

THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY # : 17

The Church of
Christ

PART-1



THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY #17

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST - PART I (ITS SELECTION & THE PROCESS)

PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

Today we will study about the Church of Jesus Christ- for it was Jesus Himself who first spoke of "His church".

 **WHAT IS THE CHURCH ?**

 Why are there so many **DIVISIONS** or **DENOMINATIONS** in the church today ?

 Are all these churches **TOGETHER** the Church of Jesus Christ ?

WHAT ARE THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS ?


Let us now begin by reading from -

1 Corinthians 12:12

*"For as the body is one, and hath many members.....
being many are one body, so also is Christ."*

Yes! The Body of Christ - the CHURCH is referred to as ONE !

Did you see the **ONENESS** that is to be in the **BODY OF CHRIST** - the **CHURCH** ?

 Do we see this oneness today ? **WHY** ?

WHAT are the **REASONS** that we don't see this **ONENESS** today ?

 We will find the **ANSWER** in today's lesson !

Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth

Let us begin by reading of the first time that this word “church” was spoken by the lips of Jesus Our Lord in -

Matthew 16:18

“...And upon this rock, I will build my church...”

Yes ! These are the words wherein Jesus first spoke of the Church !

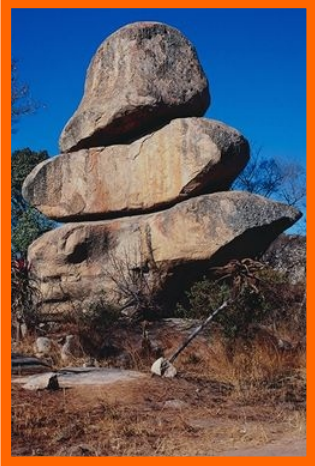
What do these words mean ?

☞ What does “upon this rock” mean?

☞ Is the “church” a **BUILDING** as we see today the meaning to be....??

Example: **ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH / TRINITY CHURCH / A G CHURCH.**

Today the **MAJORITY** of Christians refer to the Church as a building.
IS IT TRUE ?



Now about the words “upon this rock” we see that **THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CLAIMS** that this “rock” is **THE APOSTLE PETER** and that Jesus had appointed him to be the **HEAD** of the church on earth !!

☞ Thus all **POPES** claim headship of the church and trace Peter to be the **FIRST POPE !**

☞ **IS THIS TRUE ?**

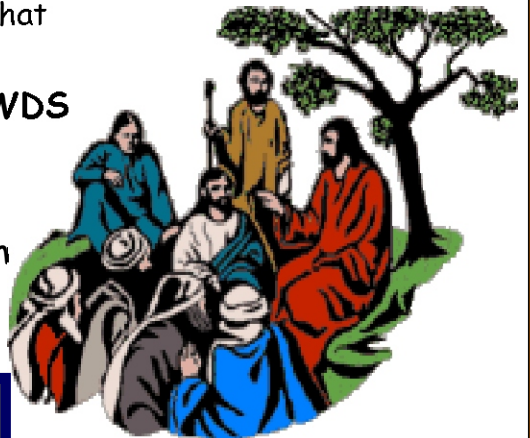
To understand the **CONTEXT** of this statement we must go back a few verses and read from -

Matthew 16:13-17

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the son of man am? And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist: some Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my father which is in heaven.”

Yes ! The Lord was inquiring about the large crowds that followed him and what they thought about Him. And the answer that came showed that the **CROWDS** were in **CONFUSION** about who He was and what was His **REAL IDENTITY !!**

☞ Then Jesus asked those who were **CLOSE** to Him - His DISCIPLES what they thought about **WHO HE WAS ?**



And Peter replied -
☞ *“Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God !*

And, Yes ! It was in response to these words of Peter
that Jesus said these words in -

Matthew 16:18

"...Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church..."

Yes ! These are the very words that are taken to mean that Jesus
there **APPOINTED** Peter as the **HEAD** of the Church !

When considering the matter we realize and **NOTICE** that
the Lord by saying the words -

"...upon this rock."

meant the **CHURCH** would be **BUILT ABOVE** this **ROCK** and **NOT BELOW** it !!
Thus the **LORD** was not referring to a **HEADSTONE** but a stone upon which the
BUILDING of the Church would stand and be built upon.

Yes ! This is a reference to a **FOUNDATION STONE** that bears
the whole burden of the building.



