

God Has Spoken  
Tract Series

# *Seven Truths the Wise Acknowledge*

*Psalm 97:1 The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. 3 A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. 4 His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. 5 The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.*

The psalmist wrote of God that “all people see his glory.” Do they? Is it possible that evidence of God is visible to everyone? The fact is, much more than this is clear to the observant person. Here are seven truths that wise people recognize and admit.

## **There is a God in Heaven**

So said Daniel to the Babylonian king (Daniel 2:28). So also declare the heavens above us (Psalm 19:1-6). The order and predictability in the sun, moon, stars, and planets – yea, even their very existence – “utter speech” and “declare knowledge.” Culture and language are no barriers to this declaration, so that “they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20) who fail to acknowledge the pre-existing, all-powerful Creator. Order is not created by accident, nor is it self creating. The almanac tells when the moon will be it at various stages. The clock measures the time of the earth’s rotation. We can predict the rise and fall of the surf, the time and location of solar and lunar eclipses – even the eruptions of “Old Faithful.” That level of

*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds*  
(Hebrews 1:1-2).

consistent predictability doesn't "just happen." There is a wise and powerful mind predating it and responsible for it. Wise people acknowledge the logical conclusion of their observations.

### **Jesus is the Son of God**

The prophet Isaiah wrote 700 years before Jesus was born that "unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called ... the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Of that son he wrote (7:14), "a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (meaning "God with us" – Matthew 1:23)." That virgin, Mary, was with child by a miracle from God. Thus an angel told Mary, "that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). God twice spoke from Heaven declaring of Jesus in the presence of witnesses, "This is my beloved Son" (Matthew 3:14; 17:5). The miracles that Jesus worked gave indisputable proof of His deity (John 3:2; 20:30-31). Some accused Jesus of blasphemy when He said, "I am the Son of God," but Jesus answered boldly with logic. He said, "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not, but if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in Him" (John 10:36-38). Wise people acknowledge the abundant powerful evidence.

### **The Bible is God's True and Only Word**

We have considered evidence in the physical universe and in the written word. The universe is obvious, but can we believe what is written in the Bible? As the universe speaks for itself (Psalm 19:1), so does the Bible. The Old Testament was produced as "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21). The prophets declared over 1,360 times that they were writing words that God or His angel had told them to write. Paul wrote that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God" (II Timothy 3:16), and that he himself was writing only words which the Holy Spirit gave him to write (I Corinthians 2:11-13). The testimony of any witness stands as truth unless it is discredited by reliable evidence to the contrary. The Bible consistently speaks the truth on matters of geography, geology, meteorology, astronomy, history, paleontology, and others. Wise people acknowledge that it is reasonable to believe the whole Bible, and unreasonable to reject it.

### **Heaven is a Real Place**

We have established beyond a reasonable doubt that what is written in the Bible is true. It's references to Heaven are the words of first-hand eye

witnesses. God in fact exists and is the Author of the Bible. Being perfect in every regard, He cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). When He tells us that Heaven is real, and when He describes it to us, we are bound to believe the evidence if we are honestly objective.

Jesus said that He came from Heaven (John 3:13; 6:33-51). He allowed Stephen to see Him standing there (Acts 7:55-56). He showed John the beauty of the place and told him to write the description of it (Revelation 21:10 through 22:5). Jesus promised that in Heaven an eternal place of perfect peace and blessing is prepared for those who obey His word and live for Him on earth (John 14:1-3; Matthew 25:31-46). There is in the heart of every soul a longing for a place of peace and joy. People resisting the knowledge of God discipline themselves to resist the idea as fantasy. Wise people know that the evidence is too clear to resist.

