

*"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" 1 Corinthians 14:8*

**KJV**

**KING JAMES BIBLE  
USED FOR ALL  
REFERENCES TO  
GOD'S WORD IN  
THIS NEWSPAPER**

# The Original BAPTIST OBSERVER



*"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..." Jeremiah 6:16*

## Sounding Out The Faith

APRIL 2015

### THE FACTS OF HELL

Hell was made to rid God's creation of sin. God created Hell for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41) God never intended man to go there, but when man sinned, God of necessity had to enforce the penalty of sin upon man. This was eternal separation from God in the torments of Hell. (Romans 5:12) Sin is either taken away through repentance and faith in Christ. (Romans 5:1) Or, sin is eternally paid for by the eternal destruction in Hell that separates sin and unbelievers from God and His redeemed new creation for all of eternity.

There are two aspects of Hell shown by two Greek words used for Hell. Hades is a place of temporary torments of a lost soul. Gehenna is an eternal lake of fire of torments of the lost soul and their body.

Hades torment of the soul is found in Luke 16:19-31. There is no protection there. (Job 26:6) There is plenty of room there according to Proverbs 27:20. It also grows or enlarges. (Isaiah 5:14) There is a resurrection from this place called Hell (Hades) but it's not unto life. (Revelation 20:13; Daniel 12:2) As surely as the saved will be resurrected, so will the bodies of the unsaved. It will be 1,000 years later than the saved, but it is sure, nonetheless. (Hebrews 9:27) Just as the saved at the resurrection will receive the fullness of their salvation, the unsaved will receive the fullness of their punishment for rejecting Jesus Christ.

Gehenna Hell, the lake of fire, is where the soul and body both suffer. (Matthew 10:28) It's a place of damnation. (Matthew 23:33) It's called the second death in Revelation 20:14 and everlasting punishment in Matthew 25:46.

Men go there because their pride in themselves leaves them trusting in their own goodness and good works. They feel superior to others. They forget the Scriptures in Psalm 14:3 and Romans 3:23. They frown upon the idea of repentance. (Luke 13:3)

Some just pretend to be saved so they will go to Gehenna. They try to deceive others. Matthew 7:21-23 says that God will not be deceived. He never knew them because they were never real with themselves or Him.

Some prefer the world to Jesus so they will be in the lake of fire, too. (Mark 10:17-23) It gives pleasure for a little season, but it brings them problems. It destroys their health and wealth. It deserts them in times of need. It soon passes away. (Luke 15:11-24)

Some who pacify the flesh when the Spirit convicts will find themselves in this eternal Hell. They shut their ears to the Gospel message. (Ezekiel 12:2) They stay away from church services and steer clear of God's people so they won't have to hear the message. (John 5:36-47)

Some postpone accepting Christ as their Savior and they will end up there in this eternal damnation. Death creeps up on them. (Proverbs 27:1; James 4:13-15) Jesus is coming quickly. Don't put it off! (II Thessalonians 2:11-12)

### WHAT TO DO WITH THE BIBLE?

"More to be desired are they (the Word of God) than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." (Psalm 19:7-14)

What should be done with the Bible? It should be read, heard, and kept. (Revelation 1:3) It should be searched as in John 5:39. Its teachings should be meditated upon. (Psalm 1:1-3 and 119:97) Its contents should be hid in our heart, Psalm 119:11. It should be studied for us to be approved of God. (II Timothy 2:15) Its messages should be proclaimed to the world. (Jude 3; II Timothy 4:2)

What will the Bible do for you? It will make a different person out of you. (I Peter 1:23; II Corinthians 5:17) It will keep you from sin, Psalm 119:9. If you read it, hear it, and keep it, it will "keep" you. One of two things will certainly happen. The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible. It will sanctify you, Ephesians 5:26 and John 17:17. Its teachings being heeded to, will enable you to get your prayers answered. (John 15:7) Knowledge of the Word will increase your faith. (Romans 10:17) To heed to its teachings by faith, will make you prosperous. (Joshua 1:8; Proverbs 3:1-12; II Timothy 3:16-17)

What can we get from Bible study? Peace of mind, Psalm 119:165; Power, Luke 4:32, I Thessalonians 1:5; Light, Psalm 119:105; Strength which fortifies the life, Acts 17:11, I Timothy 4:13-15; Victory over Satan, Matthew 4:4; Protection, Ephesians 6:17; Joy, Jeremiah 15:16; Hope, Romans 15:4; A sure cure for the "blues", Psalm 77; and Knowledge of salvation and Heaven, I Peter 1:13-25.

What should we do with the Bible? Love it! Psalm 119:97, "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

### THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

Christ is the Head of the church. (Colossians 1:18) He has all power or authority. (Matthew 28:18) He has authority over demons in Mark 1:27. He has authority to forgive sins in Luke 5:24. He also has authority to execute judgment. (John 5:22-27)

Christ gave authority to the church in Matthew 16:19. This authority was to be witnesses. (Acts 1:8) The Lord's churches are His only witness in the world. (Acts 1:21-22; Acts 13:31) The Lord's churches have authority to preach the Gospel (Mark 16:15) and to make disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20) His churches are to complete all of the commission. Acts 2:41-47 is a perfect picture of the complete commission. We must lead people to salvation, Scriptural baptism, local New Testament church membership, and then teaching them to observe all things that Jesus commanded. He gave His churches authority to discipline her members and to judge things pertaining to this life. (I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Thessalonians 3:5-15; I Corinthians 6:1-4)

The Lord's churches only have authority as a local body. Authority does not lie in an individual or a group. (Colossians 1:18) The local church's authority is limited to carrying out the Word. (Matthew 16:19; John 15:14; Matthew 28:20) The local church is to carry out the commandments of God's Word and is not to make new laws. She is to preach the Gospel of Christ, and not publish another Gospel. (Galatians 1:6) Matthew 28:20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..."

