

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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Number 1

What Must A Person Do To Be Forgiven From Past Sins And Become A Christian?

1. HE MUST BELIEVE IN CHRIST AS REVEALED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

A. Without faith one cannot please God, Heb. 11:6

B. This faith comes by hearing the word of God, Rom. 10:17

C. Faith without works is dead, James 2:24, 26

D. Faith must work by love, Gal. 5:6

E. Love is keeping God's commandments, 1 John 5:3

F. This faith, which comes by hearing the word of God leads one to work righteousness (Acts 10:34-35), motivated by love in keeping the commands of the Lord which means that one must OBEY Christ to be saved, Heb. 5:8-9

2. HE MUST REPENT OF EVERY SIN, SORRY FOR SIN AND TURN FROM IT

A. Jesus said that one must either repent or perish, Luke 13:3, 5

B. Peter commanded those in Acts 2 to repent, Acts 2:38

C. Paul said that God commanded all men to repent, Acts 17:30

D. Godly sorrow is NOT repentance, but godly sorrow worketh repentance, 2 Cor. 7:10

3. HE MUST CONFESS JESUS WITH THE MOUTH BEFORE MEN

A. Jesus said that if a person would confess him before men, then He would confess such a one before his Father in heaven, Matt. 10:32

B. Jesus also said that if a person would not confess him before men, then He would not confess such a one before his Father in heaven, Matt. 10:33

C. This confession is to be made with the mouth, Romans 10:9-10

D. The Bible example in Acts 8:37, confirms this method of confession.

4. HE MUST BE BURIED IN WATER, OR BAPTIZED

A. Scriptural baptism is a burial, Romans 6:3-4

B. One must go into the water, be baptized, then come up out of the water, Acts 6:36-39

C. Water is the element in which one is to be baptized, Acts 10:47-48

D. It takes much water to baptize a person, John 3:23

5. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS BIBLE BAPTISM?

A. It is for the remission of one's past sins, Acts 2:38

B. It is to save one, 1 Pet. 3:21

C. It makes one God's child, Gal. 3:26-27

D. It puts one into Christ, Rom. 6:3-4

(NOTE: If one is God's child then he is an heir of God's blessings and joint heir with Christ, Rom. 8:16-17. If a person dies in Christ he will be saved (Rev. 14:13) and the ONLY way to get INTO Christ is through baptism! All spiritual blessings are in Christ, Eph. 1:3)

E. It washes away sins, Acts 22:16

F. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved, Mark 16:15-16

G. Those who were baptized in Acts 2 were added to the Lord's church, Acts 2:41, 47

H. Jesus commanded baptism, Matt. 28:19-20

I. Peter commanded baptism, Acts 10:47-48

J. It puts one into the Lord's death, Rom. 6:3-4 (NOTE: Christ's blood is what saves the sinner (1 Pet. 1:18-19) and His blood was shed in His death, (John 19:34) so the ONLY way one can get "into His death" is through baptism.

The Bible teaches the same thing concerning salvation that the apostles taught more than nineteen hundred years ago. Men have written hundreds of creeds that are different from the Bible and millions are following those creeds which Jesus said constitute "VAIN WORSHIP", Matt. 15:7-9. So as you read this you need to remember, that it is not what you think, or have been taught, BUT WHAT GOD REQUIRES IS WHAT WILL DETERMINE WHERE YOU SPEND ETERNITY, DON'T YOU THINK YOU HAD BETTER CHECK WITH GOD TODAY?

Glynn B. Purdy

TOGETHERNESS

What made the early church click? How did they turn a world upside down? Was it money, education, prestige or political power? The answer is simple — they possessed the priceless ingredient of togetherness!

That explosive band of first-century Christians not only abode in the doctrine of Christ (Acts 2:42), but they pulsed as one heart and one soul (Acts 4:32). They truly, as comrades in arms, had a genuine affinity to one another. They not only spoke where the scriptures spoke, but they loved as Jesus loved.

Many congregations of the Lord's people today meet together under the same roof; worship the same Lord; partake of the same weekly communion; attend the same Bible class; and go out together on the same Monday night visitation team — but have never caught the same spirit of oneness that ignited the apostolic church.

The apostle Paul pleads for the proper fuel to fire the evangelistic, benevolent and educational programs when he penned, "... that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel (Phil. 1:27). The spirit of the group spells the difference between mediocrity of congregational life and light-house living! (Matthew 5:14-16).

The real truth is that few churches are striving to build a dynamic fellowship. That intangible quality of cohesiveness is sadly lacking in most bands of disciples. We may abide in the doctrine of Christ — as we must, and attempt to oil a militant program — as we should; but unless we possess that oneness of mind and spirit, we will be drilling in a dry hole. We must learn to love one another or we will never fulfill God's purposes on earth. It is simple — love or perish!