IS PETER THAT FOUNDATION STONE OF THE CHURCH ?

Let us read the answer in -

1 Corinthians 3:11

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is JESUS CHRIST."

Yes! Jesus **HIMSELF** is that "rock" of **FOUNDATION** to the church.

Surely Peter could not bear the **BURDEN** of the whole Church of nearly **2000** years.

Only Jesus can as we read in -

Matthew 28:20

"...And lo, I am WITH YOU ALWAYS, even unto the end of the world."

Yes ! Peter lived for only a few years and has been **DEAD** since then.

Only the **EVER LIVING ONE** - Jesus **ALONE** can bear the **BURDEN** of
the Gospel Age Church that is now nearly **2000** years old !



And besides when we read those words of Jesus in **Matthew 16:18**

➔ **IN GREEK** we realize what Jesus was REALLY saying !

THIS IS NOT CLEAR IN ANY OTHER LANGUAGE !!

In GREEK it is -

**"Thou art Petros (A SMALL ROCK) and upon this
Petra (A LARGE ROCK OR BOULDER) I will build my church."**

➔ There ! Did you see the **DIFFERENCE** in **MEANING** of those two words ?!



Now let us come to Jesus words of "my church" and try to understand it.



DID JESUS SAY - "MY CHURCHES" ?

NO ! HE DID NOT !



Then why are there so many churches and each not in
AGREEMENT with the other today?

 **WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DIVISIONS AND DENOMINATIONS TODAY ?**

We see the answer for this in the early church itself as we read in -


1 Corinthians 3:3-4

“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men ? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal ?

Yes ! Right from then began the tendency to follow **LEADERS-**
rather than following the Master and His word !

Today after nearly **2000** years of church history we see

 the Roman Catholic Church as **ONE DIVISION**

and the Protestants consisting of nearly **750 FURTHER DIVISIONS !**


 **Yes !** Some say they are **CATHOLIC !**Others say they are **LUTHERAN...**
Still others **CSI..** still others **PENTECOSTAL...**still others **Methodist....**and so it goes on !

 Today when a Christian meets another Christian the **FIRST** question asked is-
“WHICH CHURCH OR DENOMINATION ARE YOU FROM ?”

Was this the question asked in the early church- during the days of the apostles?

THE ANSWER IS NO !

THEN THERE WAS ONLY ONE CHURCH- THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST-
“my church”

 So what about **THAT ONE** church- **THAT ONE** Body today ?

 **WHERE IS IT ? WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW ?**

We read of **THAT ONE CHURCH** and find it in the scriptures in -

Hebrews 12:23


*“To the general assembly and CHURCH of the first born,
which (names) are written in heaven...”*

Yes ! This is the **“CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST”-**

“the first born from the dead (Colossians 1:18)

This church is Jesus **“Body”**-- He calls it **“my church”**.

 **THEIR NAMES OF MEMBERSHIP ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN !!**

 Yes ! We read of this church in prophecy along with the Lord in -



Revelation 17:14

“...And the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords and King of kings: and they THAT ARE WITH HIM are called and chosen, and faithful.”

Yes ! This is the “lamb” at war in the prophetic future !

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

This is a reference to the- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST** in glory in the **future** when they will be with “the Lamb”!

 Now how is this church described ?

We read.....They”...Are **CALLED**, and **CHOSEN**, and **FAITHFUL**.”

What does this mean ?

These are the **THREE STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT** of the church and of Christians and of **those** members who will attain to **GLORY WITH JESUS** in **HIS KINGDOM** !

 **YES ! THIS IS THE SECRET OF THE TRUE CHURCH - THE BODY OF CHRIST !**

We will be discussing these **THREE** stages now in detail - Today we will study **HALF** the subject and in **PART-2** we will study the other half.



1



Let us begin by studying what is meant by “called” ?

Let us read in -

Matthew 22:14

*“For **MANY** are called, but **FEW** are chosen.”*

Yes ! Here are **THE FIRST TWO STAGES** and their numbers !

-  1. At the “called” stage there are **MANY**.
-  2. At the “chosen” stage there are **FEW**.

 What is meant by “called” and who are these “many” ?

Let us read the answer in -

John 15:19

“but because you are not of the world,...but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

Yes ! Jesus speaks of a selection out of the world.



