

# Back To Basics

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## REPENTANCE BEFORE FAITH

*Johnie Edwards*

**M**any churches reverse the order of faith and repentance in God's plan for saving man. Ever wonder why they do this? They teach that salvation comes at the point of faith. So in order to get man saved at the point of faith, they put repentance before faith.

1) **REPENTANCE PRODUCED BY GODLY SORROW.** Paul told the Corinthians, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Cor. 7:10). The question is: If repentance comes before faith, what produces godly sorrow? You must know that "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

2) **GOD'S GOODNESS LEADS TO REPENTANCE.** Writing to the Romans Paul penned, "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Rom. 2:4). No way does the goodness of God lead one to repent before he believes. If one repents before he has faith, it would not please God (Heb. 11:6).

3) **REPENT OR PERISH.** Luke recorded, "I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3). If repentance

comes before faith, one cannot perish because he has repented. But, he cannot be saved because he has not believed, unless salvation comes without faith! Repentance before faith makes no sense, does it?

4) **PREACHING TO AN INFIDEL.** Wonder what those who teach that repentance comes before faith would preach first to an infidel: repentance or faith? When the unbelieving jailer asked, "what must I do to be saved?", he was first told to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ..." (Acts 16:31). He was taught the word to bring about faith (Rom. 10:17). He then showed repentance by "washing their stripes; and was baptized..." (Acts 16:32-33).

5) **DEVILS BELIEVED.** In teaching that one is not saved by faith only (Jas. 2:24), James declared, "...Devils also believe" (Jas. 2:19). Devils must have repented if repentance comes before faith! If not, why not?

6) **ANGEL'S JOY.** Luke 15:7 says, "...joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." But if repentance is before faith, angels are rejoicing over one with whom God is not pleased for Hebrews 11:6 tells us that "without faith it is impossible to please him..."!



# THE SOWER'S SEED

*Basic Sermon Starters*

"HE THAT GOETH FORTH AND WEEPETH, BEARING PRECIOUS SEED, SHALL DOUBTLESS COME AGAIN WITH REJOICING, BRINGING HIS SHEAVES WITH HIM."

## LIVING BELOW IN THIS OLD SINFUL WORLD

### Introduction

1. The song *Where Could I Go* sets forth our need for the Lord as we live below in this old sinful world.
2. The Bible teaches us about living below in this old sinful world.

### Discussion

#### I. LIVE BY THE WORD OF GOD

- A. Matthew 4:4
- B. The word of God is as necessary to living as our daily bread.

#### II. LIVE BY FAITH

- A. "The just shall live by his faith" (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38).
- B. Hebrews 11 records some who lived by faith in this old sinful world.

#### III. LIVE PEACEABLY

- A. Romans 12:18
- B. "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt. 5:9).
- C. "Live in peace" (2 Cor. 13:11).

#### IV. LIVE FOR JESUS

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- B. We are not to live for ourselves or for other men, but we're to live for Him who gave Himself for us!

#### V. LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY

- A. Titus 2:11-14
- B. Discuss each of these.

#### VI. LIVE HONESTLY

- A. Hebrews 13:18
- B. The Scriptures often talk about honest living (Rom. 13:13; 1 Th. 4:12; 2 Cor. 8:21; 1 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 2:12).

#### VII. LIVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. 1 Peter 2:24
- B. Romans 6 teaches us about living unto righteousness.

### Conclusion

1. Where could I go but to the Lord?
2. Do you need to make some changes in your living?

## Back To Basics

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# THE LORD'S SUPPER, NEW TESTAMENT STYLE!

John Isaac Edwards

Steve Atkerson, author of *The Lord's Supper: Feast or Famine?*, had this to say about the Lord's supper:

"Everyone brings food to share with everyone else. When the weather is nice, all the food is placed on a long folding table outside. A chest full of ice sits beside the drink table. Kids run wildly around. They are having so much fun that they must be rounded up by parents and encouraged to eat. After a prayer of thanksgiving is offered, people line up, talking and laughing as they load their plates with food. In the middle of all the food sits a single loaf of bread next to a large container of the fruit of the vine. Each believer partakes of the bread and juice/wine while going through the serving line...The atmosphere is not unlike that of a wedding banquet. It is a great time of fellowship, encouragement, edification, friendship, caring, catching-up, praying, exhorting, and maturing. The reason for the event? In case you did not recognize it, this is the Lord's Supper, New Testament style!"