### THE LORD'S CHURCH IS HIS HABITATION

The Lord said His New Testament Churches are to be a habitation of God through the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:22) The particular object of the death of Christ was to purchase Himself an executive body on earth so that His ministry would continue to the end of the age. (Ephesians 3:21) His Bride, His local New Testament churches, are His peculiar treasure, the object of His devotion, and the place of His residence. It is the Spirit within each local body that makes her a "living" body. (Revelation chapters 2 and 3; John 16:13)

The "building", "body", "members" of the Lord's churches are strong and immovable because of the Foundation. (Ephesians 2:20; Matthew 16:18) The Foundation was elected and precious. (I Peter 2:5-6) The Foundation is stronger than the pillars of Heaven. (I Corinthians 3:11; Matthew 24:35) The strength and mobility of the local church is perpetuated by the Holy force of Him that is within. (Hebrews 1:1-8) The Foundation is Christ, therefore, the Lord's churches are strong and immovable as long as they remain on the Foundation.

The materials for the Lord's habitation were originally unfit. (Ephesians 2:1,21) The materials were taken out of the quarry of nature by truth and grace. (Isaiah 51:1; Ephesians 5:8) The materials are then polished by Christ to their own peculiar character and fitness. (Jeremiah 18:4-6)

The union of these materials with each other, make local bodies compacted. They are fitly framed together in local bodies. (Ephesians 4:16) The welfare of each member of each local body is prospered and advanced through faithfulness. (Matthew 6:19-34)

Each local church is for a most sacred purpose. It is for a habitation of God, His earthly palace or retreat. It is the place where ample grace is disbursed. It is the only place where Christ's peculiar character is made known. (Ephesians 3:9-10; Hebrews 4:16)

The local New Testament church is where God the Son, through the Holy Spirit, chooses to dwell. (Matthew 18:20; Exodus 25:8,22) He will never leave one of His churches that are yielding to His preeminence. (Colossians 1:18; John 16:33) He has been with His churches for close to 2,000 years. His Bride will be His eternal delight. (Revelation 21:23-24)

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- Published by:
- Albany Missionary Baptist Church, Albany, OR  
[www.albanymissionarybaptist.org](http://www.albanymissionarybaptist.org)
  - Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Reedsport, OR
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## WHAT IS “FELLOWSHIP”?

The concept of FELLOWSHIP is completely misunderstood by many Missionary Baptist Churches and church members.

The word fellowship is used many times when speaking about potlucks or similar events. Invitations will be made to visitors to “stay after the service and enjoy a time of fellowship”. Many times it is used synonymously with “visiting”. People speak about not dividing, and use the phrase “for the sake of fellowship”. Is fellowship just when people “get along”; friendliness and visiting with one another, in the absence of strife or division? We are missing the point. True fellowship allows for the end result of getting along, and having “friends” of sorts, to share lives and experiences with, and love and appreciate. However, true fellowship is much deeper than that, and must begin and be grounded in those deeper principles. Fellowship is based on truth, and the agreement of multiple parties thereof. Will humanism, popular opinion or culture, liberalism, socialism, or some other source be our guide, or will we take God’s instruction, the Bible? We also must rightly divide the Word of Truth, as the Bible can be used incorrectly to prove almost anything we want to justify ourselves in. Let’s consider God’s definition and application of the concept of FELLOWSHIP.

Amos 3:3 asks the question... “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” This short and concise statement is the best place to start to understand the roots of the concept of fellowship. Modern science looks to “cloning” to try and duplicate. Cults look to strict adherence to following another human being, their leader/messiah/savior. Dictators bring continuity among their people by force. It is agreement on principles and concepts that is to unite multiple free-thinking minds together. Many times what is forgotten in the search for fellowship, continuity, or consistency, is that the source of the principles and concepts to agree upon must also be in agreement. In other words, we can try to force adherence to principles among people, but if the source of those principles is just another person, or even a group of people, as in a committee or council, then the rebellious spirit of man will still look for a way to find fault and question those principles. The Biblical model of true fellowship is that the source of the principles and concepts that need to be adhered to is Almighty God. Man’s rebellious spirit will still rebel, but real peace in the heart of man is only to be found when we do agree with God on His principles, and obey. When multiple parties will agree with God, they then will agree with one another by default. This agreement, when focused on agreeing first with God, the source, breeds a sweet communion among multiple parties, that is much deeper than any friendship or comradery, or common interest.

For our understanding, consider this in the context of the spiritual walk of the individual child of God. We are saved at the moment we trust Christ as Savior, the moment we accept His shed blood as the payment for our own individual sin debt (John 5:24; Eph 1:7; Rom 10:9,10). At that moment, God performs the new birth, we are born into the family of God, related by the blood of Jesus Christ (John 3:1-7). Salvation is a relationship (I John 3:1,2; Gal 4:6). Fellowship is a completely different aspect of a sinner’s connection to God. Relationship is based on trusting Christ as Savior, fellowship is based on being in agreement with and willingly walking with God (I John 1:6,7). One can be a child of God, related by blood, but have absolutely no fellowship, agreement, with God. Consider Lot, who the Bible said was a righteous man, but vexed his righteous soul from day to day. He was surrounded by the filthy sin of Sodom, and not by accident. You can trace it back to the day that he and Abraham parted ways, and Lot chose the cities of the plains. Even if he had not known the degree of wickedness until being there and seeing it first hand, he didn’t leave (Eph 5:11). He attempted to stay, raise a family, and make a living. Genesis 19 describes such a lascivious atmosphere to Sodom that God had to literally pull him out, and the degree of judgment that was brought down shows how disgusting it was. It is clear with Lot that although his relationship to God was never in question, there was definitely no fellowship there. For contrast, remember what God said about Job, that he “escheweth evil” (Job 1:8). This meant that he turned from or avoided evil. This is in agreement with Romans 13:14 which tells us to “make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof”. This is a characteristic of someone who is in fellowship with God. Since sin is against God, someone who is “with” God will try to avoid it.

