

**Test your Bible Knowledge**

1. James and John joined Jesus as disciples:
  - a. when Jesus got in the boat
  - b. as soon as He saw them
  - c. when He called them
  - d. because they hated their occupation
2. Timothy was:
  - a. the ruler of Antioch
  - b. a disciple who accompanied Barnabas
  - c. a disciple who accompanied Paul
  - d. a pastor of a church
3. "In food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths," wrote Paul:
  - a. to keep such custom
  - b. watch closely
  - c. let no man judge you
  - d. reach agreement within the group

**Scriptures:**

- 1) Matthew 4:21-22
- 2) Acts 16:1-4
- 3) Colossians 2:16  
-Fred Singleton

**Private Bible studies available anytime!!**

**Schedule:**

- Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM
- Sunday Morning Worship – 11:00AM
- Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
- Wednesday Night Bible Study – 7:00 PM

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**"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16**

**Persuading Men to Obey God  
Regarding: Baptism Objection 5**

**"My Grandmother Was Never Baptized"**

Some conclude that baptism could not possibly be essential for remission of sins, because of a loved one, who has departed from this life, was never baptized into Christ. I am sympathetic towards those who face such circumstances. I have also lost loved ones who never obeyed the gospel, and friends it pains me deeply. By reading Hebrews 9:27 we learn **"...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment..."** Romans 14:10 teaches that, we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and each person must **"...give an account of himself to God"** (Romans 14:12). The Bible makes it clear that we all will stand before the judgment seat of Christ as individuals. No one will be judged by, or for his loved one, and so we are told that we must work out our own salvation (Philippians 2:12).

I was told once by an individual that "if the Bible teaches that baptism is essential for remission of sins, then that would mean that my dead grandmother is lost." Many people when confronted with the truth will try their best to ignore the scriptural facts, and come up with excuses in order to justify their disobedience. Friends, if any of our departed kinsmen died and did not do the Lord's will; it would in no way change the teaching of Christ. If the rich man, that we read about in Luke 16 was your departed kinsman what would he say? Would he beg Abraham to send Lazarus to your father's house to testify about the place of torment for the disobedient (Mark 16:16b; Luke 16:19-31)?

Friends we must obey God rather than be influenced to disobey God, because of a loved one, if we are going to live with God in the hereafter. We have the words of Christ with us to this day and we need to heed them. The same word

teaches that, *“There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 3:21). What our departed and other loved ones did, or do not do, has no bearing on what the word of God says.

- Fred Singleton

## A Religion of Feelings Part I

Organized religion can be characterized in many ways. There is the religion of materialism; traditionalism; and mysticism. Materialism interprets subjects after a material fashion. Hence, heaven is on earth, Jesus will have a physical reign on earth, and bliss will consist of political privileges in an earthly kingdom. Traditionalism is the authority used by the religion of tradition. Catholicism is a prime example of such a religion. The religion of mysticism assigns a mystical meaning to every verse and rejects obvious literal meanings. There is also the religion of feeling. This religion looks to subjective feelings or emotions as its authority and criterion. "I know I am saved because I feel saved," sort of thinking and rationale. The religion of feelings is very common and has pervaded the religious world.

To avoid being misunderstood, allow me to emphasize at the outset that religion without feeling and emotion is empty. However, there must be a coupling of feelings and recognition of the authority of God's word. Please consider the plain teaching of the apostle Paul as he wrote to the Christians in Rome:

**"17: But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.18: Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6).**

First of all, consider that Paul used "obeyed" in the same sentence with "heart," "ye have obeyed from the heart." Hence, obedience and the heart are not mutually exclusive. The "form of doctrine" that they obeyed from the heart is explained in the context (being buried with Christ in baptism, etc.). The importance of obeying from the heart that form of doctrine is seen in the fact that it was when they obeyed from the heart that they were made free of the bondage of sin and became the "servants of righteousness."

**Beloved, feelings or the heart alone are not a reliable guide.** Paul said, "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth" (Acts 26: 9). Paul or Saul imprisoned Christians and participated in their death because he felt he should (vs. 10 ff.). Thus, one can feel that what one is doing is right, but one's deeds can be wrong (see Acts 23:1). The truth of the matter is man must have an eternal standard to determine right and wrong, what to believe, and how to live. Hear God's prophet of old: "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10: 23). God's word is the standard to determine God's will for us (2 Jn. 9-11; Jn. 12: 48). Hence, Peter wrote, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Pet. 4: 11). Let us now focus on some particulars relative to the religion of feelings.

**I feel God unconditionally forgives."** Many believe that "conditional" and "forgiveness" are absolutely incongruous when used together. However, God's standard says forgiveness is conditional. This is true in the case of God's forgiveness of man's sins and also man's forgiveness of man's sins (Acts 2:38; Lk. 17:3, 4). God has a forgiving spirit and so must man, but certain conditions must be met before actual forgiveness can be experienced. Besides, if forgiveness is unconditional, all men would be saved and this is not the case (Matt. 7:13, 14). -Don Martin

When I say **good morning** I mean:

**G**-od  
**O**-ffers us His  
**O**-utstanding  
**D**-evotion to

**M**-ake us  
**O**-bedient &  
**R**-eady for a  
**N**-ew day with Him.

**I**-nspire others please, and  
**N**-ever forget  
**G**-od loves you!

*My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I*

*will direct it to You, And I will look up  
(Psalm 5:3).*