Come and See

Intro: John 1:46 “And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.” In order to appreciate and fully comprehend this verse, I think we should notice the circumstances or events that led to this statement made by Philip. John 1:43-51. Although prejudiced and religiously biased Nathanael was willing to accept Philip’s challenge to “come and see.” In so doing he found he had been mistaken in his previous thoughts and conclusions and was led to the salvation of his soul, then discipleship to Christ.

1. No one should become so biased as to be unwilling to consider new truths vital to himself and others.

2. There are many honest souls who have misunderstood our position on many Bible subjects.
   a. Usually this is true because our teaching has been misrepresented to them.
   b. There is a short step between misunderstanding and misrepresentation and vice versa.
   c. Example:
      i. John 2:19-21 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21But he spake of the temple of his body.”
      ii. Mat. 26:59-61 “Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; 60But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, 61And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.”
   d. Be sure you understand a speaker less you misrepresent him.

3. In the words of our text: “come and see” what we teach religiously, whether or not it be of God;
   a. 1 Thes. 5:21 “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”
   b. 1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

I. HAVE WE DISCARDED THE OLD TESTAMENT AS GOD’S WORD?
   A. No doubt you have heard this said of us, but let me assure you that we firmly believe God’s Word contains both the Old and New Testament.
   B. Hear God’s Word concerning the Old Testament.
      1. Jer. 31:31-34 (Heb. 8:6-12 “But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”).  
         a. The Hebrew writer says this is a new covenant.
         b. The term new is not neos (νέος) which means new in point of time, but kainos (καινός) which means new as to quality or of different nature from what is contrasted as old.
2. Rom. 7:4-7 “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law; that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”

3. 2 Cor. 3

4. Eph. 2:14-15 “For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us. Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;”

5. Col. 2:14 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”

6. Heb. 9:15-17 “And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.”

7. Heb. 10:9 “Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.”

8. Mat. 5:17-18 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

C. This does not mean that the Old Testament does not have any value today.

1. Rom. 15:4 “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

2. 1 Cor. 10:11 “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

3. Four purposes of the Old Testament:
   a. Define and highlight sin.
   b. Show man’s inability to sinlessly keep the Law.
   c. Prepare the world for Christ.
   d. Provide historical examples.

II. DO WE REJECT THE HOLY SPIRIT’S PART IN CONVERSION?

A. Absolutely not! John 16:7-14 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”

B. However, we affirm Scripturally that He accomplishes His work through the Word.

1. Notice the day of Pentecost.
   a. Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
   b. Acts 2:8 “And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?”
   c. Acts 2:11 “Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.”
d. 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:"

e. Acts 2:22 “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:"

f. Acts 2:37 “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?"

g. Acts 2:40 “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”

h. 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.”

2. Acts 8

C. Everything ascribed to the Spirit's work is performed by the Word.

1. Heb. 10:15-17 “Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”

2. 1 Pet. 1:10-11 “Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11Searching what, or what manner of time the spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.”

3. Eph. 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

4. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

5. 2 Pet. 1:20-21 “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21For 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.”

6. Heb. 3:7 “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,”

7. Rev. 2:1, 7 “Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;... 7He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”

III. Do We Believe in Music in the Church?

A. Absolutely.

1. We believe and practice the type of music God has authorized.

2. Music is a general classification which has two categories: non-vocal and vocal.

3. Non-Vocal music can be categorized as Mechanical instrumental or Natural instrumental.
   a. Mechanical instrumental would include: Strings, Bass, Woodwinds, Percussion, Electronic synthesizers, guitars, etc.
   b. Natural instrumental would include: Snapping Fingers, Stomping Feet, Slapping Knees, Clapping Hands, etc.

4. Vocal music can be categorized as Verbal — Articulate or Nonverbal — Inarticulate.
   a. Nonverbal — Inarticulate would include: Whistling, Humming, Simulation of Instruments or other nonlyrical sounds (“ahhh,” “ba-room,” “dum-dum-de-dum”).
   b. Verbal — Articulate would include languages of man whether foreign or one’s native tongue.
B. God authorized Verbal Vocal Music or Singing

1. 1 Cor. 14:15 “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”

2. Eph. 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”

3. Col. 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

4. Heb. 2:12 “Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”

5. Heb. 13:15 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”


C. We recognize we are not to change or alter God’s Word

1. Deu. 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

2. 2 John 9-11 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”

3. Rev. 22:18 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

4. Gal. 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

5. Mat. 15:3, 9 “But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?... But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

D. Man has no right to change God’s authorized music—singing.

IV. DO WE BELIEVE IN PRAYER?

A. Most assuredly, but not prayer in behalf of salvation from alien sins.

1. The Scriptures emphatically teach that Christians are to pray.
   a. Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
   b. Eph. 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
   c. 1 Th. 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”
   d. 1 Tim. 4:5 “For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”

2. However, there is no direct statement, implication nor example of one praying for salvation. There is no record of any “sinners prayer.”

B. John 9:31 “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”

1. 1 Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

2. Jam. 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
C. In one way only could this be true; Acts 8:22 “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.”

V. DO WE DENY THE CLEANSING EFFICACY OF CHRIST BLOOD AND TEACH WATER SALVATION?

A. We firmly believe in Christ’s blood to save.
   1. Mat. 26:28 “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
   2. Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
   3. Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
   4. Col. 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
   5. Heb. 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”
   6. 1 John 1:7 “But 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.”

B. The question is: how do we contact His saving blood?
   1. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
   2. There must be obedience to contact that blood.
      a. Heb. 5:8-9 “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”
      b. 1 Pet. 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”
   3. Notice some comparisons:
      a. Remission (forgiveness) of sins:
         (1) Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”; Col. 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
         (2) Acts 2:38 “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.”
      b. Washing away sins:
         (1) Rev. 1:5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”
         (2) Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
      c. A good conscience:
         (1) Heb. 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”
         (2) 1 Pet. 3:21 “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
VI. DO WE BELIEVE THAT ONLY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST SHALL BE SAVED?

A. Let us reverse the question: do you not believe it?

B. Do you not believe that one must be a member of the church spoken of in the Bible (the church of Christ) in order to be saved?

1. Acts 2:41, 47 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls... 47Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

2. Eph. 5:23, 25-27 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.... 25Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27That 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.”

C. Are we to be condemned then for so believing and teaching?

D. The question is: how do we become members of that church.

Conclusion: Acts 17:11-12 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. 12Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”