It is assumed that the reader sufficiently understands the concept of fellowship, when we consider it in the context of the individual sinner and his walk with God, so no further effort will be made to elaborate, although let it be noted that there are many other Scripture references to make this perfectly clear. Let us now connect that with fellowship among brethren, or even churches. Fellowship is supposed to be walking together with God, so what do we do if a brother errs from the faith? Without spending the time to illustrate all the different scenarios that could and do happen, it can be said in summary that our loyalty is to remain with God. Often though, when someone turns on the faith, we try to stay “friends”,

and in turn cause our loyalty to God to be compromised. It isn’t to say that all situations are to be treated alike, but in all situations our fellowship with God is more important than a “mock” fellowship with men.

Fellowship with God is the first priority. If God’s Word identifies something as sinful, and if our first priority is fellowship with God, we too will identify it as sinful. Often, God’s people make excuses for sin, especially when it involves someone close to us, family, friend, etc. Jesus said He did not come to bring peace, but a sword, and that “a man’s foes would be etc. of his own household” (Matt 10:34-36). One person’s adherence to the truth while another compromises would cause division between the two, but for this to happen requires one to hold fast to the truth, to hold tightly to the Lord while other people do not. The difficulty to accomplish this discourages many, with the often unrealized consequence in many losing fellowship with God. If a brother walks disorderly, II Thessalonians 3:6 says to withdraw from them. Further, verses 14 and 15 say to note the man that won’t obey the Word, and “have no company with him, that he may be ashamed”. This is to recognize an end to fellowship, at least for the time being. The local church is to practice discipline of its membership by putting the disobedient out of the body when necessary. This act is necessary for the proper learning to take place in the individual, and then the church is to restore them once repentance is expressed. The action taken is often worded for the church to “exclude” or “withdraw fellowship” from the individual. If a church takes such action, then the members of that church should honor that action, and have no fellowship. When you have those who remain members, who under guise of compassion, keep friends with, conduct activities with, stay in touch with, etc., excluded members, it undermines the authority of Christ that comes through the church, and the reputation of the church to stand with Christ, and even cripples the discipline that was intended to help the individual. This writer is aware of situations in some of the Lord’s churches where individuals have carried on like this for many years after the one(s) were excluded, and to this day, the excluded have no desire to make it right with the Lord and the church, and it is predicted that they never will. At least by some, there was never really a break in fellowship, and this causes confusion to God’s system. If we are to hold tight to God, and we are still a church member, but we are still communicating and practicing business as usual with the excluded member, they will not see the error of their way. They will not sense the judgment of their sin, so they will see no need for repentance.

Another aspect of fellowship is that of churches cooperating and working with one another. A Scriptural New Testament church is not sovereign, but autonomous. Sovereignty would mean that each church could originate and modify its teachings, as its own head. We know that Christ is the Head of the church (Col 1:18), and He is sovereign. However each church is autonomous, which means that it does not answer to any other ecclesiastical body, it is not part of a hierarchy, has no “mother” church, etc. Individual churches can’t therefore “join” themselves together into some other foreign body. However, individual churches can intentionally associate and/or fellowship with one another by choice. Many associations are typically set up as a venue for churches to cooperate without necessarily being in a state of fellowship together, therefore upholding their individual autonomy. The American Baptist Association was established in this way for example, simply stating, “This association is the joint cooperation of the churches composing it.” (ABA Articles of Agreement, Article IV Nature) Since churches don’t “join”, they “cooperate”, no body is formed, and the result is that each church retains its ability to choose who it will fellowship with. This distinction is important. Individual churches need to be able to choose by examination of Biblical stands who they will fellowship with. Fellowship really comes into play practically when a local church agrees with and recognizes another church, by such acts as accepting a member by letter transfer, joining in worship or ministerial outreach services, camps, representing ordained help at ordination or organization services, etc. In each of these types of acts, the local churches own doctrinal stand is affected by its partnership with and even bringing that which was done by another church into its own membership. This is where many churches get into trouble with the concept of fellowship. Remember, what God calls sin, needs to be called sin by anyone who wants to walk with God. Many doctrinal perversions have crept in over the years, including such things as alcoholic wine in the Lord’s supper, ordaining of ministers with more than one living wife, churches being started without a Scriptural arm of authority or succession, etc. On these and many other issues, a local church needs to be very careful who they engage in work with, and what they bring into their membership.

The commonly accepted idea today that we can agree to disagree and still work together is nothing short than one of Satan’s devices. He will be behind any undercurrent that leads towards false unity, one world religion, etc. Any teaching that affects the doctrines of God, the trinity, or how a man can give honor and glory to God needs to be held to the highest standard of scrutiny – the Holy Scriptures. If disagreement is found in these areas, we can have no fellowship (II Cor 6:14-17). We need to be careful who and what we fellowship with, and our first concern needs to be whether we are in fellowship with God.

## SHALL WE BURN OUR BIBLES?

Jeremiah 23:29 says, “Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?” Jeremiah 36:20-24 says, “...he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire ...until all the roll was consumed.” This wicked king rejected the Word of God because it held his own destruction. Many reject the Bible today because it contains their utter destruction as well.