These are the “**CALLED**” class who **BELIEVE** the **gospel** message,

→ **ACCEPT** Jesus as their saviour,

→ **BELIEVE** on His death on the cross for the sins of the world, and

→ show **FAITH** on Jesus.

In fact the English word--**CHURCH** is from the Greek word--**EKKLESIA**- which means- “a calling out” or “a selection”.



☞ Thus the “CALLED are all those who take this first step of faith in Jesus and become what are called - BELIEVERS.

☞ OF THESE WE READ THERE ARE “MANY” !!

They are present in ALL the churches!

They have FAITH in Jesus, attend worship regularly on Sundays, attend special prayers and fasting meetings, pay tithes and try to not sin much by trying to be morally good in their life.

☞ These are popularly known as - BELIEVERS !!

☞ These are the “CALLED” class !!

What is meant by the “many” ?

Are they “many” as compared to “unbelievers” ?

IT CANNOT BE !!

Today in the world only 1/3 are Christian and in India the proportion is 2% !

☞ So then in what sense is the “called” class -MANY ?

The word “many” is used **not** in reference to “unbelievers” but in reference to the **next** stage or class of Christians “THE CHOSEN” !

Yes ! The “CHOSEN” are FEW when compared to the MANY that are “CALLED” !

When we look at the gospel preaching in India, we see it began in the **FIRST CENTURY** itself- through **THE APOSTLE THOMAS** in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. We have no record of the results of the Apostle Thomas ministry in India and how many became Christians. And later we hear **nothing** much about Christianity in India till the early 18th century.



William Carey translates the Bible into one of the Indian languages.

Then **WILLIAM CAREY (1761-1834)** who was called the “**Father of Modern Missions**” came with great missionary zeal to India and being a Protestant (Baptist) he translated the Bible into some TWENTY SIX (26) Indian languages !!

Yes ! He realized that in India the problem was the **DIVERSITY of languages** and he concentrated on translating the Bible into as many languages as was possible.

Thus the Bible and the gospel could be read and understood by Indians in their own languages.

It was from this period that Christianity and the church began to grow in numbers in India.

Coming back to the “called” class we see that these



have taken **THE FIRST STEP** in the Christian life (or **CHRIST LIKE** life) - the step of **FAITH**.
But, yet these are what are called “babes in Christ” and like natural babies **THEY TOO NEED** milk !

☞ We read of that “Milk” in -

1 Peter 2:2

“As newborn babes desire the sincere milk OF THE WORD...”

Yes ! The **SPIRITUAL** “babes” must seek sincerely for the “milk of the word”.

Yes ! It is their **FIRST INTRODUCTION** to the Bible. They begin to read the Bible for the very first time.



And they are told to

“desire the sincere milk of the word”.



What is the “milk of the Word” ? We find the answer in -

Hebrews 5:12 / 6:1-3



“.....And are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”



“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from the dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgement. And this will we do, if God permit.”

Yes ! They are the first principles or **BASIC DOCTRINES** of the “oracles of God”.



Thus it is that “believers” are encouraged to **STUDY THE BIBLE !!**
And after reading about Jesus and his life and teachings and death on the cross of Calvary as recorded in the **FOUR GOSPELS** the “believer”



.....gradually begins to read the rest of the Bible -

THE LETTERS OF PAUL, PETER, JOHN ETC,

and in doing so finds that the Bible like a “**MIRROR**” brings forth and portrays a picture of one’s personal **CONDITION OF SIN** - **IN THOUGHTS, WORDS AND DEEDS !!**

Thus **BEGINS A CLEANSING PROCESS IN THE HEART** as we read in -

Ephesians 5:26

“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word”

Yes ! Thus “believers” or the “called” class **TRY TO LEAD MORALLY GOOD LIVES**. In addition, their faith on the Lord Jesus brings what is called “**JUSTIFICATION**”



What is **MEANT** by justification ? We read **OF THE ANSWER** in -



Romans 5:1

“Therefore being **JUSTIFIED** by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.....”

Yes! This **JUSTIFICATION** is the forgiveness of our sins through faith on the precious blood of Jesus.

☞ IT IS A GIFT OF GOD !

But steady progress in the Christian life leads to an **INCREASED** knowledge of God's Word and thus to a deeper understanding and then we read in -

James 2:17

“...Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead...”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

Yes! Faith must **PROGRESS** to and include “works” !

