

Introducing



*The
Christadelphians*

**Modern Revival of
Apostolic Faith**

WHO are these people, called "Christadelphians", who put much emphasis on Bible Truth; who set themselves certain standards of living; who enjoy studying the Bible, and seem to be dedicated to their beliefs?

They are a group of ordinary folk, without any special religious training, except a fervor for the Scriptures of Truth — the Word of God — which they hold to be the only source of personal satisfaction and ultimate salvation. Thus they choose to read and study the Bible, and find therein much pleasure and spiritual profit.

We hope that you will like to learn more about the origins and teachings of the Christadelphians. You will find that they want to share their pleasure and joy of Bible discovery with others, believing that the commandment of the Lord Jesus Christ to "preach the gospel" to all who have "ears to hear" is their welcome responsibility.

But because inaccurate claims and hurtful comments are sometimes made about these fundamental Bible believers, it is important to clearly establish their credentials. This booklet attempts to do that. Please read it carefully, and if you enjoy its contents, pass it on to a friend.

If you wish to learn more concerning specific Bible teachings espoused by the Christadelphians, kindly complete and forward the coupon found on the back covers of this booklet.

HERALD OF THE COMING AGE

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Concerned people are today confronted with a panorama of many and varied religions when they seek for Truth in the modern world. Even the so-called "christian" communities present a confusing vista of beliefs, ranging from primitive fundamentalism, to complete liberalism.

It is no wonder that many leave their search unfulfilled, being unable to penetrate the fog of so many superstitious trends and human traditions.

For a person to arrive at the Truth concerning the purpose of Almighty God with mankind, and to understand what is in store for the world in which we live, it is vital to compare the claims of any religious organization with the Bible — the inspired and infallible Word of the living God.

The Catholic church has made many changes to its traditions and beliefs since it was first established in the fourth century. It does not adhere to the clear statements of the Scriptures, nor upholds the doctrines plainly revealed therein.

Its Protestant contemporaries are much the same. Although they separated from the Catholic Church on the grounds of opposition to the papal infallibility, they retained most of the doctrines and teachings of their mother-church. In that regard, neither Catholic nor Protestant religions represent the *true original apostolic faith* — which Jesus Christ and his apostles

declared is the only means to personal salvation.

Is there any religious body extant today which adheres to the true and saving teachings of the Bible?

We believe there is!

They call themselves *The Christadelphians*, and it is this community of Bible believers that we now introduce to you. We ask you to seriously consider their credibility, their teachings, and their aspirations for the future. Honestly examine the reasons for their inner conviction; their earnest dedication; their remarkable hope for the future.

The Failure of Present-Day Christianity

Today popular religion is facing a dramatic change in direction. No longer are the traditions of the past being maintained. The clergy are admitting women into their ranks; dress standards of yesteryear are being discarded; doctrine no longer has the importance that it formerly rated; attitudes to social problems like homosexuality and associated diseases are changing, and previously unacceptable behavior is now tolerated, and often even encouraged.

Christadelphians stand opposed to all endeavors to change in order to suit the lowering standards of today's society. We do not believe that Truth changes merely because people want a more emancipated environment. In fact, God's Word prophesies of the current religious attitudes: The apostle Paul wrote: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2Timothy 3:2-5).

We see evidence of the fulfilment of this prophecy on all hands. Christadelphians therefore have nothing to do with such a system, believing that it is essential for God-fearing people to rediscover the saving Truths of apostolic times.

Christadelphians Claim the Original Apostolic Faith

The Christadelphians are a group of people associated together by a common belief in the "things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 8:12). We

claim to be the modern revival of original apostolic faith, and base our beliefs exclusively upon the teaching of the Bible.

The name Christadelphian is compounded of two Greek words: *Christ* and *adelphoi*, signifying *Brethren of Christ*. This is a term used in the Bible to define true believers who understand and endeavor to fulfil the will of God (see Matthew 12:50; 23:8; Hebrews 2:12). In adopting this Scriptural name, Christadelphians acknowledge that they must manifest the high ideals that Christ set before men.

