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Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: Why Not a Supplement to the Bible?

James Willeford

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Churches of Christ
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**Why Not a Supplement
To The Bible?**

By James D. Willeford

November 15, 1953

Herald of Truth

Why Not a Supplement To The Bible?

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A few weeks ago a friend of mine said, "I used to work for a railroad. Among other duties I helped prepare bills covering the shipment of freight. Every tariff book would have from one to half a dozen supplements. One was always wondering if he had all the supplements to a particular tariff. There were also supplements to the table of express rates and to the telegraph company's tariff book. Nearly every set of instructions by any company is soon obsolete and replaced by a new set, or supplements must be issued to the original instructions. As I contemplated this situation one day, the question came to mind, 'Why not a supplement for the Bible?'"

The question asked by this railroad man is also asked by a number of people throughout the land today. The question is understandable because all man-made things change. Last year's telephone directory is out of date. Our school texts of ten years ago have to be replaced or supplemented as new knowledge is gained. Scientific theories are being revised or discarded and new theories take their place. We are in a constant whirl trying to keep pace with the ever-changing conditions about us. In view of this situation we can understand why men who are not acquainted with God's word may ask, "Why not a supplement for the Bible?"

Though we admit that man-made things change because of their imperfections, we deny that the Bible needs any supplement. It was not man-made and it does not have humanity's imperfections stamped upon it. It is perfect; hence complete. It contains the complete will of God to man. All that God wants us to know about righteousness, He has revealed in the Bible.

Christ selected the apostles through whom to reveal His will and to have it written in the New Testament. He said to them, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16: 12, 13). Did the Holy Spirit guide the apostles into all truth? Jesus said He would. Did he? If Jesus spoke the truth, verily he did. That being the case, the will of God was completely revealed to men in the days of the apostles, the inspired ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ. James recognized that the Lord kept His promise to reveal all truth to the apostles, and he calls the gospel they preached "the perfect law of liberty." The word translated "perfect" means "brought to its end, finished; wanting nothing necessary to completeness." Thayer gives James 1:25 as a reference following these definitions.

Since Christ said the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth, we can say confidently that all spiritual truth was revealed in the first century for there have been no true apostles since that time. To be an apostle of Christ one had to be a witness of the resurrected Lord (Acts 1:22). When Jesus selected Saul to become an apostle, He said to him, "I have appeared unto thee . . . to make thee a minister and a witness" (Acts 26:16).

An apostle had to be a witness, and witnesses do not have successors. To illustrate: Suppose you see an accident and you are called into court to testify as a witness, but before you are called you die? Do you suppose any judge in the land would permit a friend of yours to give your testimony on the grounds that he was your successor? No, because witnesses cannot have successors. The apostles of Christ were witnesses of the Lord, and it was to these men that the Holy Spirit gave "all truth." This is why Paul could say, "I declared unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

That all the truth was delivered to the apostles is further verified by Jude who said, "Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). This inspired writer was pleading for that which had already been revealed and which was then in common possession of all saints. He declared that the faith had been delivered once for all. It was delivered one time for all time. This is an indictment of those who come to us with new revelations or visions or dreams. The Lord did not intend that His will should be made in installments, or supplements as the centuries roll by. He delivered the faith once for all and it was complete when He gave it.

In reading the New Testament we learn that the faith and the gospel are the same thing. In the first chapter of Galatians Paul said, "I preached the gospel," and in speaking of this work he said, "I preached the faith" (Gal. 1:11, 23). The gospel was delivered in the first century once and for all, and at that time it was the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). In referring to this gospel Paul said: "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed." Since the first century the perfect will of God has been revealed through His perfect law of liberty.

We have further proof that the Bible is all-sufficient in an inspired statement of the Apostle Paul. He said, "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work" (II Tim. 3:16, 17). Paul said the scripture is profitable for four things. Note how comprehensive they are: (1) for doctrine and teaching; (2) for reproof; (3) for correction; (4) for instruction in righteousness. You cannot imagine any condition or need of mankind but that one or the other of these statements will meet it. The Bible will com-

YOU MAY HEAR THE HERALD OF TRUTH OVER THESE STATIONS.

