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Adding and Dividing

By Mark J. Ward

Did you know that the Bible speaks of **adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing**? The concepts are not so much being applied to *mathematics*, as a part of one's secular education, but rather are applied to spiritual matters that will affect our soul's eternal destiny! **In this article, let's look at a few passages of scripture that deal with "adding" and "dividing"**. Lord willing, in a future article we will look at "subtracting" and "multiplying".

ADDING

1. The saved are added to the Lord's church. In Acts 2:47, the Bible teaches, *"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."* Those who truly obey the gospel of Christ become children of God and are added by God to the church, the body of the saved. Paul taught in Ephesians 1:22, 23, *"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."* We have no authority to teach or believe that those who are not baptized into Christ today (Gal. 3:26,27) are added to the Lord's church. In fact, we would be in error to teach such.

2. Seeking first the kingdom of God results in necessities of life being added to our lives. In Matthew 6:25-33, Jesus taught, *"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* This is not a promise of wealth; this is a promise of food, drink and clothing. If we are destitute, God has a plan that will take care of our physical needs. The church can help needy saints and individual Christians can assist needy saints or non-saints (See Acts 6:1-6; Acts 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-26; I Cor. 16:1-2; I Tim. 5:16; James 1:27; Gal. 6:10).

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Times of Services

Sundays - 2:00 pm Bible class, 3:00 pm Assembly Wednesdays - 6:30 pm Bible class

(Adding & Dividing con't)

3. Christians are to add godly characteristics to their faith. 2 Peter 1:5-11 teaches us, *"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."*

DIVIDING

1. God does not want His people divided in religious matters. Paul, in writing to the church of God at Corinth teaches us God's will concerning division, *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."* (I Cor. 1:10). Paul also asked the question, *"Is Christ divided?"* in verse 13 of that same chapter. Jesus prayed that His disciples would be united, not divided in John 17!

2. There were (and are) divisions (today) because of Jesus, the Christ. Consider John 7:43. *"So there was a division among the people because of him."* Jesus' teaching divides good people from bad people, even members of the same family are divided because some choose to follow Christ and others reject His invitation! This is not God's fault by any means, but Christ taught that this would happen in Luke 12:51-53, *"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."* I see families today experiencing this division and its tragic! Families that worship God together enjoy wonderful peace and joy; those that are divided over following Christ are often torn with friction and sadness.

3. What God hath joined in marriage, He does not want divided. God's Word is clear concerning marriage being for life (See Romans 7:1-3). God allows man and woman to unite in scriptural marriage and *"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."* (Matthew 19:6). Divorce "for every cause" is not approved of God! Jesus taught, *"Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."* (Matthew 19:9). Paul wrote, in I Corinthians 9:10, *"...Let not the wife depart from the husband."* People who are considering marriage should realize that God expects marriages to last, and not divide in divorce. -mjlw

Romans 16:16 "...the churches of Christ salute you.

Editor's Note: If you would like a Home Bible Study in the privacy of your home, or would like to study further over the phone, or by computer (email), please feel free to contact us: Mark J. Ward, 445 Touchstone Parkway, Brunswick, Georgia 31525, (912) 265-6936 - markjward@yahoo.com

Visit our website at: <http://www.religiousinstructor.com/church>
