under a tutor"* (Galatians 3:24,25). [38]



Let us compare the old law to the new law of Christ and see how that Christ's law is greater. [39]

<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>
* Law	* Savior
* Animal Blood	* Christ's Blood
* Prophecy	* Fulfilled
* Physical Kingdom	* Spiritual Kingdom



## The Golden Thread – Page 9

The old was made up of a long list of laws to keep Israel right with God while waiting for a Savior. The new law has the Savior. [40]

The old law offered the blood of animals in sacrifice as they looked for the Messiah. This animal blood; however, could not take away sin (*Hebrews 9:14*), but the blood of Christ can! [41]

The Old Testament prophecies tell of future events as to the coming of Christ and His Kingdom, and the New Testament fulfills these. [42]

The Old Testament tells of a physical Kingdom with earthly kings, while the new tells of Christ's spiritual Kingdom, (His church) in which He is King. [43]

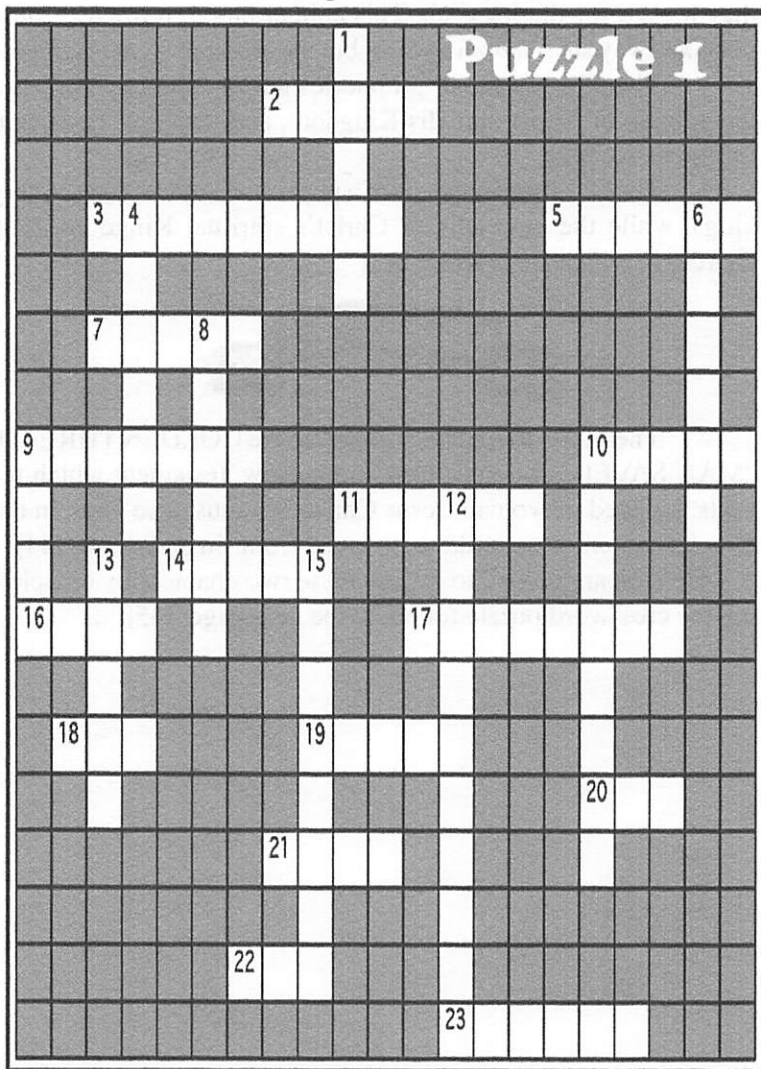


Therefore, to find the last part of the GOLDENTHREAD, "MAN SAVED," we must look to the New Testament which reveals the Seed of woman, Jesus Christ. We must also learn in the New Testament what to do to be saved from sin and death. [44]

You are invited to review these two chapters by completing the crossword puzzle found on the next page. [45].

