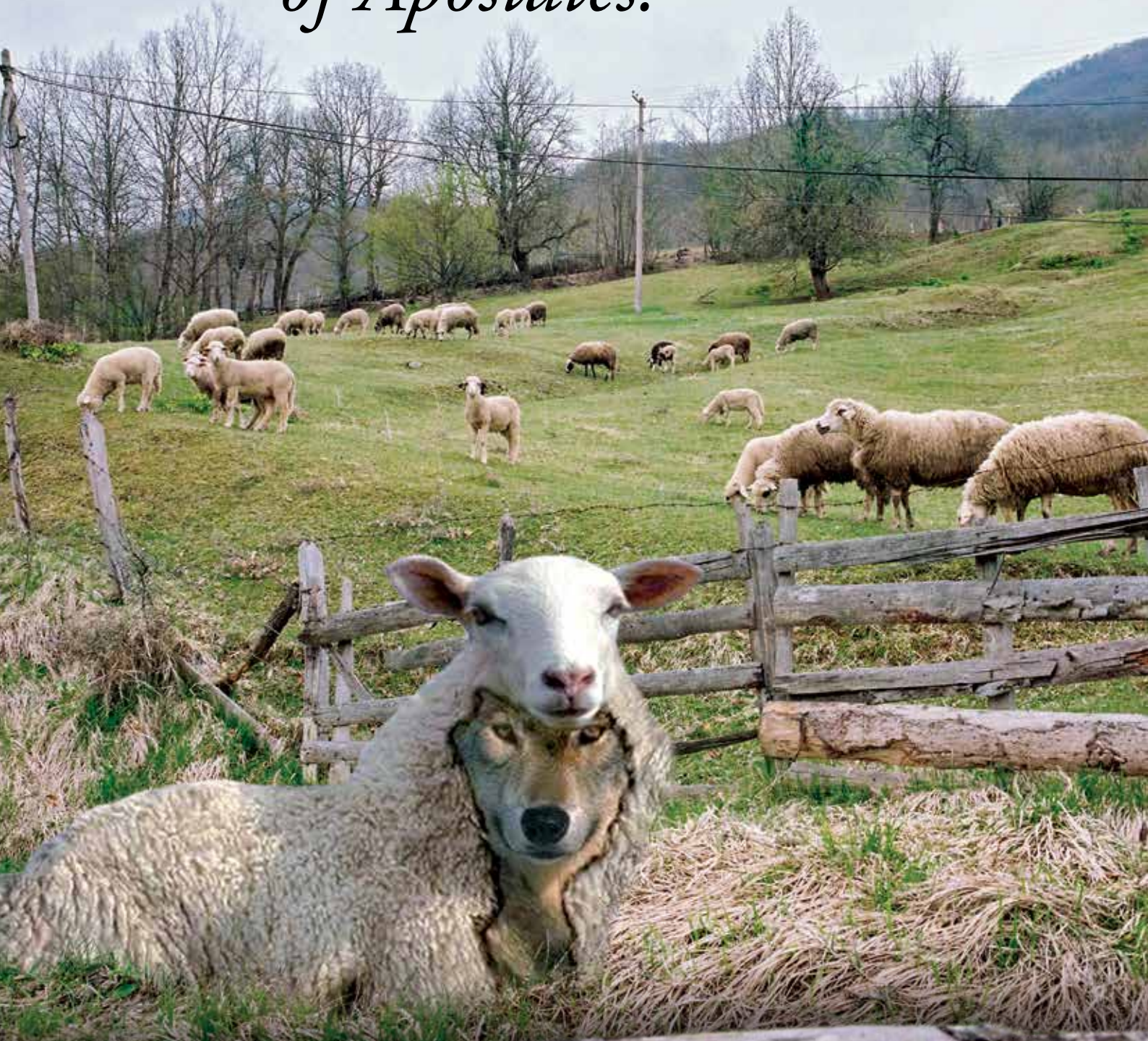


# BIBS News 2019



## BEWARE *of Apostates!*



*...who lie in wait to deceive.* Eph. 4:14



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# Welcome

As I reflect on the homegoing service of the late Bishop Martin Simmonds, the first Principal of BIBS, it dawned on me that the loss is greater than first realised; not only was he a God-given teacher to the Body of Christ, he was the last of our five pioneering fathers and the last of Bethel's greatest assets. True to his mission, Bishop Simmonds committed the Word of Truth and the doctrines of Christ to the God-anointed and God-appointed teachers of BIBS, who are able to teach others also. Read our tributes to this humble and unassuming man of God.