They also believe that it is important to accept the clear teachings of the Bible; that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the "power of God unto salvation to those who *believe*" (Romans 1:16), and that such a belief must acknowledge the return of Jesus Christ to this earth, and the establishment of his kingdom upon the removal of all present systems and governments. Christadelphians therefore believe that *eternal life* is a gift of God that will be bestowed by the Lord Jesus upon his followers at his second coming, and the setting up of the kingdom of God (Matthew 25:31-34; Daniel 2:44). They believe that the Bible teaches that this divine kingdom will be set up upon earth when Christ returns; that the reward of the righteous will be an "abundant entrance into the kingdom" (2Peter 1:11), at which time they will "reign on the earth" in company with the Lord (Revelation 5:9-10).

The Bible also declares, and Christadelphians believe, that the destiny of the wicked is "everlasting destruction" (2Thessalonians 1:9), not eternal torments, and that "hell" is the grave, the abode of the dead, where the unrighteous will remain forever. Further, that death came into the world by the transgression of Adam, and that when sin is personified in the flesh of mankind, or in governments, it constitutes the *devil* of the Bible. The idea that the devil is a fallen angel, as most religions teach, is unscriptural.

Other Opinions Of Christadelphia

Others have examined the claims of Christadelphians from a sociological viewpoint, curious to know the dynamics of the Movement. They have been impressed with certain facts that clearly emerge. For example, in the book *Sects and Society*, one of a series published on sociology by the firm of Heinemann & Co., the author (who is not a Christadelphian) testifies to the

keen interest that Christadelphians show in the Bible, and acknowledges that it is the book of authority for Christadelphians upon which all their teaching is based.

The late Bertrand Russell, a world-celebrated philosopher, also wrote of Christadelphians in his work: *Power, A New Social Analysis*. He listed the Movement as the *best representative* of apostolic Christianity in the earth today. On p. 109 he wrote: "*Christianity was, in its earliest days, entirely unpolitical. The best representatives in our time are the Christadelphians...*"

This claim is supported by others. For example, the book entitled *Through Turmoil To Peace*, published in 1932 by the Seventh Day Adventists, quotes the predictions of Christadelphian expositor, Dr. J. Thomas in *Elpis Israel* (published in 1849), and particularly those relating to the revival of the State of Israel in the Holy Land prior to Christ's coming, as an example of how clearly Bible prophecy foretells the future when it is interpreted aright. The author wrote: "*Dr. Thomas did not live to see the fulfilment of Ezekiel's prophecy, for he was laid to rest in 1871. But were he living now, he would not need to alter a word of the above quotation. How true are the prophecies of the Bible when they are correctly applied!*" (p. 328).

Among other matters predicted in *Elpis Israel* on the basis of Bible prophecy are the following:

IN THE POLITICAL FIELD:

- The return of Jews from dispersion (Ezekiel 37:21; Jeremiah 31:10).
- The revival of Israel as a nation (Ezekiel 37:22). The rise of Russia to Eurasian supremacy (ch. 38). The decline of Turkey in world politics. Growth of the Russian power and clash of ideologies (Revelation 16:12-16). A Russian stimulated political conflict in the Middle East.
- The division of nations into two camps: the East and the West.

IN THE MORAL FIELD:

- The proliferation of materialism coupled with the repudiation of godly principles (2Timothy 3:1-5).
- Increase of violence, of divorce, and the decline of moral standards, with the decline of the family unit (Luke 17:26-30).
- Growth of juvenile delinquency, repudiation of religion, and the worldwide economic instability (2Timothy 3).

The fulfilment of these and other predictions confirm Christadelphians in their understanding of the Bible, and whilst there is no body of people who feel more deeply the obvious deterioration in human affairs, they rejoice in the knowledge that there are clear signs heralding the imminent return from heaven of Jesus Christ to set up on earth the kingdom of God.

Christadelphians Believe in Christ's Literal Coming

The Bible teaching concerning the return of Jesus Christ to the earth is clear, simple, and easily understood. It was proclaimed to the apostles in the following terms: "This same Jesus which is taken from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go" (Acts 1:11).