☞ What are these “works” you might ask ?

Are they “works” of **CHARITY** and **SOCIAL WORK** such as helping and feeding the poor, opening school, orphanages etc ??

☞ These are all **GOOD** “works” but are **NOT** the ‘works’ that God **SPECIFICALLY** expects of a Christian.

WHAT ARE THE “WORKS” THAT GOD EXPECTS OF A CHRISTIAN ?

Let us ask Jesus in -

John 6:28

“Then said they unto him, what shall we do, that we might work the works of God ?”

SEE ! THE SAME QUESTION IS ASKED OF JESUS!!

☞ Wouldn't we all like to **HEAR** the answer of Jesus to this question ?

Let us **NOTE** Jesus reply in -

John 6:29

“This is the work of God, that ye BELIEVE on Him whom He hath sent.”

There ! The ‘works’ expected by God is -

‘...that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.’

But someone may say -

☞ “We **ALREADY** believe on Him.”

Yes ! That is **TRUE**, but this “believe on Him” speaks of a **DEEPER BELIEF** upon Jesus than the **INITIAL FAITH** of a believer.

Yes ! This “believe on him” can be better translated as “**trust on him**” and represents that faith which brings **TRUST** and **OBEDIENCE** to the words and **COMMANDS** of the Master.

For we read very clearly in....



John 8:31

“If ye continue in (obedience to) my word, then are ye my disciples indeed”.
Thus it is that “believers” must PROGRESS in their Christian Life
to be “followers” as clearly seen in-



Phillippians 1:29

“...unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, NOT ONLY TO BELIEVE
on Him, but also to suffer for His sake.”
....and even more clearly in-

1 Peter 2:21

“For even hereunto WERE YE CALLED: because Christ also suffered
for us, leaving us an EXAMPLE, that ye should FOLLOW HIS STEPS.”

ISN'T IT CLEAR ! Yes! The “called” stage of faith and “believing” **MUST GROW**
and progress to the stage of **FOLLOWING JESUS FOOTSTEPS !**

It is expected of ALL “believers”.


It is the ‘works’ that must be added to the FAITH !

 **BUT WHAT DO WE SEE ?**

VERY FEW can even “see” this ! -
 this **GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY** to follow Jesus footsteps !

Thus it is that THE VAST MAJORITY of all Christian “believers”
only come upto this first stage of “**CALLED**”.

They **NEVER** even “see” that second stage of “**CHOSEN**” and die as just “believers” !

 But today **LET US** look into and study this second stage
of Christian life called - “**CHOSEN**”.

 **WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO STUDY FURTHER ?**

YES ?? OK ! ? LET US PROCEED !

 **2** “...But **FEW** are **CHOSEN**”. (Matthew 22:14)

Yes ! The “**CHOSEN**” stage finds ONLY FEW CHRISTIANS !

These “few” hear and **OBEY** the Master's words and commands-

What do we read of the Master's command to his disciples?....

Let us read of the Master's words in -


Matthew 16:24

“If any man **WILL COME AFTER** me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross, and **FOLLOW** me”.




Yes ! The **following** and becoming a disciple is a matter of “**WILL**” (Tamil - “Virumbinaal”) or one of **personal CHOICE!**

There is **NO FORCE** involved at all nor is it **COMPULSORY** !
-Then having decided to **FOLLOW** Jesus what must he or she do?

 “...Let him deny himself...”

What does this mean ?

 This is exactly what Jesus Himself first did!
We read of it in.....

Hebrews 10:7

“Then said I,Lo,I come (in the volume of_ the book it is written of me) to do thy will,O God”.

Yes ! Thus Jesus **DENIED** His will and **TOOK UP** the Father’s will.
.... And now He calls upon His disciples to do the **SAME!**
Thus it is that the Apostle Paul says in -

Romans 12:2

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good,and acceptable and perfect WILL of_God”.

Thus **SELF WILL**- the “spirit of the world” - the spirit of **SELF** is **gradually** denied and the will of God is discerned and done.

 Yes ! The “self” of **DREAMS, GOALS** and **AMBITIONS** for one’s earthly life when **GRADUALLY DENIED** finds the **OPENING** of the **UNDERSTANDING** of the **DIVINE WILL** or **God’s WILL** from the Bible - the Word of God !