F. Lagard Smith made this statement in his *Radical Restoration* book:

The Lord's supper "was observed in conjunction with a fellowship meal. That is, a normal, ordinary meal with the usual variety of food. From its very inception, therefore, the Lord's supper was an integral part of a real meal...Whatever actual form it took, it was a memorial within a meal."

**SOME OBSERVATIONS.** 1) *The need to get back to basics.* With men teaching bogus concepts like we just read, who can deny the need to get back to basics? It's past time for basic Bible teaching and preaching concerning simple themes such as the Lord's supper. 2) *The Lord's supper was not instituted in conjunction with an ordinary meal.* Jesus instituted the Lord's

supper during the Passover (Mt. 26:17-29). The Passover meal was not "a normal, ordinary meal with the usual variety of food." By the way, Jesus only took unleavened bread and fruit of the vine in instituting the Lord's supper. This excludes every other variety of food! 3) *The church at Corinth was out of order when the Lord's supper was turned into a meal.* The Corinthians were feasting with the Lord's supper and Paul said, "What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in?" (1 Cor. 11:22). "And if any man hunger, let him eat at home" (1 Cor. 11:34). 4) *If the Lord's supper "was an integral part of a real meal," then the Lord's supper could not be observed without "a normal, ordinary meal with the usual variety of food!"*

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## BAGS OF DISTRACTIONS

Bobby Adams

When I was a little girl, it would not have entered my mother’s mind to take anything to a church service to entertain me. I was expected to sit quietly and listen. I raised six children and I took nothing to entertain them.

For the past twenty years, I have traveled with my husband in full-time gospel meeting work. We have been all over this country and overseas. I have noticed that fewer and fewer young people obey the same gospel that was preached to me. I obeyed it at the age of thirteen. I see parents come into the service with big “bags of distractions.” They have toys, games, books, food, drinks, and even what looks like game boys. The children play, sometimes on the floor, many times talking outloud and disturbing worshippers. Sometimes they leave an awful mess for others to clean up.

Parents, what are you teaching your children? Are you teaching them that a church service is to play, read everything but the Bible, do “busy work” in comic books, eat and drink? When he gets to the age of accountability, even attending every service, and does not obey the gospel, could it be that he has not *heard* it? Have you taught him *why* he goes to church?

Some ask, “How can I keep him quiet if he has nothing to do?” I urge parents to start when he is very young at home and on the way to service teaching him *why* he is going (Heb. 10:25). Teach him *why*

we sing praises to the great God of Heaven (1 Cor. 14:15), *why* we bow quietly in prayer to talk to God (1 Cor. 14:15), *why* we listen to what is taught from His word (2 Tim. 4:2), *why* we give back a part of what He has given us (1 Cor. 16:2), and how we are thinking about the terrible sacrifice Christ made for us when we take the Lord’s supper (1 Cor. 11:26-29). Describe the details of His suffering so that even a young child can understand. The teaching can not be started too young.

When the baby is very young, gently put your hand over his mouth when he makes *any* noise. Whisper (not a stage whisper please) into his ear to be quiet. He will soon learn that word and what it means. Babies understand much younger than many think. Before he is a year old he will understand what is expected of him. Never let him learn that the church building has a floor. He will push to see if you are serious. When he disobeys, take him out and smack his legs so it stings, not on a padded diaper. I know that is not politically correct, but Proverbs 23:13-14 says he will not die. A kitchen spatula carried in the purse works wonders. Soon he will get the message that it is more fun to stay in and be quiet than to go out.

Young parents, I know you want your children to become faithful Christians and go to Heaven. Are you teaching them to *listen*?