The Lord’s commission to His New Testament churches is to “go preach”. (Matthew 28:16-20) God sent Jonah in the Old Testament to go preach to Nineveh in Jonah 3:2. God told Paul in Acts 18:9-11, “Be not afraid, but speak, ... for I am with thee.” Paul told Timothy, “Preach the word.” (II Timothy 4:2) We must not falter because we fear the Word will not be believed. (Isaiah 55:8-12) It will accomplish what God has set out for it to accomplish. It is in His hands.

Blessings come from the Word. Isaiah 55:12 says, “For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” Promises are made in Isaiah 55:13. “Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree...” This is an evergreen tree. “Instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree...” A brier is useless, a nuisance, and it will choke life out of something beneficial. A myrtle tree is beautiful and very beneficial.

The Bible will do wonderful things for us. Proverbs 6:22-24 promises the Word will lead us, keep us, and talk to us. It is a lamp and a light. It is reproof and instruction to us. It will keep us from evil women and the flattery of a strange woman.

The Bible reveals Christ to mankind. I John 4:14 shows the Father sending a Savior for the sinner. John 14:6 reveals the Way of Life through Jesus for those that are dead in sins. John 10:9 gives Jesus as the “Door” for those that are seeking. The Bible gives truth for the learners in John 8:32. It gives “sight” for the “blind” in John 8:12 through Jesus Christ. It reveals Jesus as the Bread for the hungry in John 6:35. Power and wisdom of God is found in the Word in I Corinthians 1:24. Comfort for the bereaved and heavy-hearted giving hope is found in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. Ephesians 2:14 shows Jesus is our Peace and He can overcome any barriers in our lives. Jesus is our Faithful Witness found in Revelation 1:5.

The Word of God is Living. You behold the face of the Living Christ on every page. Shall we burn our Bibles? NO! A thousand times NO! “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22)

Let us take it to the lost in sin. Let us take it to every nation. Let us take it to the county jail or convict camp. Let us tell it by mouth, radio, newspapers, tracts, books, online, by phone, and most importantly by our lives.

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN THESE LAST DAYS

Paul, when writing to young Timothy said, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith...” I Timothy 4:1. Then he said in II Timothy 3:1, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.” What was future in Paul’s day is present today. So we could say “have come” rather than “shall come”.

What shall we expect in these times in which we live? Paul answered this question several times in the two Epistles of Timothy. Notice the following:

1. Some shall depart from the faith, I Timothy 4:1. This surely is happening in our times.
2. Some shall deny the faith, I Timothy 5:8. This too is happening today.
3. Some shall cast off their first faith, I Timothy 5:12. Yes, many are casting off “the faith” for error like they would cast off a dirty garment.
4. Many, for selfish reasons, have erred from the faith, I Timothy 6:10.
5. Some, even professing truth, have erred from the faith. All of us know several people who have done this very thing.
6. Some shall overthrow the faith of others, II Timothy 2:18. There is surely a reckoning day for those who are deliberately leading others astray. Their judgment will be very severe.
7. Many shall become reprobate concerning the faith. (II Timothy 3:8)

Truly we are in the last days, or the latter times of which Paul wrote. What is our attitude to be? Too many have just about given up the “ship”. All about us, we hear of some of our own preachers who have quit the ministry. At the same time, many have given up the fight and have taken the defeatist attitude, so they no longer seek to advance the cause of Christ. They go year after year without winning a soul to Christ, but brethren, this is not the answer.

There are two things we should do. First, we should, “look up”, and lift up our heads, for our redemption “draweth nigh”. (Luke 21:28) Second, we should “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints”. (Jude 3) No, you will not win the whole world to Christ, but you will be following Divine instructions to win your part of the world to Christ.



## IS YOUR WOOD SHOWING?

In this article we will explore the picture of the tabernacle showing God's work in each member of a local, New Testament church, and how His presence in the assembly is different than His presence anywhere else. In order to do this, we must see what God has made available to those that are born again and will submit to Scriptural baptism and New Testament church membership.

Firstly, we are going to consider the difference between God's omnipresence and His presence in the assembly. In Psalm 139:7-16 and Proverbs 15:3 we understand that God's presence is everywhere. There isn't any place that you can hide or get away from God seeing or knowing what you are doing. This is different than His "dwelling" or presence with His people in the Tabernacle or in His local, New Testament churches today.

We know that His presence, "dwelling", was different in the sanctuary, the tabernacle. God was always "present" with Israel guiding and leading them. Exodus 13:21-22 tells us He was with them in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. This was only found by those who had a relationship with God, and then had been called out for a work for the Lord. Today we find this order after salvation, Scriptural baptism, and New Testament church membership. (John 3:5-8; Romans 8:16; II Corinthians 5:17 and then Acts 2:41-47 and John 16:13) We always have the Spirit dwelling in us after salvation, but after baptism and church membership we now have a new avenue through which the Spirit can guide us as Comforter. However, He said that He wanted them to build a sanctuary so He could "dwell" with them in a different way. (Exodus 25:8)

This sanctuary dwelling comes from the Hebrew (Strong's H4720) meaning a consecrated thing or place. The Hebrew word for dwell (Strong's H7931) means to reside or permanently stay. In Exodus 25:22, God told Israel that He wanted to "meet" and "commune" with them in the sanctuary. This was different than His "presence" with them in the cloud by day and fire by night that led them. The Hebrew word meet (Strong's H3259) means to fix upon; to meet; to summon; to direct; to engage. Commune (Strong's H1696) means to arrange; to speak.