True to our God-given mandate, BIBS is committed to edifying and equipping the Saints, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature in Him. And with so many deceivers lying in wait to deceive the immature with trickery and cunning craftiness, the need for BIBS to contend for the faith and edify the immature with the unadulterated Word of God, is now far greater than when we were first commissioned.

Our theme for this edition, 'Beware of Apostates', is a warning to every born again believer about the emergence of false prophets and false teachers who are creeping into our assemblies unawares; walking in craftiness; handling the Word of God deceitfully; and thereby bringing in damnable heresies among us; the unlearned and immature among us being their targets.

These are the days of deception; hence deceivers and their subtle forms of deception are now pervading the Apostolic Church. Do you know and understand the history and tenets of the Apostolic Faith? They are outlined in this edition for you to mull over (see pages 8 & 9). Then make a concerted effort to come and study the Holy Scriptures at BIBS: to show yourself approved unto God and to know when the Word of Truth is being rightly divided to you: The acid test being that Jesus and His doctrine are the foundation of the Apostolic Faith; and any other teachings is heresy.

I thank our teachers and administrators for their labour of love and for upholding the ethos and spiritual values of BIBS and Bethel; our prayer team for their effective, fervent prayers over the years; the National Ecclesiastical Board, Pastors and the Saints for their prayers and support; and all our students who give BIBS purpose. Above all I thank God for being our present help in times of trouble and for being our shield and buckler through many dangers.

Come to BIBS and learn God's Word of Truth! Only God's TRUTH can liberate and empower you.

*Dean of Studies*  
*Dr. M. Taylor (Pastor)*



# What BIBS is All About

As we contemplate the next academic year, we also reflect on the commitment of our first principal, Bishop Martin Howard Simmonds, and his labour of love for the school he birthed and served faithfully with his small team of anointed teachers: who to this day remain steadfastly committed to teaching the unadulterated truth of the Holy Scriptures.

## Who BIBS Cater For!

BIBS cater for a diverse student body: irrespective of gender, ethnicity, denomination, ministry or status; who desire to know and please the God of the Bible; also to gain a deeper understanding of the Holy Scriptures.

## How Students Are Taught!

The Holy Scriptures are taught contextually: to draw out the original author's intended meaning. We use various methods to sow the Word into the hearts of our students e.g. research and group discussions.

Students are also taught how to apply it to their daily lives and wield it in spiritual battles.

## What BIBS Teach!

BIBS have three courses on offer: The one-year Foundation; two-year Certificate and the Short Courses that may be undertaken independently or as units of the Degree program.

We have set aside Saturday 14 September 2019 for you to come and choose the right course for you with one of our teachers.

## The Ingredients for Success!

All you need is a teachable spirit, a deep commitment to study the Scriptures; and a desire to experience a life change. If this sounds like you, then come taste and see for yourself.

We count it an honour and a privilege to serve you, to edify you and to empower you with God's Word. Come and Experience BIBS.

*A warm welcome awaits you!*

## Choosing the Right Course For You!

Do you find the Old Testament Scriptures difficult to understand? Do you know God's plans and Satan's schemes for all humankind? Do you know the doctrines that the Apostles taught the Saints?

*If no, The Foundation Course is for you.*

You know various Bible passages but do you understand them as the original author intended? Do you understand the Old and New Testaments and the fundamental teachings of each?

*If no, The Certificate Course is vital for you.*

Do you know how to draw out the meaning of the books of the Bible as the original author intended? Do you know the origin and history of the Oneness and Trinity doctrines? Do you know the biblical signs and program for the End Times?

