

For Our Information

Annette Gray has been doing better this past week. She has therapy three times a week and is slowing regaining her strength.

Joyce Venable is doing better now that she is taking new medications.

The Simpson family is out of town this weekend.

Others of our number are also dealing with ongoing health issues. Pray for God's hand upon us all.

Keep our brothers & sisters in mind

Contact Us

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

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

One of the commands given to early disciples by our Lord was "Go, stand and speak..." (**Acts 5:20**). I sometimes wonder if we are doing our part to fulfill this command today.

Now some might say, "That was given to the apostles..." but remember, Jesus told them to teach the disciples "...to observe all that I commanded you;". That passes to us the responsibility to teach others. Also Paul told Timothy "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (**2Timothy 2:2**)

The burden of teaching others about Jesus is ours to bear. We need to seek opportunities to spread the Good News of salvation through Jesus. Talk to your neighbors and the folks in line at the store. Pass out some of the bulletins. Tell people about our website. Like and share our facebook page, 'check in' at Tanner St on your phone. "Go, stand and speak..." (DLH)

Seeking His Righteousness

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Conversion — Baptism (2)

Jason Malham

As we continue our look at the element of baptism in the process of conversion, please read **Acts 8:36-39**. We have observed from the Bible that faith is the point at which a person's intellect is changed; repentance is the point at which a person's will or resolve is changed; and confession is the point at which a person's allegiance is changed. In the last article, we began to examine the relationship of water baptism to the conversion process. Baptism is the point at which a person's relationship with God is changed. This man of Ethiopia (**Acts 8**) had a change produced in his life. That is, he was converted to Jesus Christ. Some think that baptism is only



Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.

Acts 22:16



1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

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Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

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important for an outward testimony of the salvation you have already received. Consider the fact that the text records the rejoicing of this man after his baptism. **(v. 39)** It is absurd to think that the Bible records for us his rejoicing after baptism, but not his rejoicing after salvation. The truth is that his joy after baptism and his joy from being saved were one and the same. The point of baptism marked the change of the man's relationship with God.

Buried and Raised

Many Bible texts help us to understand the work of God through baptism in the process of conversion. *"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life".* **(Romans 6:4)** This passage declares with simplicity the purpose of baptism. It is the point where the sinner meets the death of Christ and reaps the benefits of it. It is the moment when the old man of sin is buried and the new man of righteousness emerges from the water to walk in a new life. (Compare **Colossians 2:11-13; 3:9-10**)

Sins Are Removed

Baptism is the point at which a person's relationship with God is changed because that's the point at which his sins are removed. Sin separates a person from God. **(Isaiah 59:1-2)** Just because a person believes the truth of Jesus (faith) does not mean his sins have been forgiven. The demons believed in Jesus but were still demons. **(Matthew**

Store In My Heart

2Thessalonians

1:7-8

and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

In offering comfort and encouragement to these brethren Paul spoke of both reward for the faithful and punishment for the wicked. Knowing God's vengeance will be inflicted on those who do not know Him as well as those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus will both encourage and comfort the faithful.

Atheists, those who follow man made gods, and those who refuse Jesus will all suffer the same fate.

8:29) Further, just because a person decides to be converted (re-repentance) does not mean God has forgiven his sins. And just because a person says he believes that Jesus is the Son of God (confession) does not mean his relationship with God has changed either.

Peter was speaking to those who had been convicted of the truths concerning Jesus. They believed now that Jesus was the Messiah of Old Testament prophecies. *"Now they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."* **(Acts 2:37-38)** Peter did not tell them that their newfound faith in Jesus was enough to be converted. He did not tell them that they needed only to repent to complete the conversion process. He told them that in order to receive the "remission of sins", they still needed to "be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ".

Consider Ananias also. This was the servant of Christ sent to counsel Saul in what he needed to do spiritually. In utter remorse over realizing he should be a Christian, Saul was told to *"...be baptized, and wash away (his) sins..."* **(Acts 22:16)**

It is that simple. If a person wants to "wash away" his sins and be converted, baptism is a necessary element to the process. Thus far in this series, we have studied faith, repentance, confession, and baptism.

(Would this series of articles benefit someone you know? Pass them along. DLH)