

26- Facts About The Bible

I - THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT ONLY PART OF US IS SAVED OR BORN AGAIN

At the moment of salvation, it is the spiritual body (the inward body) that is “saved,” not the material body. Our material bodies have an old sin nature and they will never lose it. That is why our material body will never get out of this world alive. Our material body has never wanted to do the will of the Living God in the past, our material body does not want to do the will of God now and our material body will never want to do the will of God in the future. That’s the reason Paul said in 2nd Corinthians 5:1-10 that God will give the spiritual bodies that have been “born again”, a Heavenly, glorified body at the Catching Up or as some people call it, the Rapture.

"¹ For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. ² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from Heaven: ³ If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. ⁵ Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. ⁶ Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: ⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) ⁸ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. ⁹ Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (King James Version)

"³⁵ But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" ³⁶ Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain--perhaps wheat or some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. ³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. ⁴⁰ There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is

one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.⁴⁵ And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.⁴⁷ The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from Heaven.⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the Heavenly Man, so also are those who are Heavenly.⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Heavenly Man.⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."⁵⁵ "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 (New King James Version)

Again, it is the spiritual body within our material body that is "born again" or restored to fellowship with the Living God. Once it is "born again" or restored to fellowship with the Living God, our spiritual body will never sin and the Holy Spirit will not allow the Evil One (Satan) to even communicate with the spiritual body.

¹⁸ "We know that no one begotten by God sins; but the one begotten by God **He protects,** and **the evil one cannot touch him.**" 1 John 5:18 (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

⁹ "No one born of God commits sin; for God's nature abides in him, and **he cannot sin** because he is born of God." 1 John 3:9 (Revised Standard Version)

It is important that we always keep in mind that our material bodies are not going to make it out of this world alive. Our material body is not saved. Paul told us that he still sinned after he was saved. " ¹⁴ *For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am made out of flesh, sold into sin's power.* ¹⁵ *For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not practice what I want to do, but I do what I hate.* ¹⁶ *And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree with the law that it is good.* ¹⁷ *So now I am no longer the one doing it, but it is sin living in me.* ¹⁸ *For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is no ability to do it.* ¹⁹ *For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do.* ²⁰ *Now if I do what I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but it is the sin that lives in me.* ²¹ *So I discover this principle: When I want to do what is good, evil is with me.* ²² *For in my inner self I joyfully agree with God's law.* ²³ *But I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body.* ²⁴ *What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this dying body?* ²⁵ *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I myself am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh, to the law of sin. Romans 7:14-25 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)*

Being a member of the creation of the Living God does not make a person a member of the Family of the Living God. Each of us has a material body that has material parents. Having a material body qualifies us as a creation of the Living God. In order to become a member of the Family of the Living God, however, our spiritual body must be restored to fellowship with the Holy Spirit of God. It must be "born again". This is done when we go to God in prayer, ask God to forgive us of the sins we have committed and we ask that the payment Jesus Christ provided on the cross, pay for the sin debt that we owe.

¹⁹ *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.* ²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.* ²¹ *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;* ²² *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:* ²³ *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* ²⁴ *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:* ²⁵ *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith*

in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; ²⁶ To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Romans 3:19-26 (King James Version)

II - THE BIBLE IS A LIBRARY OF BOOKS

First, the sixty-six books that compose that library were recorded over a period of approximately 1,500 years by about 40 different writers. The Living God told them what to write but He allowed them to use their own words and their own way of expressing themselves as they recorded the words. Except for a few passages in the book of Daniel, the books of the Old Testament were written in the Hebrew language and the books of the New Testament were written in the Greek language. God communicated with the writers of the **original** manuscripts and revealed to them tenets He wanted written. Even though the Lord allowed each recorder to use their own way of expressing themselves, He made sure they did not record error or contradictions. Therefore, the **original** sixty-six books were perfect, complete and without error. The original manuscripts did not just contain the words of God. They **were** the inspired words of God.

"²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21 (King James Version)

"¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

" ⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4 (New King James Version)

The sixty-six **original** manuscripts were recorded without any divisions so if your "Bible" has divisions such as chapters or verses, it is the first indication that your "Bible" is not an original manuscript, hand written by one of the original, inspired writers. Please do not be like the person who stated assertively, "If the Bible I use was good enough for the apostle Paul, it's good enough for me". The apostle Paul never had the complete Bible.

