

**The Vine This Month**

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# Brother Martin Writes

Recently in Yahoo News, there was a story of the granddaughter of a Pentecostal preacher from Kentucky who converted to another religion. According to her story, she had a lot of questions that most Christians or the Bible could not answer. For example,

“Why do we celebrate the birth of Jesus on Dec. 25?” and “Why was the Trinity introduced after Jesus died?” She also felt upset that people were not praying directly to God but instead to Jesus. To confuse her further, while attending an Introduction to Religion class, she was taught that the Bible had missing books. It upset her because she had put all her faith in the Bible, but it wasn’t even 100 percent there.

After reading this story, I was quite troubled because this girl was a Lutheran before her conversion.

Let me help us with some of her doubts. I remember our late Mr P. S. George, whose birthday was reckoned as 1<sup>st</sup> January. Every year we celebrated it but that was not the actual day because in the village he came from the people were illiterate and could not remember the actual birth date; so, for registration purposes, the authorities just chose 1<sup>st</sup> January. Perhaps many of your grandparents have on their NRIC their birthdays on 1<sup>st</sup> January too. Despite not knowing the actual date of birth, the purpose of the celebration is served. When we celebrate Christmas, we reflect on the momentous event and rejoice. Knowing the actual day or hour of our Saviour’s birth is not of overriding significance to our faith.



*John 10:30, Jesus said. “I and the Father are one.”*

*John 14:9: “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”*

In 2Cor13:14, Apostle Paul expressed his good wishes to the Corinthian church: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the

*fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Although the word “Trinity” does not appear anywhere in the Bible, it is a word in the English vocabulary that truly describes the inherent nature of God revealed in Scripture and displayed in God’s actions in biblical history.

The truth of the Trinity was alluded to by Jesus and the Bible authors in many places in both the OT and NT. Here is one of the most explicit command by Jesus that underscores the Trinity:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...” – Mt 28:19

Our God is so Great that finite man cannot understand Him completely.

*“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* Isaiah 55:9

*“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”* John 14:13 There is nothing wrong in praying in Jesus Name.

Are there really missing books in the Holy Bible?

There is nothing disconcerting about the so-called “missing books” in the Holy Bible. The so-called “missing books” were books excluded from the Holy Bible because they were not considered as inspired. So, their absence from the biblical canon (list of biblical books accepted as sacred and genuine) does not undermine the completeness of the Bible.

One of the amazing facts about the Bible is that though it was written by a wide diversity of authors (as many as 40) over a period of 1600 years, from many different locations and under a wide variety of conditions, the Bible is uniquely one book, not merely a collection of sixty-six books. Its authors came from all walks of life. Some were kings, some peasants, still others were philosophers, fishermen, physicians, statesmen, scholars, poets, and farmers. They lived in a variety of cultures, in different experiences and often were quite different in their make-up. Regardless of this diversity, as one book, it is bound together by historical sequence, type and antitype, prophecy and fulfillment, and by the anticipation, presentation, realization, and exaltation of the most perfect Person who ever walked on earth and whose glories are manifest in heaven.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 2Timothy 3:16*

The Holy Bible is quite a remarkable book in comparison to other religious books.

It is normal for Christians to have questions. Christians can deal with questions by being patient to seek the answers and humbly acknowledging that we are incapable of knowing everything because we are not omniscient like God. Therefore, we have all the opportunities to exercise our faith and develop it along with our spiritual understanding.

When we wish to seek answers to questions, we can approach a few persons who know, example, our pastors.

There is a story told that bank tellers are taught to identify the real currency so that they can tell what is counterfeit. As long as you know the True Way, there is no need to study the rest.

*Martin Cheah*  
with additional ideas from *John Lee*