ALABAMA—				ILLINOIS—				NEBRASKA—				Johnson City .. WETB 790 6:15 p.m.																						
Albertville .. WAVU 630 4:30 p.m.	Anniston .. WHMA 1450 1:00 p.m.	Auburn .. WAUD 1230 1:00 p.m.	Birmingham .. WSGN 610 8:00 a.m.	Chicago .. WENR-WLS 890 2:30 p.m.	Moline .. WQUA 1230 7:00 a.m.	Quincy .. WGEN 1440 8:00 a.m.	Indiana—	Lincoln .. KFOR 1240 10:30 a.m.	N. Platt .. KNBR 970 9:00 a.m.	Omaha .. KOIL 1290 5:30 p.m.	Sidney .. KSID 1240 9:30 a.m.	Knoxville .. WBIR 1240 1:30 p.m.	Memphis .. WHBQ 560 9:30 p.m.	Morristown .. WCRK 1450 9:00 p.m.	Nashville .. WSIX 980 4:00 p.m.																			
Florence .. WJOI 1340 8:00 p.m.	Fl. Payne .. WFGA 1400 8:00 a.m.	Gadsden .. WJAD 1350 1:00 p.m.	Greenville .. WGYV 1400 4:00 p.m.	Anderson .. WHBU 1240 1:30 p.m.	Bloomington .. WTTS 1370 1:00 p.m.	Evansville .. WJPS 1330 1:30 p.m.	Bloomington .. WTS 1370 1:00 p.m.	NEW HAMPSHIRE—				Abilene .. KRBC 1470 1:00 p.m.	Amarillo .. KFDA 1440 1:00 p.m.	Austin .. KNOW 1490 2:00 p.m.	Beaumont .. KFDM 560 1:00 p.m.	Big Spring .. KBST 1490 1:00 p.m.	Brownfield .. KTFY 1300 4:30 p.m.																	
Hamilton .. WERH 970 1:00 p.m.	Huntsville .. WHBS 1490 7:30 a.m.	Marion .. WJAM 1310 9:30 a.m.	Mobile .. WALA 1410 9:30 a.m.	Cedar Rapids .. WMT 600 7:30 a.m.	Des Moines .. KSO 1460 6:00 p.m.	Sioux City .. KSCJ 1860 10:30 p.m.	Waterloo .. KXEL 1540 8:30 p.m.	Lebanon .. WTSL 1400 1:00 p.m.	Manchester .. WMUR 610 8:00 p.m.	NEW MEXICO—				Brownwood .. KBWD 1380 6:30 p.m.	Corpus Christi .. KENS 1410 9:00 a.m.	El Paso .. KEPO 690 3:00 p.m.	El Worth .. WBAW 570 1:00 p.m.	Graham .. KSWA 1330 4:30 p.m.	Houston .. KXYZ 1320 8:00 a.m.	Longview .. KFRO 1370 1:00 p.m.	Lubbock .. KFYO 790 4:30 p.m.	Midland .. KCRS 550 1:30 p.m.	Nacogdoches .. KOSF 1230 1:00 p.m.	Paris .. KPLT 1490 4:00 p.m.	Quanah .. KOLJ 1150 12:45 p.m.	San Angelo .. KGKL 960 1:00 p.m.	Texarkana .. KCMC 1230 1:00 p.m.	Wichita Falls .. KFDD 990 2:00 p.m.						
Montgomery .. WAPX 1600 1:00 p.m.	Scottsboro .. WCRI 1050 4:30 p.m.	Selma .. WGVG 1340 1:30 p.m.	Talladega .. WHTB 1240 1:30 p.m.	Troy .. WJBT 1490 1:00 p.m.	Tuscaloosa .. WJRD 1150 9:00 p.m.	KANSAS—				Albuquerque .. KOAT 1450 8:00 p.m.	Carlsbad .. KPBM 740 1:30 p.m.	Clovis .. KCLV 1910 1:30 p.m.	Los Alamos .. KRSN 1490 3:00 p.m.	Santa Fe .. KTBC 1400 3:00 p.m.	NEW YORK—																			
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Bisbee .. KSUN 1230 1:00 p.m.	Clifton .. KCLF 1400 3:00 p.m.	Flagstaff .. KCLS 1340 7:30 a.m.	Kingman .. KGAN 920 1:00 p.m.	Phoenix .. KOY 550 7:00 a.m.	Tucson .. KCNA 580 3:00 p.m.	Bowling Green .. KWCT 930 1:00 p.m.	Louisville .. WKLO 1080 1:00 p.m.	Mayfield .. WKTU 1050 4:15 p.m.	Paducah .. WKYB 570 1:30 p.m.	Baton Rouge .. WLCS 910 1:00 p.m.	Monroe .. KMLB 1440 2:00 p.m.	New Iberia .. KANE 1240 1:00 p.m.	New Orleans .. WDSU 1280 1:00 p.m.	Shreveport .. KRMD 1340 1:00 p.m.	Ashville .. WLOS 1380 1:00 p.m.	Charlotte .. WAYS 610 1:00 p.m.	Durham .. WTKI 1310 2:00 p.m.	Fayetteville (Sat) .. WFLB 1490 1:00 p.m.	Salisbury .. WSAT 1250 1:00 p.m.	Wilmington .. WUNI 1340 8:30 a.m.	Winston-Salem .. WAIR 1340 1:00 p.m.	Asheville .. WLOS 1380 1:00 p.m.	Charlotte .. WAYS 610 1:00 p.m.	Durham .. WTKI 1310 2:00 p.m.	Fayetteville (Sat) .. WFLB 1490 1:00 p.m.	Salisbury .. WSAT 1250 1:00 p.m.	Wilmington .. WUNI 1340 8:30 a.m.	Winston-Salem .. WAIR 1340 1:00 p.m.						
