

## The Undeiled

by Barry O'Dell

**T**he longest chapter in the Bible begins by saying, “Blessed are *the undeiled* in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord” (Ps. 119:1). The Hebrew word (*pronounced tamim*) here translated *undeiled* in the King James Version is found in fourteen Old Testament books for a total of ninety-one times! On page 1,232 of the book *The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament* the following definition is given: “An adjective meaning blameless, complete. In over half of its occurrences, it describes an animal to be sacrificed to the Lord, whether a ram, a bull, or a lamb (Ex. 29:1; Lev. 4:3; 14:10)...When used in a moral sense, the word is linked with truth, virtue, uprightness, and righteousness (Jos. 24:14; Ps. 18:23-24; Pro. 2:21; 11:5).” An examination of various texts will help us understand this term and should also encourage the Christian today to be *undeiled* before God.

The first time the word is used is in Genesis 6:9: “These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and *perfect* in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” The second time it is used is in Genesis 17:1. God said to Abram, “I Am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou *perfect*.” Every time the term is used from Exodus through Numbers it is used in reference to animal sacrifice that was required by God. In Deuteronomy 18:13 Israel was commanded, “Thou shalt be *perfect* with the Lord thy God.” In Joshua 24:14 the term is used when commanding Israel to serve God “in *sincerity* and in truth.”

**“Who are the undeiled and can the Christian today be considered perfect, sincere, and upright before God?”**

David wrote of his behavior before God, “I was also *upright* before Him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity” (2 Sam. 22:24; Ps. 18:23). David also said of God, “His way is *perfect*” (2 Sam. 22:31). Psalm 84:11 reads, “For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk *uprightly*.” The verses listed here are obviously not a

complete listing of all ninety-one occurrences, but did you pick up a pattern when the term is used in reference to mankind? Who are the *undeiled* and can the Christian today be considered *perfect, sincere, and upright*?

A careful observation of each of the above passages will show that being identified as *undeiled* by God is in direct connection with one’s conduct and obedience to God’s word. Noah found grace with God because he was *perfect* and walked with God (Gen. 6:8-9). Abram was commanded to walk before God and be *perfect* (Gen. 17:1). David used the same word in terms of his conduct before God. Are there thoughts to be found in the New Testament that inform the Christian about this behavior? Consider the following passages and let’s be encouraged to be *undeiled, perfect, sincere, and upright* before God!

- The churches of Judea, Galilee, and Samaria were *walking* in the fear of the Lord (Acts 9:31).
- The child of God is to *walk* in newness of life after having been baptized (Rom. 6:3-4).
- Christians are to *walk* after the Spirit (Rom. 8:1, 4).
- Paul told the Roman Christians to *walk* honestly (Rom. 13:13).

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- Christians are to **walk** by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).
- Paul told the Galatians to **walk** in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 25).
- We are to **walk** in good works and love (Eph. 2:10; 5:2).
- We are to **walk** worthy of the Lord and in wisdom (Col. 1:10; 4:5).
- Finally, we are to **walk** in the light (1 Jn. 1:7) and “even as He walked” (1 Jn. 2:6).

What is the lesson? It is not impossible to please God! It is not impossible to live faithfully as a Christian! We today can be like Noah, Abram, and David. We can be considered **undefiled**, **perfect**, and **upright** before God. In fact, we are commanded to be. At the end of the sermon on the mount Jesus told His hearers, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matt. 5:48). This is not a commandment that we be sinless, but that we be upright in terms of our relationship with our fellow-man as God has been with us (Matt. 5:43-47). A reading of the parallel text found in Luke 6:35-36 helps us understand this point.

Too many people believe that it is not possible to be pleasing to God. Too many Christians live with an attitude of hopelessness because of the reality of sin. Sin is real! Sin that is not removed by the blood of Christ, either in baptism for the non-Christian or repentance for an unfaithful Christian, will result in eternal punishment (Rom. 6:23). Yet, here is the good news - eternal life is in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Jn. 5:11) and if we “**walk** in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 Jn. 1:7). “*Blessed are the **undefiled** in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord*” (Ps. 119:1).

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### **Just A Christian**

Paul Mays - Roanoke, VA

I want to be **JUST** a Christian. How about you? When Jesus built the one church that He promised to build in Matthew 16:18 there simply were no denominations. There were no “hyphenated Christians.” Friends, I am a Christian with no prefix, suffix, or substitutions. And just like that, you too can be a Christian. I submit that anything else, any man-made divisive name strips the glory from where it belongs. All glory belongs to Jesus Christ the, Son of the living God. We who have obeyed the Gospel are Christians. We are not Calvinist-Christians, Baptist-Christians, Catholic-Christians, Lutherans, Weslyans etc. We are Christians. There is after all no other name given among men whereby we MUST be saved! “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12). This concept is addressed many times in scripture. Please consider Paul’s words: “*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...Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul*” (1 Cor. 1:10, 12-13)? This is such strong language! This is what I like to call “ungetoverable”.

