

## Why God Wants Us To Have

# A Right Heart

*The example of the first-century apostles remains a beacon for our own actions in preaching and publishing the gospel. See how having a right heart helps us to give God's message to this sin-sick and suffering world.*

When reviewing the history of the New Testament Church, Acts 2:38-39 is a familiar and foundational passage. In those two verses, the apostle Peter articulates the need for repentance and baptism in order to receive the Holy Spirit, as promised by Jesus Christ. He states that this promise is for them, their children and all whom God would call.

But how did Peter get to this point? What prompted him to issue that directive? In verses 14 through 36, Peter preaches a powerful sermon about Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Kingdom of God.

In verse 37 we find this crucial statement: 'Now when they heard this, they were *cut to the heart*, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, *what shall we do?*"' (emphasis added throughout). It is after that response from the audience that Peter tells them about the need for repentance and baptism.

### Heartfelt action required

What is the lesson? God's Word and Peter's message had *stirred their hearts and inspired them to action*. They were motivated, and they did not waste any time acting on that motivation! Later that day, 3,000 of them were baptised (verse 41). God continued to add to the Church on a daily basis (verse 47). Peter's sermon and the passages he quoted from what we call the Old Testament produced a life-altering decision for those individuals.

So when we listen to messages or read God's Word, do we allow the Holy Spirit to motivate us to life-changing action?

The Bible has a lot to say about our hearts and the ideal of being like Jesus Christ. (*Notice the passages from both Testaments in the accompanying box.*)

### The importance of a right heart

Even in Old Testament times God desired a people whose hearts

were set and moved to follow Him. Physical circumcision pointed to the change of heart necessary in order to become a child of God (Deuteronomy 10:16; Jeremiah 4:4; Romans 2:28-29). Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we can be moved to godly actions – if we are stirring up and renewing that Spirit on a regular

- **Deuteronomy 4:29:** But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.
- **Deuteronomy 6:4-6:** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.
- **Ephesians 3:17:** That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love...

basis (Ephesians 4:23; 2 Timothy 1:6).

In *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, we find the following explanation about how the word *heart* is used in the Bible: 'Man's entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and the emotional elements. In other words, the heart is used figuratively for the hidden springs of the personal life.' *Vine's* further states that the Bible shows that sin originates in our hearts, and Scripture regards the heart as the sphere of divine influence. So when the Bible discusses the importance of the 'heart', it means our motivation, our passion, our drive, our intellect and our emotions.

### How to seek God

Our relationship with God the Father is not just an emotional one, not just a nice feeling without substance. On the other hand, neither is it just an intellectual exercise, the accumulation of knowledge without action or feeling.

The concept of 'heart' encompasses both an emotional zeal and passion for God and His way of life, as well as the mental capacity to comprehend His truth and implement godly knowledge in our personal lives. Those who prepare their hearts for God and who seek Him with all of their hearts will be well pleasing to our Creator.

Looking back nearly 2,000 years, we see that the work of the apostles continued throughout the book of Acts, and there were several other examples of people being moved by the Word of God through their preaching. In Acts 4:4 we find more people believed and the number of men baptised reached 5,000. Multitudes in Samaria followed the things Philip had preached (Acts 8:6).

Later in that same chapter, additional people were baptised. Gentiles in Antioch wanted to hear

more from Paul and Barnabas, so that nearly the entire city came out to hear them (Acts 13:42-49).

### Godly persuasion

Several times in Acts we find the word *persuaded* used to describe the results of Paul's work. His use of the Bible and His preaching were not only convincing, they were convicting. There was a zeal and passion in the apostles' preaching, as well as a logical, systematic expounding of the Scriptures. Even unbelievers could not refute their message.

We clearly recognise that God the Father must take the first step in calling someone (John 6:44). No amount of inspired preaching will convince someone with whom God is not working (1 Corinthians 2:14). We also know that we cannot make the decision for the person about whether he or she accepts God's call. However, we should always convey our zeal and heart for God in our proclamation efforts.

*We can always demonstrate sound, spiritual reasoning through solid research and scholarship.* Through careful preparation, we can convince and convict and persuade as the apostles did, so those being called are inspired to say 'yes' to God's invitation into His family.