ARKANSAS—				MAINE—				MARYLAND—				NORTH DAKOTA—																						
Eldorado .. KDMS 1290 1:00 p.m.	Forrest City .. KXJK 950 9:00 a.m.	Fl. Smith .. KFSA 950 1:00 p.m.	Hot Springs .. KWCF 1340 8:30 p.m.	Little Rock .. KGHJ 1250 1:00 p.m.	McGehee .. KVSA 1220 9:00 a.m.	Springdale .. KBRS 1340 6:00 p.m.	Bangor .. WABI 910 1:00 p.m.	Portland .. WPOR 1450 9:00 a.m.	Baltimore .. WERR 1200 3:00 p.m.	Cumberland .. WDYK 1230 8:00 a.m.	Fargo .. KFGE 790 1:00 p.m.	Grand Forks .. KILO 1060 1:00 p.m.	Cleveland .. WJW 850 1:00 p.m.	Columbus .. WHKC 610 1:00 p.m.	East Liverpool .. WOHI 1490 1:00 p.m.	Lima .. WMA 1150 9:00 a.m.	Toledo .. WTOL 1230 12:30 p.m.	Youngstown .. WBBW 1240 8:30 a.m.	Ada .. KADA 1230 1:00 p.m.	Enid .. KCRC 1390 1:00 p.m.	McAlester .. KTMK 1400 1:00 p.m.	Muskogee .. KBIX 1490 2:00 p.m.	Oklahoma City .. KTKO 1000 9:30 a.m.	Tulsa .. KRMG 740 2:00 p.m.	Eugene .. KASH 1600 1:00 p.m.	Medford .. KNED 1440 7:30 a.m.	Portland .. KEX 1190 3:30 p.m.	Redmond .. KJTN 1240 3:30 p.m.	The Dalles .. KODL 1230 1:30 p.m.					
CALIFORNIA—				MASSACHUSETTS—				MICHIGAN—				OKLAHOMA—																						
Bakersfield .. KPMC 1560 10:00 a.m.	Blythe .. KYOR 1450 3:30 p.m.	Brawley .. KRPP 1300 12:30 p.m.	Eureka .. KIEM 1480 8:00 a.m.	Fresno .. KARM 1430 3:30 p.m.	Indio .. KREO 1400 3:30 p.m.	Los Angeles .. KECA 790 8:30 p.m.	Porterville .. Ktip 1450 8:30 p.m.	San Francisco .. KGO 810 3:30 p.m.	San Luis Obispo .. KATY 1340 3:30 p.m.	Boston .. WVAB 1260 1:00 p.m.	Gardner .. WHOB 1490 1:00 p.m.	Lawrence .. WLAW 680 1:00 p.m.	Springfield .. WSPR 1270 2:00 p.m.	Worcester .. WAAB 1440 1:00 p.m.	Ada .. KADA 1230 1:00 p.m.	Enid .. KCRC 1390 1:00 p.m.	McAlester .. KTMK 1400 1:00 p.m.	Muskogee .. KBIX 1490 2:00 p.m.	Oklahoma City .. KTKO 1000 9:30 a.m.	Tulsa .. KRMG 740 2:00 p.m.	Ada .. KADA 1230 1:00 p.m.	Enid .. KCRC 1390 1:00 p.m.	McAlester .. KTMK 1400 1:00 p.m.	Muskogee .. KBIX 1490 2:00 p.m.	Oklahoma City .. KTKO 1000 9:30 a.m.	Tulsa .. KRMG 740 2:00 p.m.	Eugene .. KASH 1600 1:00 p.m.	Medford .. KNED 1440 7:30 a.m.	Portland .. KEX 1190 3:30 p.m.	Redmond .. KJTN 1240 3:30 p.m.	The Dalles .. KODL 1230 1:30 p.m.			