This gradual denial of “self” could begin with the attending of meetings by putting away certain earthly activities and

sacrifice of TIME or even the favour of family members and friends !!

 **EVERY STEP OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WILL LEADS TO A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIVINE WILL !**

This leads to a **SURRENDER** to the will of God in becoming “**FOLLOWERS**” of Jesus.

 **THIS IS CALLED CONSECRATION.**

 This then leads to.....
“...And take uphis cross and followme”.

 What does this mean ?

This refers to the life of **SACRIFICE** in following the example of Jesus!





For the cross of Jesus represents **THE GREAT SACRIFICE** of the Lord in becoming the Saviour of the world.

WHAT SACRIFICE IS MEANT OVER HERE ?

Are Christians **ALL** expected to carry **LITERAL** “crosses” ?

☞ To some that is the thought !

☞ That is why we see bishops, cardinals, arch bishops etc. wearing large heavy metallic **crosses on chains around their necks** !

☞ There are others who allow themselves to be **nailed to crosses on Good Friday**, only to be brought down a few hours later ! This happens a lot in **PHILIPPINES** !

☞ Then there are some who **carry wooden crosses along with them** wherever they go. A few years ago one such person carried such a cross within the land of Israel.

IS THIS HOW THE “CROSS” or the SACRIFICE IS MEANT TO BE ?

let us hear the answer from the Apostle Paul ?

The Apostle Paul explains it in -

Romans 12:1

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **PRESENT** your bodies a **LIVING SACRIFICE**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

This “living sacrifice” refers to the sacrifice of “**your bodies**”- or **HUMAN LIFE** and its rights and privileges in the service of the Master.

This sacrifice includes within its scope -

☞ **TIME** (Many hours devoted to the Lord’s service)

☞ **HEALTH** (Energy, strength in activity and travel to various places in the service of the Lord)

☞ **WEALTH** (Money, house, possessions, vehicle, etc. used in the Lord’s service.)

☞ **MENTAL TALENTS** (teaching, drawing, counselling, Translating, etc for the Lord’s service.)

☞ **INFLUENCE** (Public speaking capacity used in the Harvest work of the Lord.)

Now let us remember that one can sacrifice **ONLY WHAT** one possesses

Thus we read in -

Luke 12:48

“For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required...”

It is for each one to evaluate THE EXTENT what one possesses, and thus to place his/her ALL upon THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE !



Now this sacrificial Christian life begins with a **-COVENANT!**

This we read in.....

Psalms 25:14

*"The SECRET of the Lord is with them that fear Him,
and He will show them His COVENANT."*

Yes! This covenant is a **SECRET COVENANT.**



Now we have many examples of "covenants" or **AGREEMENTS** made in the world.

Perhaps the most common is the **MARRIAGE COVENANT**
or **AGREEMENT** made between a man and a woman.

This marriage covenant is established and made in a **BEAUTIFUL CEREMONY**
where all family and friends are invited to be present and to witness the occasion.

The covenant is symbolized through beautiful symbols, like **exchange of rings, flower garlands, the tying of a special chain called the "thali"** by the bridegroom around the bride's neck as in South India etc

☞ And like the marriage covenant this "**secret covenant**" too has
a **BEAUTIFUL SYMBOL**- water immersion or what is called "**BAPTISM**"!!

Here the person who is being baptized is **MAKING** a covenant with God
as **Jesus did** when He entered into the Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist.

☞ **AND WHAT A WONDERFUL SYMBOL IT IS-**

☞ The baptism **SYMBOL** begins with the person who is to be baptised,
coming forth and standing about **waist deep in the water** !

This symbolises something !

Yes! The water is a symbol that we read of in the scriptures in -

Revelation 17:15 → *"and he saith unto me, the waters which thou sawest,
where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."*

Yes ! Here 'water' **SYMBOLISES** the **WORLD** !!

And standing half in the water and half out of the water symbolises
another matter of which we read in -

John 15:9 → *"but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world...."*

Yes ! **The position in the water** **PERFECTLY** symbolizes
the Christian's condition in the world !

☞ - **BEING IN THE WORLD** (the water)

AND YET NOT OF IT (here representing the "spirit of the world")

The next matter is the position of **standing in the water with hands folded.**

☞ This represents the **CONDITION** of "surrender of oneself"
or the "presenting of oneself" for **SACRIFICE** !



Now the one coming forward for **BAPTISM** cannot baptise himself/ herself but needs someone to do it for him/her.

