

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 ¾ 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

Nettie Jackson, John's Mom, has had several seizures and passing out spells. Hospice is now helping with her care.

Thelma Echols continues to deal with her back pain and some swelling problems.

Phyllis Jackson is continuing physical therapy three times a week. She has an appointment Tuesday for some tests.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler are in Austin this weekend.

Paula Laubach is still dealing with some severe stomach issues.

We also have several others in our group who are dealing with ongoing health issues. This means doctor visits, test, and medications. Let us always remember our brethren when we take time to pray for our own issues.

Our bulletin board is a reminder that the season for Gospel Meetings has begun in earnest. While we are not part of any of these congregations, we can take advantage of the opportunities for Bible teaching. We travel to most of these areas for other reasons. Maybe a trip to hear the Word would be helpful. DLH

Seeking His Righteousness

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

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False Evidences of Salvation

Matthew Allen

Matthew 7 contains the conclusion to Jesus' sermon on the mount. In 7:21 Jesus warns: *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord; will enter the kingdom of heaven... Some will live their life feeling secure and religious. They will feel close to God—but in all reality will be a stranger to Him! This "false peace" will lead us to think ourselves saved when we are not! Jesus' words here are among the scariest in God's word. They should serve as a wake up call to every Christian. Jesus describes those who felt assured of their salvation in 7:21b-22. What was the problem? Why were they rejected? What is the lesson for us?*

Religious fervor and zeal is not always a sign of salvation! It is evident from 7:22 that those in the text had an emotional attachment to Jesus. They were "fired up." There is little doubt they were excited about their work. There was little room for laziness in their work for God. This is also true with some in our time and unfortunately they base their religious life upon their *feelings*. *Some think they feel more than others—therefore, are more "spiritual" than others.* Our feelings and zeal must be based upon knowledge! (Romans 10:2) If salvation were based solely upon zeal—Paul would have had no worries while a Jew. He writes: *as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.* But, of course, he said: *whatever things were gain to me, those*

things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. (Philippians 3:6-7) Our religious fervor and zeal must come from our relationship with Christ!

Religious works are not always a sign of salvation. “It is possible for one to preach—and to preach a correct message—and not be in the kingdom himself.” Balaam (Numbers 22); Saul (1Samuel 10:10-11; 18:10; 19:23-24); and others prove this point clearly. Paul guarded against this danger. He said: *I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.* (1Corinthians 9:27) Today, some are tremendous workers for the Lord—sacrificing great amounts of time; money; and effort. This is wonderful! We need more workers! But **one must not assume that just because he works hard that God is in him and he is in His kingdom!** Our great and wonderful works must result from our relationship with Christ!

Having a correct belief is not always a sign of salvation. Doctrine is important! It is essential! But, that is not all there is to it! There are many Christians who can spout off scripture after scripture on the necessity of baptism; the one true church; the error of premillennialism; how the impossibility of apostasy is wrong; why we should refrain from using instruments in worship; and why we partake of the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week. While we often do a great job in learning & teaching these important doctrinal precepts—it will mean nothing if we fail to be transformed into *God’s kind of Christian*. For example, some have it right doctrinally, but exercise no control over their tongue. (James 1:22-26) There is great danger in one believing the right doctrine—but never putting God’s word into practice where

it counts—in his life!

We can avoid being one of the “surprised” ones on judgment if we will **change our heart** through the application of God’s word. It will come through our seeking holiness! Paul writes of this in Ephesians 4:24: *put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.* Jesus wants to *establish (our) hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.* (1Thessalonians 3:13) Putting on holiness means that we must possess the inward righteousness that Jesus preached about during the first half of the sermon on the mount. We must ask: “Am I conforming to the kind of person described in the beatitudes?” “Do I have real holiness and righteousness within?” Jesus said, *“You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.* (Luke 16:15) Beware of the danger of relying upon “false evidences” of salvation. Beware of the danger of self deception. Approach your spiritual life with a diligence resulting from your love for Christ!

(While both author and topic are familiar to most of us, it is a needed reminder even to the strongest of Christians. We must always remember that our salvation is entirely dependent upon our relationship to Christ. We need to remain convicted of our need for Jesus and the Father in our daily life. We must do all within our power to keep our heart and mind near to God. The more effort we put into drawing close to God the more sure our faith and the more focused our work in His service. We must give our very life to Him if we expect to be with Him in Eternity. DLH)