

The Reflector

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HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE THE TRUTH?

This is a very important question because no one can be saved without loving the truth. Listen to what Paul says in 2nd Thessalonians 2:10: *"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."* You might think that everyone would love the truth, but such is simply not the case. Listen to this statement made by Jeremiah regarding the condition of the Jews of his day in Jeremiah 5:30-31: *"A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"* People will love the truth as long as it doesn't demand too much of them. Or they will love the truth as long as it agrees with what they already believe. It is when the truth demands a change in our lives and in what we believe that we quickly learn whether or not we really love the truth. The rich young ruler who came to Jesus in Matthew 19:16-22 asking what to do to have eternal life did not love the truth. When that truth called for him to sell his possessions and give to the poor, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. You see he loved his possessions more than the truth. Some people love their families more than they love the truth. But listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 10:37: *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."* If the truth required you to leave the religion of your family in order to be right with God, would you do it? Loving the truth isn't always easy. But if you want to be saved, you must love the truth of God more than anything or anyone else. Abraham did; although he loved his son Isaac, he loved God even more. He was prepared to sacrifice Isaac in order to obey God. What kind of sacrifice are you willing to make in order to obey God? Giving up possessions? Leaving the family religion? Whether or not we love the truth is seen in obeying God for Jesus said in John 14:15: *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* Do you really love the truth? God knows if you do!

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

It was Samuel the prophet who anointed David to be the king of Israel instead of Saul. (1st Samuel 16:11-13)

The two angels that are called by name in the Bible are Gabriel and Michael. (Luke 1:26/Jude 9)

The name of the runaway slave who was converted by Paul was Onesimus. (The Book of Philemon)

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What Old Testament prophet spoke of the birthplace of Jesus and what city did he say Jesus would be born in? (Was he correct?)

What two men had a part in the burial of Jesus? (Whom did the tomb belong to that Jesus was buried in?)

"UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK!"

In the Bible we learn that there is great significance for Christians regarding the first day of the week. Consider the following information.

Jesus was *"raised from the dead upon the first day of the week."* (Mark 16:9)

Jesus *"established His church upon the first day of the week."* (Acts 2:1; Leviticus 23:15-16)

Christians *"partook of the Lord's Supper upon the first day of the week."* (Acts 20:7)

Christians *"laid by in store upon the first day of the week."* (1st Corinthians 16:1-3)

How do you spend your Sundays these days? Do you take the time to worship God on this day as first century Christians did? I hope that you do. If not, then may I encourage you to start doing so. You will be pleasantly surprised at what a difference it will make in your life by putting God first before everything else. Seeking first the kingdom of God as Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 requires that we take the time to worship God on the first day of the week. First century Christians did! And we should do so even today!

WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SINS?

The answer is as the song says: *"Nothing but the blood of Jesus!"* Everyone pretty much agrees that this is true. Consider the following scriptures that show this to be the case.

Matthew 26:28 - *"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*

Ephesians 1:7 - *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."*

Revelations 1:5 - *"... Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood."*

The question that remains to be answered is this: *"When does the blood of Jesus wash away a person's sins?"*

Again the Bible clearly answers this question as well. Consider the following scriptures.

Acts 2:38 - *"...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."*

Acts 22:16 - *"And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."*

What is the connection between baptism and the blood of Jesus? The answer is the *"death of Christ!"* Consider the following scriptures.

Romans 6:3-4 - *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

And so the Bible is clear. *"Nothing but the blood of Jesus can wash away our sins"* and this *"washing away of sins takes place when we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ!"*

Anyone who teaches you that your sins are forgiven at the point of faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God has not taught you the truth! Look up the above scriptures for yourself and read them to see if I have taught you the truth. If so, then have you been *"baptized for the remission of your sins?"* Why tarriest thou? .