➔ Thus we come to the next matter where someone (sometimes incase of ladies and fat people perhaps 2 or even 3 persons may be required) **DOES THE IMMERSING !**

What does this represent ?

The **IMMERSOR / IMMERSORS** represent Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ into whose "hands" we commit ourselves to **DO THE WILL OF THE "HEAD"**.

➔ And then the person is immersed **BACKWARDS** and **UNDER THE WATER** representing the voluntary sacrificial **DEATH** of **HUMAN INTERESTS** and **LIFE RIGHTS** in the Christian walk of life after baptism - **UNTO DEATH**.

This is what the Apostle Paul means in

Colossians 3:3 ➔ *"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."*

Finally the baptismal process is completed with the

➔ **RAISING UP AGAIN OF THE PERSON FROM UNDER THE WATER.**

What does this represent ?

This represents the Christian **PROMISE** for faithfulness

In fulfilling the "**covenant by sacrifice**"

This we read in Jesus words in -

JOHN 6:44 ➔ *"..and I will raise him up at the last day."*

Yes ! This is the **PROMISED** resurrection to **SPIRITUAL HEAVENLY LIFE** for all the faithful.



THIS IS THE "ONE BAPTISM" OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - Ephesians 4:5

In Tamil the word- "**Nyanasnanam**" means an immersion after a **CERTAIN** knowledge ! Thus **ALL** those who enter this **SECOND STEP** or stage of being "**chosen**" make this covenant with God of following in the footsteps of the Master and **symbolise** this covenant by **WATER IMMERSION BAPTISM** as Jesus Himself did in the River Jordan !

☞ They are then called by God by a name which we read in -

Psalms 50:5

"Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice."

Yes ! These or this class of Christians are those referred to in **every** letter of the Apostle Paul

(Read **1 CORINTHIANS 1:2 / PHILIPPIANS 1:1 / COLOSSIANS 1:2**)

☞ Thus these "**CHOSEN**" class of consecrated covenant bound followers of Jesus are called -**SAINTS** !



And of these “saints” we also read in -

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW CREATURE...”

Yes! Here “in Christ” refers to the “Covenant of sacrifice” and such are said to become “new creatures” as they are begotten of the Holy Spirit and receive a “new mind” - a mind through which “all things” (dreams, goals and ambitions) become NEW- SPIRITUAL and HEAVENLY rather than EARTHLY !
Yes! These “FOLLOWER” Christians have a “new mind” and a “old mind”.

👉 One is SPIRITUAL the other is EARTHLY.

Both now try to control the body as we read in -

Colossians 3:9-10 → *“lie not one to another seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him, that created him”.*

THERE !

It is very clear !

The “new man” (the SPIRITUAL MIND) must grow and put down the “old man” (THE SACRIFICED EARTHLY MIND).

👉 This becomes the Christian struggle within !

Thus those who enter the “CHOSEN” stage are called “saints” and “new creatures” !

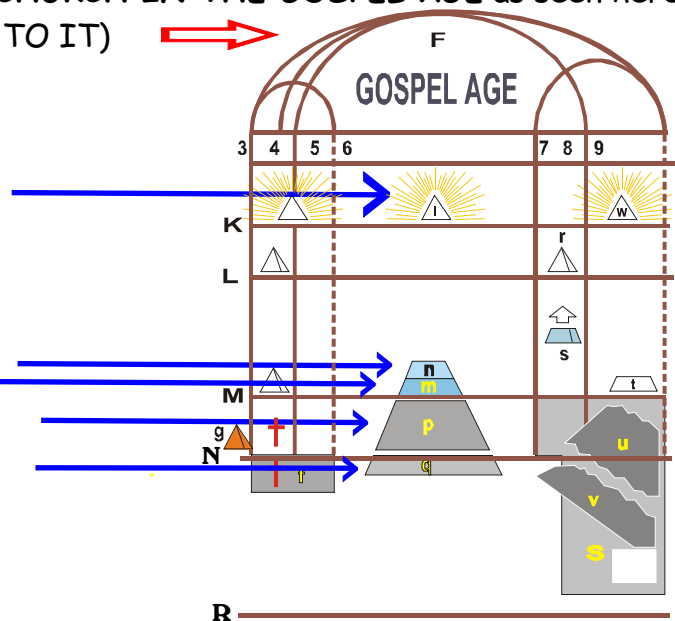
👉 Yes! They greatly DIFFER from the merely “called” or “believers” in KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING and WAY OF LIFE.

