

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, [tannerst.com](http://tannerst.com) to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

Phone: (501) 332-8806 Email: [preacher@tannerst.com](mailto:preacher@tannerst.com)

## **Consider: Ephesians 1:3 Needed News**

**Joyce Venable, Dolline Fain** and **Conrad Harris** continue to deal with their respective health issues.

Some of our families will be travelling in the coming weeks. We will likely have visitors in the coming weeks also. It is that time of the year. We need to keep one another aware of times when we may be gone especially if you are scheduled to take care of any of the many duties that are needed for the smooth function of this local body of Christians. Even if you do not have specific duties that need to be taken care of, knowing that you will be gone keeps us from wondering if something is wrong. Of course we hope that any travel plans also include finding a place to worship while you are away. If you need help finding a congregation please ask. Not only are there several places to look for such groups, but many of us have travelled or have friends in other areas who can give personal recommendations about various congregations.

As always, remember one another as you speak with our Father in Heaven during the week. He cares for us and wants to help us live here in such a manner that we can be with him for Eternity.

# *Seeking His Righteousness*

*"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33*

June 2015

Volume 4 Number 23

## **The Standard Of Right**

Fred Shewmaker

There is a general failure on the part of people, today, to recognize the true standard of right. There is a tendency to deny that an absolute standard of right exists. Some folks seem to think that whatever society in general will tolerate is right. They have made the limit of society's toleration their standard of right, but theirs is a false standard. Some apparently think that whatever is lawful under the constitution of the nation is right. They consider whatever government officials or bureaus decree to be right, if the decree has been upheld by a ruling of the supreme court of the nation. This also is a false standard of right.

The supreme council of the Jews once commanded Peter and John *"not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus"* (Acts 4:18). This command of the supreme court of the Jews was a violation of right, therefore could not be a true standard of right. Peter and John answered and said unto that court, *"Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye"* (Acts 4:19).

This experience and example of Peter and John before the Jewish high court clearly shows that the true standard of right is the word of God. When the thing men require is contrary to what God has said, we, like Peter and John, must not "hearken unto" them.

Just here someone is probably thinking, "that may be well and good for Christians, but non-Christians are not expected to follow what God has asked of Christians." Allow me to suggest, that may depend upon who is doing the expecting. God expects the same thing of all men.

Will you try something? will you take your Bible and a sheet of paper and while reading your Bible list on the sheet of paper everything God has asked of Christians that He has not asked of non-Christians? If your paper is correct when you finish, I can tell you now what it will have on it. Would you like to have me tell you, right now? Telling you would not take much space. I could tell you in one word. NOTHING! There is not a single thing God has asked of the Christian that He has not asked of all men because He asked all to be Christians.

God requires ALL to believe in Jesus Christ as His Son. Jesus told His apostles, *"Preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15). Jesus wanted "the gospel" preached *"for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth"* (Romans 1:16). Therefore, what man must believe in order to be saved God requires it to be preached to "every creature."

God requires *"all men everywhere to repent"* (Acts 17:30). God *"is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2Peter 3:9). Therefore, the repentance God requires in order for man to avoid perishing, He requires of "all men."

God requires *"every tongue should confess Jesus is Lord"* (Philippians 2:11). Therefore, the confession God requires, He requires of "every" person.

God requires. *"Be baptized every one of you in the name of*

*Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"* (Acts 2:38). The words "every one," are used, here, only in reference to Jews, but Peter, who said this, later asked concerning Gentiles, *"Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized?"* (Acts 10:47). *"And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord"* (Acts 10:48). Some years later when referring to the events which resulted in his saying these things, Peter said, *"God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.... And put no difference between us and them"* (Acts 15:7-9). Therefore, God requires baptism "for the remission of sins" of "every one" - Jew and Gentile alike.

In Galatians 3:26-29 we learn that those "baptized into Christ" are "Christ's." They are Christians. These considerations show conclusively that whatever God requires for one person to become a Christian, He requires of EVERY person. The gospel is offered as His "power ... unto salvation to every one that believeth." he requires repentance of "all men everywhere." He requires "every tongue" to "confess" and He commands, "Be baptized every one of you" (Jews) and made no difference in "us" (Jews) "and them" (Gentiles).

God has asked all men to become Christians. Therefore, the standard of right for the Christian is the standard of right for all men. God's word is that standard. The fact that a person has failed to fulfill his responsibility before God to become a Christian does not alter the fact that, that person has the responsibility before God to conform to God's standard of right -- the word of God.

Man's failure in his responsibility to do right does not alter the standard of right in any respect nor does it absolve the one who fails of any of his responsibility before God.