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Craig .. KRIA 1230 5:30 p.m.	Denver .. KVOD 630 3:00 p.m.	Battle Creek .. WELL 1400 1:00 p.m.	Bay City .. WBCM 1440 1:00 p.m.	Detroit .. WXYZ 1270 1:00 p.m.	Flint .. WTAC 600 10:30 p.m.	Lansing .. WILS 1320 1:00 p.m.	Ludington .. WKLA 1450 1:00 p.m.	Mt. Pleasant .. WGEN 1150 2:00 p.m.	Muskegon .. WKBZ 850 2:00 p.m.	Mankato .. KTOE 1420 2:00 p.m.	Minn.-St. Paul .. WTCN 1280 7:30 a.m.	Booneville .. WPIP 1400 1:00 p.m.	Centerville .. WGLC 1580 8:00 a.m.	Columbus .. WCBI 1340 6:00 p.m.	Greenwood .. WABG 960 1:00 p.m.	Jackson .. WSLI 930 2:00 p.m.	Kosciusko .. WKOZ 1340 1:00 p.m.	Laurel .. WLAU 1490 8:30 p.m.	McComb .. WSKB 1250 1:00 p.m.	Meridian .. WTOK 1450 1:00 p.m.	Natchez .. WNAT 1240 1:00 p.m.	Johnstown .. WCRO 1280 1:00 p.m.	Lemoyne .. WCMB 1460 7:30 a.m.	Philadelphia .. WFIL 560 2:00 p.m.	Pittsburg .. WCAE 1250 8:00 p.m.	State College .. WMAJ 1450 9:00 a.m.	Wilkes-Barre .. WILK 980 5:00 p.m.	Columbia .. WCOS 1460 1:00 p.m.	Florence .. WJMX 970 10:30 a.m.	Orangeburg .. WDXI 1450 7:00 a.m.	Sumter .. WSSC 1240 1:00 p.m.			
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Bridgeport .. WNAB 1450 5:30 p.m.	Hartford .. WHHT 1230 1:00 p.m.	Cape Girardeau .. KFVS 960 8:30 p.m.	Kansas City .. KCMO 810 12:30 p.m.	Poplar Bluff .. KWOC 930 check sta.	Rolla .. KTRR 1490 8:45 a.m.	St. Louis .. KKOK 630 9:15 p.m.	Springfield .. KWTO 560 1:00 p.m.	Bozeman .. KXLQ 1450 8:00 a.m.	Great Falls .. KXLK 1400 8:00 a.m.	Helena .. KXLJ 1240 8:00 a.m.	Missoula .. KXLL 1450 8:00 a.m.	Providence .. WPJB 1420 1:00 p.m.	Aberdeen .. KSDN 930 10:30 a.m.	Huron .. KIJV 1340 9:00 a.m.	Chattanooga .. WAPA 1150 1:00 p.m.	Jackson .. WTJS 1390 1:00 p.m.	Beckley .. WWNR 620 1:30 p.m.	Huntington .. WHTN 800 8:00 a.m.	Parkersburg (Sat) .. WCOM 1230 5:30 p.m.	Wheeling .. WKWK 1400 1:00 p.m.	Green Bay .. WDUZ 1400 5:30 p.m.	LaCrosse .. WKTY 580 10:00 p.m.	Madison .. WJBA 1330 8:00 a.m.	Milwaukee .. WCAN 1250 2:00 p.m.	Neenah .. WNAN 1280 8:00 a.m.	Wasau .. WSAU 1400 9:30 a.m.	Casper .. KSPR 1470 9:15 p.m.	Cheyenne .. KFBC 710 12:00 p.m.	Cody .. KODI 1400 12:00 p.m.	Laramie .. KOWB 1340 12:00 p.m.	Rawlins .. KRAL 1240 12:00 p.m.	Riverton .. KWRL 1450 12:00 p.m.	Torrington .. KGOS 1490 12:00 p.m.	Worland .. KWOR 1490 12:00 p.m.
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Wilmington .. WILM 1450 1:00 p.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.						
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Atlanta .. WGST 920 1:00 p.m.	Augusta .. WGAC 580 2:00 p.m.	Brunswick .. WGIG 1440 1:00 p.m.	Cairo .. WGRA 1300 3:00 p.m.	Cartersville .. WBHF 1450 10:00 a.m.	Columbus .. WGBA 1460 7:30 a.m.	Dawson .. WDWD 990 2:00 a.m.	Macon .. WNEZ 1400 1:00 p.m.	Rome .. WLAQ 670 1:00 p.m.	Savannah .. WDAR 1400 1:00 p.m.	Valdosta .. WGAF 910 1:00 p.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.			
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Boise .. KGEM 1140 3:00 p.m.	Pocatello .. KWIK 1440 9:30 a.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.	Albany .. WROW 850 2:00 p.m.	New York .. WABC 770 12:30 p.m.	Olean .. WHDL 1450 1:00 p.m.	Poughkeepsie .. WKIP 1450 1:00 p.m.	Rochester .. WARC 950 9:30 a.m.	Saranac Lake .. WEAV 960 2:00 p.m.	Syracuse .. WAGE 620 12:00 p.m.					

