

## Christian Misconceptions

Here are seven or eight subjects that have been generally misunderstood by almost all Christians. Let's examine the scriptures associated with these and see if we can shed some light on them:

**1) The Trinity** – the concept that the Deity we worship is divided into three equal parts, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Each of these is an individual living being, yet the three comprise only one “God.” They make the Holy Spirit a living being, and refer to it as “He.” This comes from the polytheistic practice of the pagans to have a multiplicity of “gods” in their pantheon, and is an adaptation of that belief into Christianity by the Roman Catholic Church. There are only two scriptures that can be used to support this error, and both were manufactured by the Catholics.

Let's look first at Matthew 28:19, the so-called “Great Commission.” *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in **the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**”*

According to Catholic sources this was added around the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE. The original verse 19 read as follows: (Mat 28:19) *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them **in My Name.**”*

This is verified by the actions of the Apostles after His ascension to the heavens. All baptismal accounts that are recorded from Acts 2 on are in Yahshua's Name only. Is it logical to think that the Apostles, under the inspiration of the Set Apart Spirit, would go out and deliberately disobey His instructions? Of course not!

The other attempt to scripturally justify a trinity is found in First John 5:7-8. *“For there are three that bear record [**in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. {8} And there are three that bear witness in earth,] the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.**”*

Almost all other versions point out that the parts between the brackets in boldface type, are bogus. Here is what Bullinger's Companion Bible says: The texts read, “the Spirit, and the water”, &c. omitting all the words from “in heaven” to “in earth” (v.8) inclusive. The words are not found in any Gr. MS before the sixteenth century. They were first seen in the margin of some Latin copies. Thence they have crept into the text.

(Write for “The Trinity – Fact or Fiction?” for more complete information)

**2) “Born again,” and “Are you saved?”** We will study these two together, since they are closely related. They are popular in Christian circles, and both are misapplied. The Greek word for both “begotten” and “born” is “gennao” according to Strong's Greek Dictionary: **1080. gennao, ghen-nah'-o; from a var. of G1085; to procreate (prop. of the father, but by extens. of the mother); fig. to regenerate:-bear, beget, be born, bring forth, conceive, be delivered of, gender, make, spring.**

You have to know the context in which the word is used to determine if it means to be conceived (begotten), or to actually be born as we know it. Christians believe that we are “born again” at the moment we repent and are baptized. No, we are “begotten” at that time, and won't be born again, until we are changed to spirit at Yahshua's return (1 Cor. 15).

(1 Cor 15:50-53 KJV) *“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of YHWH; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. {51} Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, {52} In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. {53} For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.”*

At that instant, we are born again – with a Spirit body, never to die again. WE put on immortality at that moment. We do not now have an immortal soul. That is also a pagan myth. We seek for immortality (Rom. 2:7).

We quite often hear the question, either put to us, or someone nearby, by a well-meaning person, “Brother (or Sister), are you saved?” They mean, of course, have you repented and accepted the Savior. They consider once you do that, you are in a “saved” condition. But Scripture shows that we are only in process of being saved. The actual act of being saved is, as in the case of being born again, when we are changed from this physical body to a spirit body at Yahshua’s appearing. In Matthew 10:22 and 24:13, Yahshua said “he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” Paul said in Romans 5:9-10, “much more then, being now justified by His blood, **we shall be saved** from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to YHWH by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we **shall be saved by his life.**”

So we are NOW begotten, and we SHALL BE saved when we receive that Spirit body at His return. And, yes, we can fall away. “Once saved, always saved” is another myth believed by some Christians, as they apply it to conversion rather than the new birth at the resurrection.

(Write for the booklets “Do You Have An Immortal Soul?” and “Truth About Judgment” for more complete information)

3) “**The hem of His garment**” What was that hem, and what does it mean to us today? You find these references in Matthew 9:20 and 14:36, and referred to His tassels or fringes. This is from Strong’s Greek Dictionary, #2899. kraspedon, kras’-ped-on; of uncert. Der.; a margin, i.e. (spec.) a fringe or tassel:--border, hem.

