



NEIGHBOURHOOD BIBLE STUDIES



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No. 2 - REFORMED OR RE-BORN?

- “Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.” (Matt. 9:17)

#1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REFORM?

- To turn over a new leaf.
- To begin again (to make a new start).
- Make New Year’s Resolutions.
- Tapper Off (Change Gradually).
- Change your ways for the better by your own efforts.

#2 - HOW IS HUMAN REFORMATION EXECUTED?

- Mind over matter doctrine.
- Christian Science).
- Positive thinking.
- Hypnotism.
- Easing the conscience by humanitarian efforts
- (e.g. giving to the poor, the United Way, Salvation Army etc.)
- Joining a Church
- Joining a community club.

- Trying to pull oneself into heaven by one's own bootstraps and human efforts.

#3 - WHAT IS HUMANISM?

- Anti-Christ, Anti-Bible-Religion which defiles and glorifies humankind and its accomplishments and excludes the God of the Bible.
- It is not humanitarianism. Humanitarianism does good work to help people but humanists have rejected the Word of the God, the Spirit of God and have an ideology and philosophy based upon PRIDE, SELF ESTEEM, AND IDOLATRY. A Humanist worships man and his accomplishments, and falls into the same category as Lucifer, the renegade angel, who led a rebellion in heaven millennia ago. "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:" (Isa. 14:13) their doctrine teaches that man has an inherent goodness but the Bible tells us that man is born in sin. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Ps. 51:5)

They also teach the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. The Bible says however, "... there is none good but one, that is God..."

#4 - MODERNISM & CULTS ARE IN ERROR – (Tower of Babel)

"... Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we become scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." (Gen. 11:4) **J.W.'s** building a tower to heaven by their own good works. **Watchtower slaves** go door to door. Then there's the **R.C.'s pilgrimages**, penance and **good works**. **The Mormons** doing good, keeping the ceremonies of the Church, baptizing for the dead, staying active glorifying self works. Seventh-day Adventists – keeping the law. Salvation in Saturday keeping.

#5 - THE FUTILITY OF HUMAN REFORMATION

- If it is successful, there is still no contact with God; no joy of the Holy Spirit; no forgiveness of sins and removal of guilt; no divine healing; and no eternal life. (e.g. Alcoholic Anonymous – always an alcoholic)

Alcoholics who are saved become new creations in Christ, old things are passed away, all things become new. (2 Cor. 5:17)

All those who accept Christ are passed from death unto life. (John 5:24)

If an alcoholic quits drinking he may start living different but still has no salvation since only God provides salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

- **In most cases, Human Reformation is not successful even on a temporary basis.** (e.g. A recent medical survey declared that the cure rate at Drug Abuse and Rehab centers for drug addicts had less than a 2% cure rate even though they had the **best of facilities and spend millions of dollars on the programs.** Yet with only a bit of monetary support Teen Challenge and other church-related drug programs get a 78% cure rate. This is also true in many cases with alcoholics.
- **A.A. members** often fall off the wagon.
- Those who make **New Year's resolutions** often break them only a few hours or days later.
- Jesus said, You can't put new wine into old bottles lest the bottles break and the wine is lost. He also said there's no value putting a new patch of cloths on an old garment lest there is a rend and you have wasted your effort as well as the new cloth. **PLAINLY YOU CANNOT PATCH UP THE OLD LIFE! GOD DOESN'T DO A PATCH JOB, HE MAKES A NEW PIECE OF CLOTH, A NEW GARMENT AND PUTS NEW WINE IN NEW BOTTLES.**

#6 - **NOT REFORMED BUT RE-BORN! –**

- (a) A New Birth – **John 3:7**- “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”
- (b) Regeneration – **Titus 3:5**- “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
- (c) Conversion – **Acts 3:19** – “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”

(d) Salvation – **Acts 16: 30-31** – “... Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

Acts 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Mark 16: 15-16 – “... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth not shall be damned.” Amen.