Christ is to return to the earth to put down "all rule, authority and power" (1Corinthians 15:24), and to establish on earth the kingdom of God (Daniel 2:44). This will involve tremendous political, religious and social changes. Instead of international antagonism as today, there will be one universal rule (Zechariah 14:9). Instead of humanity being divided in ideology and religion and looking to different centres for political guidance, Christ's teaching and laws will emanate from Jerusalem, his capital, to edify and unite all peoples (Isaiah 2:2-4). In consequence, crime and immorality will be reduced, and peace will replace the violence and warfare of today. The result will be a world order that will reflect "glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill toward men".

The millennial reign of Christ on earth of one thousand years (Revelation 20:4) is closely related to the resurrection of believers. The Bible does not teach of immortal souls in heaven, but of bodies raised from the grave at the advent of Christ, to inherit eternal life on earth. Christ will raise from the dead those who have lived in accordance with his teaching, and reward them (together with living believers) with life eternal (Revelation 22:12; 1Corinthians 15:20-23, 52-54). Clothed with immortality (Philippians 3:21), possessing divine nature (2Peter 1:4), the resurrected and glorified followers of the Lord Jesus will become his associates in the governing and administration of the nations (Revelation 2:26; 5:9-10). They will constitute an immortal aristocracy under an immortal king (Matthew 19:28; Revelation 20:6), exercising authority over the mortal peoples of the world for a period of one thousand years (verse 4).

This was the original, apostolic Christian belief; the foundation doctrine upon which the early communities of Christ's followers were founded. This fact is established, not only by the teaching and preaching of the apostles as recorded in the Bible, but by the records of history.

In the 15th chapter of his *Decline And Fall Of The Roman Empire* the historian, Edward Gibbon clearly establishes this as a fact, and proceeds to show how that the original beliefs of Christians were changed and supplanted by error over the course of time. He wrote: "The ancient and popular doctrine of the millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ... a joyful sabbath of a thousand years: when Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who have revived, would reign upon earth... The assurance of such a millennium was carefully inculcated by a succession of fathers from Justin Martyr and Irenaeus, who conversed with the immediate disciples of the apostles, down to Lactantius, who was preceptor to the son of Constantine."

But this teaching was gradually supplanted with error as the doctrines of the Bible were altered to conform to the demands of the church. Gibbon records: "The doctrine of Christ's reign upon earth was first treated as a profound allegory, was considered by degrees as a doubtful and useless opinion, and was at length rejected as the absurd invention of heresy and fanaticism".

This triumph of error fulfilled the predictions of the Bible. Paul had warned Timothy: "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2Timothy 4:3,4). Peter prophesied: "There shall come scoffers, saying: Where is the promise of his coming?" (2Peter 3:3-4). This departure from Truth is evident in the erroneous teachings of both Catholic and Protestant denominations.

However, in these last days, the original apostolic teaching of the millennial reign of Christ on earth, has been revived in Christadelphian beliefs, and forms an essential doctrine of the Christadelphian faith. It is not only believed by all its members, but it constitutes the grand hope of this community, as the divine answer to the horrendous problems of society.

How the Apostolic Truth Continued Down the Ages

During the centuries that followed the establishment of a Church that claimed to be Christian, but which had changed the saving Truths of the apostles into their own form of religion, as the Bible had prophesied would occur, there continued a long record of persecution and apostasy. Thousands, whose only offence was their determination to follow Christ at all costs, were ruthlessly opposed. A rigorous censorship was imposed on all doctrine, and people had to think in accordance with what the official body taught. The arms of Rome were not only used to destroy the enemy on the frontier, but also to suppress conscientious citizens whose only crime was their determination to worship God according to their understanding of the Bible.

Although all who the Roman Church persecuted did not hold the apostolic Truth, there have always been those "few" (Luke 12:32) who have kept the light of Truth shining brightly amid the prevailing darkness of ignorance. In the past these groups included the *Donatists* of the fourth century, the *Waldenses*, *Paulicians*, *Huguenots* and others of succeeding times, who suffered terribly from Catholicism through the Inquisition. Amongst these have been minority groups that have held to the important apostolic teachings of the first century. Each little group through the ages, like links in a chain, connects the testimony of the apostles with the same doctrines held today by the *Christadelphians*.