*If no, The Short Courses are perfect for you*



## How to Apply?

Request a Leaflet and Application from the Secretary by:

**Email: [applications@bibsuk.org](mailto:applications@bibsuk.org)**

or

**Tel: 0300 777 8977**

or

**Text: 07958 270746**

for an appointment between  
**28 July - 1 August 2019**  
at Bethel Convention Centre (BCC)

or

**Visit: [www.bibsuk.org](http://www.bibsuk.org)**

**BIBS Registration 14 Sept 2019**  
**9:00am - 4:00pm**

Bethel Convention Centre  
(front building),  
2nd Floor, Kelvin Way,  
West Bromwich B70 7JW

**BIBS Weekend Dates**  
**2019/20**

1	28-29 Sept	2019
2	26-27 Oct	2019
3	23-24 Nov	2019
4	21-22 Dec	2019
5	25-26 Jan	2020
6	22-23 Feb	2020
7	28-29 Mar	2020
8	25-26 Apr	2020
9	30-31 May	2020
10	27-28 Jun	2020



# Bishop Martin Howard Simmonds

## *A man ahead of his time...*

Bishop Simmonds' preparation to be the Principal of BIBS, unbeknown to him, begun deep in his heart many years before his divine appointment. As a young man of God he greatly hungered for biblical knowledge and spiritual growth; and in the years that followed he was blessed to glean from some of the great apostolic fathers and to train at several academic and theological institutes. As a master of theology his knowledge of the Word grew, but as a oneness believer so too did his desire for an Apostolic Bible School in the UK; then in 1994, his dream was realised.

In the autumn of 1994, Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ gave birth to its Apostolic Bible School. Bishop M. H. Simmonds was appointed by the Board of Bishops as the Principal of the School; and alongside faithful others he established and named it: Bethel Institute of Biblical Studies (BIBS).

### Today we pay tribute...

*"I thank God for the life and ministry of our first Principal of BIBS, Bishop Martin Howard Simmonds. He was a caring, knowledgeable, unpretentious and highly favoured man of God who was endowed with unreserved passion for God and His Holy Word.*

*While many talked about having a Bethel Bible School, Bishop Simmonds was willing to roll up his sleeves and make it happen. He was not only willing but also able to start the School: having the necessary in-depth knowledge of the Bible and the essential God-given gifting to impart it to others.*

*Bishop was on a mission to train men and women for ministry and I am privileged to be one of them. He took the time to teach the BIBS teachers how to search the Scriptures and have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of it. He regularly challenged us with projects such as providing him with written reports on the history of the Septuagint; also on which Bible we would recommend to a new convert and why. His*

*standards were high; hence he was uncompromising about us rightly dividing the Word of Truth.*

*Bishop had a genuine interest in people; he spent quality time counselling and restoring the downcast; visiting the sick; and nurturing the babes in Christ. He was a great teacher, not only in word but also in example. I am personally indebted to Bishop for selecting me from among many, investing his valuable time preparing me for ministry and for the mantle of leadership. I thank God for Mother Simmonds and the immediate family for sacrificing so much family time: To enable Bishop to edify and build up the Body of Christ universally. May God's grace, peace and comfort abound to you in your hour of grief.*

*As a beneficiary of Bishop's labour of love in the Lord, the best way I can honour him is to commit the things he taught me to faithful men and women, who shall be able to teach others also. Notwithstanding, great men such as Bishop will always be difficult to replace with any one man or woman." Maranatha Bishop!*

Dr. Mavis Taylor, Dean of Studies

*"Greetings in the redemptive name of Jesus. Firstly, let me offer condolences to the Simmonds family especially Mother Simmonds. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to work with Bishop Simmonds at the Bible School from 1994 until his retirement in 2000. I found him to be a lecturer of high standards*

*in theological studies, a meek and knowledgeable person in the Scriptures. On account of that, he became like a mentor to me. Rightly, he achieved his PhD Doctorate in 2012, and not only that, he was the first Principal and Patriarch of BIBS. Due to his work in the kingdom he left a legacy for us to follow. Surely we will meet again. Rest in peace Bishop."*

Elder E. A. Laird

*"Bishop Martin Simmonds was instrumental with others in the development of Bethel Institute of Biblical Studies. His devotion to the lecturers and students was consistent and cannot be forgotten. His desire and passion was that everyone should study to show themselves approved unto God. He was a great teacher, instructor and communicator of the scriptures. Although I was a lecturer, I was also his student; gleaning from the lessons he taught.*

*He has now gone to be with the Lord and his reward awaits him in heaven. To Mother Simmonds and Overseer Nathan and all the family, I give my condolences. May he rest in peace."*

Elder Oscar McLean

During Bishop's six years of faithful service, he challenged all to search the Scriptures, to delve deeper and to think; as one of his former students and now a senior lecturer at BIBS recalls.