Numbers 9:15-17 shows us that the "ever present" cloud/fire dictated their every move. However, God's "dwelling presence" on the sanctuary dictated that they did not travel. They stopped and did not move from that place until God moved. In the New Testament, Jesus also made a distinction in the sanctuary, the assembly. Jesus said in Matthew 18:20 that He was with the church "dwelling" in their midst when they assembled. The Greek word for "am I" (Strong's G1510) means I exist. "In the midst" Greek word (Strong's G3319) means middle. This is what makes it all "real"! When we meet together in church capacity in a local, New Testament church, Jesus is showing us that He exists.

In Hebrews 12:22-29, God shows His presence with the Jerusalem church in church capacity, the assembly. When He met with them, He compared it to the very presence of God when He spoke from Mt. Sinai. God speaks from Heaven when we meet in church capacity. We should serve God with reverence and Godly fear. God is a consuming fire. He is the same One as was on Mt. Sinai. Hebrews 10:25-30 becomes so much more understandable when we see the picture of the Tabernacle. They did not travel when God was present, "dwelling" on the Tabernacle because God was there. How about when God is "abiding", "dwelling" in His sanctuary today? Do we stop traveling to be in God's very presence? They did not miss being in God's very presence. Why would we? Do we see why there is a "sorer" punishment for us today? Look at all God has made available to us through His very presence in His New Testament churches and His continual leading and guiding! We should really reconsider our "movement" when it is time to be in the Lord's House. Hebrews 12:2

The Sanctuary proper was formed by the boards. Exodus 26:15-25,29 tells us these boards were made out of shittim wood. This comes from the Acacia tree which is a thorny, desert tree. It is hard wood, multi-grained, and very hearty.

The boards had tenons, meaning a hand, the open one, indicating power, means, direction. The boards had sockets, meaning a basis, coming from a word meaning sovereign, controller. They were coupled together meaning to be complete, to be twinned. All the boards

were equal. It took great lengths for these boards to be made one "sanctuary" or house. Every board had its place. Every board was important to the benefit of the whole. Each board was overlaid with gold. Exodus 26:26-29 tells us there were five bars to hold the boards together. The middle bar was to shoot through the middle of the boards. Each bar was overlaid with gold.

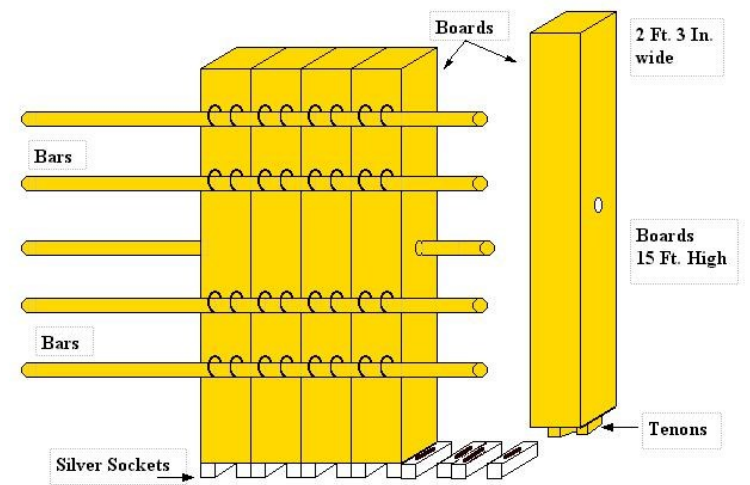


Looking at these object lessons in the Tabernacle and comparing them to the Lord's New Testament churches today shows us many things about our responsibilities and benefits as local, New Testament church members. What was under the gold? The shittim wood pictures our humanity. II Timothy 2:20 says there are vessels of wood in the Lord's churches from time to time. Consider the work that was put into each board. The trees were chopped down. Jeremiah 23:29 and Romans 1:16 compares the Word of God to a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces and that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Our wild, thorny sinful natures had to be cut down and then "planed, shaped, and prepared" in order for us to become a fit vessel to be added to the sanctuary of the Lord. (II Corinthians 5:17) After we have been changed, God can then add us to one of His New Testament churches so we can be overlaid with gold and fitly framed together in a local body. The gold is the glory of God. (II Corinthians 12:18; Ephesian 3:21) Looking at these object lessons in the Tabernacle and comparing them to the Lord's New Testament churches today shows us many things about our responsibilities and privileges as members of one of the Lord's churches.

The many members (the boards) made up one body (the sanctuary). The tenons, sockets, and coupling fitted the body together and gave them power. (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20) The sockets, or basis, were silver. Numbers 3:49 shows us that silver represented redemption. If there is no redemption, no basis, there is no ability to be controlled by the Spirit of God. A local, New Testament church must have a redeemed membership in order for the work of the Lord to be accomplished through them. (Psalm 34:22; Acts 2:41-47) The coupling shows that each member is equal, the same. (I Corinthians 12:12-14, 25-27; Matthew 20:25-28)

The five bars, four on the outside of the boards and one shooting through the middle of the boards, show us unity. This unity is brought by the Gospel that saves us and the Spirit indwelling the members as believers making it possible for the Holy Spirit as Comforter to make us one. (Ephesians 4:16; John 14:17) Without the grace of God extended to us in salvation and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the members would not have access to the Comforter in the church.

