

# TRUTH & LIGHT

Published by the Wellsburg church of Christ

**WELLSBURG**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST



[www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com](http://www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com)

Volume 12 Issue 26

June 25, 2017

## CLASS CONSCIOUS

Comedian Rich Hall provides this handy guide for determining one's financial position: *"When you go to work, if your name is on the outside of the building, you're rich. If your name is on your desk, you're middle-class. If your name is on your shirt, you're poor."*

We live in a class-conscious society, though we like to pretend we do not. We concern ourselves with the material trappings that display our status: the homes in which we live; the vehicles we drive; the clothes and accessories we wear; the "toys" we buy. Even the ways we refer to ourselves are calculated to elevate us in the eyes of

others. Why else does the garbage collector need to be known as a "sanitation engineer," or the person who bags your groceries called a "courtesy clerk"?

Because we are accustomed to class distinctions in life, we come to expect them in the church. Denominational religion fosters this notion — certain individuals are designated "clergy" and assigned special titles: "reverend," "father," "bishop," "monsignor," "cardinal," "pastor," "pope." People without these titles are given to understand that they themselves are somehow lesser mortals. The clergy are special — they know

what God's word says, and insofar as you need to know any of it, they'll interpret it for you. After all, an unordained, untitled person such as yourself can't be expected to comprehend the deep mysteries of faith.

The New Testament, however, clearly reveals the fallacy of the clergy concept. Among the people of God, *"there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all"* (Colossians 3:11; Galatians 3:28).

No distinctions of class exist in the body of Christ. All Christians belong to the same holy, royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6). The church has no head except Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18).

The word "reverend," which appears only in Psalm 111:9 in the King James and American Standard Versions of the

Old Testament, is in this verse descriptive of God: ***"Holy and reverend is His name."*** (More recent translations usually substitute "awesome.") Can any man rightly be addressed by an adjective God's word only applies to the Almighty Himself?

Similarly, Jesus taught, *"But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ"* (Matthew 23:8-10). If God alone is "Father" by the testimony of His only begotten Son, what would inspire anyone to assume such a title for himself, or to bestow it on any other man? Names like "pope," "cardinal," and "monsignor" are foreign to the Scriptures.

Many people incorrectly believe the Bible uses "pastor" to designate a single individual

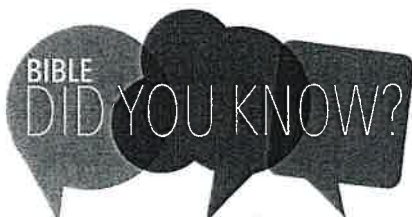
overseeing a congregation (usually the local preacher) and “bishop” to indicate one who oversees multiple churches. In fact, in the New Testament the terms pastor (literally, shepherd), bishop, elder and overseer are used interchangeably as descriptive nouns (not formal titles) for the same office: the plurality of men appointed to the oversight of a single local congregation (Acts 14:23; 20:17-38; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5). In no instance in the New Testament do we find record of any one individual having oversight either of a single church or of several.

The Scriptures make a clear distinction between elders or pastors and men whose primary work is preaching and teaching. These latter men are variously called evangelists (Ephesians 4:11), ministers (1 Timothy 4:6), or preachers (Romans 10:14). Again, these terms are not official titles, but simply words that describe the

work being done. And nowhere does the Bible assign the evangelist or preacher the task of governing or shepherding the local church.

People like fancy titles. They like the feeling of “class” such titles afford. But the church of God isn’t an exercise in class warfare between its members — it is God’s instrument of spiritual warfare against His adversary in the world (Ephesians 3:10; 6:12). In Christ, there’s no upper class, middle class, or lower class. There’s only one class — the obedient souls the Lord has added to those being saved (Acts 2:47).

– Michael Rankins



***The Thessalonians were a model to others for their faith in the midst of trials.***

***“We ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure,”***  
***2 Thess. 1:4***

# BIBLE TRIVIA

## C H A L L E N G E

**DIRECTIONS:** After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

**1. To whom did God say: "Prophecy upon these bones."?**

- a) Isaiah
- b) Samuel
- c) Jeremiah
- d) Ezekiel

**2. According to Proverbs 18:7, what is a fool's destruction?**

- a) His enemy
- b) His mind
- c) His mouth
- d) His wealth

**3. Who was the mother of Esau?**

- a) Rebekah
- b) Sarah
- c) Naomi
- d) Jezebel

**4. What event caused Jesus to desire solitude in a boat?**

- a) Temptation in Wilderness
- b) Sermon on the Mount
- c) Death of John the Baptist
- d) Transfiguration

**5. Who cut off a man's ear while Jesus was being arrested?**

- a) Andrew
- b) Judas
- c) Matthew
- d) Peter

**6. Who killed a lion with his bare hands?**

- a) Samson
- b) Nathan
- c) Dwight
- d) All the Dan's

**7. What did Jesus offer the woman at Jacob's well?**

- a) Bread
- b) Money
- c) Living Water
- d) Coupons

**8. Vashti was queen over what land?**

- a) Egypt
- b) Persia
- c) Assyria
- d) Jerusalem

**9. Who was the husband of Abigail prior to David?**

- a) Jonathan
- b) Saul
- c) Nabal
- d) Abner

**10. Who kept her race a secret in order to marry a Persian king?**

- a) Cher
- b) Madonna
- c) Malania
- d) Esther

- 7) C, Reference: John 4:10  
 8) B, Reference: Est. 1:1-9  
 9) C, Reference: 1 Sam. 25  
 10) D, Reference: Es. 2:17-20  
 4) C, Reference: John 14:13  
 5) D, Reference: John 18:10  
 6) A, Reference: Jdgs. 14:6  
 2) C, Reference: Prov. 18:7  
 3) A, Reference: Gen. 25:21-28  
 1) D, Reference: Ez. 37:4