*"Bishop Simmonds was the first Principal of Bethel Institute of Biblical Studies, when I enrolled in September 1995. He reiterated, "If I don't teach you anything, but to think, I have achieved my goal." Bishop didn't believe in spoon feeding students and his teaching notes reflected this: he'd give a brief introduction and his notes contained key points with a long list of relevant Scriptures. We had to study them ourselves and come to a conclusion. Thank you Bishop, Rest in Peace, your legacy lives on."*

Elder Denson Lewin

*Sister Tracey Peters added, "I am 'blessed and highly favoured' to have been taught at the feet of Bishop Simmonds whilst studying at BIBS in 1995; then going on to serve as a secretary from 1996. I thank God that He allowed Bishop to be a part of my life and so many others, who in turn have gone on to keep their charge to 'rightly divide the Word of Truth.' Bishop Simmonds I miss you. Sleep on and take your rest."*

Bishop worked tirelessly, not only by growing the Word in BIBS but in securing the School's future by searching out, training and committing the educating of God's people to faithful teachers. He also sought to develop the younger generation and so invited Minister Louisa Sinclair to join the teaching staff in 1995. In paying tribute she said...

*"Bishop Simmonds saw the potential in us all; I recall when he assigned to me my first lecture on prayer, how it propelled me to search even deeper into the Word of God. I'm so thankful to God for Bishop's foresight and investment in me. Throughout*



*the years, I observed how Bishop would exegete the Scriptures with such delight and ease; he knew the Scriptures in context and clearly explained them, so that each person could grasp Biblical Truth for themselves. He had a wonderful way of guiding us through each subject by skillfully asking questions until we arrived at the answer.*

*We'll miss how Bishop lovingly provoked us unto good works and the exuberance displayed when he sang "I'm building a people of power..."*

### Bishop's PhD Award 2012

In 2012, we were honoured and privileged to confer upon our first Principal, Bishop Martin Howard Simmonds, an earned Doctorate in Theology, Religious Education, Administration, Counselling and Philosophy. The School rejoiced to see his day...

**We salute Bishop for his dedication and commitment to BIBS, for his sterling example and labour of love. He has faithfully run his course, kept the Faith and now awaits his crown of righteousness.**

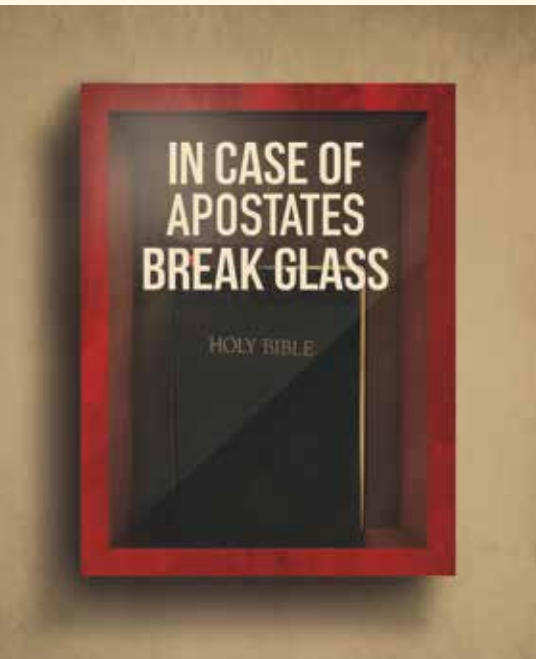
**Maranatha Bishop!  
Your BIBS family**





# The Days of Deception (*Eph. 4:14*)

During the early days of the Church, apostolic believers met with tremendous opposition: as Satan tried to destroy the Church from without by means of intense persecution. However, the more the Church was persecuted, the more it flourished. But the Word of God grew and multiplied (Acts 12.24).



Today however, satan is using strategies other than external persecution. It almost seems that during these last days, satan has said, "Alright, if I cannot destroy the Church from without, I will seek to do it from within. I will destroy the very foundations of the Church, which is the Word of God."

Believers who recognise the nature of this attack are asking the same question as King David in Psalm 11:3. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

As Jude pointed out, these men have crept in unawares. The Greek word rendered, 'crept in unawares', carries with it the idea of a thief slipping in through the backdoor. Jesus addressed the issue of apostasy, warning us to watch out for false prophets that come in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ferocious wolves (Matt. 7:15).

