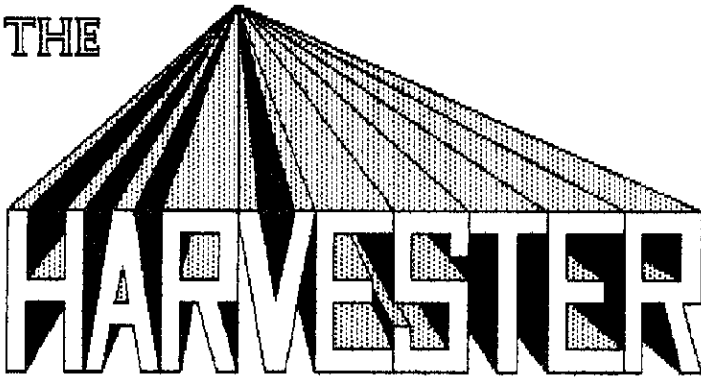


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*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest."* (Luke 10:2)

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## ABIDING IN THE SAME CALLING

*"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called" (1 Corinthians 7:20 and verses 17-24).*

### Change is Necessarily Involved in Being a Christian

Becoming a child of God changes and requires change in many things regarding the "old man" one used to be and the new man who must now "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4-6).

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He has been changed so that he may now enjoy:

- \* Freedom from his sins
- \* A new relationship with God, Christ, and other believers
- \* Assembling on the first day with fellow-Christians

He must also change (1 Cor. 6:11):

- \* Immoral traits such as fornication and adultery
- \* Personal habits which need to be controlled such as temper, foul speech, and drinking to excess
- \* Involvements which would harmfully reflect upon Christ or His church
  - ~ Working as a bartender
  - ~ Selling dope
  - ~ Operating a night-club

### But the Christian May Remain in Some Things as He Was

There are situations wherein a Christian may "*ABIDE in the same calling.*" Since the old Law does not now apply (Heb. 10:9), there are some things which are not now required. Circumcision is one of those things. It is not necessary that a circumcised Christian seek to become uncircumcised -- he may simply remain as he is since circumcision does not violate Christian principles. In accord with Paul's judgment, Timotheus was circumcised (Acts 16:1-3), Titus was not (Gal. 2:2-5), and Paul submitted to those who would have been offended had he not agreed with circumcision (Acts 21:21-26).

While it is not required by God, if one chooses to refrain from eating pork he

may continue this personal preference and "abide" in the preference which was his at his calling. If he wishes to refrain from eating ANY flesh, that is his decision, for eating flesh is not required by God (Rom. 14:1-3).

### But Some Things May be Changed

There are some things, however, which do not require change but which could be changed if opportunity were presented. One of those things is that of being a "servant" or slave (1 Cor. 7:21-23). Of this situation Paul wrote, "*Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God*" (1 Cor. 7:24). But he also provided, "*If thou mayest be free, use it rather*" (verse 22). This provision could include anything not contrary to the principles of Christianity.

### As It Concerns Marriage

These comments were made in regard to the matter of marriage. In that context he wrote, "*But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches*" (verse 17). As in many other passages, examples are used to illustrate the truth under consideration and to show its proper application. Peter referred to the flood in speaking of baptism (1 Pet. 3:20-21), Jesus used "*the lilies of the field*" in showing God's concern for His people (Mt. 6:28-30), and Paul in teaching about tongues spoke of the trumpet giving "*an uncertain sound*" (1 Cor. 14:8). These conditions

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address and all correspondence to:

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regarding circumcision and being a servant serve to illustrate the various positions in which we may find ourselves when called by the gospel.

Should one's marriage status be improper and not in accord with God's will, then he must cease that relationship. Should one's marriage relationship be approved of God, even though it be to an unbeliever, then he must "seek not to be loosed" (verse 27). If one is unmarried, then he must not consider it necessary to be married (27), for under certain conditions (verse 26) it might be best that one remain single (verse 26).

But under no circumstance is Paul suggesting that one remain in an IMPROPER marriage relationship! If this was what Paul was saying, then, for example, a Moslem with four wives (permitted under Islamic law) could maintain that same condition and retain his four wives when he converted to Christianity. This passage DOES NOT teach nor does it allow one to continue in an unscriptural marriage relationship -- regardless of

what may be fashionable in the society among whom we live.

Paul is simply saying that becoming a Christian does not require a change in matters which are already in accord with the will of God. Those matters which are not acceptable to God must, of course, be changed.

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. When the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant, in what temple did they put the ark?
2. How did God tell Abram to travel the land of Canaan when God was giving him the land?
3. What does 1 Peter 1 say causes "heaviness"?
4. According to Proverbs 10, what kind of person is he who holds his tongue?
5. What shepherd wrote a complete book of the Bible?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who was David's firstborn son? AMNON  
(2 Sam. 3:2)

2. How many days did Ezekiel sit among the exiles by the river Chebar after the Lord spoke to him? SEVEN (Ezek. 3:15)

3. What is one to look for when Christ returns? NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH (2 Pet. 3:13)

4. According to Psalms 107, what does God do for the longing soul? HE SATISFIES IT (Psa. 107:9)

5. What did Samson eat on his way to his wedding? HONEY FROM INSIDE THE CARCASS OF THE LION HE HAD KILLED (Judg. 14:8,9)

## RELIGION REPORTS

"A new national survey conducted for the Nathan Cummings Foundation and the Fetzer Institute reveals that most Americans believe:

\* They will exist in some form after death;

\* That heaven exists but that their chances of going there are less than 'excellent;'

\* That hell exists, with their chances of going there 'fair' or 'poor;'

\* That they will be on a journey of some kind;

\* That the quality of existence will depend chiefly on the things one does in life, one's spiritual state at the time of death, and whether or not one has had a spiritual awakening, or made a decision (such as the decision to accept Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Savior)" --

EMERGING TRENDS, Vol. 20, No. 2.

"By the year 2000, the number of Christians on earth will exceed two billion for the first time in history, according to missions statisticians David Barrett and Todd Johnson. Using a **fairly broad definition** [emphasis mine, rm] of 'Christian,' the researchers calculate that today, Christians number 1.985 billion, but at the present rate of growth that number will reach 2.024 billion by the year 2000. Christianity remains the world's largest religion. In second place is Islam with 1.179 billion adherents, or 19.9% of the world's population. Islam is growing much faster than Christianity and has increased nearly six-fold from the turn-of-the-century total of 200 million" -- EP NEWS SERVICE, 4/10/98.

"The National Association for the Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH) has released a study demonstrating that homosexuality orientation can be altered significantly in many instances ... 'This research proves, once and for all, that the propaganda being spread by the gay lobby in this country has been without any basis,' said Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, psychologist and executive director of NARTH" -- AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, March 1998.

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SOME PEOPLE THINK THEY HAVE MADE  
A SUCCESS OF LIFE WHEN ALL THEY  
HAVE MADE IS MONEY.

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
August 6 - 8	Fairview Church Oxford, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 9 - 13	Owens Rd. Church Prattville, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 20 - 22	Pleasant Ridge Church Woodbury, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
Aug. 30 - - Sept. 3	Lily Church Lily, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 3 - 5	Bogue Chitto, MS	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)



## FOLLOW THE NEW TESTAMENT PLAN

Hear the Gospel (Rom. 10:17)

Believe the Gospel -- Faith in God and Christ (Heb. 11:6)

Repent of Your Sins (Acts 3:19)

Confess Christ as the Son of God (Acts 8:37)

Be Baptized for the Remission of Your Sins (Acts 2:38)

At Baptism, the Lord Adds One to the Church (Acts 2:47)