

What the Apostles Preached *by Bishop R.L. (Bob) Sharp*

Many of today's Christian organizations tout their heritage and ancestry. The Lutherans point to the great reformer Martin Luther, the Methodists to the Wesley brothers, the Mormons to Joseph Smith, and the Catholics to their string of popes, even claiming the apostle Peter as their first pope (however, I think Peter would have something to say about that).

But if we read the words of Jesus at the well of Samaria, we find that there is a true way to serve God.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Not only is there a true way to serve God we are told that we must worship Him in this manner. It is for us then to find, from God's Word what this spirit and truth is all about.

We need to go back to the word of Jesus himself and the teachings of those who were taught directly by Him. All Christian religions agree that the Church began on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. So let us look at what the scripture says about that day.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

We find that at the close of the first sermon preached by the Apostle Peter, in the first church service that three thousand souls were stirred by the message and wanted salvation. They were immediately baptized and began to fellowship together, praying, eating, and continuing steadfastly in the "Apostles Doctrine".

Here we see that there was a doctrine taught by the very first Christians, (they were not even called Christians yet), and the Church Family continued, unwaveringly, in this doctrine. What we need to do is find out what this doctrine is and adapt to our relationship with Christ.

We get a hint of what this Apostolic Doctrine is from the Letter to the Ephesians. Here we see the foundation of the New Testament Church's faith is based on the teachings of the Prophets (Old Testament), the Apostles (New Testament) and primarily the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Since all the Apostles and Prophets were of the Jewish faith, now let us go back and look at the foundation of their faith.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

What the Apostles Preached by Bishop R.L. (Bob) Sharp

We see that the basis of the Jewish faith was monotheistic. That there was only one God that he was the creator of all that is and that we are to serve him in our entirety. There are many other teachings and laws, but the true basis of the Jewish belief is capsulated in these scriptures.

Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

44:8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? Ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any.

In the above scripture, we see the confirmation of this belief in one God, for God himself declares that there is no God beside him. This same statement is made in Deuteronomy 4:35, 1Samuel 2:2, 1Chronicles 17:20 and Isaiah 45:5. In fact, in Isaiah 43:10, the Lord declares that there were no gods before him and there shall be none after him.

Isaiah 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Therefore, we must conclude that throughout the span of eternity this has only been and only will be the one true God.

Interestingly we see in Isaiah 45:21 and Hosea 13:4 the God also declares himself the only savior of mankind.

Isaiah 45:21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me.

22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Hosea 13:4 Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no savior beside me.

Next let us take a look at what Jesus taught, but before we do Isaiah 40:3 tells us that there would be a forerunner of Jesus that would pave the way. His name was John the Baptist; let us take a look at what he preached first. **Matthew 3:1-11** tells us that John came preaching true repentance, the impending establishment of God's kingdom on earth and that he would baptize this new church with the Holy Ghost and fire (power).

Mark 1:4 declares that he also preached baptism for the remission of sin. (Webster states that one of the definitions of remission is to be completely released from guilt or debt. <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/remit>)

Matthew 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

What the Apostles Preached *by Bishop R.L. (Bob) Sharp*

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Mark 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Now let's look at what Jesus taught, first of all he taught one God, to love him and be totally committed to him and to treat your fellow man with the same love (Mark 12:29-31). He taught repentance and the eminent establishment of his kingdom on earth (Matthew 4:17), remission of sins (Luke 24:47) and the infilling of the Holy Ghost and power from on high (John 7:37-39).

Mark 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Luke 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Next Jesus needed to appoint a leader of this new kingdom (church) that was about to be established. We find that he placed the Apostle Peter as this leader in Matthew 16:18-19 and gave him the authority to establish his word in the earth.

What the Apostles Preached *by Bishop R.L. (Bob) Sharp*

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

As we mentioned earlier, the first sermon preached at the inauguration of the Christian Faith was on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. The Holy Ghost fell, just as prophesized, upon all that were assembled in the upper room. As they spilled out into the streets of the city, under the power of this new experience, many thought them to be drunken with wine. Peter, who had the keys and was Jesus' spokesman, stood up and preached. He first declared that what they were seeing and hearing, the strange tongues, the seeming drunkenness the anointing that was on all the upper room participants, was the fulfillment of Joel's prophesy and the beginning of a new experience that God was pouring out.

He then declared that Jesus, whom they had cruelly put to death, had been made both Lord and Christ. At this point, the presence of the Holy Ghost smote the hearts of those that were listening and they beseech Peter to let them know what they must do to find forgiveness for their wrongdoings and become a part of this great outpouring that they are witnessing.

Peter then declares the first commandment of the newly established Christian Church. This commandment was simple, Repent, be baptized in the Name of Jesus, Receive the Holy Ghost as a gift from God. He then declared it was for all of them, even the entirety of mankind.