Yahshua was obedient to the command in Num.15:38-40 and Deut. 22:12, to wear tassels. The purpose was to remind the wearer of the 10 Commandments, and to keep them. Although He certainly needed no reminder, He was our example. We are to emulate Him. But how many people today actually do? We assume many of those things were “done away.” But were they?

(Write for a short article, “Me, Wear What?!”)

4) “**Final Judgment**” Almost no one, it seems, understands this very important Biblical subject. Most believe that at the moment of death our conscious “soul” leaves the body and goes either to heaven if we have been “good,” or is plunged into the fiery abyss known as “hell” if we have been bad. Since it is obvious that most have fallen far short of “the glory of Yahweh,” many worry needlessly about loved ones who have died in an “unsaved” condition and may now be suffering the torment of the damned, and will continue in that state for all eternity. This is not true.

The Truth is, that only a remnant of humanity is now being called. And of those, “many are called but few are chosen.” Why? Because, some to whom the Truth is shown, fail to respond. They reject it. They suffer from a lack of conviction. But what about the vast majority of mankind who has lived and died, and the billions now living, who have never heard the Name of the Creator – who worship idols, or nothing at all? What about these poor deceived Tsunami victims, for example, whose lives have been turned upside down? We have seen them on television praying to their stone and wood idols. But no answer comes. Are they doomed to Hell, because of their ignorance? Are they lost for all eternity? No, not necessarily. Most people, world-wide, have been blinded for now. They simply do not and cannot understand Yahweh’s plan for them, because they are ignorant of the fact that there is a Mighty Creator-Sustainer named Yahweh, that He exists and has a wonderful plan for them. This is a long subject that I have covered in the booklet already mentioned, “*Truth About Judgment*,” so let me here just quote a few things that Yahshua said in His ministry:

(Mat 10:14-15 KJV) *"And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. {15} Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city."*

(Mat 11:23-24 KJV) *"And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. {24} But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee."*

We are now being judged, day by day (1 Peter 4:17). From the time of our conversion until our death, or until Yahshua returns and changes us to Spirit, we are being judged. But the day is coming when ALL who have ever lived and were not in the first resurrection, will be judged. They will be resurrected to physical life and given a period of time to be taught Yahweh's Torah, and about Yahshua's sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins. Then they will have an opportunity to accept and repent, or to reject and be destroyed by fire. This will be at the end of the 1,000-year period.

Yahshua spoke of both time periods – the first in Mat. 24:31 to the end of the chapter, and the second in Mat. 25:31 to the end of that chapter. It is also covered in Ezekiel 37, Malachi 4, and Revelation 20 as well as other places.

(Write for the booklets, "The Truth About Judgment," and "The Truth About the Resurrections" for more detail)

**5) "Baptism with the Holy Spirit and with Fire"** John the Immerser (Baptiser) spoke of these in the Gospel accounts written by Matthew and Luke. Let's look at Luke's account:

(Luke 3:16 KJV) *"John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:*

These verses and this doctrine is grossly misunderstood by most Christians, especially those of the pentecostal "tongues" persuasion. Many of them believe and teach that we have to be baptized in the spirit, as well as in water, and with fire. Somehow they equate the fire with the Day of Pentecost when the "tongues AS OF fire" sat on the disciples' heads, and if we don't speak in "tongues" at baptism, then we don't have the Holy Spirit!

But notice the very next verse, continuing the thought from verse 16 and still speaking of Yahshua:

*{17} Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner (barn or granary); **but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.**"*

Does this sound like something desirable? Not to me! What John is speaking of is, first, the saints who have repented and endured to the end, will actually become Spirit beings – BUT the unrighteous, those who refuse to repent, will be destroyed by fire in the lake of fire at the final judgment. Again, see Malachi 4, Rev. 20, Mat. 24 and 25, and be sure to study the same two booklets offered in the last section, "Truth About Judgment" and "Truth About the Resurrections." This subject and the previous one (No. 4) are closely related.

And, do you know why we have Yahweh's Holy Days, and why they are so important for us today? It is because they depict Yahweh's plan of salvation, all the way from the beginning to the end. When we keep His Holy Days, as He has commanded throughout both the Old and New Testaments, we are rehearsing His Plan. It keeps us mindful of His great plan for ALL mankind.