Now, let us see these PARTS OF THE CHURCH IN THE GOSPEL AGE as seen here on the chart of the ages (POINT TO IT)

JESUS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH IN THE DIVINE NATURE IN HEAVEN.

THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CHURCH PRESENTLY IN THE FLESH


“n”
“m”
“p”
“q”



👉 This headless pyramid in the GOSPEL AGE represents IMPERFECTION and that



is the condition of the church now in the flesh !

 The Lord **Jesus Christ** is the invisible “**HEAD**” of the church from heaven (**Ephesians 1:22**)

-Now the church as seen here is of **FOUR parts
-n, m, p and q.**

WHAT DO THEY REPRESENT ?

Let us see them now one by one -

 “q”

- These are **below** plane N which is the plane of human perfection or **JUSTIFICATION** (reckoned perfection gained by the forgiveness of one’s sons).

Justification or **FORGIVENESS** of sins is gained through **FAITH** in Jesus (**Romans 5:1**)
But we see that this class even **DO NOT EVEN** have faith in Jesus nor his ransom sacrifice -though they claim to be Christians in name only and **NOT in BELIEFS !!**

These are those who **BELIEVE** more on **SCIENCE** and **SCIENTIFIC** theories than on Jesus and the Word of God.

 **THESE ARE “HYPOCRITES” AND REALLY UNBELIEVERS.**

These numbers are on the increase as “**unbelief**” is spreading through the **DARWINIAN EVOLUTION THEORY** and “**NO GOD**” theories !!

 And even among **TEACHERS OF THE WORD** are this class in large numbers today as we read in -

2 Corinthians 2:17

“...unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit” - (New International Version)

Yes ! These include so many Christian **INSTITUTIONS** like schools, hospitals and colleges where the **FOCUS** and **INTEREST** of those who run them is more on the **EARTHLY** than the **SPIRITUAL** and many will confess no depth of interest in the things of God’s Word.

Even many pastors and “**servants of God**” go about preaching **NOT** for the love of God or the **TRUTH** but for name, money, honor etc and they themselves privately express deep personal doubts about Jesus death and His being the saviour of the world.

Now we come to the second group -

 “p”

These are (POINT TO “p”) standing upon plane N or are on a **JUSTIFIED** plane because of their faith upon Jesus and His death on the cross of Calvary.

These are the “called” class of Christians- the **BELIEVERS**.

They are large numbers for we read- *“many are called”*.

The **GREAT MAJORITY** of Christians in all the various churches are of this **CLASS !**

Now we come to the third group over here -





“m” and “n”

These **TWO** parts of the church here (POINT TO IT) are seen upon the plane M.

WHAT IS THIS PLANE “M”?

We see that it is above the plane N of “Justification” and below plane L. Plane L represents the **SPIRITUAL NATURE** of existence of the heavenly creations- the various angels and cherubim and seraphim - **THE SPIRIT BEINGS IN HEAVEN !**

Thus **BETWEEN** the perfectly **JUSTIFIED HUMAN PLANE** and the spiritual heavenly plane is this plane- plane M.

It represents those Christians who have given up or **SACRIFICED** their JUSTIFIED human natures as we had read in -

Romans 12:1

“That you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...”

Yes ! Those upon this plane are called “new creatures” and are **SPIRITUALLY MINDED FLESHLY BEINGS** and will receive **HEAVENLY SPIRITUAL BODIES IN THE RESURRECTION**.



Yes ! This is the **CONDITION** entered into at **CONSECRATION** when making the “**covenant by sacrifice**” and **SYMBOLIZING** it in water immersion baptism.

These are the “**CHOSEN**” class of Christians and they are few when compared to the “**CALLED**” class of believers for it is written -
“.....few are chosen”.



So “m” and “n” represent the “**CHOSEN**” class of the church (POINT TO IT)



Yes ! These are the “**FOLLOWERS**” of Jesus.



They are **NOT** merely ‘believers’ but have gone a step forward in Christian development to become **FOLLOWERS** of the Master.



BUT WHY ARE THEY TWO GROUPS ?-



WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ?

We will study the answers to these questions in great detail in Part -2 of our study in the next class.

---Amen--