All Times Are Sunday Unless Otherwise Indicated.

pletely furnish a man unto every good work. Abraham Lincoln truly said, "All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated through this Book; but for this Book we could not know right from wrong. All the things desirable to man are contained in it" (3000 Illustrations for Christian Service, by Walter B. Knight, p. 57).

A Bible scholar has said, "The more the Scriptures are studied, the more one is convinced that they are self-contained and absolutely complete—revealing a perfect plan throughout and having neither superfluity nor lack" (All About the Bible, by Sidney Collett, p. 51).

I think that we will all agree the best way to show whether the Bible is sufficient or not is to put it to various tests. If it meets the requirements of these tests it is sufficient; if it does not, it is insufficient.

To begin with, is the Bible a sufficient guide as to how to become a Christian—to be saved from past sins? Before we find the answer, let us put forth a few simple questions. If you wanted to know what to do to become a member of the Lion's Club where would you go to find the answer? Or if you wished to know the procedure to follow in applying for a patent for some new invention, where would you go? Naturally, you would go to the rules regulating these things. The Bible is the only book that tells the only God-approved way of how the first Christians were made. It is the only book that tells the God-approved way for making Christians for all time. What did the first who became Christians do in becoming such? In the second chapter of Acts we have the fulfillment of many promises made by God. All of these might be summed up in one—the opening of the Kingdom of God among men. On hearing the words that Peter spoke as the Spirit gave him utterance, the Israelites were convinced that the Jesus whom they had crucified was now the ascended Lord of Glory. Desiring the forgiveness of their sins, they implored the mercy of God, saying unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, "men and brethren, what shall we do? Peter, being guided into "all truth" answered, "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 2:38). A vast company of three thousand gladly received the word, were baptized, and were added by the Lord to the church when they were saved, verses 41-47. We know these people were saved for the Lord says they were. People can become Christians today by doing the same things that these Jews did. The Bible is sufficient in telling us what to do to become Christians. We become Christians by doing just what it says. Any substitute for or change of the Lord's plan is but to question the sufficiency of His word.