# Review Puzzle

(Find answers by referring to paragraph numbers  
or Scripture references)



## The Golden Thread — Page 11

### ACROSS

- 2 It is said of Jesus: "crowned with ----- and honor" (Heb. 2:9)
- 3 A death other than physical [11]
- 5 Another word for Christ's kingdom [42]
- 7 The penalty for disobedience [10]
- 9 A word describing the books of the Bible [17]
- 10 Something of Christ that stands between God's two covenants [35]
- 11 That which God promised to Abraham (Gen. 12:2)
- 14 The way man and woman are first pictured [4]
- 16 The first garden (Gen. 2:8)
- 17 The ones who foretold the coming of Christ [28]
- 18 The penalty for eating from a specified tree (Gen. 2:17)
- 19 Something of God that made man and woman important (Gen. 1:26)
- 20 A particular kind of covenant promised (Jer. 31:31)
- 21 The name of a good tree in the middle of the first garden (Gen. 2:8,9)
- 22 That which "missing the mark" describes [9]
- 23 The new law has this [39].

### DOWN

- 1 A kind of seed that would bring to earth God's Son [15]
- 4 The third section out of five mentioned that can be found in the Bible [2]
- 6 "*The law was a tutor (schoolmaster) to bring us to -----*" (Gal. 3:24,25)
- 8 A familiar item used to describe the books of the Bible [2]
- 9 Something of God that is present throughout the Bible [2]
- 10 Another word for testament [32]
- 12 The way God's special nation was first known [??]
- 13 The one Adam and Eve obeyed instead of God (Gen. 3:1-6)
- 15 That which man had over all the animals [4]

# Jesus and Salvation

## CHAPTER THREE

Let us begin this third chapter by asking two important questions: “How does Christ save?” And, “What is involved in the new birth?” In part one of this study, we looked at how man was first saved, became lost, and how God promised him hope for the future through the Seed of woman. God planned a special nation through which His Son was born, and He eventually died for the sins of the world. This represents God’s part for our salvation. However, God has required that those who are lost must seek Him. [1]

This leads us to the question, “How does Christ save?” Since He’s the only Savior the world will ever have, salvation must be on His terms. To be saved and to enter His church or kingdom, Christ requires a new birth. He told Nicodemus: [2]



*“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God,” (John 3:5).*

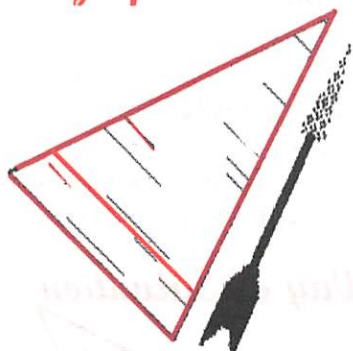


Many have tried to be saved without this birth; others have chosen only part of the birth—Spirit ONLY without water. But only those who have accepted Christ’s full statement “*born of water and the Spirit*” have been saved, (*Mark 16:16; John 3:5*). No one can successfully change the authority of Jesus. [3]

What is involved in this new birth? Notice the points a sinner must pass through before being saved. Remember, each point prepares his or her heart to be IN CHRIST. [4]



## Way of Salvation



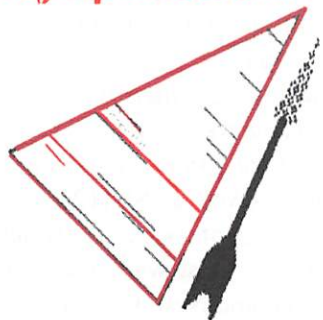
All sinners begin their pursuit for salvation from the point of spiritual DEATH—from the point of being lost!

*“For the wages of sin is death....” (Romans 6:23). [5]*

If the sinner remains at this lost point, he will receive eternal separation from God. Jesus taught that the majority will choose destruction, *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it,” (Matthew 7:13). [6]*

Therefore, to receive salvation, one must move through other points: The point of FAITH must be entered when he believes Jesus to be the Son of God. [7]

## Way of Salvation



The word of God makes a very forceful statement on the importance of the point of faith:

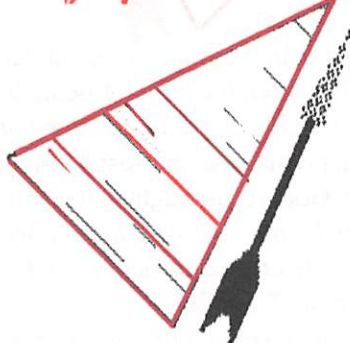
*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). [8]*

Jesus taught: "*He who believes and is baptized will be saved....*" (Mark 16:16).

Jesus said, "*Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins,*" (John 8:24).