Satan's secret agents have infiltrated our churches, our schools and organisations; seeking to destroy their spiritual foundations by casting doubt on the authority and infallibility of the Word of God.

These apostates i.e. those who renounce the apostolic beliefs, godly principles and adulterate God's Word, use oneness terminology and orthodox vocabulary but with completely different meanings. Jude's letter has never been more relevant than in our generation and serves to warn today's Church of those things and people among us who come in sheep's clothing.

## Recognising the Apostate...

In these days of deception, it is imperative to know and understand the ways of the apostate i.e. those who have departed from the Faith: giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils (1 Tim. 4:1).

You see, apostates may have received the Light of God, however they have abandoned the Truth for a lie. Jude expressed this truth saying, these men are blemishes in your love feasts eating with you without the slightest qualm [fear]; shepherds who feed only themselves; they are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees without fruit and uprooted; twice dead (Jud.12).

The apostate therefore knows the Truth but does not apply it; he accepts God's revelation as true but does not make a sincere commitment to it, or live in

accordance with the holy life that it demands. He is a synthetic [man-made, artificial, fake] Saint; insincere and full of deceitfulness. These wolves in sheep clothing 'lie in wait to deceive' (Eph. 4:14).

### 1. The Apostate's Seduction

Jude uses the phrase 'Ungodly Men' to describe men who lack reverential awe towards God: they do not fear God. These apostates look and act like us in order to deceive us; they are able to entice us to believe a lie because they came from amongst us, yet they were not of us (1 Jn. 2:19). They talk about God and use the right words but their hearts are far from Him.

WARNING: these 'Ungodly Men' may be gifted, courteous, gentle, kind and even generous in the eyes of others but in the eyes of God they are godless.

The Apostle Paul warned Timothy about these individuals in the ministry; who appear to be godly but renounce its sanctifying influence (2 Tim. 3:5); he told Timothy to 'turn away' from those who have a 'form of godliness' but deny its power.

### 2. The Apostate's Behaviour

The apostate changes the Grace of our God into lasciviousness i.e. use it as a licence for immorality (Jud. 4). These men assert that they can sin all they like and God will forgive them. They think that the more they sin, the greater God's grace toward them will be. They have no thought of its consequence or of divine judgement.

The word lasciviousness means 'absence of moral restraint'. The Greeks used the word 'Aselgeia', to describe a person who is so lost to decency, honour and shame, that he does not care who knows about his sin. He has no feelings of guilt or remorse.

Apostates assume that their privileges in the Apostolic Faith somehow puts them above the moral responsibility of the Word of God, that binds a true believer to lifestyle of godliness and purity.

The Apostle Paul explained that the Grace of God that bringeth salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions; and to exercise self-control, be upright and live godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope: the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ (Tit. 2:11-13).

### 3. The Apostate Perverts Worship

The apostate's motive for worship is impure. They are filled with covetousness and are generally motivated by money, power, worldly gain and self-exaltation.

They introduce unholy methods e.g. when King David sought to bring the Ark home, instead of using God's prescribed method of carrying the ark, they used a new cart and incurred the displeasure of God. True worship does everything decently and in divine order.

### 4. The Apostate Perverts the Doctrine of Christ

According to the Apostle Peter, the Apostate secretly brings in damnable heresies that deny the Only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Many also follow their evil ways and because of them the Truth is rejected and evil spoken of (2 Pet. 2:1-3; Jude.4).

These false teachers have re-translated the Bible and also

misinterpret the Scriptures i.e. give the wrong meaning to satisfy their evil desires. They handle the Word of God deceitfully and thereby make merchandise of God's people (2 Cor. 4:2).

*They handle the Word of God deceitfully and thereby make merchandise of God's people. (2 Cor. 4:2)*

Sadly but true, there are preachers today that say we do not need to be filled with the Holy Ghost, it is optional: in order to appease and/or retain large congregations. However, the Apostle Paul warned that the time would come when men would not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts, shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and will turn their ears away from the Truth and turn unto fables (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

## Fight for the FAITH

The real problem that the Church faces in dealing with apostasy today, is the problem of apathy, which Webster's New World Dictionary defines as: 'lack of interest' or 'Indifference'. Churches are dying, not simply because apostates have crept in but because godly men and women have become apathetic and have done nothing to stop them.