I Timothy 3:15 tells us we should behave ourselves in the church of the living God. As a "board", or member, of one of the Lord's New Testament churches, we should be displaying the glory of God (gold) and not our humanity (wood). How's your behavior as a board in God's dwelling place? Is your "wood" show-



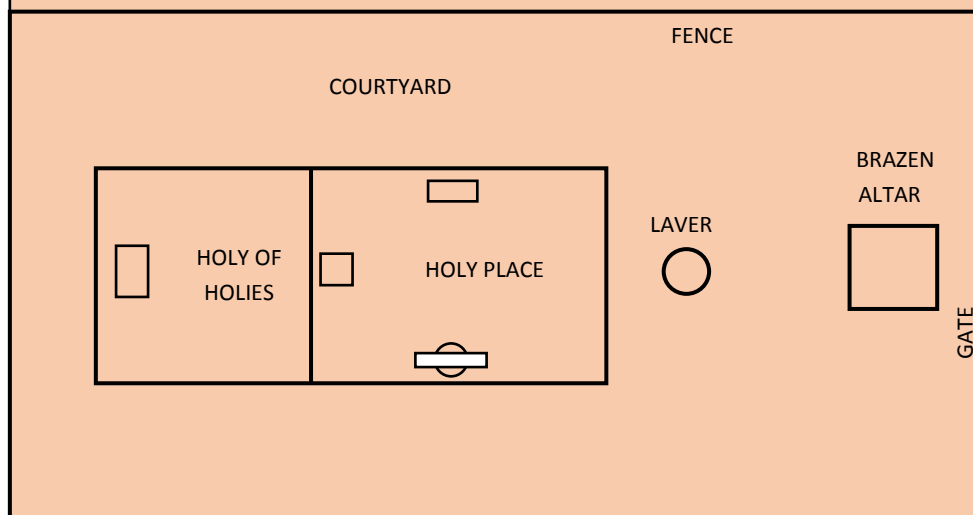
## TABERNALE—FENCE TO LAVER

Since the creation of man there has been a place for God to dwell (to reside or permanent stay, abide or continue) with man in His very presence. In Genesis 2:8; 3:8:11, 22-24, God had a specific place in Eden, eastward in the Garden, where He met with man to commune in a special way. In Genesis 12:7-8; 13:3-4; 28:19; 31:13; 35:1-10, that place was Bethel. In Exodus 25:8; 25:2 that place was the Tabernacle. In 2 Chronicles 6:2,6 it was the Temple. In Ephesians 3:21 in our present day it is the New Testament Church. In the future eternal age it will be the New Jerusalem Revelation 21:16. The dwelling place that we will concentrate on in this article is the Tabernacle.

In Exodus 25:8-9 the Lord desired a special place to dwell with the Children of Israel. God gave the pattern and way it was to be done and He expected them to follow His instructions. Psalm 77:13 says that God's way is in the sanctuary and that means that in order to be in His way we must follow the patterns in His Word. God does not accept any and all worship. In following the pattern of the Scriptures, He meets with man where He has placed His name. Ezekiel 20:40; Deuteronomy 12:1-26; 2 Chronicles 6:6, 20-40; Matthew 18:20; Mark 13:6.

When looking at the Tabernacle we must understand that there are types and shadows. This means that there are physical things that represent spiritual things. A type is a figure, representation, or symbol for something to come such as an event in the Old Testament that foreshadows another in the New Testament. An example would be the serpent lifted up in the wilderness in Numbers 21:9 and Jesus lifted up on the cross in John 3:14.

The true importance of the Tabernacle is in what it represented spiritually. In order to truly understand the spiritual meanings we must know a few of these types in the beginning. Here are a few to keep in mind: #3=Trinity, #4=Gospel, #5=Grace, #6=Man, #7=Complete or Perfection, #10=Judgment, #15=Peace or Rest, #20=Redemption, #50=Holy Spirit, #100=Election or Chosen, Brass=Judgment, Silver=Redemption, Gold=Glory or Honor.



First we begin with the fence which is given in Exodus 27:9-15. The fence was to show man's separation from God. God was inside and the only way to God was to be drawn by the beauty in the fence which represented Jesus Christ being the way to God by Christ the Word Ephesians 2:14. In John 5:24 we must hear the Word because in John 5:39 the Word points us to Christ. Psalm 19:7 the Word converts the soul and the faith to believe comes from the hearing of the Word Romans 10:17.

The north and south sides of the fence were 100 cubits. In Ephesians 1:4-6 Jesus predestined the way to salvation would be in Him for all who would come that way. 2 Peter 3:9 tells us that He does not want any to perish and John 12:32 tells us that He will draw all.

The height of the fence was 5 cubits which shows that salvation is by grace through faith Ephesians 2:8-9. That grace is given by Jesus Christ according to 2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 1:7; Titus 3:3-5.

The 20 pillars with silver hooks and tenons and sockets of brass represent judgment and redemption. When we come to that fence we are judged by the Word which shows us as sinners and then redeemed by that blood when we accept and realize our need for that redemption. Romans 5:8-19; Galatians 3:22; John 12:48; Ephesians 1:7.

The 50 cubits in width shows the drawing in salvation by the conviction of the Spirit through the Word and then the Holy Spirit indwells to make us alive at that point of salvation. John 6:44; Romans 8:9-11, 16; 1 John 4:13

The gate in Exodus 27:6-19; 38:18-19 is the one way into that courtyard. That one way entrance was 20 cubits wide, 5 cubits high with 10 pillars total on the East side in the fence and gate. This shows that there is judgment and redemption at that gate Romans 3:24.