The Latter-Day Revival of the Truth

The early 1800's witnessed a dramatic revival in the study of the Bible. This was stimulated by the formation in 1804 of *The British and Foreign Bible Society* which resulted in widespread renewal of Bible reading. A revivalist movement headed by Alexander Campbell, attracted thousands of people. They were organised into churches under the name of *Campbellites*, later changed to *The Churches of Christ*. Among those so drawn was an English medical man, Dr. John Thomas. A person of considerable ability, he was induced by Campbell to take a leading part in the movement. This forced Dr. Thomas to a close, personal study of the Bible. He began to publicly teach what he found expressed therein, but this brought him into wordy conflict with the leaders of the sect. He found that they were prepared to give lip-service to the Bible, but not to accept its true meaning. The

opposition Dr. Thomas received forced him to study the Bible more closely, to make certain that his teaching was sound. This strengthened him in his belief, for he found overwhelming support for his teachings from the pages of the Scriptures.

Public debates made this even more apparent, and forced him to the conviction that current Christianity was not only *not* founded upon true Bible teaching, but that its very teaching destroyed the hope of salvation in those who embraced it. By now, however, those who once sought his aid refused him permission to teach.

The Christadelphian Community Established

Nevertheless, though the door of utterance was closed against him as far as the churches were concerned, Dr. Thomas continued to proclaim Bible truths by pen and voice, and gradually others were attracted to these teachings, recognising their truth. However, the gospel, is an appeal to a person's intellect, and not merely to the emotions, so that the number of converts was comparatively small. Still the movement grew, and communities — often small, but fervent — became established in all parts of the world. They are known today as *The Christadelphians*.

Dr. Thomas was not divinely inspired to reveal a new teaching. He was a medical man, whose attention was drawn to the Bible, and who, by systematically studying it, was able to set before men the clear, simple principles of its teachings. The doctrines he taught had been proclaimed for centuries before him. All he did was to revive the Truth from the accumulation of false teaching that had submerged it since apostolic days.

In 1849 he published his findings in a book entitled *Elpis Israel*, being an *Exposition of the Kingdom of God*.

A reading of this book will demonstrate the strength of the Christadelphian position in regard to the teaching of the Bible.

Since the last century, many sincere people have analytically considered the teaching of *Elpis Israel* in the light of the Bible. They have found that Dr. Thomas' doctrinal conclusions are sound, and have accepted the teaching of the Bible by submitting to baptism as commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 16:16), and consequently, have commenced a walk that will result in eternal life in the Age to come (Romans 2:6).

Bible Prophecy Remarkably Fulfilled

Dr. Thomas was not an inspired prophet, but a keen student of Bible prophecy. This enabled him to write of events then in the future, and many of his prognostications have since been remarkably vindicated. Here are some examples from the book *Elpis Israel* which show that Bible prophecy clearly reveals the future when correctly interpreted:

Concerning the Jews then in dispersion:

"There is, then, a partial and primary restoration of Jews before the manifestation (*second advent of Christ*) which is to serve as the nucleus, or basis, of future operations in the restoration of the rest of the tribes after he has appeared in the kingdom. The preadventual colonisation of Palestine will be on purely political principles; and the Jewish colonists will return in unbelief of the Messiahship of Jesus, and of the truth as it is in him. They will emigrate thither as agriculturists and traders, in the hope of ultimately establishing their commonwealth, but more immediately of getting rich in silver and gold by commerce with India, and in cattle and goods by their industry at home under the efficient protection of the British power" (page 441).

The British were given a mandate over Palestine following the conclusion of World War 1, and immediately sponsored the return of the Jews. Since then the State of Israel has come into existence, and the nation has established itself in trading and commerce, as Dr. Thomas was able to foresee by a correct understanding of the Biblical prophecies.