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# WHY WE BELIEVE

by  
Joe Corley

I will be writing several articles on the theme, *Why We Believe*. Writing on this subject in the brief space allotted is like trying to empty a lake with a thimble. Volumes have been written on this subject. We will scarcely be able to make a dent in the abundance of material available. Our comments will be brief and to the point. Unbelief is common today. Relatively few believe in God or in the Bible that reveals Him. Peter challenges us to “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you” (1 Pet. 3:15). Some don’t even know what they believe, much less why!

I want to begin by stating what we believe and in articles to follow offer reasons why we believe. **We believe in the true God.** I say “true” God because there are many false gods. The true God is the God revealed in the Bible. We believe that “God is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11:6). We believe that “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1) by the power of His word (Heb. 11:3).

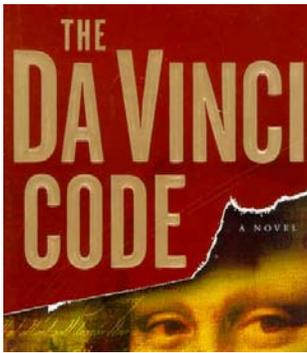
The “God” many believe in is not the God of the Bible, though some think so. Americans and the rest of the world worship many gods. Mammon, the god of materialism is not the God of the Bible. The true God is not the god of pleasure that a great many worship. He is not a God that has died because man has outgrown his need of Him, as many modernists believe, but He is a “living God” (Heb. 10:31). He is not a God who changes His laws to suit the changing whims of men as some believe (Mal. 3:6). He is not a God who overlooks and condones sin

and saves man in spite of his lifestyle, but a God who will judge every man according to His law (Rom. 14:11-12).

The true God is not the god worshipped by the Mormons, whose god is a materialistic flesh and body god. The God of the Bible is a Spirit (Jn. 4:24), and not flesh and blood (Lk. 24:39). He is not an imaginary, vague influence that permeates the universe, but a real, personal Being. The fact that we cannot see Him with our physical eyes does not mean He does not exist. We cannot see the wind, yet we see its effects. So it is with God. He is not a God afar off, who is so preoccupied that He has no concern for His creation. Rather, He is “not far from every one of us; for in Him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:27-28). He is not a God whose love is such that He justifies us in whatever we believe, as many religious people think. Though He is truly a God of love (1 Jn. 4:8), He demands respect and obedience (1 Jn. 5:3).

There is but one true God (Eph. 4:6). “Unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory, for ever and ever” (1 Tim. 1:17). “From everlasting to everlasting thou art God” (Ps. 20:2). He is the self-existent One, the FIRST CAUSE of all that exists. He is said to be omniscient (all knowing). He knows “the end from the beginning” (Is. 46:9-10). He sees all. “Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Saith the Lord” (Jer. 22:23). He is unlimited in power and authority. “The Lord God omnipotent reigneth” (Rev. 19:6). He is true to His promises (Heb. 6:18), kind (Mt. 5:45), merciful (Eph. 2:4-5), yet a God of anger and wrath (Rom. 2:4-5). He is the God of all gods, and Lord of all lords, and King of all kings!

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## MODERN ATTACKS ON THE BIBLE AND CHRISTIANITY

Marc W. Gibson

*“Perhaps one day, Sunday school students will learn that Jesus married Mary Magdalene, seminaries will teach alternative gospels as the true Christian canon and Bible colleges will emphasize Christ’s human attributes over his divinity.”*

So begins an article published in the Saturday, April 29, 2006 edition of the *Lake-land Ledger* (*The Debate on Da Vinci*, Alexandra Alter). The author goes on to say that this “hasn’t happened yet,” but, in reality, most denominational seminaries and secular universities already expose young people to these, and many more, liberal religious theories. Recently, the debate on these subjects has become widespread due to the publishing of *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown, and the movie based on this book. Add to this the recent publishing of an ancient manuscript of the *Gospel of Judas* and you have a rising tide of questions and doubt.

The media has pounced on these “revelations” as an example of the “crumbling” foundations of traditional Christianity, and a rewriting of Christian history. Unbelievers and skeptics would wish this to be the case, but the Bible has endured such attacks for centuries, coming out victorious and vindicated every time. We

are confident that it will again, for the Bible is “given by inspiration of God” (2 Tim. 3:16). Let’s investigate some of these matters a little further.

