

The Reflector

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT

1460 NORTH MAIN

VIDOR, TEXAS

Volume 40

September 2004

Number 9

HOW MANY RESURRECTIONS WILL THERE BE?

The doctrines of premillennialism teach that there will be three separate and distinct resurrections that will take place: one at the time of the rapture, another after the 7-year tribulation, and still a third a thousand years later. However the Bible knows of no such distinctions. The Bible speaks of only one (1) resurrection that is to take place that involves both the righteous and the wicked at the same time. John 5: 28-29 says the following: *"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which ALL that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."* Acts 24:15 says this: *"...that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust."* This one resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked will take place according to the scriptures *"...at the last day."* (John 6:39, 40, 44 & John 12:48) According to 1st Corinthians 15:20-24 when Jesus returns to judge all mankind this will be the end of the world. There will be no more thousand years of life on earth after which the wicked will be raised; the earth and all things therein will be burned up. (2nd Peter 3:10-14) And so the Bible is clear: there will be only one resurrection of all mankind at the end of the world, not three as is taught in the doctrines of premillennialism. ARE YOU READY FOR THAT DAY TO COME?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

The king who ruled over 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia, primarily over the Medes and the Persians is named Ahasuerus. His queen that was disposed of was Vashti and she was replaced by Esther who was a Jew. (Esther 1-2)

According to Mark 16:9, Mary Magdalene was the first person to see Jesus after He was raised from the dead. Jesus had cast out seven demons from her.

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What king of Judah reigned longer in Jerusalem than any other king? (How long did he reign and how old was he when he began his reign?)

What is the name of the sorcerer who tried to turn Sergius Paulus, the deputy of Paphos, away from the faith? (What two men were trying to teach the gospel to the deputy and what happened to the sorcerer on this occasion?)

HE CARES FOR US!

In this world in which we live, where difficulties often invade our lives, it is good to know and to be reminded of the fact that the Creator of this universe is our heavenly Father! Here is evidence that He cares for us.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16)*

*"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friends."
(John 15:13)*

*"Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you."
(1st Peter 5:7)*

As you live each day of your life, never forget how much you are loved by God and how much He cares for all of us!

A RIDDLE FOR YOU TO PONDER!

When asked the following riddle, 80% of kindergarten kids got the correct answer compared to 17% of Stanford University seniors. See if you can figure it out.

"What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it, you will die?"

We will give the correct answer next month.

DENOMINATIONAL BAPTISM!

One of the problems with denominational baptism is that it is said that a person is saved before baptism. Since baptism in the Bible is *"for the remission of sins"* (Acts 2:38), then if a person is saved before baptism, then he is saved without having his sins forgiven. Some people say however that a person's sins are forgiven at the point of faith in Christ, and that baptism is simply an outward sign of an inward grace. But if you carefully read Paul's story of his conversion to Christ in Acts 22, you will see him being told by Ananias that he needed to *"...arise, and be baptized, and wash away his sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* (Acts 22:16) Paul had already believed in Christ before this time, but Ananias said that he was still in his sins; therefore Paul needed to be baptized to have his sins washed away. Both Mark 16:16 and 1st Peter 3:21 teach that baptism is necessary for salvation; the reason being that baptism puts one into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27), and brings about the remission of sins because we are *"baptized into the death of Christ where His blood was shed."* (Romans 6:3-4) It is the blood of Jesus that washes away our sins according to Revelations 1:5. But the blood of Jesus washes away our sins only when we are *"baptized into His death."* If you were taught that you were saved before you were baptized, then you were not baptized in the same way people in the Bible were baptized. Maybe it's time for you to think about being scripturally baptized, that is *"by immersion and for the remission of your sins."* Don't wait until it's too late. Time is running out!