



# F. Y. C.

## For Your Consideration

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### What's the Number?

I'm thinking of a number between 1 and 1000. If I ask you to tell me what it is, your response most likely will be, "I have no idea." Without me telling you, there is no way for you to know. You can guess, but there is a high probability you will guess wrong. If I tell you, you will know for certain.

### Now For a Bible Question

What did Jesus say about becoming one of His followers? The only reliable place to find the answer is in the New Testament. All other sources cannot be relied upon. Why? Because they are only what someone thinks is the answer. There are too many "think so's" being given as the answer to this question. Remember, "think so" has no foundation and has a very high probability of being wrong.

The right answer can be rewarding. A wrong answer will be devastating. There is too much at stake here. We must rely only on what's contained in the Bible.

Luke wrote, "...so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught."

Luke 1:4

In the book of 1 John we find, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

In the Gospel of John we read, "As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'" John 8:32

### One Caveat

The New Testament is not a reference book. It contains books that must not be reduced to pieces or torn apart. Yes, the books have chapter and verse numbers, but only for ease of referencing. To find the answer in one isolated verse or verses is a travesty. An answer found only in one place but contradicts other passages cannot be the correct answer. Answers found in commentaries and reference books may or may not be correct. Why? Because they are written by men.

### Inspired Scriptures

*For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.* 1 Corinthians 2:11-12

### **Avoid think-so's. Rely on the Word of God Only!**

By the way, the number I was thinking about was: 993. My first telephone number.

# Idioms of the Bible

An idiom is a saying or figure of speech of which cannot be understood by the individual words that make it up. An idiom uses a series of words to illustrate a single object, person or concept. The Bible is a book of idioms; if we do not have some understanding of the idioms it puts into use, it will not be clear to us. Here is a list of some of the different types of idioms used in the Bible; each containing a short description and at least one example.

## **Simile – a likening of one thing to another, usually containing the words “like” or “as.”**

(Revelation 1:14) *And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire;*

(Matthew 13:31) *He presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field;”*

## **Metaphor – very much like a simile. An implied comparison between two objects without using words such as “like” or “as.”**

(Matthew 5:13) *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.”*

## **Hyperbole – an idiom of overstatement. An exaggeration to make or reinforce a point.**

(Matthew 5:29) *“And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”*

## **Irony – stating one thing, but meaning the exact opposite.**

(Job 12:1-2) *Then Job responded, “Truly then you are the people, And with you wisdom will die!*

*(1 Corinthians 4:8) You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and I would indeed that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.*

## **Euphemism – substituting a harsh or offensive term with a less offensive one.**

(John 11:11, 13) *This He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep.” ... Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep.*

(1 Kings 2:6) *“So act according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to Sheol in peace.*

*(2 Kings 14:29) And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, even with the kings of Israel, and Zechariah his son became king in his place.*

## **Antithesis – a direct contrast of one set of figures to another.**

(Galatians 5:17) *For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

**Metonymy – the substitution of a noun for another closely associated noun. We understand the meaning of the substituted noun by the association.**

(1 Chronicles 17:12) *“He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.”*

The word “throne” means kingdom; rule.

(Isaiah 22:22) *“Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, when he opens no one will shut, when he shuts no one will open.”*

“Key” means authority.

(1 Corinthians 11:26) *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.*

“Cup” refers to the contents.

**Synecdoche – a figure of speech in which the part represents the whole or the whole represents the part.**

(Luke 11:20) *“But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”*

“Finger” represents the person and power of God.

(Psalm 109:27) *And let them know that this is Thy hand; Thou, Lord, hast done it.*

“Hand” represents the person of God.

**Personification – the representation of a concept or object as if it were a person.**

(Proverbs 1:20-21) *Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square; At the head of the noisy streets she cries out; At the entrance of the gates in the city, she utters her sayings:*

(Matthew 6:24) *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

(John 8:34) Jesus answered them, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.”*

(Ephesians 5:25) *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;*

(cf. Revelation 21:9 *“Come here, I shall show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”*)

**Apostrophe – a personification in which the writer addresses the object or concept that he has personified.**

(1 Corinthians 15:55) *“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”*

– Adapted from: Frontline Web

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SUCCINCTLY

PUT

**“I’ll do it ... if I have to!”**

**It’s vain obedience, if it’s not done from the heart.**

*But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. Romans 6:17-18*

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## Ponder This CONTROL

Every time a catastrophic storm hits, once again we are reminded that we have no control over the weather. Experts can forecast, inhabitants can be warned, and people can prepare, but no one can stop or control a storm. Our power to control external forces is practically non-existent. This includes the actions of others. We have no control over what others think and do. However, we have complete control over how we think, act, and react.

The Apostles, after being beaten for speaking in the name of Jesus, "... went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." (Acts 5:41-42)

Paul and Silas were in chains in the inner prison in Philippi with their feet fastened in stocks, "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God." (Acts 16:25). They were confined, but in heart, mind, and conscience they were free.

Remember, we will be judged, not by what others do to us, but by what we do.

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

2 Corinthians 5:10



## WORD STUDY

enhance your  
Bible knowledge

### Rabboni

The word occurs only twice in the New Testament. In the Gospel of John it is followed by a translation. It is thought to be the most honorable of all the titles.

It was even more respectful than Rabbi, and signified "My great master;" in its use in the New Testament. The force of the suffix is apparently retained in contrast to the word Rabbi.

The blind man named Bartimaeus used the word in addressing Jesus:

*And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!"*

Mark 10:51

Mary Magdalene used the word in addressing Jesus, where the text gives the translation of Rabboni as **didaskalos** (English translation: "Master" or "Teacher"):

*Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!"*

John 20:16

### TITLES

**Rabbi** – Hebrew term used as a title for those who are distinguished for learning. Titles were used with different degrees of honor; **rabbi**, (my) master; next, **rabban**, our master; and greatest of all, **rabboni**, my great master.

– Jewish Encyclopedia

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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