

Brides of the Bible

This is the time of year when many brides are “walking down the aisle” to get married. The Bible also knows of several brides and one in particular that you absolutely need to be associated with.

- Eve - the very first bride (Gen. 1-2)
- Rebekah - the marriage-at-first-sight bride (Gen. 24)
- Abigail - the wise and prudent bride (1 Sam. 25)
- The Shulamite - the bride whom Solomon loved above all (Song of Solomon 1-8)
- Esther - the replacement bride (Esther 2)
- Gomer - the forgiven bride (Hos. 1-3)
- Mary - the bride who played a major role in man’s salvation (Mt. 1)
- Unnamed - the bride who was graced by Jesus’ presence (Jn. 2)
- The church - the bride of Christ (Rev. 19)
- Chris Reeves -

- Scripture of the Week -

*“... for where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God”
- Ruth 1:16 -*

Ruth’s devotion and dedication to the one true God needs to be in us today. May we be willing to leave behind all to be associated with the one true God of heaven.

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Sundays: 8:30 - 9:00 am
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

May 19, 2024



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Getting the Cart Before the Horse

“Don’t get the cart before the horse...” is an old proverb meaning to keep first things first. It has to do with priorities and the proper order of things in life. Some things just naturally go in order before other things.

For example, you lay the foundation of a house before you build the house, not after. You send a soldier into battle, after you train him, not before. You close submarine hatch before you submerge, not after. Etc.

This principle is actually found in the gospels. Jesus said to clear up your problems before you offer your sacrifice (Matthew 5:24) and build your foundation first (Luke 14:28-31). Nicodemus said to hear from the accused first before judging him (John 7:51).

In the Old Testament, King Saul was told to utterly destroy the Amalekites, but instead he spared some for sacrifice. He was supposed to obey first (1 Samuel 15:22-23; see also Hosea 6:6 and Mark 12:33).

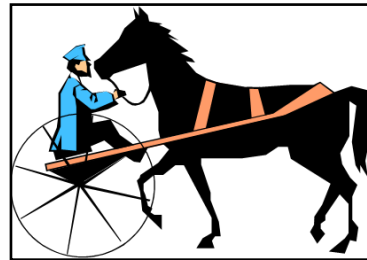
It is important today to understand this basic principle of life and apply also in our spiritual lives. Let’s consider some examples where people today “get the cart before the horse”.

Total Depravity

Calvinists have an infant born in sin before he or she has even transgressed God’s law (1 John 3:4; 5:17).

Infant Baptism

Various denominations have babies baptized before they have been taught the word of God (John 6:44-45; Acts 18:8).



Faith Only

Many religions have a person saved at the point of “faith only” or praying “the sinner’s prayer” before and without water baptism (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21).

Once Saved Always Saved

Many religions have a person guaranteed to be saved without a possibility of being lost before they have been judge by Christ on the judgment day (Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 6:6; 12:15).

Fornication

Many people living today engage in sexual intercourse with someone else before they commit to a scriptural marriage (Genesis 2:24-25).

Leadership

A number of Christian men want to have the honor of being an elder or deacon before they have matured and shown any ability to lead others (1 Timothy 3:10; 2 Timothy 2:2).

Religious Service

Some religious people offer outward service before having inward purity (Matthew 7:1-5; 23:25-26).

Reaping Before Sowing

Many people want the reward of going to heaven before doing the work to get there (Galatians 6:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:6; 4:7-8; Revelation 14:13)

Yes, God’s order is what is important and sometimes it takes just a little extra effort to get it right. Let’s not “get the cart before the horse”.

- Chris Reeves -