

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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“IF” AND “THEN”

John Edwards

The Holy Spirit used the words “if” and “then” to reveal some things we need to know. Let’s look into the pages of divine inspiration and learn.

IF YE CONTINUE, THEN ARE YE DISCIPLES. The words “if” and “then” teach us about discipleship. Jesus said to those who believed on Him, “*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed*” (Jn. 8:31). Some claim to be followers of Christ, but do not continue in His word. This cannot be! John penned, “*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son*” (2 Jn. 9).

IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS. Paul wrote the Romans, “*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...*” (Rom. 8:16-17). The future blessings of the people of God are in the form of an inheritance. Peter described it as, “*an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you*” (1 Pet. 1:4). Just how does one become a child of God so he

can be an heir? Galatians 3:26-27 holds the answer, “*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*” Have you been baptized into Christ?

IF NO RESURRECTION, THEN IS CHRIST NOT RISEN. Some among the Corinthians said, “*there is no resurrection of the dead*” (1 Cor. 15:12). Paul pointed out some consequences of a non-resurrection, “*But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain*” (1 Cor. 15:13-14). If there is no resurrection, Jesus is still in the grave!

IF RIGHTEOUSNESS COME BY THE LAW, THEN CHRIST IS DEAD IN VAIN. Did you know that Jesus suffered and died in vain? Paul said, “*if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain*” (Gal. 2:21). To keep the law of Moses is to make the death of Christ in vain. Righteousness comes by the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2).

IF FIRST COVENANT FAULTLESS, THEN NO PLACE FOR THE SECOND. The Bible mentions two covenants. Hebrews 8:7 teaches, “*For if that first covenant had been*

faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.” There would be no need for a second covenant had the first been without fault. The new covenant is identified as “*the perfect law of liberty*” (Jas. 1:25).

JESUS ONLY

John Edwards

Matthew 18:8 records, “*And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.*” This was in connection with the transfiguration of Jesus to show that He is God’s spokesman today. We need to learn a lesson about Jesus only.

THE ONLY FOUNDATION. Paul penned, “*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*” (1 Cor. 3:11). Foundations are important! If you don’t think so, try building a house on sand and see what happens. The church of Christ is built upon the solid rock of ages and will stand the test of time! We sing, “*On Christ, the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand...*” Where do you stand?

THE ONLY SAVIOR. If you are looking for a Savior, we bid you look to Jesus only. Peter spoke of Jesus and said,

“Neither is there salvation in any other...” (Acts 4:12). If you look anywhere else, you’re looking the wrong way. Luke 19:10 states, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Jesus has revealed the terms by which we may be saved. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...” (Mk. 16:16). Will you come to Jesus, the only Savior, and submit to His saving plan?

THE ONLY HEAD OF THE CHURCH. The Lord’s church has but one head, Jesus only. Paul identified Christ as the head of the church in the Ephesian letter, “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church” (Eph. 1:22). Christ has the absolute authority in the church. He claimed, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Mt. 28:18). Since Jesus only is the head of the church, it is to Him only that we are subject “as the church is subject unto Christ” (Eph. 5:23). Any church that does not have Jesus only as its head cannot be the Lord’s church!

THE ONLY WAY. Most

religious people think that we are all headed to the same place, just going different ways. This will not work! Get in your car, drive around a little, and you’ll soon see that all roads do not end up at the same place. Jesus said to Thomas, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (Jn. 14:6). How many ways are there to the Father? Just one, Jesus only! Jesus taught, “narrow is the way, that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Mt. 7:14).

Will you accept this teaching concerning Jesus only?

WHEN A WOMAN LEFT HER WATERPOT

John Edwards

The woman of Samaria recorded in the fourth chapter of John stands out as one of the most impressive women of the first century.

THE WOMAN FOUND THE MESSIAH. The woman had come to draw water at Jacob’s well (vv. 7-26). She learned that Jesus was no ordinary man.

“The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he” (vv. 25-26).

THE WOMAN LEFT HER WATERPOT. When the Samaritan woman found the Messiah, “The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” (vv. 28-29). The people of the city accepted her invitation (v. 30).

MANY BELIEVED FOR THE SAYING OF THE WOMAN. Verse 39 records, “And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman...” Suppose she had not said anything?

We need to leave our “waterpots” and tell the city about Jesus!

**EACH ONE FIND ONE.
EACH ONE INVITE ONE.
EACH ONE TEACH ONE.
EACH ONE WIN ONE.**

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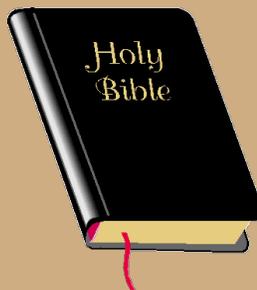
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