### WHAT IS THE DA VINCI CODE?

Quoting from the *Ledger* article, the following summation of the book is helpful: *“The novel which Brown claims draws on historical documents and artifacts, follows a Harvard symbologist and a French cryptologist as they uncover explosive secrets about Jesus and his legacy. Among the novel’s most controversial claims: that Jesus married Mary Magdalene, a beloved disciple and the first witness to his resurrection; that their sacred blood lineage was protected by a secret order of knights; that the Catholic Church conspired to bury the truth about the Holy Grail (which, according to Brown, is Jesus’ consort Mary Magdalene, not the chalice from which Christ drank at the Last Supper or the cup used to catch Christ’s blood);*

*that the concept of Jesus’ divinity was invented by the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century; and that the early church suppressed alternative forms of Christianity (including goddess worship and mystical Christian schools that blended paganism, mystical Judaism and aspects of Greek philosophy).”*

This book is most certainly a work of fiction. According to the Scriptures, Jesus did not marry Mary Magdalene and produce a sacred blood lineage. The divinity of Jesus was claimed by Jesus Himself (Jn. 8:58) and taught in the Scriptures (Jn. 1:1), not invented by Emperor Constantine. There were not so-called “alternative forms of Christianity.” Different “gospels” were condemned as perverted and accursed (Gal. 1:6-9).

The author himself admits that his book is a work of fiction, but he also says that the theories discussed in the movie “may have merit.” On his website he says, “While it is my belief that some of the theories discussed by these

characters may have merit, each individual reader must explore these characters' viewpoints and come to his or her own interpretations. My hope in writing this novel was that the story would serve as a catalyst and a springboard for people to discuss the important topics of faith, religious, and history" ([www.danbrown.com/novels/davinci\\_code/faqs.html](http://www.danbrown.com/novels/davinci_code/faqs.html)). It is so common today for someone to throw out a false theory or two in the name of "discussion," delighting in the confusion and doubt that results.

#### PERSONAL BELIEFS OF AUTHOR

When asked whether he is a Christian, Dan Brown responded: "Yes. Interestingly, if you ask three people what it means to be a Christian, you will get three different answers. Some feel being baptized is sufficient. Others feel you must accept the Bible as absolute historical fact. Still others require a belief that all those who do not accept Christ as their personal savior are doomed to hell. Faith is a continuum, and we each fall on that line where we may. By attempting to rigidly classify ethereal concepts like faith, we end up debating semantics to the point where we entirely miss the obvious--that is, that we are all trying to decipher life's big mysteries, and we're each

following our own paths of enlightenment. I consider myself a student of many religions. The more I learn, the more questions I have. For me, the spiritual quest will be a lifelong work in progress" (*Ibid*).

His concept of a Christian is not what the Bible teaches. His definition of a "Christian" is simply one who is on a path of "enlightenment" who may be a student of "many religions." His statement that "faith is a continuum, and we each fall on that line where we may" is pure postmodern religious babble from the New Age movement that has borrowed heavily from Eastern religious philosophies such as Buddhism and Hinduism. This explains why he welcomes wild theories that attack the Bible and the one faith "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

#### THE Gnostic LITERATURE

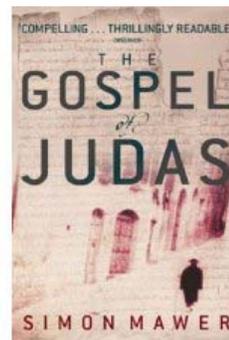
Behind many of the current theories about Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and Judas is what is known as the Gnostic literature: "The Da Vinci Code has ignited widespread interest in the Gnostic Gospels...The term Gnostic, which comes from the Greek word 'knowledge,' refers to a set of mystical philosophies that urge followers to seek a direct experience of the divine. Brown references the

work of Elaine Pagels, a prominent expert on Gnostic Christianity, discusses the Nag Hammadi library, a set of 13 ancient codices containing more than 50 early Gnostic Christian texts discovered in a cave in Egypt in 1945..." (*Ledger article*).