In an apologetic sense, we must not only defend the faith by having a knowledge of the Truth but must take seriously the inescapable mandate to which the apostle Jude summoned us to, "Earnestly contend for the Faith which was once delivered unto the Saints"; the Faith being the whole body of

Biblical doctrine that comprises the perfect totality of Truth. It is the teachings of Christ which he taught his twelve disciples and they in turn delivered it unto the Saints and to us today.

As custodians of this great Apostolic Faith, we have been entrusted with the Word of the Living God. That is why we cannot stand by idly and watch the Bible being ridiculed and torn apart by liberal theologians. We must take seriously this divine call to 'earnestly contend for the Faith'.

In these 'Days of Deception', knowing and fully understanding the doctrine of Jesus Christ (see pages 8 & 9) is the only way to DISCERN apostates; and prevent us from being "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." (Eph. 4:14)

Believers in Christ, we implore you to heed this clarion call: to remain true to the Faith and to speak thou the things which are sound doctrine!





# The Apostolic Doctrine

*I heard a song the other day and it went like this, “I am a one God, Apostolic, tongue talking, holy-rollin, born again, heaven bound believer in the liberating power of Jesus’ Name. I have been washed in the blood, sanctified by the Spirit, I believe in holiness and suggest you do the same...”*

I was intrigued to know what the writer meant by a One God, Apostolic, Tongue Talking, Born Again believer and Sanctified by the Spirit! So, I decided to investigate. I turned to a young minister for clarity; whose eyes lit up immediately and with a beaming smile began to explain.

“Well! This song sums up the Apostolic Doctrine”. Taking one look at the blank expression on my face he went on to say, “the Apostolic doctrine is simply everything Jesus taught His Apostles concerning our salvation. They in turn taught it, preached it and sent it on a journey through time, until it reached us today. It is now so embedded in our hearts that we not only teach it and preach it, but we sing it rejoicing”.

**The Apostolic Doctrine (teaching) embodies:** Monotheism; Faith Towards the One God; Confession; Repentance; Water Baptism in the Name of Jesus; Justification; Spirit Baptism; Sanctification and Living a Life that pleases God. Yet to be experienced are: the Rapture including Bodily Resurrection of the dead in Christ, Glorification and Eternal Life.

**Monotheism is the Belief in One God, and His Name is Jesus;** the one through whom God revealed himself to the world and reconciled man back to Himself (2 Cor. 5:19). This Jesus is the brightness of God’s glory, the express image of His person (Heb. 1:3), in whom dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 2:9).

It’s an absolute must that you be fully persuaded of who Jesus is; and whatever you do, in word or in deed, do all in His Name. The liberating power of Jesus Name renders all titles i.e. Father, Son and Holy Ghost powerless; because salvation (deliverance from sin) is not in a title or in any other name but in the Name of Jesus.



**Faith towards God** i.e. believing in Jesus is therefore essential for being saved; and salvation comes by God’s grace through your belief in Him (Eph. 2:8). Why is it essential that you believe in Jesus? Because belief activates the power of the gospel to everyone that believeth (Rom. 1:16).

This then leads to **Confession and True Repentance:** confession being to agree with God that we are sinners in need of His salvation. So what then is True repentance? It is to be sorrowful for one’s sins and make a firm decision to turn from sin and the World unto God. We can only secure God’s forgiveness upon confession and true repentance: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us...” (1 John 1:9).

True repentance leads to **Water baptism.** Upon hearing the Gospel, the believers were pricked in their hearts and asked Peter, “What shall we do?” His reply was to repent and be baptised every one of you in the Name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:37-38).

Water Baptism, as seen throughout the scriptures, is to be fully submerged in water. Jesus said to Nicodemus, “...except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

To be **born of the Spirit** is simply to be filled with the Holy Spirit i.e. the Spirit of Christ takes up residence within you (Acts 2:4) and is evidenced by speaking in tongues. This is absolutely necessary for you to be made alive again in Christ, “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1).

Sadly but true, we all died spiritually when Adam (the father of us all) sinned but thanks be to Jesus Christ



*‘The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in AD33’ (Acts 2)  
Upper Room, Jerusalem*

*“This Jesus is the brightness of God’s glory, the express image of His person (Heb. 1:3), in whom dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 2:9).”*

who died for our sins, washed and **Justified** us (to be declared righteous) by His blood (Rev. 1:5; Rom. 5:9; Heb. 9:26). Through water baptism we bury the ‘old man and his deeds’, and are made alive again through Spirit baptism. We can only be born again i.e. become a new creation in Christ through Water and Spirit baptism.

