

## For Our Information

With recent weather changes, Joyce Venable is dealing with pain this week.

Paula Laubach is still suffering from the injuries sustained in her wreck a few weeks ago.

Ricky Ragsdale continues to do about the same.

Remember the Jackson family as they mourn the loss of John's mother, Nettie.

School routines start back this week and we have several who are well acquainted with them. Keep parents, teachers and kids in mind.

Keep your brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

## Contact Us

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

### Church of Christ

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**tannerst.com**

## Distractions

I mentioned distractions a few weeks ago in writing about summertime, but we need to be wary of them at all times. No matter where we are there will always be people or things that will serve to pull our focus away from what really matters. Often we think of tv, computers, cell phones, music when we start thinking of distractions. We also need to acknowledge that many times our distractions come in less obvious ways.

Since our main focus is to be on serving God, even the daily chores of life can keep us away from our duty. Yes, the bills need to be paid and the yard needs mowing, but we also need to be spreading the Gospel. We need to be studying God's Word. We must be about God's business, even if our own must wait for a later time. Study first, God matters most.

## Seeking His Righteousness

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## Be Baptized

Learning of God, who He is and what He desires, puts one in the position of making certain decisions about life. One that sees God's hand in creation can certainly make the choice to refuse to seek an understanding of this being that gave us all we know. Those who decide to gain a better understanding of this Creator will find the things God has revealed regarding His relationship and plans for man. Reading and coming to an understanding of God will bring one to additional choices, first of which would be a decision regarding belief. Many who read of God turn away in disbelief, but others accept the truth of what has been revealed and seek to gain a relationship with the Creator.



*Now why do  
you delay?  
Get up and  
be baptized,  
and wash  
away your  
sins, calling  
on His  
name.  
Acts 22:16*



## 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

As we pointed out in our last two articles, this decision regarding belief brings one to even more points of distinction. One who believes in God and seeks to develop a relationship with Him must act in accordance with God's desires. Removing one's self from sin and darkness is essential if we seek to be in the presence of the righteous light of the World. Turning from the world and sin and returning to God and righteousness is necessary. Our last writing emphasized the need to confess our belief in Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior of man.

Yet even when we reach this point of understanding we are still plagued by sins of our past. How can we be cleansed and made new? How can we wash away the wickedness of the world and become the holy person that God would bring into His presence? Through Jesus, the Christ!

*Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

**1Corinthians 6:11**

These Corinthians had been reveling in worldly pleasures and fulfilling any and all desires, yet Paul said they had been cleansed and justified in Christ. That great confession of Jesus was based in His death on the cross. He shed His blood for our sins and through His death we can be made anew in God if we are willing to put to death our worldly, sinful past. We cannot "live for Jesus" until we have rid ourselves of the wickedness of our past. We must "kill" our worldly existence and become a different person focused solely upon serving God.

## Store In My Heart

### Matthew 28:18-20

*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Jesus is in charge. No matter what we might want we must first determine if it has been authorized by our Ruler. If we act without first checking with Jesus, we are taking authority upon ourselves and will be held accountable for acting outside of His Will.

We must also ensure everyone knows, His Way is The Right Way.

## Death Means Burial

Paul reminded the Roman brethren that it was through baptism that they had been buried to be raised to a new life.

*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**

The brethren in Galatia were urged to remember that they had clothed themselves with Christ through baptism.

*For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*

**Galatians 3:27**

The Colossians were also reminded that they had put to death the old man and were now hidden with Christ.

*For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

**Colossians 3:3**

Peter told those on Pentecost to "repent and be baptized" **Acts 2:38**. Paul, after experiencing Jesus on the road to Damascus and praying for three days was told to "be baptized and wash away your sins" **Acts 22:16**. Peter would later tell his readers "baptism now saves you" **1Peter 3:21**.

Are you ready to live with God? Do you want to have a relationship with the Creator and Ruler of All? It is time to submit to His will, kill self, and become alive in Christ. Believe and Obey God!