Concerning Egypt:

"God will bring Britain's rulers to see the desirableness of Egypt, Ethiopia and Seba, which they will be induced, by the force of circumstances, probably, to take possession of. They will, however, before the battle of Armageddon, be compelled to retreat from Egypt and Ethiopia." (page 445).

In 1882, Britain occupied Egypt, and from this centre drove the Ottoman influence from Palestine in preparation for the Jewish return. General Allenby of the British Expeditionary Force entered Jerusalem in 1917, and expelled the Turkish power therefrom. In recent years, however, Britain has been forced out of Egypt, and Bible prophecy has been vindicated.

Concerning Britain:

"I know not whether the men, who at present contrive the foreign policy of Britain, entertain the idea of assuming the sovereignty of the Holy Land, and of promoting its colonisation by the Jews: their present intentions, however, are of no importance one way or the other, because they will be compelled, by events soon to happen, to do what, under existing circumstances, heaven and earth combined could not move them to attempt... The finger of God has indicated a course to be pursued by Britain which cannot be evaded, and which her counsellors will not only be willing, but eager, to adopt when the crisis comes upon them" (page 442).

The only "fault" one could find with this statement is that the events did not happen as "soon" as anticipated, but otherwise, the truth of the statement is beyond question, and the boldness of the prediction is a startling witness to the truth of Bible prophecy.

Concerning the Overthrow of Germany:

"The Austrian and German empire is doomed to extinction by fire and sword; so that when this is broken up the Gogueship [*leadership*] will be assumed by the Autocrat, or 'prince of Ros, Mosc, and Tobl' [*or Russia*]" (page 432).

Current political conditions in Europe vindicate the above statement. The overthrow of Hitler's Germany was followed by the domination of eastern Europe by Russia. Today Russian influence affects Western Europe and, notwithstanding some reverses, its power will continue to increase in Europe and Asia.

Concerning Russia:

"Russia's mission is to reduce all the nations of the Old World save Britain and her dependencies into one imperial dominion represented in the book of Daniel as the Image of Nebuchadnezzar. Licentiousness will again break loose... the contest will end in the discomfiture of the Continent, and Russia, like a mighty inundation, will overflow the nations, and dash her waves upon their shores, from the Danish Belts to the Dardanelles. Britain will rage, and shake the world with her thunder; but, as in the days of Napoleon, her alliance will be fatal to them that trust in her, and only precipitate their fall. Let Russia, however, beware! Europe and Turkey will be his; Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, and at length, Egypt; but in Palestine [*today*]:

Israel] the power of Russia will be broken" (Preface to 4th Edition).

Within the last fifty years, Russia has gradually asserted her power more and more over Europe, as anticipated above. Already economic and political influences are causing the Turkish and Middle Eastern areas to become attractive for acquisition. These predictions are based on Bible prophecy. The events they forecast are signs telling of the imminence of Christ's second coming to set up on earth his power (See Acts 1:11; Daniel 2:44).

Contending For The Faith

The Christadelphian Movement has been subjected to challenge by those who disagree with its teachings. Soon after it was established in Australia it came under attack in Adelaide, South Australia, by a prominent clergyman, Dr. Maughan. In a sermon delivered in the Methodist New Connexion Church, Franklin Street, Adelaide, on 11th September, 1866, he made reference to the teaching of Dr. Thomas, and particularly to the Doctor's predictions that Russia would dominate Europe; that the smaller European powers would then be doomed; that Britain would plant a colony of Jews in Palestine; that Russia would lay siege to Jerusalem; that Britain, in its extremity, would appeal to America for aid. Dr. Maughan ridiculed the idea that these predictions (made at the time by Dr. Thomas) would ever be fulfilled. He wrote: "It is now a matter of history that the so-called battle of Armageddon has not yet been fought", and in sarcastic vein concluded: "We may therefore be permitted, for a little longer time, to breathe freely, to thank God and take courage" (*Memoirs & Sermons of the Rev. J. Maughan*, page 25).