Gnosticism was a movement in the second and third centuries A.D. whose followers believed there was a special "knowledge" of truth only they understood, and it included the idea that the flesh was evil and the spirit good. Some taught that Jesus did not come in the flesh (1 Jn. 4:3; 2 Jn. 7). They also wrote false "gospels" perverting the truth. The Bible warns us to avoid "profane and vain babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge...by professing it, some have strayed concerning the faith" (1 Tim. 6:20-21).

#### DANGEROUS EFFECTS

Warnings are badly needed today exposing the error of these Gnostic theories and gospels, such as the *Gospel of Judas*, which suggests



that Jesus plotted with Judas to get Himself arrested. What heresy and foolishness! Judas was working for Satan, not Jesus, when he betrayed the Son of God (Jn. 13:2, 27). These things are having a detrimental effect on our society. According to the Barna Group, 53 percent of adults who read *The Da Vinci Code* report that it helped their “personal spiritual growth and understanding” (from *Ledger* article). Obviously, their spiri-

tual growth and understanding never was grounded in “the faith” revealed in the Bible, or they would reject the theories in this novel as rubbish. The apostle Peter said that he and the other apostles had not followed “cunningly devised fables” (2 Pet. 1:16). Neither should we!

The books in our New Testament were not thrown together by chance or by denominational councils. The Holy

Spirit directed the revealing of the word (Eph. 3:3-5) and its preservation in writing (the Gospel of Luke was already identified as Scripture in 1 Timothy 5:18). First century Christians were divinely guided into knowing what books were inspired, and it is this New Testament we have today. Trust it, study it, obey it, and reject all false ideas and gospels!

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# CHARIOTS OF FIRE

Craig Thomas

**R**ead 2 Kings 6:8-18. In this passage, Israel is in jeopardy of being vanquished by her powerful neighbor, Syria. Ben-hadad was the king of this wicked and potent foe of God's people. But, all of Ben-hadad's strategies failed because the Holy Spirit revealed the king's top-secret plans to the prophet Elisha. So Ben-hadad sent a large force to kill the prophet. Facing an inescapable plight, Elisha's servant cried out, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" Elisha answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Who was Elisha talking about? "Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." All the protection needed was there, though beyond the reach and capabilities of the five human senses! Let's consider three points.

## 1) WE'RE SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMY.

We live in a sin-sick world filled with evil, problems, difficulties, and death. "Alas...what shall we do?" There's only one answer...Christ! Salvation is only in Him! (Acts 4:12). We must do all God requires to "put on Christ" (Gal. 3:26-27), to "take up" our "cross daily" and follow Him (Lk. 9:23), to ever "abide in" Him (Jn. 15:1-8). We must "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11-18). We must be ever obedient to Christ for He is "the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Heb 5:9). We must show our love to Him by keeping His commandments (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 2:3-5) and laying "aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb 12:1-2).

## 2) GOD IS GREATER THAN THE ENEMY.

Elisha's servant was dismayed at the odds, because he didn't include God! Even though the odds appear insurmountable, we can overcome if we are in Christ, for "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 Jn. 4:4). Also, there is more to the material universe than what we see, touch, smell, or hear. Paul said Christians should, "not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18). God will help us handle every situation if we walk by faith (Phil. 4:13). This doesn't mean the absence of pain, suffering, or even death. But, if we keep the faith, He assures us "that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. 5:1; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).

## 3) GOD WILL DELIVER US.

God delivered Elisha as he followed three steps we must imitate: A) **Prayer** (2 Kgs. 6:17). God hears our prayers only if we do His will (1 Pet. 3:12). Remember, God "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20). B) **Faith**. We can't please God without it! (Heb. 11:6). Our faith is an objective faith based on His revealed word (Rom. 10:17). C) **Obedience**. It is only by faithful obedience (Jas. 2:18-26) that we build our spiritual house on the rock (Mt. 7:24-27). Jesus has become "the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Heb. 5:9).

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# Kids Activity Page

Aleisha Edwards

## Balaam

Read Numbers 22-24 to answer the True or False questions about Balaam.

