

Trends

Here's the breakdown of "The Global Religious Landscape," based on an analysis of more than 2,500 censuses, surveys and population registers:

- ☛ 2.2 billion Christians (32% of the world's population).
- ☛ 1.6 billion Muslims (23%).
- ☛ 1 billion Hindus (15%).
- ☛ 500 million Buddhists (7%).
- ☛ 400 million people (6%) practicing various folk or traditional religions, including African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, American Indian religions and Australian aboriginal religions.
- ☛ 14 million Jews (less than 1%).

- via The Washington Time, 12/23/12

2 Timothy 3:13: "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

Sentence Sermons

"Many people permit themselves to be taught more by man than they are by the Lord, which accounts for the many differences in religion today."

Acts 17:22: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious."

News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for all the members at Westside! Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from a brain tumor. She had another successful round of chemo and is due for a scan on 9/16. Please pray for her and her family.

Please pray for the Edward's family. Johnie Paul and Melba's daughter (John Isaac's sister) Adria was tragically killed in a traffic accident in Cozumel, Mexico. Her sister, Rebekah, was seriously injured. Adria's funeral was this past Wednesday, September 7th.

Please pray for my daughter Dawne. She returned to school on Monday, 8/29. She still has trouble speaking as her mouth remains restricted by rubber bands.

Pray for the all of our students. Schools are back in session and bring many temptations to our young people.

Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.

There are many needy saints! Can you help?! Let me know.

If you know of any in need of our prayers please let us know!

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



"...he that endureth to the end shall be saved..."

Craig Thomas

We have been examining in detail what God requires of us to be saved: 1) **Hear Christ** (Heb. 1:1-2); 2) **Believe in Christ** (Jn. 20:31); 3) **Repent** (Acts 17:30); 4) **Confess Christ** (Rom. 10:10); 5) **Be Baptized** (Mark 16:16); and, 6) **Live Faithfully** (Col. 1:22-23). Today we will consider the Lord's requirement that we live faithfully.

1) **"if" The Biggest Little Word In The Bible.** In Colossians 1:21-23 the inspired apostle said, "...He has reconciled [you] in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel." Dear reader, our salvation not only depends on our initial obedience to God in becoming a Christian, but we must remain faithful! Note that Paul said Jesus will present us "holy, and blameless, and above reproach" to His heavenly Father **"if indeed you continue in the faith."** There are many passages in the New Testament that tell us we will be saved **"if."** 1 Cor. 15:1-2 tells us we will be saved **"if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain."** Hebrews 3:6 says we will be saved **"if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."** 1 John 1:7 says we will be saved **"if we walk in the light, as he is in the light"** In John 8:31 Jesus said we will be saved **"if ye continue in My word."** No wonder that in Matthew 10:22, and other places, Jesus said **"he that endureth to the end shall be saved."** God has always required His people to remain faithful! Ezek. 18:24; Rev. 2:10

2) **It Is Possible To Fall From Grace And Be Lost!** Many religious groups teach that once a person becomes a Christian it is impossible for him to so sin as to be lost. Such a doctrine is in obvious contradiction with the Bible passages above. Also, the New Testament specifically states in Galatians 5:4 that some had **"fallen from grace"** and that

Christ had “*become of no effect*” to them! Paul stated in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 that concerning the faith there would be “*a falling away*.” In 1 Timothy 4:1 that “*some shall depart from the faith*.” How much clearer could God’s word be? Hymanaeus and Alexander “*made shipwreck*” of their faith (1 Tim. 1:19-20); while the false teachings of Hymanaeus and Philetus had “*overthrow[ed] the faith of some*” (2 Tim. 2:17-18). Paul also said lovers of money “*have strayed from the faith*” (1 Tim. 6:10).

To receive the “*crown of life*” we must keep the faith (2 Tim. 4:6-8). We must be ever careful not to cast away our confidence, nor “*draw back*” for God will have no pleasure in us (Heb. 10:35-39).

What are the Old and New Testaments?

Craig Thomas

There is a great need for people to understand the nature and character of the Old and New Testaments. A lack of instruction in this area has given way to a variety of false ideas regarding the subject. To further our understanding of the covenants God has had with His people, this study is dedicated.

1) **The basic meaning of the word testament or covenant is an “agreement.”** A covenant is an agreement or contract entered into between two parties. In a spiritual sense, it involves God and man. From a legal standpoint, God is the party of the first part and man is the party of the second part. We see that in the case of Noah God made a covenant with only one man (Gen. 6:18). God said that if Noah would build the ark and “*come into*” it, He would save Noah and his family from the flood waters.

2) **Understanding the three periods in Bible history are key to understanding the Old and New Testaments.** There are three main divisions of Bible history which are commonly referred to as the *Patriarchal* period (lasting from the days of Adam until Moses), the *Mosaic* period (lasting from Moses until Christ), and the *Gospel* period (began with Christ and will continue until His return). God dealt predominantly during the *Patriarch* period with only certain individuals such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This history is recorded in the Old Testament book of Genesis. During the *Mosaic* period God dealt specifically with the Jews. He made a covenant with them which Moses received at Mt. Horeb (Sinai) (Deut. 5:1-3). This covenant is commonly referred to as the old law or *Law of Moses* and is recorded especially in the Old Testament books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy. Other Old Testament books (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther) record the history of the Jewish people under the *Law of Moses*. Today, God has made a covenant with all men. This covenant was dedicated by the blood of Christ (Matt. 26:28; Heb.

9:11-15), was enacted at His death upon the cross (Heb. 9:16-17), is “*mediated*” by Christ (Heb. 12:24) and is contained in the gospel of His son (Rom. 1:9, 16-17). The new covenant of Christ supercedes and replaces the *Law of Moses* (Heb. 7:12; 8:13). The new covenant is not limited to the Jews but enables men of all nations to be included in “*the household of God*” (Eph. 2:13-22, esp. v. 19).

Cookstove Apostasy

The early church prayed in the upper room, the twentieth century church cooks in the supper room. Today, the supper room has taken place of the upper room, play has taken the place of prayer, and feasting the place of fasting. There are more full stomachs than there are bended knees and broken hearts. There is more fire in the range in the kitchen than there is in the pulpit. When you build a fire in the church kitchen, it often puts out the fire in the pulpit. Ice cream chills the fever of spiritual life.

The early Christians where not cooking in the supper room the day the Holy Spirit came, they were praying in the upper room, they were not waiting on tables, they were waiting on God, they were not waiting for the fire from the stove, but for the fire from above. They were detained by the command of God and not entertained by the cunning of men. They were filled with the Holy Ghost, not stuffed with stew and roast.

Oh, I would like the cooking squad put out and the praying band let in, less ham and sham, and more heaven, less pie and more piety, less use for the cook book, and more for the Old Book. Put out the fire in the kitchen and build up the fire in the pulpit.

(Author unknown, Gospel Advocate, May 30, 1935)

“But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

1 John 3:17