If Dr. Maughan were alive today, would he suggest that these predictions will never be fulfilled? Would he repeat his sarcastic conclusion? Would he suggest that the smaller powers of Europe are not under tremendous pressure? That Russia will not challenge world peace for its own purposes? That Britain has not planted a colony of Jews in the Holy Land? That she has not appealed to America for help? That Russia will never lay siege to Jerusalem? Would he intimate that the world does not face terrible moral and political crises? That Armageddon is a real threat? Would he imply that such predictions are not found in the Bible? He might, but it would be in the face of the clear

facts of Truth. Christadelphian exposition of Bible prophecy has certainly been vindicated by time.

A Baptist Attack

Dr. Maughan has had many imitators. In 1933, a book was published by Baptist minister, H. E. Hughes, containing a foreword by Mr. F. Lade, one time President General of the Methodist Church in Australia. It was entitled *The Second Advent of Our Lord*, and, mentioning Christadelphians by name, it ridiculed their beliefs. Like Dr. Maughan, Mr. Hughes swept aside the concept that Bible prophecy is fulfilled in political events. In a chapter on the return of the Jews to Palestine, he boldly predicted that the whole experiment would prove an abject failure. At the time his book was published, the total population of Palestine was only 850,000, and of this number, the Jews represented only 165,000. Mr. Hughes predicted that the Arabs would ultimately drive the Jews from the land.

Christadelphians believed otherwise. They did not overlook the difficulties then facing the heavily outnumbered Jewish people, but they had implicit confidence that Bible prophecy would prove true, notwithstanding present circumstances. On the other hand, Mr. Hughes believed the difficulties were insuperable. He wrote: "Suppose a gigantic miracle were to be worked — God can work miracles — and the Moslems and Christians were persuaded to depart from Palestine, would the repatriation of the Jews be a simple matter? Would their age-long dream then be easy of realisation? Far from it" (page 38).

He went on to state disparagingly that even if God would work a miracle and removed the Arabs, the Jews still would not return.

But, in 1948, the miracle which Christadelphians were anticipating, occurred. In that year the Israeli State was proclaimed, and the Arab armies massed upon the borders of Palestine. So greatly outnumbered were the Jews, so heavy the preponderance of Arab arms over those of Israel, that the combined Egyptian-Arabian command loudly boasted that the Jews would be driven into the Mediterranean in a matter of days. They advised all Moslems in the area to temporarily vacate their dwellings, and to retire into the territory of Jordan, in the assurance that an Arab victory would be rapidly effected, and they would then be able to return in peace and safety to their homes. Consequently,

some 700,000 Arabs voluntarily left Palestine to await the expected victory. But the Arabs were decisively defeated, and in such a remarkable way, that the word "miracle" is constantly used by Jews to describe their success.

Again after remarkable victories in 1967, Israel's borders were dramatically extended, so that today Jerusalem is in Jewish hands after 2,000 years of banishment therefrom, exactly as Jesus Christ foretold in Luke 21:24. Since then, Jews have flocked back to the land, and established their national identity as a political Body in the Middle East.

Christadelphian exposition of prophecy had again been vindicated by events; the Bible had again been proven true.

Growth of The Christadelphian Movement

The teachings of Dr. Thomas gained interest in America, and quickly spread throughout the English speaking world. Communities of Christadelphians have been established in many parts of the world, holding to the truths of the Scriptures, and endeavoring to continue the original apostolic standards. They prefer to be known as *Ecclesias* (an Anglicized form of the Greek word rendered "churches" in the AV of the Bible, but actually signifying "a people called out by divine invitation" — see Acts 15:14), believing that they have been privileged to separate from the general religious communities extant which no longer believe and teach the pure apostolic doctrine of Truth.

However, though there are many thousands of Christadelphians, they nevertheless are numerically small in comparison with other religious organisations.

Why is that? Because, in accordance with the teaching of Christ, Christadelphians demand standards of belief and practice by those who accept Christ. There is no doubt that they would have many more "conversions" if they were to ignore what people believe, or if they were to waive the obvious requirements of Christ in regard to his followers.