So what can we do? How can we raise the level of inspiration and conviction for God and His work in all our endeavours? How can we prepare ourselves to reach not only the minds, but the hearts, of those God may be calling? How can we make sure our own hearts are right?

### Three tried and tested methods

- *Prayer and fasting.* There is nothing like going to the source – God the Father – in a humble, dedicated manner to renew our spiritual enthusiasm. Isaiah 58:8 shows one result of the right type of fasting:

'Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you.' We are also told that 'the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much' (James 5:16). By remaining close to God, the apostles maintained their zeal for God's work (Acts 4:23-31).

- *Study God's promises.* It is good and right to study the Bible for correction. None of us have fully attained the righteousness of Christ. However, if we only focus on what we need to change, we may become discouraged. Even worse, we may lose sight of God's overall work, plan and vision. He wants us in His family! He intends that we enter the Kingdom of God, live forever and serve with Christ! He is there to help us in every way possible. Let us not lose sight of the magnificent picture of eternity because of too much focus on the present. Study God's promises for everlasting life and what the world of tomorrow will be like.

- *Inject our lives with motivation and conviction.* Nothing convinces like a person who is convicted about what he or she is saying. Enthusiasm is infectious. Along with solid grounding in the Word of God, we need to make sure that our efforts convey urgency, excitement, zeal, inspiration, motivation, challenge and vision. Intellectual clarity does not replace effective persuasion. God's truth is inspiring, and we should make sure that our lives and words convey His enthusiasm.

### Becoming more involved

Overall, we should be motivated about the work that God has given us to do. Christ stated what we are to do very clearly: 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Where Did Human Language Come From?

*How can the communications gap between animals and humans be totally unbridgeable, yet still be the result of evolution?*

Words can hurt, words can heal. Words can wound, words can encourage. We all tend to take the gift of language for granted when we just open our mouth and speak. Few of us pause to consider that human speech is an absolute miracle of engineering and design.

When we read words aloud, we recognise little lines, symbols and squiggles on pieces of paper, the letters of an alphabet in our particular language, almost effortlessly connecting them together as our brain and memory whirr with electrical activity and fire off countless neuron connections. We then make sounds as our brain enables us to transmit this information to others from letters and words into sentences that convey meaning.

If you speak to someone, your mind and memory swiftly create the words you require. You then open your mouth, vibrate your vocal chords and use your lungs, tongue, palate, teeth and lips (all employed in the amazing ability of speech) to begin a process of vibration of the surrounding air particles.

The ears of those to whom you are speaking pick up these vibrations and amplify them. This feeds the information down the auditory canal to their brain, which in turn fire millions of

neurons and memory connections to make sense of your voice and words. All this happens almost instantly.

Did these abilities just ‘happen’? Where did language come from anyway? Did language and speech all just evolve from snorts and grunts and animal groans and painful whining and snarls reverberating in some dark and dank ancient caves occupied by men and women scaring off the neighbours with primitive Stone Age axes?

## The origin of language

Dr. Mario Pei in his book *Story of Language* states, ‘If there is one thing on which all linguists are fully agreed, it is that the problem of the origin of human speech and language is still unsolved’ (p 14). It is pointed out that if evolution were true, ‘language would have arisen as a series of isolated monosyllabic grunts, groans and wheezes, later refined and combined to form words.

We might then expect to find such among primitive and backward groups . . . such is dramatically not the case!’ (pp 20-21).

In another book, *The Origins and Pre-history of Language*, Professor G. Revesz stated, ‘Though I regard the gulf that separates human speech from animal communication as unbridgeable, I do not see any sufficient reason for abandoning the idea of a more or less continual biological evolution.’

One might ask how a communications gap between animals and humans that is totally unbridgeable can still be the result of evolution? The truth is that God is the sole Author of human language. (If you would like to understand further, please request our free brochures *Life’s Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?* and *Creation or Evolution: Does it Really Matter What You Believe?*)

The ability to communicate and

the power of influence did not evolve from the growls and screeches of ancient animals, but were a gift to us by the Creator. ‘Who has made man’s mouth?’ asked God (Exodus 4:11).