- T or F** Balak sent messengers to Balaam.  
**T or F** Balak wanted Balaam to bless Israel.  
**T or F** Balaam's donkey spoke to him.  
**T or F** Balaam cursed Israel.



Angel of the Lord

Balaam

Balak

Blessed

Curse

Donkey

Jericho

Prophet

Struck

Three

*"Suffer the little children to come unto me,  
and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).*

# LET'S NOT FORGET THE REDEPTIVE SYSTEM!

*Donnie V. Rader*

**T**he gospel of Jesus Christ is a redemptive system. By that we mean that it is a system whereby man is redeemed from his sins. In contrast, some of the preaching we hear today, even among us, has robbed the gospel of its redemptive power.

1) **THE NEED FOR REDEMPTION.** Man stands in need of being redeemed because of his sin. All have sinned (Rom. 3:23; 1 Jn. 5:19). Sin (which is a violation of God's law) has consequences like the violation of any other law. Sin causes one to die spiritually. That means man is spiritually *separated* from his God. "Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (Jas. 1:15). "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear" (Is. 59:2). "For the wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23). Since our sin separates us from God, we stand in need of being redeemed.

2) **WE ARE REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.** Even a casual reading of the Old Testament will reveal that God has always demanded a blood sacrifice to atone for sin. The blood of animals could not remove sin (Heb. 10:4). However, the blood of the sinless Son of God would be the perfect sacrifice (Heb. 8 & 10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). Why did Christ have to die? Since man sinned (which is a violation of the law), justice demands that a payment be made for the sin. Since man cannot pay the debt himself, and the blood of animals could not remove sin, then only the perfect sacrifice of Christ would atone for sin. Jesus shed His blood for the remission of our sins. "For this is My

blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Mt. 26:28). "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb. 9:22). "He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb. 9:26). That was the message that was preached as the apostles went forth preaching the word. They told of the Christ and how man could be saved through Him (Acts 2; 3; 8; 9; 10; 13-ff).

3) **PREACHING THAT GUTS THE GOSPEL OF REDEMPTION.** Any preaching that doesn't appeal to the gospel message as the message that redeems man from his sin, has gutted the gospel of its real power. Much of the preaching in the denominational world today is a social message. Some of it sounds more political and patriotic than Biblical. Even among us (both the "liberals" and yes, even the "conservatives") there is preaching being done that addresses more social needs than spiritual. I recognize that the Bible talks about aging and depression and human relationships. However, when our appeal in reaching out to the world is to help them with the difficulty of growing old or in having brighter days, then we have missed the redemptive system of the gospel.

May we get back to the basics of preaching the old Jerusalem gospel which is a redemptive message.

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# Soul Winning Tool Kit



## Soul Winning

### Tool Kit

#### Contents

Soul Winning Lesson Book  
Home Bible Study  
Correspondence Course  
Making Your Life Right With God  
Is The Church Of Christ A Denomination?  
The Blessings Of God  
Answering Religious Error  
Wood & Ruler

"...he that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30).

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It is common to hear brethren express concern for lack of growth. Do you ever wonder why so many churches are not growing? Could it be that we are just not putting the seed, which is the word of God (Lk. 8:11), in the soil? Too many are content to leave the seed in the barn (Hag. 2:19).

Johnie and John Isaac Edwards have put together a *Soul Winning Tool Kit*, designed to help in the conversion of lost souls. The wise man said, "He that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30). The *Soul Winning Tool Kit* contains an eight-lesson Soul Winning instructional workbook and the following Soul Winning tools: Home Bible Study, Correspondence Course, Making Your Life Right With God, Is The Church of Christ a De-

nomination?, The Blessings of God, Answering Religious Error, and Wood & Ruler.

The cost for the *Soul Winning Tool Kit* is only \$9.95 (plus shipping & handling). Order today and begin seeing the difference in conversions and church growth as these tools are put to use. Johnie and John Isaac are in position to come spend a weekend with the church where you worship to teach this Soul Winning material. To schedule a time for the Edwards' to come work with you, call 1-800-889-0338.

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