But Christ has clearly laid down the conditions of eternal redemption, and man can only change these at the peril of his eternal salvation. There are three steps to salvation: *Belief, Baptism, Obedience* (see Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38). Indeed, true spiritual revival demands an intelligent understanding of God's revelation to man (Romans 1:16; 1Corinthians 15:1-2). If people are too obstinate or lazy to

examine the evidence, they renounce the only way to life eternal. Yet most people refuse to face up to this challenge. They leave Bible teaching to those whom they describe as being "professionally qualified to expound it": the clergy!

But frequently these men, gaining their livelihood from religion, limit their teaching to what people want to hear. The apostle Paul referred to this situation when he described those who "will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2Timothy 4:3-4).

Many reject the concept that individual salvation demands personal understanding of the teaching of the Bible, and in doing so set themselves outside the bounds of its salvation. The Bible clearly teaches: "This is life eternal to *know* Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent" (John 17:3). "Mankind is alienated from the life of God through the *ignorance* that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Ephesians. 4:18).

These references teach that a basic understanding of God's purpose with mankind is necessary for salvation. They confirm the commission that the Lord delivered unto the apostles when he commanded them to go forth and preach the gospel. He added: "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). That is the reason why Christadelphians insist that interested friends comprehend the purpose of God in Christ in relation to themselves and the world at large before accepting them as members of the community. It is only reasonable that one should understand that to which he is called. God has designed that those who come unto Him should be subject to a mental, moral and physical change.

The first is brought about by an understanding of His truth that enables them to view life from His standpoint; the second follows when His requirements are given practical manifestation in a way of life; the third will take place at the coming of Jesus Christ when eternal life will be granted unto all those who have lived in accordance with his precepts.

What This Means To You

The Bible reveals that every individual is the arbiter of his or

her own destiny. God has opened a way of salvation; but it is the individual's responsibility to search it out. God will not force people to be saved, but He does invite them to avail themselves of the means that He freely offers to that end (Isaiah 55; John 3:16). There is no greater reward than that which God has in store for those who seek Him in truth; no greater heritage that a parent can give his child than a knowledge of spiritual truths; no greater security for his family than a revelation of God's way of salvation.

Why not personally investigate the teaching set forth consistently by the Christadelphians? We shall be happy to assist you to that end by mailing to you free literature explanatory of Bible teaching and prophecy, or to inform you where public addresses by Christadelphians are given. A warm welcome awaits you at the local meeting place; no entrance charge is made, nor collection taken up. You will find that the address is given by a layman (who is not paid for his services, for there are no paid ministers in the Christadelphian community) who will have a grasp of his subject gained by personal investigation.

Why not test the evidence. It will cost you nothing, but may lead you to life eternal in the impending kingdom of God that is about to be set up on earth.

WHAT THE CHRISTADELPHIANS BELIEVE

THE BIBLE is the inspired and infallible Word of God, the only authoritative source for the saving truth of the gospel (2Timothy 3:15-17; Isaiah 8:20).

There is **ONE GOD**, the Father and Creator of all things, dwelling corporeally in the heavens. He is immortal, invisible and all wise, filling all space by His spirit. He has revealed His divine will and purpose with mankind and with the earth in the Bible (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1Timothy 2:5; 1Corinthians 8:6; Psalm 139:7-10; Jeremiah 23:24; 1Kings. 8:27; Hebrews 1:1; 2Peter 1:21).

Jesus of Nazareth is **SON OF GOD** and **SON OF MAN**. He was divinely begotten by God by the power of the Holy Spirit resting upon a human mother, Mary, a virgin and descendant of the royal house of David. He had no corporeal existence prior to his birth and he was made in all points like his brethren, human. He was put to death on the cross as a sacrifice for sin, but because of his perfect obedience, he was raised from the dead for the pardon of all believing in him (Luke 1:3-35; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 4:15; Acts 2:24; Romans 4:25; 8:3).

The **HOLY SPIRIT** is the Power of God, a divine energy by which He

fills all space and creates and sustains all things (Luke 1:35; Psalm 51:11; 104:30; 139:7-12). The miraculous gifts of the Spirit, as manifested by the believers of the first century, have now been withdrawn in accordance with 1Corinthians 13.