As important as this point of faith is, one must not stop here. The faith that saves is the faith that obeys. [9]

### *Way of Salvation*



The believing sinner must now reach the point of TURNING—he must repent! Repentance means that he changes his “mind and will,” leading him to change his life. [10]

Just how important is repentance? Jesus answers, “*I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish,*” (Luke 13:5). [11]

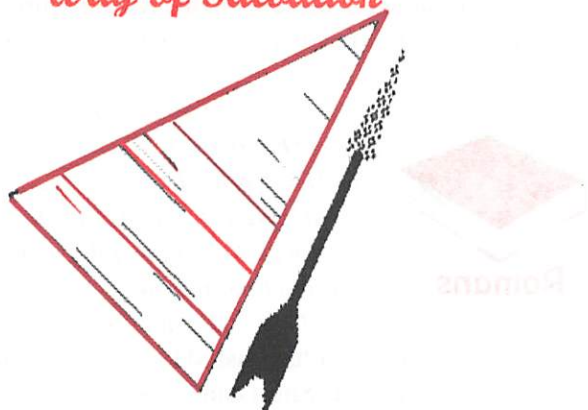
Peter told believing sinners who were seeking salvation, “*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,*” (Acts 2:38). [12]

The New Testament speaks of believers who would not repent and confess Him—these were disobedient to the Lord. [13]

In both the Old and New Testaments, God demanded that those who chose to follow Him, must give up the evil ways of the world. Thus, repentance begins with a change of heart that is followed by a change of life. [14]

Repentance, the point of turning, is a very important point on the way of salvation! [15]

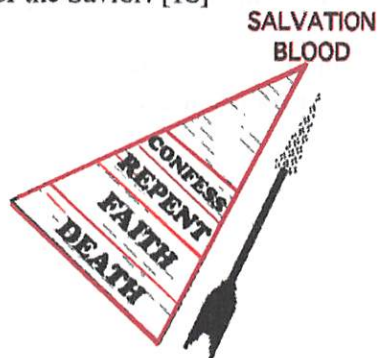
## Way of Salvation



After one turns, he must enter the point of "TELLING," and at this point, he tells or confesses that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. [16]

Paul writes: "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved," (Romans 10:9,10). [17]

At the point of "TELLING," the sinner is a believing, repenting sinner who believes that Jesus is the Christ. However, salvation can come only through the blood of Christ. Therefore, how does one get into Christ to reach His blood? It is at this point that many go astray, and refuse to accept the teaching of Jesus and the other writers of the New Testament. Remember, salvation must be on the terms of the Savior! [18]



Jesus chose baptism as the means for sinners to reach His blood to be saved. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved;

*but he who does not believe will be condemned,*" (Mark 16:16).

Paul shows in his letter to the Roman Christians why Jesus chose baptism. He wrote that this is the way that sinners meet Christ in death. [19]



**Romans**

*"Or do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized** into Christ Jesus were **baptized** into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the **dead** by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life,"* (Romans 6:3,4). [20]

After the sinner has passed through all points, he has been born of water and of the Spirit and is saved from sin. He (a penitent believer) has been baptized into Christ where His precious blood cleanses all sins. Since he has been saved, the Lord adds him to His church, Christ's spiritual body. [21]

*"praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved"* (Acts 2:47). [22]

Even though the Bible makes baptism essential for salvation, millions reject the importance of it because they fail to study the subject of baptism fully. [23]