The **copies** of the sixty-six **original** manuscripts were divided into chapters and verses at a later date. While dividing the Bible into chapters and verses sometimes furnishes a

convenience in study, some of us have a tendency to think that the information always concludes at the end of a chapter. As a result, we do not consider that the verses in the new chapter, in many cases, are contiguous and congruent to the preceding chapter and/or the following chapter.

Often we base our understanding of God's word upon a key scripture that was clouded or corrupted when it was translated into our native language. Sometimes we erroneously base our understanding on comments that a writer has added next to a scripture in our Bible even though the writer may not have examined all the scriptures that deal with that particular subject. **The autographed manuscripts by the original writers were the perfect words of God.** God inspired the men who penned them. God did not inspire either the translators or those who write commentaries. The translators and the commentators may have worked under a strong desire to achieve something high or great but they did not do their work under inspiration. That is why it is so important that we read **all** the scriptures dealing with a particular subject before we come to a conclusion about what God is sharing with us. When we do, we will find that most of the scriptures dealing with a particular subject override any error that may have crept in.

The **original, autographed manuscripts** that made up the Bible were a divine blueprint. They explained how God will one day live and fellowship with perfect people who will inherit a new, perfect earth.

"¹ Then I saw a new Heaven and a new earth. The former Heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more." Revelation 21:1 (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

III - THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE LORD DESIRES LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP

The residents on that perfect earth will have chosen to return love to the Living God of their own free will as they obey His call to (1) come to Him in prayer, (2) repent of their sins and while looking in faith to Calvary, (3) ask that the payment Jesus Christ gave on the cross, pay for the sin debt they owe.

"¹⁰ Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God hath raised from the dead, even by him this man standeth here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the stone which was rejected by you the builders, which is become the head of the corner. ¹² Neither is there salvation in any other. For

there is no other name under Heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:10-12 (Confraternity–Douay Version, Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition)

"⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:8-13 (New International Version)

IV - THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION HAS NEVER CHANGED

God's plan of salvation has always been the same. The only difference has been that the redeemed people who lived before the crucifixion looked forward in faith. They asked that the payment the Messiah **would give** one day in the future be applied to the sin debt they owed the Living God. The redeemed who have lived since the cross have looked backward in faith and have asked God to apply the payment Christ **has given** on the cross to the sin debt they owe. Salvation is obtained through faith. The people who were saved before the crucifixion did not need to exercise any more faith to believe He would die than we exercise by believing He has died.

V - THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS ARE NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE

We are comfortable using almost any translation of the Bible into English whether, for example, it's the Confraternity–Douay Version, (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition), the New International Version or King James Version, just to name a few. The wording in most of the translations is different. Sometimes the chapters and verses may be divided differently. Some of the books may have a different name or may be spelled differently. But if you will examine **all** the scriptures that deal with a particular subject, you will find that the truth taught is the same. One translation might say, for example, "The Holstein cow ate green grass and gave white milk". Another translation might say "The green grass was eaten by a Holstein cow and she then gave

white milk”.

Some of the manuscripts were written on animal skins and others were written on papyrus or other material. **THOSE MANUSCRIPTS ARE NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE.** They deteriorated long ago. The translations into various native languages were translated from what we consider faithful copies. Those faithful copies were supposed to be compared with each other in order to establish their accuracy and then translated into the different languages. The approximately forty different writers of the original manuscripts were inspired by the Living God. **THOSE WHO TRANSLATED THE BIBLE INTO NATIVE LANGUAGES WERE NOT INSPIRED.** Sometimes the translators allowed their personal religious beliefs to influence how they translated a particular verse or passage. Because of that, every translation has some degree of error in it. Although some translations have less error than others, there has never been a perfect, errorless translation. Only the original autographed books were perfect and without error. A person, therefore, should read all the scriptures dealing with a particular subject before they come to a conclusion about what they think the Living God is teaching. It is also imperative to see what the Hebrew word or the Greek word really means in our own language today. That is the reason why it is so important, if possible, for you to have access to a good concordance or a good Bible software program on your computer. I suggest that before you accept anything, including these papers, that you read **all** the scriptures dealing with the subject and then come to a conclusion about what God is saying. Be careful as you read anything, to make sure the person who is writing is not propagating "the skin of truth stuffed with a lie". Please heed the advice of one of the presidents of the United States of America when he counseled, "Trust, but verify".