MAN is a mortal creature whose consciousness utterly ceases at death, and, therefore, renewed life can come only through a bodily resurrection therefrom (Genesis 3:19; Ezekiel 18:4; Psalm 6:5; Ecclesiastes 3:18-19; 9:5,6; Isaiah 38:18-19; 1Corinthians 15:13-21; John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2).

THE EARTH shall abide forever, and will ultimately be filled with a race of righteous and immortal men and women who will reveal the glory of God in their divine nature and almighty power (Numbers 14:21; Psalm 72:19; Acts 15:14, Revelation 3:12; 20:6; 21:3; 1Corinthians 15:20-28; Ecclesiastes 1:4; Isaiah 45:18).

THE GOSPEL was preached to Abraham when God promised him the land of Canaan (modern Israel) for an everlasting possession: to **David** when God promised him a Son to sit on his throne forever; to the **Jews** when they were informed of God's promises to Abraham and David, and confirmed when **Christ** proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom of God; and to all **mankind** when the apostles and their associates carried the same preaching "and the name of Jesus Christ" into all the world (Galatians 3:8, 2Samuel 7:12-29, Luke 1:31-33; Romans 15:8; Mark 1:14-15; Acts 8:12; Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:30-35).

THE REDEEMED who will inherit the promised blessings are those drawn out of all nations by the power of the gospel, and have rendered obedience to its precepts by baptism and a walk in faith. These blessings will be bestowed when Christ returns from the right hand of God to raise dead believers, and together with living believers, gathers them to his Judgment Seat to reward the righteous with eternal life, and punish the wicked with everlasting destruction; finally establishing his glorious kingdom on the earth (Acts 15:16; Romans 6:3-5; 2Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:5-9; Luke 14:15; 1Corinthians 15:51-57; 2Timothy 4:1, 8).

THE KINGDOM OF GOD was the ancient kingdom of Israel under David. It will be re-established on earth with its king, the Lord Jesus Christ reigning from Jerusalem. To that end, Christ, at his coming, will complete the restoration of the Jews to the land, and establish his rule over all the earth. He will reign with the assistance of his glorified believers. This rule will continue for 1000 years, at the conclusion of which, another judgment will take place, of those who have lived during the millennium. The righteous will be given eternal life, the unrighteous will be delivered unto death; and a perfected earth, in which death itself will have been eliminated, will ultimately be delivered unto God that He might be "all and in all" (1Chronicles 28:5; 29:23, Jeremiah 3:17; 23:5-8; Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:10-12; 14:1; Zechariah 6:13; 1Corinthians 15: 24-28). The present restoration of the Jews, and revival of Israel, is preliminary to this glorious consummation. The Jewish people will be humbled, disciplined and educated in the truth concerning Jesus Christ, and will be incorporated as mortal citizens in the kingdom he will establish on earth, as the commencement of a worldwide conversion of all peoples.

Why Man is Mortal

The clear teaching of the Bible concerning the fallen condition of mankind and God's joyous offer of immortality

NOTWITHSTANDING the claims of Christendom to the contrary, man does not possess an *immortal soul*. He was originally created out of the dust of the ground and put under a test of obedience. But he dismayingly failed, and transgressed the divine law. As a result he was condemned to die, and was constituted a wholly mortal creature. The Bible clearly reveals the present situation that faces all mankind, and offers the only hope of future salvation as obtainable only by acceptance of God's instructions. This subject is clearly set out in the free booklet offered below.

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They do not profess to have received any new revelation, but hold that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are able to make one wise unto salvation (2 Tim. 3:15-17). Believing in the Divine Authorship of the Bible, they think it only reasonable to eschew any interpretation thereof which fails to harmonise all the testimonies of the Holy Scriptures; and finding that the creeds of the various existing sects are, in a great variety of ways, opposed to the direct teaching of the Bible, they feel compelled to stand apart, making appeal in all such matters to the statements of Scripture, and testing all teachings thereby.

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