

For Our Information

Several of our members are still plagued with a cough, but most are gradually improving.

Dan's parents are now living in Red Bay, AL. His Dad will be preaching for the Eastside congregation there.

Joyce Venable is doing better.

Annette Gray is to have knee surgery on April 17.

The new address for the Simpson Family is posted on the board.

Keep our brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

While talking with my Dad last week, I reminded myself that the original purpose of this bulletin was to print material that could help us reach those in our community who need the Gospel. Over the last year or so I have not been careful to keep these articles focused on that goal. I know there are things we, even as mature Christians, need to hear, but we also need a way to prick the interest of those around us.

Please take advantage of these articles and this publication to reach your friends and neighbors. We have half or more of these bulletins left over every week. I print enough for everyone who can read to have a copy. Get one, read it, and pass it on to someone you think could benefit.

DLH

Contact Us

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

Church of Christ

1512 Tanner Street

Malvern, AR 72104

(501) 332-8806

preacher@tannerst.com

Visit us on the web at

tannerst.com

Seeking His Righteousness

Tanner St Bulletin Volume 6 Number 15

April 2017

Conversion — Faith

Jason Malham

In our last article, we discussed the basic principles involved in conversion. Briefly, they were: 1) Conversion means that a change takes place in a person's life. 2) Conversion involves the forgiveness of a person's sins. 3) Jesus Christ is the means by which a person is converted. 4) Conversion cannot take place without a person's obedience.

We now begin to discover what this obedience includes. Specifically, in this article, we begin with faith.

Faith is Necessary

Without faith, it is absolutely impossible to please the God of heaven. (**Hebrews 11:6**) The eleventh chapter of the New Testament book of Hebrews brims with examples of those



And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

who pleased God because of their abounding faith. Such faith is necessary of those who would be converted to Jesus Christ. In particular, one must believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He Himself said, *"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."* (**John 8:24**) So one must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, in order to receive the blessing of conversion. (**Matthew 16:16-17**)

What Faith is Not

Faith is one of those words that has become an ecclesiastical term. More plainly, it's become a "church word". The term is mostly heard in religious contexts; thus it is considered a religious term. And as is true with many "religious" terms, people want to make the concept of faith more difficult than it needs to be. Some have the idea that faith is some kind of supernatural and celestial concept that cannot be described. Most people in the religious world believe that faith is a mystical process by which a person accepts or receives Jesus into his heart. Good reader, think it not rude if I tell you that the Bible nowhere teaches this concept of faith. The good book of God nowhere teaches that faith is some experience that can be felt, but not described.

What Faith is

According to the Bible, faith is that which involves the conversion of a man's intellect. Nothing more. Nothing less. Faith involves the changing (converting) of a man's knowledge. It's that which entails a change in the understanding that a person has; in this case, his understanding about spiritual things. And it is a completely normal and natural concept.

Store In My Heart

1Peter 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

To benefit from the expertise of a doctor, we must first admit we are sick and acknowledge that we lack the wisdom needed to recover our health alone. If we want to be cured we must put our health in the doctor's hands.

In a similar manner, in order to enjoy the benefits found in Christ, we must admit that we do not have the wisdom or ability needed to lift ourselves from the mire that is sin. We must admit our weakness, give God control, and allow Him to help us rise above our faults and burdens.

In different places while preaching on this subject, I generally ask the audience to indicate if they have been to New York City by raising their hands. Few raise their hands. I then ask for those who have not been to New York City. More raise their hands to this question. I then ask for all those who believe that there is such a place as New York City. Without fail, everyone raises their hand to this question. Now this is simple. The ones who have never been to NYC, probably believe there is such a city just as strongly as the ones who have been. But they simply believe for a different reason. They raise their hands to that last question on the basis of faith. The ones who have been there probably believed there was such a city before they went but now that they've been, they believe because of sight. (Compare **2Corinthians 5:7**)

Faith is that which causes a person to believe a thing before they've seen it. *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* (**Hebrews 11:1**) Even though I personally have not seen New York City, the evidence (notice that word in **Hebrews 11:1**) in support of such a city existing is so overwhelming that it cannot be denied. That's what faith is all about - - believing in light of evidence that is so strong that you just have to believe or deny the obvious. So it is with Jesus, the Christ. A person's understanding changes. They accept evidence they have learned and believe in Him on the basis of that evidence.

Now, of what benefit is this new acceptance of facts? The Bible teaches that it is of no benefit yet. The only change (conversion) that has occurred is of this person's intellect. Other changes must take place.

(There are several articles in this series and I hope to print them here over the next several weeks. DLH)