A modern day application would read something like this - “*Now I am urging you Christians, by the authority of Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing. I don’t want you to be divided into different denominations. I want you all to be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*” Some are teaching that we should follow John Calvin, Martin Luther, the pope, or Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Calvin crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of the pope? Friends, I submit that if you are part of a denomination, if you wear a man-made name, that you are not a Christian at all. That is to say you are not following Christ. This is because denominations are entirely contrary to the authority of Jesus Christ. They are, in fact, anti-Christ. Consider the Lord’s prayer as evidence. “*Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me*” (Jn. 17:20-23).

What we can learn from this earnest prayer from our Lord is that it takes our **...continued on next page...**

unity to declare to the world that God loves us and that God sent Jesus. Sadly, the world sees tens of thousands of denominations. They see that most religious people are “of” fallible men. The world sees division and confusion and because of this they do not know that God loves them or even that God sent Jesus. This religious confusion, division, and denominationalism needs to be corrected! How do we get there? How do we solve this spiritual problem? How do we become **JUST** Christians? Authority. We must recognize that the Word of God is the sole authority. It is God’s authority. It is His complete will for our lives revealed to us in a reliable and understandable way.

Paul wrote, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for*

*reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We don’t need any man-made creeds, manuals, confessions of faith, committees, or councils. All of those are sourced from man who has absolutely no authority. Jesus however has **ALL** authority in heaven and in earth” (Matt. 28:18). It is the words of Jesus that will judge us. “*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day*” (Jn. 12:48). Once we establish that authority, we will continue to turn to the completely sufficient word to answer every spiritual question (2 Tim. 3:16-17). I’ve written a hymn on this very subject. Please consider

**“I want to be **JUST** a Christian.  
How about you?”**

these lyrics:

#### **Verse 1**

*There is something in a name that denotes who we belong to. There’s a reverence to be shown and a glory that will shine through. We declare our Maker’s praise, we declare who we belong to. We proclaim the Lord to all, giving honor is what we do.*

#### **Chorus**

*Oh the church that He built (Church that Jesus built)*

*Will wear His name (Proudly wear his name)*

*Yes the church that He built (Church that Jesus built)*

*Remains the same (She’ll remain the same)*

*There is only one bride (Jesus has one bride)*

*For which He died (For his bride he died)*

*In the doctrine of Christ (One doctrine of Christ)*

*She will abide (His bride will abide)*

#### **Verse 2**

*There could never be a man who could do what Jesus did do. So we will not wear their name, to divide would bring our Lord shame. So declare the king of kings, show the world we’re on a mission. We are hoping that you’ll be under Jesus only Christians.*

#### **Chorus repeats**

Friends, I want to be **JUST** a Christian. How about you?

*Paul is a member of the Westside church of Christ in Salem, VA. Check out his work on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/originalhymns](http://www.facebook.com/originalhymns) or on YouTube [www.youtube.com/user/neanderpaul](http://www.youtube.com/user/neanderpaul)*

### **Please Consider**

The Church of Christ at Mammoth Spring is currently sending our approximately 9,300 copies of FCGN on a bi-monthly basis. We reach 12 foreign countries and 49 of our 50 states. There are also around 150 who receive FCGN via email. As you know, this work is supported financially by both individuals and congregations around the United States. The congregation here greatly appreciates that support and this work could not be done without the many good people who contribute regularly. **Thank You!** We do not take you for granted.

However, FCGN is facing a deficit each time it goes to the printer and the Post Office. For example, the Nov/Dec 2018 printing and mailing costs were \$400.00 over the contributions. The Jan/Feb 2019 printing and mailing costs were \$1,800.00 over the contributions received. The Mar/Apr 2019 printing and mailing costs were \$4,000.00 over the contributions. One reason for such a high number for March and April was due to the computer software that must be purchased once a year to keep our labeling program up-to-date. If you would like to ask any questions of us about the paper or possibly financial contributions, please, feel free to contact us. Send an email to me (bodell1979@gmail.com), call the office, or send us a message on our Facebook page.

*Barry O’Dell, Editor*

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Pilot (Mammoth Spring, AR)	\$700.00	Cottage Grove (Cottage Grove, TN)	\$100.00
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### Biblical Worship

- **Lord's Supper** (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-24); **Prayer** (Acts 12:5; Phil. 4:6-7)
- **Vocal music only** (Eph. 5:19; Heb. 13:15); **Giving** (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
- **Preaching** (Acts 2:42; 20:7)

### The Churches of Christ

- Bible only (Rom. 1:16; 2 Pet. 1:3); Name of Christ (Rom. 16:16)
  - Began in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-3; Acts 2:1-4)
- Established by Jesus (Matt. 16:18); Purchased with Jesus' blood (Acts 20:28)
  - Established in the 1st century (Acts 2:47)
- Body of Christ and Christ alone is the Head and Savior (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23)
  - Added to the church today just as in the 1st century (Acts 2:41, 47)

### Salvation

- Belief and baptism (Mk. 16:16)
- Repentance and baptism (Acts 2:37-38)
- Belief, confession, and baptism (Acts 8:37-38)
  - Hear, belief, baptism (Acts 18:8)
  - Faith and baptism (Gal. 3:26-27)
  - Baptism does save us (1 Pet. 3:21)

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**Mail address corrections to:**

**Fulton County Gospel News**

**PO Box 251**

**Mammoth Spring, AR 72554**

Editor - Barry O'Dell

Phone - (870) 625-3217

facebook



Church of Christ at Mammoth Spring