



# THE PASTOR'S PEN

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## The Answer Page

I hope you gave the twenty-five statements in the last issues of the “*Pastor’s Pen*” a try. As you read through them how many do you think you got right? Well, here are the correct answers to check your work with so you can be sure.

Angels have wings. – False. The Bible only lists Seraphim and Cherubim as having wings. No angles are mentioned with wings. According to the scriptures, angels look like us and were often mistaken for human beings (Genesis 19, Judges 13, Hebrews 13).

People become angels when they die. – False. The bible tells us that angels were created before people, they are a little higher than people in creation, that we will sit in judgment of them and that they are spiritual beings with no gender. (Hebrews 2, 1 Corinthians 6 & 15, Mark 12).

Angels are not singing at the birth of Jesus, but rather, they are just speaking. – True. (Luke 2).

The devil has horns and a pitchfork. – False. The bible says that the devil has many forms and can even appear as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11)

The Bible talks about a singular, apocalyptic, Antichrist figure. – False. The Bible plainly says that there are many Antichrists. (1 John 2).

The Bible never says anywhere that the Antichrist is the “Beast” of Revelation. – True.

That Adam and Eve ate from an apple tree when they sinned. – False. They ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The idea of an apple tree did not come about until the early middle ages. (Genesis 2).

The Bible never suggests that clergy should perform marriages, or that a wedding is anything but a family/community ceremony and reception/feast. – True. The Bible makes no comments about the form or structure of a wedding.

The fish which swallowed Jonah was a whale. – False. Jonah was swallowed by a “great fish.” Whales may live in the oceans, but they are mammals, not fish. (Jonah 1).

The Bible says nothing about Jesus being married or single. – True. The Bible says nothing about Jesus’ marital status.

There are no records of a vote in the early church, nor are there any congregational business meetings mentioned. – True. Initially lots were cast to make decisions (Acts 1). Later, the local leaders met as group to give their opinions about how things should be done in the Church (Acts 15). Church boards and business meetings are 19<sup>th</sup> century American innovations.

The Bible never gives a date for Jesus’ birth. – True. Dec 25 was set as Christmas Day in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Scriptures do not provide any evidence that Jesus wanted the government (Caesar) to take care of the poor. That should be the job of the Church. – True.

Everyone must pray with hands folded and heads bowed. – False. (Matthew 6, 2 Kings 4, Acts 9).

Church music should only be reflective, subdued, or played on an organ/piano. – False. The New Testament is silent on the matter. In the Old Testament all instruments were in worship.

The Bible says that women can’t wear pants. – False. In the Old Testament, Mosaic Law forbade a

woman to dress in men's clothing. Women's pants, capri's, etc. were never made for a man (Deuteronomy 22).

Women should not work outside the home. – False. (Proverbs 31.)

Elijah was taken up to heaven in a chariot. – False. The chariot separated Elisha from Elijah and Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2).

The word "wine" is never associated with the "cup" at the Last Supper. – True. (Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22).

The "rapture" is never mentioned anywhere in the book of Revelation. – True.

The Bible never uses the phrase "personal relationship with Jesus." – True.

There is no record of anyone ending a sermon in the Early Church by inviting people to receive Jesus into their hearts. – True. This is another creation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century American Church and introduced by Rev. Charles Finney (1792-1875).

Cleanliness is next to Godliness. – False. This phrase was coined by Ben Franklin in "*Poor Richard's Almanack*"

A penny saved is a penny earned. – False. This phrase is a misquote of George Herbert's *Outlandish Proverbs*, circa 1633

The Bible says that Christians can "fall from Grace." – True. (Paul says so in Galatians 5).

Well folks, there you have it. How did you do? If you want to discuss any of these items or go into more detail about some them, stop by our Sunday Evening Bible Study at 6:30pm. We will be happy to take the time to pray and study any of these topics or any other biblical matter that you want to discuss. Till the next "*Pastor's Pen*", Take care and keep studying.

Blessings,

*James*



*FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON*

*John 3:16*