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

What the Apostles Preached by Bishop R.L. (Bob) Sharp

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

But this statement on baptism, by Peter, the spokesman of the newly founded church, introduced an interesting paradigm. Be baptized in the name of Jesus? Hadn't he been there when Jesus spoke in Matthew 28:19 and declared to be baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost? Yes, he was there, as were all the apostles. In fact, they totally understood what he meant when he said **The Name**. Remember, Jesus proclaimed that what Peter preached would be bound in heaven, thus the message Peter preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost was actually God speaking through Peter declaring his doctrine for his newly established kingdom in the earth.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

So let us take a close look at this scripture. First, you will notice that there is only one name mentioned for the three references, we will discuss this at the end of this study. Then you see a reference to the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, then a commandment from Jesus to teach his commandments, including this one, to the ends of the world. Now to analyze this further let us look at who and what the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are.

The Father - First, because he is the first, and the last, and everything in-between, let us examine: Who and What the Father is in relation to mankind, his existence and his eternity.

He is a spirit, does not have a human body, and cannot be seen by man:

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

1Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

What the Apostles Preached by Bishop R.L. (Bob) Sharp

He is the creator of all that is:

Isaiah 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

Malachi 2:10 Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?

He is our only savior:

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior.

Isaiah 45:21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? Who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? And there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me.

22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

He is Lord of all:

Deuteronomy 4:39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Acts 4:24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

From these, and countless other scriptures, we can conclude that The Lord is our only creator and our savior. That he exists in a spiritual form and that no man has ever seen him, nor can they.

The Holy Ghost – Now let us take a look the nature and character of the Holy Ghost:

The author of prophetic and scriptural reference:

2 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The Father of Jesus:

Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

What the Apostles Preached by Bishop R.L. (Bob) Sharp

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

The spirit of the Father, the Lord our God:

Joel 2:27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Matthew 10:19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

The spirit of Jesus:

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

From these and other scriptures, we can conclude that the Holy Ghost exists first of all in a spiritual form and therefore has no bodily form. Secondly that the Holy Ghost is the spirit of the Father inter-relating with mankind as in the birth of Jesus. Thirdly that the spirit of Jesus is the self same as the Holy Ghost and when we receive the Holy Ghost we receive the spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Jesus which is the only true spirit of the eternal God of creation.

What the Apostles Preached by Bishop R.L. (Bob) Sharp

The Son of God – Who is this man called Jesus?

He was the fleshly manifestation of God:

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

He was the savior that became the sacrifice to redeem us from sin that we could be presented holy unto God:

Jude 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

He was the creator of all that exist:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

He was the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost in the flesh:

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

2 Corinthians 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

John 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

What the Apostles Preached by Bishop R.L. (Bob) Sharp

26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

He is the one true God revealed in the flesh to mankind.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

With this enlightenment, we now have understanding of the true deity of Jesus Christ. He was man, but he was God. As man, he hungered, he was tired, and he ate, slept, and felt pain. As a man, he died on Calvary. As God in the flesh, he healed the sick, performed countless miracles, feed thousands with little, cast out demons, he raised the dead, and defeated death hell and the grave.

As man he cried out to his spiritual nature that he was in pain, he prayed even as we who are flesh pray to the spirit that is within us. But, as God he now sets in the seat of all power sending his presence to dwell in us to seal us until his soon return.

The Name of God:

So now, with an understanding that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are manifestations of the one true God, let us return to Matthew 28:19 and discuss **The Name**.

The name of the Father:

Exodus 6:2 And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:

3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

Psalms 83:18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

In the Hebrew Jehovah is YHWH, pronounced Yahweh, and literally means the all-existent or eternal one. As you can see this is the self-proclaimed name of the Father.

Now Jesus declared that he came in his father's name, just as any son would carry on the family name.

John 5:43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

Jesus did not receive his name in the tradition of the day, but instead his name was declared by God himself through the angel that came to Joseph who would be the husband of Mary:

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

What the Apostles Preached by Bishop R.L. (Bob) Sharp

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

In the Greek language, Jesus is Jehoshua, which literally means, Jehovah has become 'Our Savior'. So you can see that the name Jesus is inclusive of the name Jehovah also declaring him to be our savior.

Now the Holy Ghost has never been addressed with a formal name in the scripture because it was understood that this was the spirit of Jehovah and Jehoshua and needed no further name.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Now we can understand how clearly Peter and the disciples understood the words of Jesus when he commanded them to baptize in The Name. This is the only name that brings salvation:

Acts 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

For it is this name that will cause every knee to bow and every tongue to confess:

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Apostles Doctrine:

With all the above scriptures in mind it would behoove us today to strive to live our Christ like lives in the manor the Apostles did in the beginning.

May the Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you and lead you to all truth.

Bishop R. L. (Bob) Sharp PhD