On Spirit Baptism we are fully immersed into the body of Christ; we receive His divine nature and character; and we are adopted as sons with full rights and privileges. As sons of God, we can enter into His presence without fear; enjoy intimacy with Christ and all the benefits of being a joint heir (Rom. 8:17).

As the song says, the born again believer is also **“Sanctified by the Spirit...”** The Holy Spirit is the agent of change of our character, behaviour, thinking and our lives: until we are transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit also gives us the power to overcome sin, temptations and the desires of the flesh.

The regenerated believer therefore, does not have to let sin dominate their thoughts, attitude, behaviour or will but willing submits to the loving influence of the Spirit. “... if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Rom. 8:13).

The “heaven bound believer...” goes from glory to glory, living and enjoying a life that pleases God; as a bride adorned with holiness awaiting the return of Jesus her bridegroom.

And then at his coming i.e. **The Rapture** those who died ‘in Christ’ will be resurrected and those who are alive and remain in Him, will be caught out of the world to be with Him forevermore – **an endless life.**

**“ You see my friend, being a One God Apostolic believer, is not a tradition or a man-made religion. This Apostolic doctrine was given by Christ for the saving of our souls. I Believe that knowing and doing Christ’s teachings, is the only way to salvation and suggest that you do the same...”**



## Did you know that One God Apostolic believers existed in England from as early as AD200?

*The first British Christians were "One God Apostolics." Yes, that's right, the doctrines of the Oneness of God, Baptism in Jesus' Name and the infilling of the Holy Ghost were the UK's first experience of Christianity.*

In his book *Apostolic History Outline*, Rev Marvin Arnold traces the spread of the Apostolic Faith from the birth of the Church at Jerusalem in AD33 up to the 20th Century. After John the Apostle died c. AD100, missionaries brought the Apostolic Faith to the UK as early as AD200 (Arnold, 1988).

This includes people such as 'Alban', after whom the town of St Alban's and the famed St Alban's cathedral is named. Alban was born again in the 3rd Century (AD200-299), in his day baptism was according to Acts 2:38 – 'In the name of Jesus Christ'. The Triune formula (i.e. repeating the words: 'in the Name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost') was not introduced until many years later during the 4th Century. Dr Arnold (1988) also identifies that there was a large number of Apostolic believers in areas such as Glastonbury. A stark contrast to today where Glastonbury is known for its rock festivals and witchcraft.

Contrary to popular belief the One God Apostolic Faith is not a branch of Catholicism; it existed long before the Roman Catholic Church was established. It began at Pentecost with a few souls in the Upper Room and was preserved throughout the ages by men and women who continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine (Acts 2:42).

Tertullian (AD160-240), a key person in the development of the Trinitarian teaching, lamented the fact that the majority of Christians in the 3rd Century believed in One God who manifested Himself in three roles (Dünzl, 2007). This majority view was called 'Modalistic Monarchianism', because Christians believed in One Sovereign God (monarchy)

and that He manifested Himself as Father in Creation, Son in Redemption and Holy Spirit in the Church (i.e. Modal). The Monarchian Modalists were the successors of the Apostles, maintaining the faith once delivered to the Saints. Four Bishops of Rome have been identified by historians as being Modalistic Monarchians (i.e. One God Apostolic): Eleutherus (AD174 -189), Victor (AD189-199), Zephyrinus (AD199-217), and Callistus (AD217-222).

In AD381, Trinitarian teaching became the official belief of the state sponsored Catholic (Universal) Church; which meant that the early One God Apostolics became enemies of the State and the Catholic Church. Notable One-God teachers such as Praxeas (c. AD150-189) and Sabellius (c. AD215) were retrospectively labelled heretics; although in their day they represented the biblical view held by most Christians. All that survives today are their

opponents' descriptions of them and their teachings. However, the haughty State could not stop the True Church. Jesus said: "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt 16:18).