In Genesis 1:3, God spoke. This was well before He created human

## The Awesome Power of Words

- *Proverbs 12:25* – Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.
- *Proverbs 15:23* – A word spoken in due season, how good it is!
- *Proverbs 25:11* – A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
- *Proverbs 26:20* – Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.
- *Colossians 4:6* – Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt.
- *Ephesians 4:29* – Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

beings. We have awesome speech and communication abilities because God made us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27).

God created speech. He formed the human mouth. God gave laws and commandments governing communication. He explains about the power of speech, the right and wrong use of words, how emotions and attitudes can come across through language (see the accompanying sidebar on page 3).

### The Tower of Babel

Originally, there was one fully formed pure language hard-wired into the first created humans, Adam and Eve. This state lasted until shortly after the flood when God observed that the people of this planet, being all of one language, were beginning to build, design, and create things which would have led to a *premature* knowledge explosion, multiplying the capacity for human wickedness before God's time.

The Creator had instructed them to spread out over the whole earth, but they sought to achieve an ill-conceived unity by gathering together and building a massively tall tower in order to thwart God's divine purpose.

Genesis 11 tells the story of Babel where God supernaturally multiplied the number of human languages from one into many. As a result, they had to abandon this ambitious building project unfinished. But now, due to the increase in knowledge and the international pooling of technology, we are well on our way to reversing Babel and arriving at a single method of communicating information and ideas. God says of our age, 'Many will run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased' (Daniel 12:4).

### One world language again

Yet the Hebrew prophet Zephaniah plainly states: 'For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on

the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord' (Zephaniah 3:9).

This is tomorrow's news today. We can look forward to a future age of one language, one motivation, one speech, one group of brothers and sisters and one worldwide family. Everywhere good intentions and constant good news will predominate, with no profanity, no swear words, no need for cinema certifications, no drugs, no gossip, no accusations, no politicking. It will be a world of love, harmony, trust, beauty, health, friendship and assurance.

It is a world which now sounds like an impossible dream, and yet it lies just up ahead. Christ is going to return to this earth to set up a new kind of world. We are not speaking of religious images that may come into your mind. This is reality. This is language which you can understand, and these are words which carry great meaning and a real message of hope.

David McDermott

Adapted from a World Tomorrow radio programme

## The Word of Life

The apostle John begins his biography of Jesus Christ by stating: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made' (John 1:1-3). *The New Bible Commentary Revised* states: 'John's distinctive contribution is to show that before the Creation the Word existed' (page 930).

Consider carefully the context of this passage. Verse 14 explains who this Word actually became. 'And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.' The Word became Jesus Christ at His human birth.

The late British theologian F F Bruce commented on the opening passages of the Gospel of John. 'The Personal Word is uncreated, not only enjoying the divine companionship, but sharing the divine essence' (*The Message of the New Testament*, p. 105).

Later, in his first epistle, the apostle John adds to our understanding. 'That which was from the beginning,

which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning *the Word of Life*' (1 John 1:1, New International Version). Here that same 'Word' (Jesus Christ) of John's Gospel is called 'the Word of Life'.

John wrote that the Word, who was with God the Father from the beginning, lived among them in the human flesh. Although he was born a physical human being, His disciples actually saw, conversed with and listened to the One who was and is a member of the divine family.

John continues: 'The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us' (verse 2, NIV). 'The Word of Life' in 1 John 1:1 is called 'Eternal Life' in verse 2.

For further understanding of these awesome biblical truths and what they can mean for you personally, please request our free booklet *Who Is God?*

John Ross Schroeder

# Building for the Future

*What is God's building, and when will it be completed?*

In times past when a young man's thoughts turned to marriage, he would begin to consider where he and his wife would live and what kind of accommodation he could provide. In my own case I had begun to save for a deposit on a home long before I had even met my future bride. When I eventually married, however, my savings still fell far short of what was required for a deposit on the smallest starter home. So we did what so many couples do and rented a flat. It was a further five years before we could afford to move into a house of our own.