**Millions  
Reject  
Baptism**

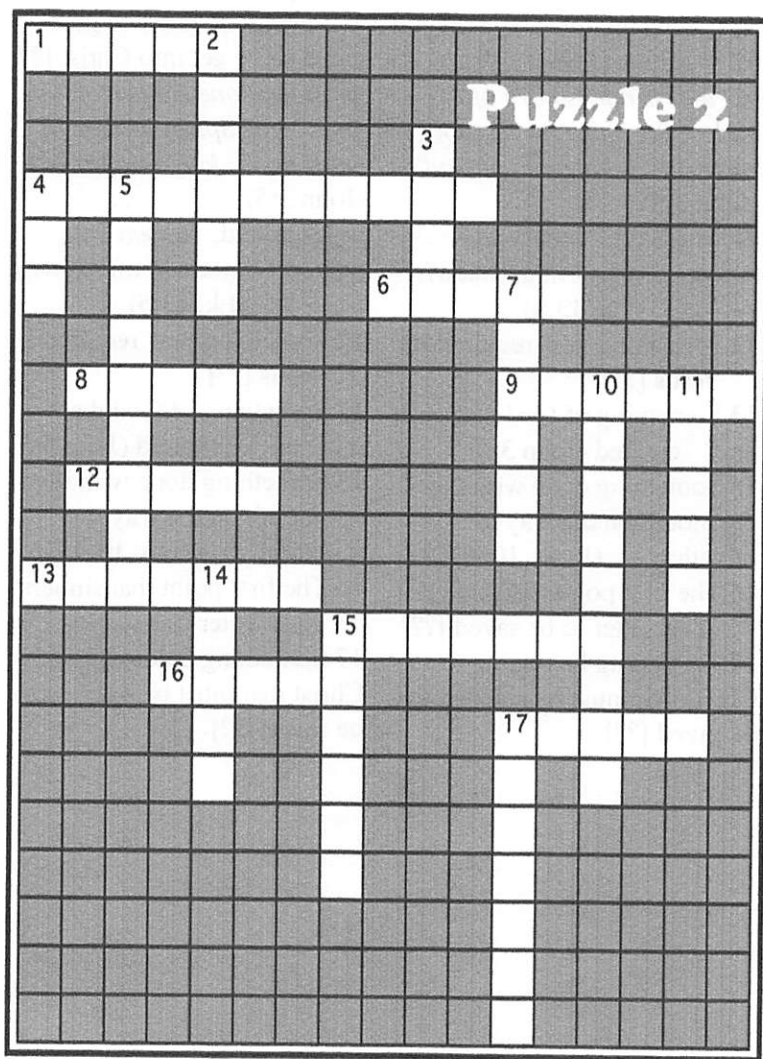
Before you pass judgment on baptism, please consider what the New Testament teaches on this subject. Chapter four will show you from God's word the real meaning and importance of baptism! [24]

After completing the review chapter on Jesus and salvation, please study chapter four to learn the full meaning of New Testament baptism. [25]



# Review Puzzle

(Find answers by referring to paragraph numbers  
or Scripture references)



Find clues on next page:

**ACROSS**

- 1 The faith that saves is the faith that ----- [??]  
4 That which Jesus said the majority seek (Mt. 7:13)  
6 That which must be prepared to get into Christ [??]  
8 *"unless one is born of ----- and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God"* (John 3:5)  
9 Jesus said, *"unless you repent, you will all likewise -----"* (Lk. 13:5)  
12 Something new required by Jesus [??]  
13 Something of God that must be entered (John 3:5)  
15 Something done with the mouth on the way to salvation (Rom. 10:9,10)  
16 The first point that sinners must enter to be saved [??]  
17 Something belonging to Christ that must be reached to be saved [??].

**ACROSS**

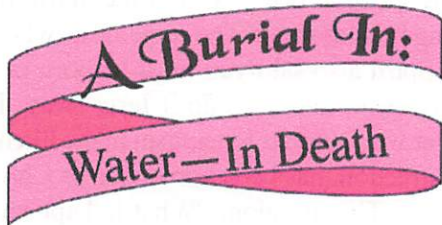
- 1 The faith that saves is the faith that ----- [??]  
4 That which Jesus said the majority seek (Mt. 7:13)  
6 That which must be prepared to get into Christ [??]  
8 *"unless one is born of ----- and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God"* (John 3:5)  
9 Jesus said, *"unless you repent, you will all likewise -----"* (Lk. 13:5)  
12 Something new required by Jesus [??]  
13 Something of God that must be entered (John 3:5)  
15 Something done with the mouth on the way to salvation (Rom. 10:9,10)  
16 The first point that sinners must enter to be saved [??]  
17 Something belonging to Christ that must be reached to be saved [??].

# What Is Baptism?


## CHAPTER FOUR

This is a question that can be fully answered by the Bible. The question is NOT what is baptism as man sees it, or it is NOT what do religions of today think of baptism, but rather what is baptism as taught in God's word. [1]

Baptism



First of all, it is a burial in water—in death. To be saved, one must reach the sacrifice of Christ. The one lost is not required to give his physical life in crucifixion (as Jesus), but one is required to go through a **form** of His death, burial, and resurrection.

