

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** 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

Needed News

Thelma Echols is doing better with her back pain.

Phyllis Jackson is still recovering from her recent knee replacement. She is doing better and is able to use less pain medication now. Her physical therapy is going well.

Chris Wright will have a procedure this week to deal with his remaining kidney stones.

Dottie Henderson received a good report from her heart doctor visit last week. They have adjusted her medicine and raised the heart rate warning on her defibrillator.

Addison Wright is visiting with the Keislars in Conway this weekend. The **Simpson** family is also out of town this weekend.

Take some time this week to consider the worship you offered to God today. See if you might find any areas where you could be better prepared for worship at the next opportunity. Were there any distractions that made worship difficult? What can be done to remove or minimize such distractions so that worship can be more focused? Has the service become habit? Are there changes that might help our worship without violating God's commands?

Seeking His Righteousness

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

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Conversion of John Taylor

F.B. Srygley who knew John Taylor well and heard him recount his conversion many times, gave an account of it. He picked up the story describing Taylor's deep despair.

He then fell back on the old doctrine of unconditional election, and told his wife that he had decided that there was no salvation for him. Like many foolish ones in that day, he got him a jug of whiskey in order to drown his troubles with drink. He was working at the cobblers trade. He kept his jug covered with sole leather, and he kept just as drunk as he could be and work at his trade. His wife cried with him and begged him not to drink. The preachers, many of them, were interested in him, and the best part of the community prayed for him; but he still thought his best chance was to drown his trouble in drink.

Winter passed, and "big meeting" came around again, and the day was set at the Baptist Church for their annual meeting, in which they were to make a special effort to save the unconverted. Through persuasion of his wife, he promised to make another effort to find the Lord. He read his New Testament almost continually till the day arrived for the meeting to begin, and he and his wife were on the ground early for the meeting. John Taylor took a front seat, and the preacher began his discourse. During the sermon the preacher had occasion to refer to the second chapter of Acts. He quoted the question of those inquiring Jews when they said, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" The preacher continued farther and quoted the answer which Peter gave. "Repent, and be baptized everyone of you and the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." John Taylor said that he began to reason on that case, and he thought, "if those wicked Jews could receive the remission of sins on those terms, why can I not do the same and get the same results?"

From the preacher's reference to that passage he saw the truth

on that point, and Taylor said it was as clear as the noon day sun. He said it was so plain to him that he began to clap his hands and shout, "Glory to God!" The preacher stopped and said, "Thank God, John Taylor has got religion at last!" But Taylor answered, "No. I have not got it; I only see how I can get it. I see exactly what to do for the remission of sins." This answer brought a rather difficult question before the preacher and that Baptist Church. They tried through the meeting to convince John Taylor that he was already saved, and all he had to do was to acknowledge it and join the Baptist Church; then, upon an experience of grace, they would receive him into the church after baptism. At the close of the meeting, they called a session of the church, and Taylor told them he could not relate a Christian experience, because he had no experience as a Christian but that he was willing to confess that he believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, if they would baptize him on that confession. The preacher was willing to baptize him, but the church was not willing for him to do so, and they threatened to prefer charges against the preacher if he baptized him. Thus the meeting closed and nothing was done about it.

Some time after that, Brother Taylor went to the home of a Baptist preacher, who lived about six miles away; and when he reached the preacher's home, his brother-in-law was there on a visit. Taylor asked the preacher if he would go with him to water and baptize him on a confession of faith. The brother-in-law said, "Brother William, that is a scriptural request, and I think you should baptize him." But the preacher said, "If I do, it will get up trouble in the church." But the preacher promised Taylor that if he would meet him at a creek some distance away at midnight, he would baptize him, and they would say nothing about it. Taylor and his wife rode their only horse about four miles to the place designated, and they sat there on the bank of the creek till daylight next morning, but the preacher did not come. Afterward he told Brother Taylor that it looked so much like stealing that he backed out; but he said, "If you will meet me at the church on the next preaching day, I will put your case before the church and if the church refuses to give its consent, I will baptize you and take the consequences." They had the meeting, and it broke up in a row, and the preacher went with Taylor to the

creek and baptized him.

Paralee Annie Gassaway, a granddaughter of John Taylor who was ten years old when he died, told me in 1965 that after her grandfather was baptized, he then baptized the Baptist preacher who baptized him. She said the Baptist preacher was excluded from the Baptist Church because of the incident. She also (mistakenly) said that the conversion of John Taylor took place in South Carolina before the Taylors came to "Franklin County." However, Taylor's conversion took place in Marion County not long after he came to Alabama, evidently in about 1829. This was very near the time that Walter Scott began preaching baptism for the remission of sins in Ohio. Taylor depended on the New Testament alone to learn what to do to be saved. This is not remarkable in view of the plainness of the Scriptures, but it is unusual in view of the religious tenor of the times and the prevailing sentiment that salvation is a miracle effected by God separate and apart from his written word. So many believed there is nothing man can do to be saved until God is ready to operate on him by his miraculous power.

Earl Kimbrough, *The Restoration in Russell's Valley and Northwest Alabama, 1842-1945* Via George Hutto's [Tidings](#)

(When I first read the story above I was reminded of Paul's statement to the brethren in Philippi "What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice." **Philippians 1:18**. The Word of God will be fruitful when it is planted in the mind of one who truly desires to obey God. Even when the messenger will not accept the truth, the honest heart of one who seeks to know God will not only see the truth but will be obedient to it. Our world is full of men and women who think they know better than God. Unless God is willing to bow to their ideas, they are not willing to listen to what He has provided.

As is evident in the conversion of John Taylor, the answer Peter gives to the Jews in Acts 2 is easily understood and easy to obey. God has given us the responsibility to teach this simple truth to all who are willing to listen. Those who are confused by the many different ideas men have proposed may need a little help to unlearn old teachings, but we still need to present the plain simple truth of salvation through obedience to the Will of Christ as Peter did just a few weeks after the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. DLH)