## Providing a home

Over the years we have seen countless others: family, friends and acquaintances go through their own various experiences as they married and set up home. God's word says that that would be the case right up until the return to earth of His Son Jesus Christ. 'Marrying and giving in marriage' would be the norm until Christ's return (Matthew 24:36-39).

At this very moment Jesus Christ is preparing to marry His bride, and just as with any responsible husband-to-be, His focus of attention is on providing a suitable home. Christ's 'bride' is that group of people whom God the Father is calling to understand His plan. Speaking of this magnificent calling, we are told, '... Christ as a son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast to the confidence and the rejoicing of hope firm to the end' (Hebrews 3:1-6).

Just as with a young couple starting out living in a flat, with the intention to progress to something better, God's *earthly* accommodation to begin with was somewhat spartan. In fact it was a tent or tabernacle. In a message to King David, God says through the prophet Nathan: 'Would you build me a house to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day; but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle' (2 Samuel 7:4-6).

David's son Solomon was charged with building the temple, a house for God. It was a building of great beauty, using only the best quality materials. It is interesting to note that the stones quarried for use in the construction were fashioned and finished off site before being transported to the temple for installation (1 Kings 6:7).

## The spiritual temple

A similar procedure is being followed with the construction of the spiritual temple that Jesus Christ is working on. The people God has called and chosen to be the bride are also a part of that spiritual temple. They are described as 'living stones', with Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20-22; 1 Peter 2:4-6). Just as with the physical temple, with stones fashioned and perfected 'off site' and then brought together to form the building, God is calling and choosing people from all over the world. He is fashioning and

perfecting people from all races and walks of life to be brought together at Christ's return to join with him as that spiritual temple.

God gives us the physical building principles and priorities to order our spiritual lives. We are in fact fellow builders, and it is important that we, like Solomon, build with quality and care. We can



learn more of this partnership from 1 Corinthians 3:9-17, which explains that the quality with which we build is an important personal matter. We are also reminded that we are a holy people.

Jesus Christ is preparing to marry His bride. She is making herself ready, learning righteousness and reliance on God (Revelation 19:7-8). The temple to which Jesus Christ will return will be ready (Malachi 3:1). He is building for our future now, actively preparing those who are called for their role in His coming Kingdom. Let us work with Him and build for the future.

*Frank Jarvis, Pastor of the  
Gloucester and Birmingham  
congregations, United Church of  
God – British Isles*

# *How Does God View His People?*

*Do our sins and weaknesses make God angry?*

**M**y parents usually bought unsliced bread from an Italian bakery because they preferred it to the ready-sliced supermarket variety, so we had to slice it ourselves. Sometimes I would cut it myself, but however hard I tried (even at age 12 or so) I couldn't cut it straight. On the other hand, my mother could cut what we called 'fairy slices', so thin that they had to be buttered before they were cut, so as not to be torn in the process. My father said, 'Never mind, she's just young. When she gets older, she will be able to do it properly.' And I can!

He knew that I was still developing, and my eye/hand coordination wasn't yet completely developed. He didn't rebuke or punish me. He didn't get angry with me.

## **How God looks at sin**

God wants us to be as perfect as He is. Sin is a very serious matter to Him; it is incompatible with His holiness. It cost His Son's life. God's anger waxes hot when people and nations wilfully rebel against His way of life, because it separates us from access to His throne. He will not coexist or compromise with sin.

One theologian put it this way: 'The kind of God who appeals to most people today would be easy-going in his tolerance of our offences . . . We seem to have lost the vision of the majesty of God . . . We saunter up to God to claim His patronage and friendship; it does not occur to us that He might send

us away . . . We learn to appreciate the access to God which Christ has won for us only after we have first seen God's inaccessibility to sinners . . . We must hold fast to the biblical revelation of the living God who hates evil, is disgusted and angered by it, and refuses ever to come to terms with it.' But God's anger is with sin itself. It is an antagonism to evil, not a personal hostility towards the people He created.