One of the first people to be killed in Europe for "heresy" by the Catholic Church was Pricillian, a Spanish Bishop, who taught Modalistic Monarchianism. He was executed in AD385 (Weisser, 1981); he was a virtuous man against whom many false charges were made. His blood was the first to be spilled and many believers were martyred in the years to come as the Catholic Church and her daughters (e.g. Protestant offshoots) fought to uphold their Trinitarian doctrine. For example, during the Spanish Inquisition approx. 300,000

people were killed for not bowing to the Roman Catholic Church (Guardian, 2014). Amazingly, 300 years (AD693) after Pricillian's martyrdom, believers in the Oneness of God were still earnestly contending for the Faith that was once delivered to the Saints (Weisser, 1981).

In the 11th Century, God raised up Peter Abelard. In AD1121 at the Synod of Soisson the Roman Catholic Church condemned Peter's teaching on the Godhead as Sabellianism (Weisser, 1981). He taught that in 'Christ dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily', and this teaching spread throughout Medieval Europe.

Similarly, in the 16th Century a Spaniard named *Michael Servetus saw that the Trinity doctrine was unbiblical; and that it created a great barrier to converting monotheistic Jews and Moors (black Muslims)*. He wrote a book entitled: "On the Errors of the Trinity" in AD1531. He also sought to restore Europe back to the Apostolic Faith through his book, "The Restitution of Christianity" (Weisser, 1980).

Around the same time there was a large group of Apostolic believers known as Anabaptists. Anabaptist leader Sebastian Frank wrote in 1531, "The Roman Church postulates three Persons in one essence. I should rather agree with the Spaniard [Michael Servetus]" (Weisser, 1981, p.74). The early Anabaptists baptised in Jesus' Name, believed in the Oneness of God and were filled with the Spirit (Weisser, 1981; Bernard, 1996).

The Apostolic Church has survived through every age, and despite continual opposition the fire of Pentecost will never go out. In 1646 (17th Century) a Trinitarian writer Thomas Edwards wrote a book entitled: "Errors, Heresies and Blasphemies". Edwards included One God Apostolic believers in his list of heretics, and quoted their beliefs and practice, stating that: *"The form by which men baptize, viz. 'I baptize thee in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,' is a form of man's devising ...and that the baptism of Christ by water was only in the name of Jesus Christ, not of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost as is now practised."*

William Booth-Chibborn (1893-1969) the grandson of William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, received the baptism of the Holy Ghost aged 15 in 1908. He was later baptised in Jesus Name

and became a One God preacher in the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World. Around this time there was a great restoration of the Apostolic Faith which has led to around 30 million Apostolic believers worldwide today (French, 2014).



1906 revival breaks out at 312 Azusa Street. "Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center"

Just like the writer to the Hebrews, time would not permit me to tell you of all the faithful One God Apostolic believers, who hazarded their lives throughout history to preserve this Faith. Those such as: Alvin Velie (1884-1904) who baptised over 1,500 people in Jesus name and wrote 'Safety First - Acts 2:38' before the Azusa Street Revival of 1906; Bishop G.T. Haywood who in the 1930s led a global movement 250,000 members strong within 2,000 churches, three of which were in Palestine, four in Liberia and 10 in Jamaica; and Sydney Alexander Dunn whom with very little resources the Lord used to plant over 42 Apostolic Churches in the UK and worldwide from 1955-2016.

Apostolic believers, we have a goodly heritage! One that cannot be bought or sold; it is the Apostolic Faith! the faith of our fathers that is LIVING STILL in spite of dungeon, fire and sword.

Therefore, our only right and proper response to being entrusted with this like precious Faith, which has been handed down from Christ's Apostles to us today, (2 Pet. 1:1), is to remain TRUE to it unto death.



Sources: Arnold M (1988), *Apostolic History Outline: Acts 2:38 Doctrine Through The Ages*, Arno Publications. Weisser T (1981), *After The Way Called Heresy*, Thomas Weisser. Bernard D K (1995), *A History of Christian Doctrine Volume 1*, Word Aflame Press. French T L (2014), *Early Interracial Oneness Pentecostalism*, Pickwick Publications. Nelson J (2005), *Historical Outline of Apostolic Movement In North America*, International Apostolic Ministries Press. Chalfant W B (1986), *Ancient Champions of Oneness*, Word Aflame Press.

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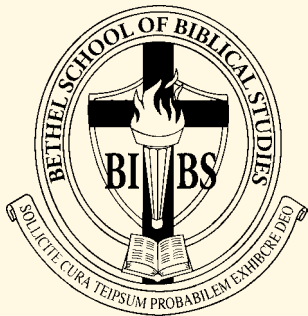
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