There were 4 pillars in the gate itself representing the Gospels and they are anchored in judgment. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 1:16; Mark 1:15 There is also judgment when we reject the Gospel. 2 Corinthians 5:21

There is one gate which means that Jesus is the only way to get to the courtyard. He is the Door leading to the things of God beginning with salvation. John 10:1-10; Matthew 7:13, 14, 21-23; John 14:6; Acts 4:12. He is the Way in the gate, the Truth in the second entrance into the Tabernacle proper and the Life in the inner veil. John 14:6

The fine twined linen in the gate equals the righteousness of Christ or His purity. Luke 23:4, 14; Hebrews 4:15 The blue equals His heavenly origin. John 1:1-2; 3:13,31; 6:32-33, 58; 1 Corinthians 15:47-49; 1 Timothy 3:16 The scarlet shows the sacrificial offering of Christ. Mark 10:45; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 2:9 The purple in the gate shows His royalty. Matthew 1:21-23; 2:2; Revelation 19:16; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:8 The needlework shows the impossibility of entering on our own merits. Christ is represented in every stitch. Matthew 1:23-24

Next we come to the brazen altar which is just inside the gate. Exodus 27:1-8; 38:1-7 This is the place where the judgement for sin was transferred to the innocent from the guilty, for the sacrifice's death. Leviticus 5:5-10 tells of the physical representation of the spiritual



## PROGRESS?

According to the website [www.freedomtomarry.org](http://www.freedomtomarry.org), the graphic to the right represents the current status of individual states' position on gay marriage. They call it PROGRESS. What does the Bible say?

\* *Isaiah 5:20* Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

\* *Jeremiah 6:16* Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

\* *Leviticus 18:22* Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

\* *Romans 1:24-28* Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

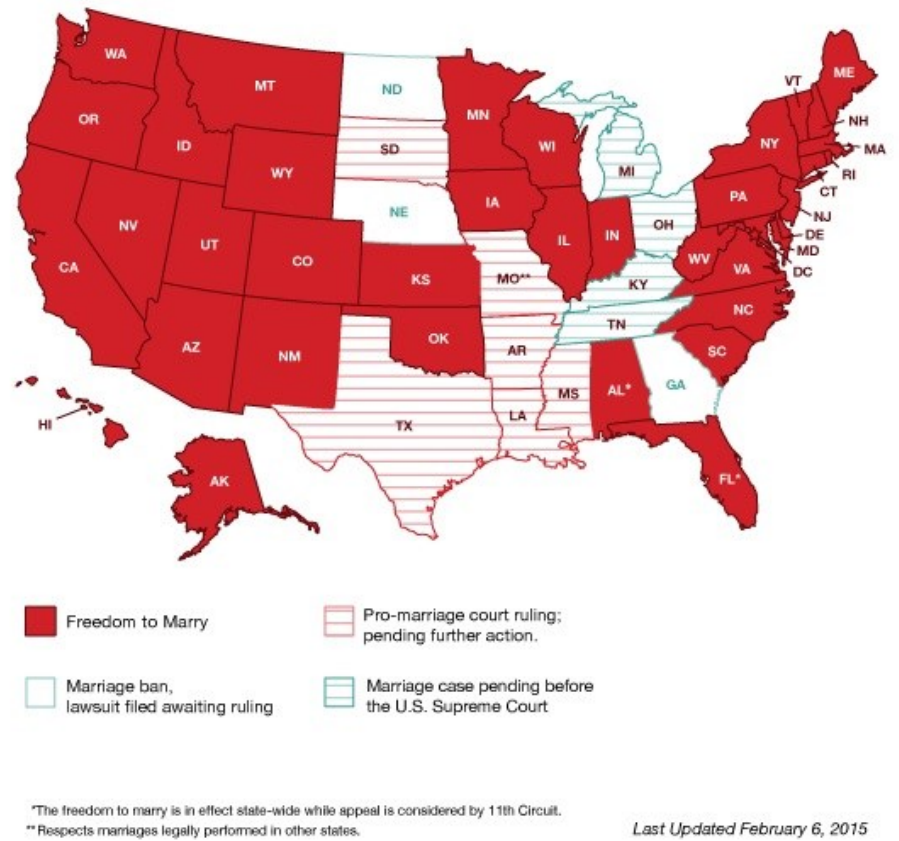
\* *Romans 1:32* Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

1 *John 3:4* Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

To summarize, it doesn't matter how many people accept it, or how many states legalize it... God still calls it **SIN**. The battle isn't really even about marriage; homosexuality is **SIN**. It is a choice. Recently former presidential candidate Ben Carson took extreme heat in the public eye for making a simple statement, that homosexuality is a choice. If the Lord tarries, it is just a matter of time until the "acceptance" doctrine has fully taken over. In addition to winning favor in many people's minds, it is already winning legal battles against business owners who "discriminated".

Our only hope is to fight Satan by reaching the souls of the lost. People need Jesus, they need to get saved to be able to see the perversion that is being labelled as "progress".

## Winning the Freedom to Marry: Progress in the States



## IS THE DOCTRINE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST IMPORTANT?

The doctrine of the virgin birth of Jesus is a vital ingredient to a true belief of Jesus being the Messiah. The Old Testament prophecies of this event present two main concepts that are important.

- 1) Prophecies speak of the Messiah being born of a virgin.
- 2) Prophecies speak of the Messiah reigning from the throne of His father David.

Isaiah 7:14 says "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." The word "virgin" here comes from the Hebrew meaning a lass (damsel), veiled or private. Another word helps define by adding the aspect of concealed from sight. Coupling this definition with the context of verse 14, it is clear that a young woman will become "with child" BEFORE she has a physical relationship with a man.

The fulfillment of this can be found in Matt. 1:18-23. This passage records the time just before Jesus' arrival as a human child. Mary was espoused to Joseph. By tradition, this is much more binding and sacred than engagements of today. Joseph was "minded to put her away privily" because as a young maiden who was physically "veiled", it would be a shame for her to be known in public to be with child. The angel's message to Joseph was clear: "fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." God's redemptive plan, involving the giving of Himself to come and be the propitiation for sin, was about to take form. Mary was indeed pregnant, but not of the seed of Joseph.