When we turn to God and choose His way of life, we are saying that

*God sees each success as a triumph, and each failure as a springboard for potential future success.*

we too do not want to dwell with sin, and that we accept the profound sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

Abraham chose to live God's way, and therefore His faith was imputed as righteousness, even though he had sinned. So on those occasions when he did stumble and then subsequently repented of the sin, his transgressions were wiped off the slate. In God's eyes he literally was a righteous man (Romans 4:3, Genesis 26:5). As long as we also repent of our wrongdoing, our sins are also covered by the blood of Christ as if they hadn't existed (1 John 1:7-9).

But does that mean we can still sin with impunity, knowing we will

be forgiven? The apostle Paul answered this question clearly: 'Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? Certainly not', was the answer (Romans 6:1-2).

## **Why we are vulnerable**

God has a great plan for human beings. We find ourselves frail and weak, and with a nature that is tempted to do things that are wrong.

But why can't we stop sinning permanently? Why didn't He make us so that we could just decide to do good and keep on doing it without failure even as human beings?

God knows that to become perfect we must develop character by continually making choices. If we decide to go His way (with His help) those choices will gradually become right more often than not. Perfect character cannot be created by fiat; it must be developed by the practice of making right choices over and over again.

God knew that we would have to learn to trust in Him for strength and power, and not go our own way. He made us subject to vanity and futility, knowing that we would be tempted by our own nature to sin against His law. Moses forsook the 'pleasures of sin' in Egypt, but this description shows its deceitfulness. It may feel good at the time, causing us to ignore the suffering it will inevitably bring to ourselves or others.

Yet when a child tries to walk and falls down, do his parents get

angry and punish him? Not if they are normal, caring parents. They excitedly cheer him on as he gets up and tries again, with the sure knowledge that eventual success is certain.

Likewise, God's goal is for each of us to mirror his perfection. But along the road to that goal, our progress may seem imperceptibly slow. God watches our progress, and when we make a right decision, He cheers us on.

### **If a Christian sins**

What happens when we fail or succumb to weakness? God is still there cheering us on to get up and try again. He still loves us; He is still pleased with us, as long as he sees that we are going in the right direction. We may figuratively trip over a stone and graze our knees, or even fall down into a canyon. But we are still on that same journey; we haven't turned around and started to go the other way.

Still, God is grieved when we weaken or fail because He knows that we are hurting ourselves. Breaking His law produces consequences that will sooner or later harm us. But He doesn't say, 'That's it, I'm not bothering with that wretched person any more.' He is still our Father. He still reaches out His hand to help us. He still hears our prayers and requests for help, and is only too willing to offer His assistance. He promises us that success is certain as long as we continue to go forward, even if it is two steps forward and one step backwards.

Since it is part of God's plan that we overcome our propensity to sin, He does not condemn us for being imperfect.

Just like being in school, we get some answers right and some wrong. Does the school expel us for the first mistake we make? Of course not! Education is a process that

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takes many years, in fact a lifelong process. So it is with the Christian life. God is with us all the way. As long as we are committed to Him, He sees each success as a triumph and each failure as a springboard for potential future success.

Human beings are an incredible creation, wonderfully made, with minds that can grasp abstract concepts. Yet, like a child, we are an incomplete creation. The human body and mind are fantastic, wonderful, amazing. After a life of growing and suffering, the result will be so much higher, so much greater. It will be beyond compare.

God wants us to love Him with all of our heart and soul and mind. If that is our aim, God is with us every step of the way, even 'carrying' us when things are at their worst – even though we occasionally fall down and have difficulty focusing on our Creator.

### **God encourages those who are cast down**

Sometimes we can't understand why things happen as they do. Even King David became discouraged, and couldn't understand why the wicked prospered. And the great prophet Elijah, through whom God sent fire down from heaven to show the Israelites unequivocally that He

was God, shortly afterwards became so discouraged that he asked God to take his life (1 Kings, chapters 18-19). But the Creator reassured him and encouraged him to resume doing his job as a prophet to Israel.

God is *not* like a hanging judge, looking for every infraction so that He can condemn us, wanting to terrify us into serving Him. As we learn to love God more and more, the torment of fear will be overridden. 'There is no fear in love,' wrote the apostle John.

So when things look bleakest, remember that God is still there. He is watching and cheering us on. He wants us to win. He is incredibly patient, and knows that we are still developing. And He *will* complete the work He has begun in us, as long as we continue to want Him to.

