

For Our Information

Annette Gray is doing well in her recovery from knee surgery. She is slowly regaining strength.

Joyce Venable has a few more pills to take following her recent doctor visit.

Ricky Ragsdale did not have surgery last Thursday. He is to see another neurosurgeon soon.

Bill Venable's brother had another doctor visit this past Friday.

Keep our 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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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

"I am a Christian." But, what is meant by "Christian"? Going to a "Christian" church? Acknowledging there was a man named Jesus Christ? Confessed Christ, although not serving him devotedly now? There are a number of "passengers" [thoughts] on the "Christian" bus [vehicle]. Which passenger is getting off ...?

The word "Christian" means "follower/disciple of Christ" and occurs only three times in the New Testament—Ac 11:26; 26:28; 1Pt 4:16. In Ac 11:26 it was used of dedicated followers of the apostles (Paul) and prophets (Barnabas) teaching (v22-26). In Ac 26:28 it was used of a devoted believer in Jesus as the risen Son of God with dominion all men must bow to in order to have forgiveness (vv13-23), and who himself had been baptized in the name of Jesus to obtain that forgiveness (Ac 22:16). In 1Pt 4:16 it was used of people who had been baptized to be saved through faith in the resurrected Christ and were endeavoring to live a life of moral purity and spiritual devotion (1Pt 3:21-4:15). Looking at these three passages shows how the word "Christian" was used in the first century. Other "passengers" got on later and have no ticket from the New Testament to ride.

(One of **Steve Fontenot's** daily facebook post.)

Seeking His Righteousness

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Conversion — Baptism (1)

Jason Malham

We have been studying the subject of conversion. The apostle Paul asked a probing question to the Romans in the sixth chapter of his letter to them.

"What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death." (Romans 6:21)

Paul reminded them that before Christ, they had nothing. They had a fruitless life of sin and frolic. But now they had the hope of everlasting life in heaven. This is conversion and there is nothing like it. There is nothing more important - in all of life's endeavors. Since we're now five articles into this series, let's take a moment to review.



Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4



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

We've noticed so far that the first element in conversion is faith. Faith is that which involves the change of a person's intellect. A person must be convicted by the truths concerning Christ Jesus. This should lead to the second element, which is repentance. Repentance is that which involves change in a person's will. The penitent, convicted person has a sorrow within him for not living up to God's expectations. He resolves, therefore, to become somebody new. This led us, in the last article, to discuss the third element of conversion, which is confession. Confession is that which signifies the change in a person's allegiance. When the Ethiopian, whose conversion is recorded in Acts 8, heard the word of the gospel declared to him, he believed in Jesus and wanted to be baptized. The penitent sinner was not told to confess his sins to Philip. He confessed his newfound faith in the Savior of the world.

What Hinders Me From Being Baptized? This brings us to baptism. Philip was preaching Jesus to the man. (**Acts 8:35**) Somewhere in the preaching of Jesus there is the preaching of baptism because after hearing the gospel message, the Ethiopian had a great desire to be baptized. (**v.36**) Why did he want to be baptized? It's easy to piece together the answer to this question.

He Went On His Way Rejoicing. This man learned that he was a sinner. He learned that the one led as a lamb to the slaughter (**v.32**) was a man named Jesus who had lived less than ten years earlier. He, because of this new information, now believed in Jesus. He

Store In My Heart

Mark 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Love, for God and others is the foundation of all our service unto God. God's love for us gave us the means for salvation from sin. Our love for God pushes us to please him. Our love for others demonstrates our love for God.

Love that makes us satisfy the needs of others is what pleases God. Love like this is desperately needed in our world today.

had resolved to change his life and do the New Testament will of Christ. This is evident in his desire to be baptized. He had confessed this allegiance to Christ in the presence of Philip. Then the text reads,

"So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing." (Acts 8:38-39)

Notice that this man did not rejoice when his intellect had changed (the point of faith). He did not rejoice when his will had changed (the point of repentance). He did not rejoice when his allegiance had changed (the point of confession). This man had no reason to rejoice until his relationship with God had changed. This is the point of baptism.

The Change of Relationship. Baptism is that which marks the change in a person's relationship with God. That's why he wanted to be baptized. That's why the Spirit of the Lord didn't catch Philip away until after he had baptized the Ethiopian. That's why the Ethiopian didn't rejoice until after he had been baptized. That's obviously what this man had learned from the preaching of Philip.

In the next article, the discussion of baptism will continue. We'll notice some Bible teaching that shows why baptism is necessary to the conversion process.

(Next week will be the final article from this series that we will publish for now. This series, and all StraitWay articles can be found at StraitWay.org. DLH)