(In addition to "Truth About Judgment" and "Truth About the Resurrections," also request "Yahweh's Holy Days vs. Man's Holidays" for more detail)

**6) "Reverend"** Psalm 111:9 says *"He sent redemption unto His people: he hath commanded his covenant forever: **holy and reverend is His Name.**"*

Should mere men use this title? "Holy" means "Sacred," Quodesh or Kadosh in Hebrew. "Reverend" means "awesome, frightful, dreadful." Why would men want to appropriate one of Yahweh's titles or attributes to themselves? It is just one of the traditions that sprang up somewhere back in the dark ages, and has been thoughtlessly carried forward to this day. We should get rid of all such as this when we learn Yahweh's awesome Truth. We would not think of referring to ourselves as "holy," so why accept "Reverend"?

**7) "The Rapture"** Another serious error that millions of Christians are depending on. Books like "Left Behind," which depicts the "unsaved" being left on earth to suffer tribulation, while seeing the "righteous" rising into the sky, being wafted off to heaven, has misled untold numbers of people who think this belief comes out of the Bible. This belief, and some of the others covered above, stems from the mistaken belief that we have a "soul" living in us, that goes to heaven or hell at death. There are variations to exactly how different denominations apply this falsehood, but most seem to think that the "rapture" could happen at any moment. People driving down the street are suddenly raptured away, leaving their car to careen crazily down the street without a driver. Panic-stricken bystanders see all these "saints" rising, and they are "left behind!" As they rise, they somehow change from physical to spiritual, and arrive at the Golden Gate with a spirit body.

Where does such nonsense come from? Out of the minds of the authors, who take a Scripture or two that they misunderstand and build a whole speculative doctrine on it. So let's look at the so-called support Scriptures for a "rapture" doctrine:

(John 14:2-3 KJV) *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. {3} And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

(1 Th 4:16-17 NRSV) *"For the Master himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of YHWH's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in the Messiah will rise first. {17} Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Master in the air; and so we will be with the Master forever."*

Notice in John 14, very carefully what Yahshua says: "and if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again**, and receive you unto myself; that **where I am, there ye may be also.**" Now, when He comes again, where will He be? Here on earth, of course. Then He says, "...that where I am, there ye may be also." So He is correctly saying that we will be with Him here on earth. This is confirmed in Zech. 14:4, where He is said to stand in that day on the mount of Olives in Jerusalem. His Kingdom is to be here on earth, not in heaven. After the 1,000 years are expired and all things are ready, Yahweh Himself will descend with the new Heavenly Jerusalem, and make His home here, too (1 Cor. 15:24-28 and Rev. chapters 21 and 22).

In the passage in 1 Thes. 4, Paul does not mean that we will be forever with Yahshua in the air, but that we will settle down with Him in the environs of Jerusalem as the passages in Zechariah and Revelation do show.

The Kingdom is everywhere in Scripture shown to be here on earth, and not up in heaven. Also, the saints are not exempt from the great tribulation that is to come. Mat. 24:21-22 explains that

these days will be shortened for the elect's sake. If they were up in heaven, there would be no need to protect them, or shorten the days for their sakes. We are told over and over again in scripture to be ready for that great and dreadful day of Yahweh which is to come upon the whole earth. That will begin at Yahshua's return.

Read all of Matthew 24 and 25, Mark 13 and Luke 21. It will be a terrible time for those who are not ready – for those who are sitting around awaiting a rapture to transport them to heaven, away from all the “action.” Terrible also for all those others who have not known Yahweh or His Son, Yahshua – for the teeming millions who still worship stone and wood idols, images of their own making, and pray to those “gods” using prayer wheels and rosary beads, incantations, pin wheels, etc. etc.

How can you avoid all this heartache and misery? How can you keep from being deceived? Take the title of this newsletter seriously – “*search the Scriptures,*” then obey. Repent, accept Yahshua's sacrifice to pay for your past sins, and begin to keep the Torah (Law), primarily the Ten Commandments. We are told that we must endure to the end, then we shall be saved. Yahshua said “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be condemned,*” Mark 16:16. So, to all I say, endure! It won't be for long. Then, we reap our eternal reward that Yahweh has prepared for us:

(1 Cor 2:9 KJV) *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which Yahweh hath prepared for them that love him."*~

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