Having become a Christian according to the Lord's plan, we will want to know that we are worshipping him correctly. Let us see if the Bible can sufficiently inform us as to the worship that God will accept. We are to look for the worship that

will please God. God is the one we want to adore and we want our worship to be what he has commanded, knowing that it will please Him. Jesus said to those of us who want to be true worshipers of God that we "must worship him in Spirit and in truth." (John 4:24.) Worship "in spirit"—in sincerity, and "in truth" — as the truth or word of God directs. Following this principle, let us notice what the apostles and the early Christians did as worship. Their worship was pleasing to God and will be an all-sufficient guide for us to follow for Christ said the Spirit would guide them into "all truth."

All who are genuinely converted to the Lord know the need for constant communion with Him by prayer. Therefore we are told to "pray without ceasing;" the Jerusalem Christians "continued stedfastly in . . . prayer." Then we can be sure that prayer to God in the name of Christ will be acceptable.

The early Christians were thankful that they were liberated from the bondage of sin, and they wanted to help in carrying the gospel to others. When the Lord gave them instructions about giving of their means to his work, they were ready to obey. Through the apostles, the Lord said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." (I Cor. 16:2.) From the divine instructions given in the New Testament we learn that Christians should give as they are prospered, and this should be done upon the Lord's day when they assemble to worship. When we follow the Lord's word the church will have sufficient funds to carry on its work, and our giving will be an acceptable act of worship to God.

In reading the will of Christ we learn that early Christians praised God through singing. This they did because the Lord said, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19). When we come into the Lord's house to praise Him we should "offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." (Heb. 13:15.) We are prompted by faith when we offer to God vocal music for this is the kind he directs us to offer Him. The Bible is sufficient then, to direct us in this part of our worship.

But let us see if the Bible is sufficient to direct us in partaking of the Lord's supper. Paul said, "the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." (I Cor. 11:23-25.) The Son of God instructs us to partake of the Lord's supper in his memory, and Luke tells us when this was done. He said, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them." (Acts 20:7.) The Bible is sufficient to guide us in partaking of the Lord's supper.

In studying the question of acceptable worship we learn that the early Christians "continued stedfastly in the apostles doctrine." (Acts 2:42.) This statement is significant for it dem-

onstrates that they knew the apostles were guided into "all truth." When they came to worship upon the first day of the week they listened to, and studied the apostles' teaching. That was sufficient then, and it is sufficient today. Let us remember that we have the apostles' doctrine in the Bible.

But let us put the Bible to another test. Is it sufficient to guide us in Christian living? The apostle Peter said that God "hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." (2 Pet. 1:3.) Since the Lord has given us everything that pertains to life and godliness in the Bible, it needs no supplement! It is as up-to-date as the morning newspaper, because it establishes broad principles of conduct. For example, it does not in so many words condemn shooting dice, but it establishes the principle against gambling, whether the gambling is done by delinquent boys in the alley or in the finest house in town with dice or cards, or at a race track controlled by a movie star. The Bible does not specifically command observance of traffic laws, but it does teach, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities." (Rom. 13:1.)

The changing patterns of life fall into place with the principles taught in the Bible. Jesus said, "whatever ye wish that men would unto you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets." (Matt. 7:12.) Again, "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Gal. 5:14.) These principles fit into any social order in any century and any country.

But let us test the all-sufficiency of the Bible in another respect. Is it sufficient in time of tribulation and calamity? Once a Sultan of Turkey bade his Grand Vizier to compile the briefest possible history of the human race. The Vizier's history history read, "They were born; they suffered; they died." In the Old Testament Job said, "Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble." (Job 14:1.) But in the midst of our troubles, David reassures the righteous man when he says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." (Psa. 46:1-2.) In the New Testament Paul said, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if ye believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus shall God bring with him. . . Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (I Thess. 4:13,14,18.)

The Bible is sufficient to meet every problem of life, and we might well say with Sir Walter Scott of this Book,

"Within this awful volume lies
The mystery of mysteries:
Happiest he of human race
To whom God has given grace.

To read, to fear, to hope, to pray,
To lift the latch, and learn the way;
And better had he ne'er been born
Who reads to doubt, or reads to scorn."