VI - THE INFORMATION IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS NOT RECORDED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

The information in the Book of Revelation is not recorded in chronological order starting from chapter one, verse one and concluding with the information recorded in chapter twenty-two, verse twenty-one. We find in chapter ten, verses 5-7, for instance, " ⁵ *The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to Heaven* ⁶ *and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created Heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that* **there should be delay no longer,** ⁷ *but in the days of* *the sounding of the seventh angel,* *when he is about to sound,* **the mystery of God**

would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets." Revelation 10:5-7 (New King James Version)

Jesus Christ, in His instructions to His disciples in Matthew 24:45-51, explained what He meant by delay when He told John in Revelation 10:6 that **there should be delay no longer**.⁴⁵ "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?"⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.⁴⁷ Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.⁴⁸ But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is **delaying** his coming,'⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,⁵¹ and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 24:45-51 (New King James Version)

John is told that when **the seventh angel** sounds his trumpet, the **mystery** of the Living God will no longer be delayed but will be finished. Paul taught about this in Ephesians 1:3-10³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the Heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,⁹ he made known to us **the mystery of his will** according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,¹⁰ **to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in Heaven and on earth under Christ**. Ephesians 1:3-10 (New International Version)

That is exactly what will happen when the seventh angel sounds his trumpet at the end of Revelation, chapter 11. (1) **The times will reach their fulfillment** (Ephesians 1:10, written above) and (2) **God will bring unity to all things in Heaven and on earth under Christ** (Ephesians 1:10, written above). We find in the latter part of Revelation, chapter 11, that the seventh angel will blow his trumpet. The mystery of God will no longer be delayed but will be finished and all things in Heaven and on earth will be brought under the authority of Christ. Once that happens, Satan, the usurper, will be cast into Gehenna and the Living God will reign forever and ever.¹⁵

Then **the seventh angel blew his trumpet.** There were loud voices in Heaven, saying, "**The kingdom of the world now belongs to our Lord and to his Anointed, and he will reign forever and ever.**" ¹⁶ The twenty-four elders who sat on their thrones before God prostrated themselves and worshiped God ¹⁷ and said: "We give thanks to you, Lord God almighty, who are and who were. For **you have assumed your great power and have established your reign.**" ¹⁸ The nations raged, but your wrath has come, and the time for the dead to be judged, and to recompense your servants, the prophets, and the holy ones and those who fear your name, the small and the great alike, and to destroy those who destroy the earth." ¹⁹ Then God's temple in Heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a violent hailstorm." Revelation 11:15-19 (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

If we find that at the end of the eleventh chapter of Revelation, all things in Heaven and on earth will be brought under the authority of Christ and He will begin to reign forever and ever, why did Christ give us the information in chapters 12 through 22? It is obvious that most of what is revealed in chapters 12 through 22 takes place **before** the seventh angel blows his trumpet in chapter 11, and before all things in Heaven and on earth are brought under the authority of Christ and He begins to reign forever and ever. Again, why did Christ give us the information in chapters 12 through 22? Christ gave the information in chapters 12 through 22 because the information He reveals is extra information.

Please think of it this way. Beginning with Revelation, chapter 1, verse 1, Christ sent His δούλος (pronounced in English, doo' los), His bondservants, a panoramic view of the things which had already begun with the Church Age and would culminate with all things in Heaven and on earth being brought under His authority. The information we find from the beginning of chapter one to the end of the eleventh chapter furnishes a wide sweeping panoramic view. That information is in chronological order. Then, beginning with chapter 12, Christ gives His bondservants extra information they are to place in the "cubby holes" of the panoramic view in order to better understand what He has revealed. It is important that we remember that some of the extra information in chapters 12 through 22 are not necessarily in chronological order either.

You are welcome to correspond with us.

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