### **Hell is a Real Place**

Many – even among religious people – acknowledge and long for Heaven, but deny that there is such a place as Hell. It is irrational to do so, for the very passages that affirm Heaven affirm also Hell. Jesus described the judgment day as Matthew recorded in chapter 25 of his gospel account. Those who will have been faithful to Jesus will “inherit the kingdom prepared” for them (verse 34). Those who will not have been faithful to Him will “depart ... into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (verse 41). Even in the single sentence that concludes His description Jesus assured us that both Heaven and Hell exist, and both are “everlasting” and “eternal” (verse 46). After describing the appearance of Heaven, the Son of God, in His revelation to John, said of Hell, “the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8). It is shameful treatment of the text to accept Heaven as real and deny the existence and agony of Hell. Wise people are not ashamed to acknowledge the existence of both.

### **A Judgment Day is Coming**

It is logical that, if a command or instruction is given, there must be criteria for judging compliance. It should be obvious to all thinking people that a God who would command would be a God who would judge. As the writer to the Hebrew Christians observed, “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). It is Jesus’ description of this judgment that Matthew records in chapter 25 of his gospel account.

Jesus should know. It is He Whom God has appointed to be the Judge on that day (verses 31 and 32). Paul, by inspiration, preached plainly that God “hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31). Just as surely as Jesus rose from death there is a judgment day coming. If we admit the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb we are tacitly acknowledging the coming judgment day. Wise people can do no other.

### **The Church of Christ is His Only Body of Saved Souls**

Generations of believers have argued the relative merits (and deficiencies) of the various churches. All churches have their committed adherents. Most preach at least some doctrine of which the Lord might approve. But arguing churches, or preaching the church, was not the practice of the apostles of Jesus. They focused on the preaching of Jesus Christ, and Him crucified (I Corinthians 2:1-2). Of course their preaching included more than the facts of the deity of Jesus and his death, but everything they preached was an element of that theme. To preach Jesus is to preach everything that He taught (John 14:16; 16:13-15). Jesus promised, “I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). One does not preach Martin Luther and bring souls into the Methodist Church. The preaching of John Wesley does not result in the building of Baptist Churches. When the gospel was preached by the apostles of Jesus “the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47). If Jesus built His church, to which church would the Lord likely add souls as they were saved. One does not open a bank account for the saving of his money, and then put his accumulated money into the account of another person.

I was reared in the Methodist Church. Through the years I moved from city to city. I transferred my membership as I moved, but in every city I could say that I was a member of the Methodist Church. The apostle Paul traveled through many cities. Late in his travels he wrote a letter to the church in Rome. In that letter he wrote, “the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16). It is illogical to say as some do that Paul referred to something akin to a Methodist Church of Christ, a Baptist Church of Christ, or a Catholic Church of Christ. Jesus did not build churches – He built His church. In each city in which it met it was the church of Christ, following in every city the teaching of Jesus regarding its organization, worship, work, and membership. Just as in all churches built later by other people, the Lord has put in a book the details of all things pertaining to the church. That book is the New Testament. In the preaching and writing of

the apostles whom He sent out are “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (II Peter 1:3).

Men urge joining a church to find peace and hope. One does not “join” the church that Jesus built. “(T)he Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47). The preaching of Jesus and His apostles is that men should believe in Jesus for the saving of the soul (John 8:24; Acts 2:38; Hebrews 10:39). Upon believing and obeying that gospel (Romans 1:16; 10:16) they are added to the one church that Jesus built, heads (Ephesians 1:22), and will save in Heaven (Ephesians 5:23).

Proverbs 15:24 - *The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.*

Proverbs 23:19 - *Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.*

### The Way to be Saved

1. **Believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:37; 17:3);
2. **Repent** from sin (Luke 13:3; 24:47; Acts 2:38);
3. **Confess** that belief in Jesus as the Christ (Matthew 10:32; Acts 8:36;38; Romans 10:9-10; I Timothy 6:12).
4. **Be baptized** in the name of Jesus for forgiveness of your sins (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 4:7, 12; Romans 6:3-7; Galatians 3:27).

### And to Stay Saved

5. **Walk in the light** of His word all the days of your life (I John 1:7; Psalm 119:105; II Peter 3:11-12).



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