

Deu 8:7 "For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; (8) a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; (9) a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. (10) "When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

(11) "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; (12) otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, (13) and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, (14) then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

We live in just such a place – a place where there is no scarcity – our fathers were blessed by the Lord – and we have forgotten what trials made the country in which we live what it is today.

Joh 8:31-32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

We had a question on the radio program yesterday, “Will people who never hear the gospel be lost?”

We went to the Scriptures -- 2Th 1:7-10 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels (8) in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (9) They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction ...

Two groups – *those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
They will suffer the punishment of eternal
destruction*

They are lost!

Nice folks, but the Bible says they are lost –
eternally lost!

It is easy for our young to look at the denominations and think of all those nice people who go there and all the nice people who live around them and go nowhere and to conclude – surely God loves them and would not condemn them.

It is even thinkable that some would decide that though their own children don't obey the word – surely they're ok. God would not condemn them.

Those who are saved are warned –

Heb 2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (2) For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, (3) how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,

Have you wondered about how far you can drift?

It is easy for our young (and us) to lose sight of the fact that Jesus said he would build one church – not two or three, but one.

Mat 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Eph 4:4 There is one body

Both before and after we find the body in
Ephesians is equated to the church!

Eph 1. 22 ... to the church, 23 which is his body,
the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife
even as Christ is the head of the church, his body

There is but one body and anyone who is not a member of that body is not a member of the one true church and stands condemned – unsaved – outside. -- You may think that's harsh, but that's what God says.

Gal 3:26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. (27) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

A major problem facing liberal churches of Christ is whether they should fellowship the denominations.

The colleges run by our brethren, with few exceptions, have given up on teaching the preachers they put out that baptism is necessary for remission of sins or that instrumental music in the assembly is sinful.

I know of multiple young men who graduated from a preaching school or a college who split large churches as a result of these teachings.

The issue of the authority of the Bible is the root of all religious problems.

Virtually every denomination denies the Bible as the inerrant and infallible word of God in practice, but they loudly proclaim the Bible as the inerrant and infallible word of God in theory.

Can we understand the Bible?

Is It really inspired?

Some say, parts are inspired and others are not but
are myths.

Some say it's all a myth.

Are churches of Christ becoming like the
denominations?

There are winds of change in the church. In churches of Christ, in singing, there are those – women first, sometimes followed by men – who stand in the audience or in the aisle and sway with arms uplifted, perhaps clapping – just like the Pentecostals.

Is it wrong? Absolutely!

It is true that the lifting up of hands was a prayer posture used in the Bible (along with six others).

- 1) Kneeling (with head bowed, arms raised, knees on the ground under the body with the forehead touching the ground)
- 2) Standing (with head bowed, with eyes uplifted, with arms raised),
- 3) Lying face down on the ground

But that's the men, not the women. What do we conclude? Whatever position indicates praise to God

In the church the men are to do the praying – that is
God's way.

1Ti 2:8 I desire then that in every place the men should
pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

The manner of praying at the time.

The same idea as in 2Co 13:12 Greet one another with a
holy kiss.

The manner of greeting at the time.

On the question of whether baptism is necessary, can it get any plainer than 1Pe 3:20 ... because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. (21) Baptism, which corresponds to this, **now saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

What you have learned today is that God expects you to obey Him.

He wrote the Bible and it contains all things that pertain to life and godliness.

If you didn't listen, you're not excused.

If you did listen, you are condemned if you don't do it.

What have you got to lose? Your soul!