 In *Romans 6:2-4*, Paul traces the steps as to how the Christians at Rome were saved. In *verse 2*, they were dead to sin, then in *verse 3*, they were baptized into His death. In *verse 4*, Paul gives more details of this death by discussing their burial and resurrection in water. *"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life,"* (Romans 6:4). [1]

Therefore, those who reject baptism as a condition for salvation, reject the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ! When a sinner believes, repents, confesses Christ, and submits to baptism as a form of His death, burial and resurrection, he or she is saved by the **blood of Christ** (Romans 6:17). [2]

In *verse 17* of *Romans 6*, Paul thanked God that they had obeyed **SALVATION** from their hearts that **FORM OF DOCTRINE**. Then he declared in *verse 18*, that this made them free from sin. This is salvation! [3]

## Baptism

A Part of New Birth  
Water & the Spirit

Baptism is also a part of the new birth (John 3:1-5). Millions speak of being born of the Spirit, but they refuse to include being born of water. The same Jesus who said you must be born of the Spirit also said you must be born of water. Remember, to be born again, one must do it Jesus' way. Therefore, a penitent believer who submits to baptism in the likeness of Christ's burial and resurrection, has been born again as Christ taught. [4]

The question, "What is baptism" is further answered in the Bible as the "final step into Christ." [5]

Final Step Into  
Christ (Gal. 3:26,27)

## Baptism

Did you know that there is no salvation OUT of Christ? Since baptism is God's way of getting one into Christ, doesn't this make baptism important? Someone might ask, "How do we know that baptism puts one into Christ?" Because the apostle Paul teaches this. [6]

*"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."* Notice, they are sons of God and in Christ. How did they get there? The next verse tells us: *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ,"* (Galatians 3:26,27). Note these words, "BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST." Those who teach that one is saved without baptism, teach that one is saved OUTSIDE of Christ. Paul again wrote, *"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"* (Romans 6:3). [7]

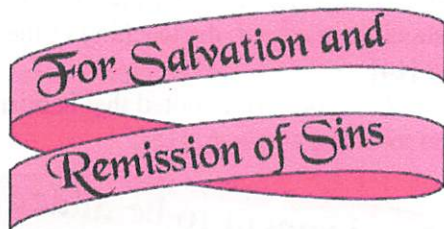
Thus, you can see that baptism is the final step into Christ



where all spiritual blessings are found (Ephesians 1:3). [8]

Considering the questions, “What is baptism,” and “What does it mean?” please note that it is “For salvation and the remission of sins.” [9]

## Baptism



Does this sound different from most religious teaching today? Yes, but it is still the teaching of the Bible! Listen to the words of Jesus as He commanded His apostles to preach the saving gospel to all the world, “*He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*” (Mark 16:16). [10]

Christ gives a simple formula:

<p><i>God's</i> Prescription <b>BELIEF + BAPTISM =</b> <b>SALVATION</b></p>
---

To refuse this is to refuse Christ the Savior! [11]

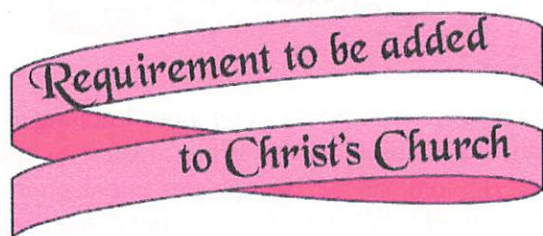
The apostle Peter made baptism essential for salvation also when he taught his powerful sermon in Acts 2. When the sinners, who were already believers, cried out, “*Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,”* (Acts 2:37,38). [12]

Thousands teach today that baptism is NOT for the remission of sins—Peter taught that IT IS! The chief of sinners, Saul of Tarsus, was told: “*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord,*” (Acts 22:16). Peter later taught, “*There is also an antitype*

*which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,”* (1 Peter 3:21). [13]

The Bible teaches that baptism is for salvation and the remission of sins, but man often teaches the opposite. Which teaching should one accept, the teaching of the Bible or the teaching of men? [14]

Let it be further noted that baptism is a requirement to be added to Christ's church. [15]



## Baptism

The biblical rule is set forth in Acts 2:47, "*praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*" [16]