This leads us to the second reason of the importance of the virgin birth – the lineage of which the Son of God would come.

Whenever we see lineage referred to in Scripture, it mentions the father's name as the source of where the child came from. In Genesis 3:15, the prophecy is given of the seed of the woman. Galatians 4:4 shows us that God sent forth His Son, "made of a woman". We don't see these kinds of statements made about anyone else born in Scripture, and that is because God used Scriptures such as these and others to establish the importance of the lineage from which He would send His Son into the world.

If Jesus would have been born from the seed of Joseph, His lineage would have come through His father Jacob, which was of the lineage of Solomon (Matt. 1:6-11, 16). This would have involved a man named Jeconiah, whose lineage was to be stopped according to Jeremiah 22:30. Mary's heritage, on the other hand, came through the lineage of David, by Nathan (Luke 3:23, 31). This keeps the lineage pure, which follows prophecy such as Isaiah 9:7. Jesus would come of a pure heritage and reign on the throne of His father, David (Luke 1:31-33).

God made sure that the identity of the Messiah would be completely unique. Christ would be the one and only Lamb of God (John 1:29). He would be the Way, Truth, and Life (John 14:6). Jesus warned that impostors would come (Mark 13:21,22). The "man of sin" (II Thessalonians 2:3), the very figurehead and puppet of evil incarnate that will lead men to doom during the Tribulation, is called the "antichrist" (I John 2:18). The name means against Christ, but the goal will be as Lucifer's has always been, to IMITATE. To suggest duplicity would serve to strip the authenticity from God's only begotten Son. Take note then, to the following information.

Did you know that modern Bible versions attack the virgin birth of Christ?

KJV- "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

RSV- "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel."

Good News- "Well then, the Lord himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him 'Immanuel.'"

\*\* Young women who become pregnant is a common occurrence. Christ was born of a virgin, something that cannot be duplicated.

KJV- "Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" Luke 1:34

RSV- "And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?"

\*\* Is that saying the same thing?

KJV- "And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him."

NAS- "And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him."

\*\* Through study you will find that God was careful to make it clear that Joseph was not Jesus' father.

KJV- "And he knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." Matthew 1:25

NAS- "and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus."

\*\* Matthew 1:25 from the NAS version is missing the word "firstborn".

It should become blatantly obvious, in light of this information, who is behind all the modern versions of the Bible. Satan himself desires to imitate, but only to dilute the PURITY of Christ. Don't be his pawn, use only the King James Version, and make sure to "rightly divide the Word of Truth", II Timothy 2:15.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

payment. Jesus was the sacrifice for our sin. 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18 The altar was 3 cubits high which stood for the Trinity in salvation. The Father is the Giver, the Son is the Sufferer, and the Holy Spirit draws. The 5 cubits square shows the undeserving grace in salvation. Its being four square typifies that man is all the same in the need of a Savior and a perfect sacrifice for sin. Romans 2:11; 3:23 The 4 horns and the binding of the sacrifice show the strength and power of the Gospel in salvation and the binding of the innocent for the guilty. Psalm 118:27; Matthew 7:40-43; Genesis 22:9; 1 Kings 1:50-53; 2:28-34 The altar was made of acacia overlaid with brass. Exodus 27:8; 38:7 The overlaid wood signified the humanity of Christ, covered in judgment, by taking on the sin of man which caused him to be isolated from the Trinity because of man's sin. Hebrews 2:14, 17-18; Matthew 27:45-46; Psalm 22:1; Hebrews 5:8 The four rings were also a showing of the Gospel and the staves represented the Old and New Testament.

Lastly we will take a look at the Laver. Exodus 38:8 Its position before the tabernacle shows that we cannot ap-

proach God until we are washed and clean. Its position past the altar is important in regards to a lost person approaching God through any work. The only accepting of that person comes after the blood has been applied through the proper sacrifice.

The first type in the laver is baptism. The laver's position outside the tabernacle meant that it was not the entrance into the tabernacle. Its coming before means that it is the prerequisite for entering. Just as they did not come up in the tabernacle after being baptized, baptism does not put us into the church. Before the priests, Aaron and his sons, began their ministry in the tabernacle they were cleansed (baptized) by Moses in the laver. Jesus also was baptized by John before He began His personal ministry. Matthew 3:13-18 He also left us a picture of the proper order in Acts 2:41 teaching us that they were saved, baptized and then became members of the church in Jerusalem. This shows us that immediately after salvation and baptism that we should join a New Testament Church.

The other type that we see in the laver is the type of

cleansing. The cleansing was only for the priests. The priests were to wash and be clean before entering into the tabernacle to serve or to worship. If they entered in without washing they would die. Exodus 30:19-20 This is the same for New Testament Church members today. We are kings and priests according to Revelation 1:6 and 1 Peter 2:9. As that priesthood we are to be cleansed daily for our service to God. Our service and witness should be clean before Him. Psalm 66:18; 24:3-4 It is not optional for us today. We are to examine ourselves by the mirror of the Word just as the priests looked into the looking glass of the laver to see where we need that cleansing to take place in our lives. 1 John 1:8; 1 Corinthians 11:30-31; John 15:3; James 1:22-25

These few thoughts do not even begin to scratch the surface of the teachings of the Tabernacle and the New Testament Church. Maybe it will be just another spark in renewing our zeal for knowledge and understanding in the Word of God. How gracious is our God to reveal His mind to us through His Word.