*Jan Schroeder*

*(Continued from page 2)*

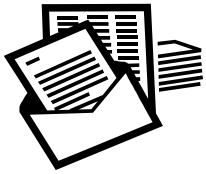
## **A Right Heart**

every creature' (Mark 16:15). Also: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them . . .' (Matthew 28:19).

Christ directed that we have an outward focus to conveying the gospel of the Kingdom and the plan of God to as many as possible. While God is responsible for spiritual growth, we are to be active, productive and profitable stewards. We can move and inspire people to take thought and make changes in their lives.

If you would like to become more involved in helping preach and publish the true gospel, please request our free booklets *This Is the United Church of God, Who Is God?* and *What Is Your Destiny?*

*Roy Holladay*  
*President of the United Church of God, an International Association*  
*(adapted from a recent letter to the Church)*



# Letters From Our Readers

## Readers from Europe

I am writing to express my warm thanks for sending me your magazine *The Good News* and *The British and European Supplement*. I like very much the contents of your articles which cover a variety of modern subjects. Please continue to send me your magazine.

G K., Greece

I am 46 years old, born in Ecuador and grown up in Canada. It is very important for readers of *The Good News* to realise that the magazine is not the product of one person. The magazine became a vehicle by which staff could walk together in a common concrete effort to share their awarenesses through our Lord.

N M V., Naples, Italy

- *That is one way of describing our mission. In fact, we are called by God to accomplish a common purpose: preaching and publishing the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the entire world (Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20). Please see the lead article, 'Why God Wants Us To Have a Right Heart'.*

Thank you very much for your gifts, the continuous free issues of *The Good News*. Since we left the United States last October, we remain in transition, trying to establish a home here. God bless your incredible service and we thank those who made this service possible.

F K, Hungary

## Who Is God?

I would appreciate it if you would send me the booklet, *Who Is God?*

I believe there are many scriptures that confirm the Trinity, so I would like to read your views.

W S, Northern Ireland

- *We appreciate your keeping an open mind. You'll find the Bible does not teach the Trinity.*

## Appreciation of audio tapes

Thank you for the audiotapes I've received which I've found very helpful. I will return the same as soon as I've finished with them.

J W, Hailsham, East Sussex

I'd like to thank you for all the booklets and tapes I've received over the years. While I disagree with what I hear and read from the United Church of God, I do have a high regard for the role your literature played in leading me to Christ in 1999-2000.

D K, St Albans

## What is christening?

I sent you an email a few weeks ago about your booklet, *Who Is God?* Now I am writing to ask you if you have any booklets on christening. I don't understand what this is all about.

C D, Bristol

- *Christening is generally defined as giving a baby a Christian name at baptism as a sign of admission to the Christian Church (see The New Oxford Dictionary of English). However, the New Testament examples show that water baptism is for adults. 'They were baptised, both men and women' (Acts 8:12). We have posted our free booklet The Road to Eternal Life, which explains that the Christian doctrine*

*of baptism can only be applied to those who have the maturity for real repentance and are able to accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.*

## A good Bible dictionary

I just wanted to thank you for sending me *The Good News* and *The Bible Study Course*. These lessons are truly eye opening. I was wondering, however, if you could tell me the name of a good Bible dictionary that may help me, and where I can possibly get it?

B W, London

- *A one-volume work like the New Bible Dictionary or Unger's Bible Dictionary will meet the needs of most readers. They can be purchased in a Bible bookshop in most cities or over the internet.*

## More about our ministry

I got your name and address from a magazine. I would like to know more about your ministry.

C E, Eilat, Israel

- *Please read the next letter.*

Many thanks for offering the new colour brochure, *This Is the United Church of God*. It is marvellous that we can write for all the most interesting and wonderful booklets free. I'm hoping to send a small donation again soon.

Mrs A C, Carlisle

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## How our literature is funded

The United Church of God *British Isles* is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1079192). The publication of this Supplement and other literature is funded by the generous donations of members, coworkers and our readers. Following Jesus Christ's instruction (Matthew 10:8), it is supplied free of charge so that it can be made available to all who wish to receive it.