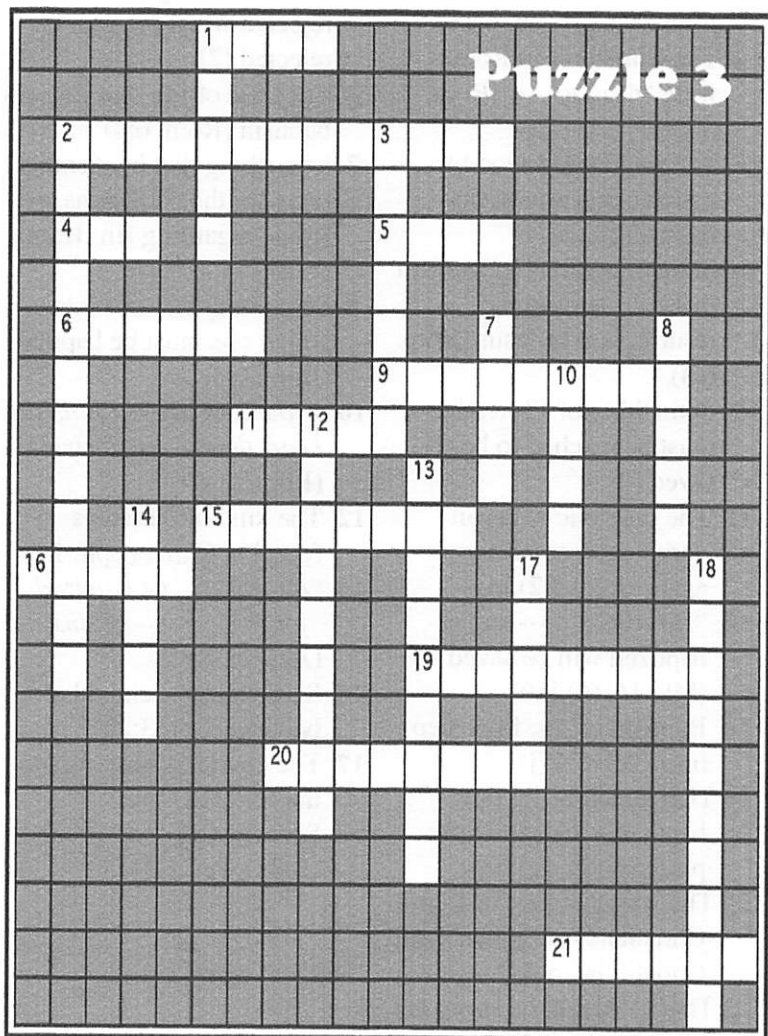
Since the sinners were told to repent and be baptized to have their sins forgiven or to be saved, this verse teaches that they were then added to the church. Please note, that the Lord did the adding! No exceptions given in the New Testament! [17]

You are invited to complete the review crossword puzzle on the next page. After this is completed, please consider "The New Testament Church" in chapter 5. [18]

The church in the New Testament was so important to Jesus that He was willing to purchase it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Hopefully, all of us are willing to learn everything possible about its importance to our lives. [19]

## Review Puzzle

(Find answers by referring to paragraph numbers  
or Scripture references)



Find clues on next page:

## The Golden Thread — Page 24

### ACROSS

- 1 A word describing the removal of sins (Acts 22:16)
- 2 The kind of servants who please God (Rom. 6:18)
- 4 The Christians in Rome were “dead to ---” (Rom. 6:2)
- 5 The standard of God by which one learns about baptism [22]
- 6 Something done in baptism that compares to the resurrection of Jesus (Rom. 6:4)
- 9 Something of Christ that must be reached to be saved [2]
- 11 The only one who can verify how to be born again (John 3:2) [4]
- 15 “He who ----- and is baptized will be saved” (Mk. 16:16) [10]
- 16 Baptism is “the final step into Christ” [7]
- 19 That which belief plus baptism equals in God’s prescription [11]
- 20 The way that the Galatian Christians had gotten into Christ (Gal. 3:27)
- 21 That to which the saved are added (Acts 2:47).

### DOWN

- 1 The first of two parts required in the new birth (John 3:5)
- 2 The third thing that is rejected when baptism is rejected [2]
- 3 The kind of life that follows baptism (Rom. 6:4)
- 7 Something that baptism had done for the Christians at Rome regarding sin (Rom. 6:18)
- 8 Something of Jesus into which one must be baptized (Rom. 6:3)
- 10 “*you have obeyed from the heart that ---- of doctrine*” (Rom. 6:17)
- 12 The kind of blessings found in Christ (Eph. 1:3)
- 13 “*Repent, . . . be baptized . . . for the ----- of sins; .*” (Acts 2:38)
- 14 Something essential before baptism (Gal. 3:26)
- 17 The church is made up of the ----- [16]
- 18 Something good toward God (1 Pet. 1:21).



# The New Testament Church

## CHAPTER FIVE



So far in this study, we have looked at how man was first saved, became lost, and then saved when God promised and gave His only begotten Son, the Seed of Woman. This Son came through a special nation that God prepared. [1]

When Jesus gave His life for the sins of the world, He also purchased His church with His blood... *"to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood,"* (Acts 20:28).

