

For Our Information

Thelma Echols is in Hospice care at St Vincent's in Hot Springs. They are trying to keep her comfortable. Ruben and Brenda are taking turns staying with her.

Ruben Keisler's brother passed away Friday following 2 strokes.

Ricky Ragsdale will start his chemo therapy this week.

Adene Gray has not been feeling good much of this past week.

Joyce Venable has been suffering with stomach troubles lately

Nettie Jackson is doing about the same. Keep your brothers & sisters in mind

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

Church of Christ

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Visit us on the web at

tannerst.com

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

Knowing The Word

It has been said that there has never been a time when so much information was so readily available to anyone who sought to learn. Of course, with so much available we must be careful of our sources and we must guard against information that is not proper for one who seeks God.

One of the great things about the availability of information is that it has given us several reliable and helpful translations of God's Word. While the old standbys (ASV, KJV, RSV) are still available, we now have several reputable "common English" versions (ESV, NIV, HCSV) and even updates to the standbys (NASBU, NKJV, NRSV). All these 'newer' translations benefit from recent discoveries of a multitude of old manuscripts and copies of the originals. With all these resources available there is no reason we cannot fully know the Word of God.

Seeking His Righteousness

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Repent & Return

Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

Acts 3:19-21

As seen in previous writings it is not possible for one to come into a relationship with God unless they have first been made aware of His presence. In fact for one to attempt any kind of relationship they must not only know of presence but also who they want to be with. Thus the



Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away,...

Acts 3:19



1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

TannerSt.com

Hebrew writer tells us we must know that God is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. **Hebrews 11:6**. It should also go without saying that one must believe the things learned regarding God if they seek a relationship with Him.

Repentance Requires Change

Repentance is another action that must begin in order for one to have a relationship with God. God is light and in Him is no darkness of any kind. If we seek to have a relationship with Him we must remove darkness from our own life. Since *"all have sinned"* all must leave sin in order to come to God. Peter calls his listeners to *"repent and return"* in his message presented to the crowd attracted by the healing of a lame man. (**Acts 3:19**) His message indicates that change is necessary for the cleansing of our sin.

In the Amplified version of that verse we see some explanation of this phrase.

"So repent (change your mind and purpose); turn around and return [to God]" AMP

Notice that to repent is to change both our mind and purpose. Those who seek a relationship with God must leave behind the attitudes and purposes of this world. Paul speaks in several epistles of leaving the *"old man"* and becoming a *"new man."* The return that Peter speaks of must be a return to God, our Creator. It is, after all, God with whom we want to associate so it only makes sense that we would come to Him in our turn away from the world.

Store In My Heart

Hebrews 11:1,6

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Faith is our certainty regarding things we cannot see. If we do not develop a certainty that God exists we can never come close to him.

We have sufficient evidence to believe God exists, though we have never seen Him. His creation tells us He is. His Word tells us who He is and how to find Him. This evidence supported belief, faith, directs our journey to Him and tells us there is reward if I seek Him.

A Separating Point

When we begin to understand repentance we can clearly see that it is a sorting point among those who come to know God. One can gain knowledge of God and even believe the things that have been learned, but until they make the necessary change in their life they will never achieve a relationship with God. Repentance is where "the rubber meets the road" so to speak. James tells us that *"...even the demons believe--and shudder!"* (**James 2:19** ESV) Yet because they remain demons they will never know the blessings of a relationship with God. Jesus told the Jews *"unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."*

Are you ready to make the changes necessary to your mind and purpose to enable a relationship with God? No one will remain long in a relationship with God unless they are willing to leave behind all things of this world and its desires and return to the God of creation. God wants servants, not acquaintances. We need to turn our will over to His desires and commands. Knowing the power and awesomeness of God, and the love He demonstrated in providing a means of returning to Him through the death of Jesus, should cause us to leave our self behind and seek His favor.

Repent and Return to God! Learn what He expects of you then set your heart to submit completely to His desire. Follow His will in all your actions and find blessing and salvation in following His Word.

Are you ready to change for God?