In this study we will be learning what the New Testament teaches about His church. [2]

## CONFUSION

Even though the Bible gives many references to Christ's church, there is still much confusion. Throughout the centuries since Christ established His church, man has been guilty of adding to and subtracting from the original word or pattern. Consequently, millions have become confused and do not appreciate the church of the New Testament. [3]

### A Desire To Learn

If you have a desire to learn about the New Testament church, it is necessary for you to remove from your mind (as much as possible) the many different concepts taught today. Try to prepare your mind to accept the New Testament teaching ONLY! Don't accept what any person teaches, but only God's word. [4]

Since the church of the New Testament belongs to Christ, it is important to learn of the relationship of the church TO CHRIST. As you do this, it should be remembered also that His church and His kingdom are the same (*Matthew 16:18,19*). With this fact in

mind, may we now consider Christ's relationship to His kingdom or church. [5]



First of all, He promised to build His church. After Peter confessed Him to be the Christ, Jesus promised... *"and on this rock (that He's the Christ) I will build my church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it,"* (Matthew 16:18). [6]

Therefore, Christ promised to build His church or kingdom. Did He keep His promise? Did He build it? Yes! Because years later, Paul declared that Christ purchased His church with His own blood (*Acts 20:28*). Don't you believe that His church is important since it cost Him His own blood? [7]

The New Testament also teaches that the church is Christ's spiritual body. *"And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all,"* (Ephesians 1:22,23). [8]



Every saved person is added to Christ's church or body and becomes a member of His spiritual body. *"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit,"* (1 Corinthians 12:13). [9]

Then in the remaining verses of this chapter, Paul compares Christ's church to the human body which is made up of many members, but having different functions. [10]

Christ is also described as the head of His church, His body. *"And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning,*



*the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence,”* (Colossians 1:18). [11]

There is not a man or woman on earth who has the right to be the head of the church—ONLY CHRIST. He is

the head—the ONLY HEAD of His church! [12]

The Lord also adds the saved to His church (*Acts 2:47*).

Remember, man may accept someone into a church for various reasons, or one might even be rejected by men, but be assured that the Lord doesn't make mistakes. The same obedience that saves a sinner, adds him to Christ's church. [13]



The concept of voting to see if one can “join a church” is not found in New Testament teaching. In the New Testament, thousands who were obedient to all of Christ's teachings were saved, and instantly added to the Lord's church—with NO EXCEPTIONS! [14]



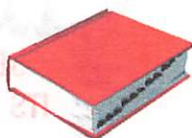
To note further Christ's relationship to His church, observe that His church remembered His death, and today in a like manner, we must continue to remember His death. In *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*, Paul

reviews how Christ instituted the Lord's Supper. [15]

*“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it*



and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." [16]



How often did the church or body remember Him and His death? And on what day did they remember? To answer these questions, we must turn to a New Testament example. [17]

### New Testament Example

In Acts 20:7, we find, "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight." This is the example, and we never read where they ever missed a first day of the week breaking bread! We do read where, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers," (Acts 2:42). [18]

Even church history outside the Bible, verifies the fact that early Christians remembered the Lord by observing His Supper EVERY Sunday. (See Justin Martyr, Apology, 1.67). [19]



Since the church is Christ's body, purchased with His own blood, and He's the only head, it is also important to wear His name. Any descriptive name which cannot be found in the New Testament should not be used. In Romans 16:16, Paul wrote, "Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you." [20]

All other descriptive names found in the New Testament

glorify the name of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Compare: *Acts 4:12; 11:26; Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 1:2*).

The relationship to Christ's church or kingdom is further shown by the fact that He saves it. [22]

In *Ephesians 5:23*, Paul declares that Christ is the Savior of the body. This means that those found outside of Christ's body, His church, are lost! There is therefore, no way one can

follow the New Testament and separate Christ from His church.

This brings us to the conclusion that there are only two ways presented in the New Testament. [24]



<b>Two Ways</b> Matthew 7:13,14	
<b>Narrow Way</b> <b>Few Find</b> <b>Eternal</b> <b>Life</b>	<b>Wide Way</b> <b>Many Find</b> <b>Eternal</b> <b>Destruction</b>
<b>Which Road Are You On?</b>	

It was Jesus who taught about these two ways. In *Matthew 7:13,14*, He said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." [25]



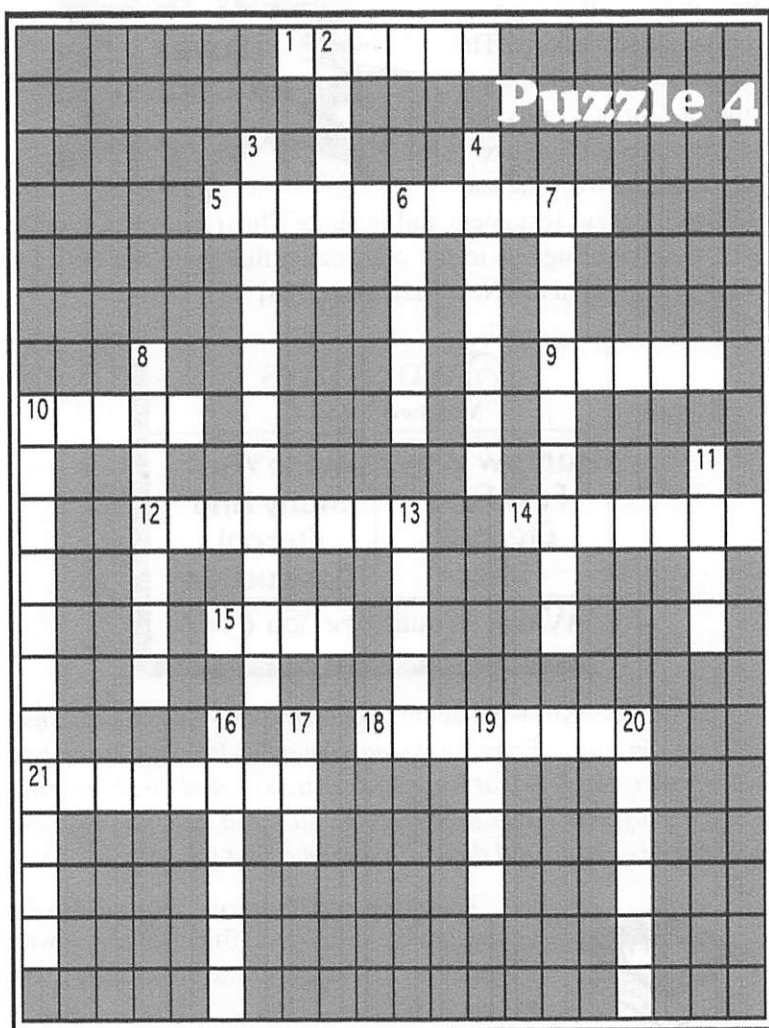
Therefore, in His eternal wisdom He declared that only FEW will find the narrow way, while MANY will travel the broad way to destruction. [26]

This truth should make all of us more concerned about our souls, and anxious to make sure that we are following the will of God. [27]



## Review Puzzle

(Find answers by referring to paragraph numbers  
or Scripture references)



## The Golden Thread — Page 31

### ACROSS

- 1 The only head of the New Testament church (Col. 1:18) [12]
- 5 The purpose that Jesus gave for eating the bread and drinking the cup (1 Cor. 11:23-26)
- 9 *"Now on the ----- day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread"* (Acts 20:7)
- 10 The ones added to the church (Acts 2:47)
- 12 The way that the Christians at Corinth had entered Christ's church or body (1 Cor. 12:13)
- 14 That which is the same with Christ's church (Mt. 16:18,19) [5]
- 15 The church that Jesus purchased is also referred to as *"His ----"* (Eph. 1:22,23)
- 18 *"the ----- of Christ greet you"* (Rom. 16:16)
- 21 Something that cannot be successfully done regarding Christ and His church [23].

### DOWN

- 2 Something that would not prevail against His church [??]
- 3 The destination of those on the broad way (Mt. 7:13,14)
- 4 Something about the New Testament that has been added and subtracted [??]
- 6 The purchasing price that Jesus paid for His church (Acts 20:28)
- 7 That which still in abundance regarding Christ's church [3]
- 8 The church consists of many of these [10]
- 10 A word describing how the early disciples broke bread (Acts 2:42)
- 11 Jesus said: *"and on this ---- I will build My church"* (Mt. 16:18)
- 13 Something the early church continually remembered [15]
- 16 The only way that reaches life (Mt. 7:13,14) [25]
- 17 A description given by Jesus as to who will find life (Mt. 7:13,14) [26]
- 19 *"Which ---- are you on?"* [25]
- 20 That which Christ is to His church or body (Eph. 5:23).