Why shouldn't we be closer in Christ than flesh and blood? God is the Father of us all (Ephesians 4:6); Jesus Christ is our elder brother (Hebrews 2:11); we all eat the same loaf at the same table (1 Corinthians 10:17); we share a common grace (Ephesians 1:7); we are wedded to the same Saviour (Jude 3) and all anticipate a mutual destiny (1 Peter 1:3).

Our natural response to Calvary should be a warm response to fellow freemen. The commonality of our new found

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The Fulton County Gospel News

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EDITORS: Clovis Ragsdale
and James E. Henley.

Blessed Assurance

The lines of difference between each progressive stage of human goodness are so thin that one is prone to become a bit cynical in his appraisal of his fellow men. However, when one is calm in his judgment, he realizes that he, too, is one of those morally frail fellow-men.

We are forced to the conclusion, then, that there is none righteous, no not one, and that man is doomed to condemnation. Or, we must cling to the wistful hope that one merely wades through his unrighteousness to the shore of some lovely hereafter. For the Christian there is only one conclusion: The soul that sinneth shall die unless saved by grace through faith—the faith that obeys the gospel.

But even the professing Christian has doubts. He looks around among the professing brethren and finds a few flaws there too. During his more honest moments he sees some flaws even in himself. It is then that one becomes humbly thankful that God has given him a tangible way to know that he has been planted on the eternal Rock, Jesus Christ: Buried with him in baptism and risen with him a new creature with a new life in the forgiving power of God.

That foundation makes all the difference. We need to cling to it with all our heart. The swirling currents of doubts and fears may roar and catch at our tattered garments, but we are safe. The grace of God is sufficient for us.

—J. H. McCaleb.

Paper Continues To Grow...

With this issue, FCGN begins its nineteenth year of publication. Intended at first for local distribution, the paper now reaches into about half of the fifty states. The paper is now mailed into well over two thousand homes. The majority of those receiving the paper live in other states. Many live in the northern part of the nation where the church is not as established as in the south.

Each year the elders of the Mammoth Spring church meet and evaluate the work of the paper. Because the paper furnishes an opportunity to enter the homes of the unsaved, as well as many members of the church who do not receive any gospel papers, the decision has been each year to carry on. It furnishes one more way of preaching the gospel that is so badly needed by so many in our time. It is difficult to drop a good work when it has the chance of saving just one soul.

With the increase in circulation, the cost of mailing and printing continues to rise. The amount of clerical work has increased until it has become necessary to pay twenty dollars a month to get this work done. The editing, business managing, machine upkeep, and etc., is donated by the Mammoth Spring church.

There is a constant need for finance. We want to thank the many who have contributed in the past and urge the continuation of your support. Without your continued support the work could not go on.

Mail your contributions to Fulton County Gospel News, Box 184, Mammoth Spring, Ark. 72554.

“Rightly Dividing The Word Of Truth”

“STUDY TO SHEW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD, A WORKMAN THAT NEEDETH NOT TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH”, 2 TIMOTHY 2:15.

1—To “rightly divide the word of truth”, means to know, WHO is speaking, to WHOM speaking, under what DISPENSATION the speaking is done and WHY (or what the subject is under discussion).

2—The Bible is divided into 1,189 chapters, 31,173 verses and 773,692 words. There are 66 books; 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New. The first 5 of the Old Testament is “law”, the next 12 “history”, the next 6 “poetry” and the last 16 “prophecy”. In the New Testament the first 4 books are “gospels” (good news of Christ coming, his life, death, resurrection and return to heaven), the next book (Acts) is history of the establishment and growth of the church and how people were converted, the next 21 are letters to churches and Christians and the last book is “prophecy”.

3—The Bible contains 3 “dispensations”, the PATRIARCHAL, MOSAIC AND THE CHRISTIAN. The Patriarchal is named for the head of the family and there was NO written laws from God at this time. This lasted from Adam until the law of Moses and as far as we know the Gentiles continued under this law until Christ died. Under this law, God spoke to the heads of the families, or tribes, and what was a command to one person was not always a command to any other. Example, Noah to build an ark, Abraham to offer his son on the altar.

4—In Genesis 12:2-3 and 22:17-18, God gave TWO promises to Abraham; ONE, that through the promised son (Issac) that he would have MANY descendants, and SECOND, in his SEED which is CHRIST (Gal. 3:16) “ALL NATIONS WOULD BE BLESSED”. Out of the first promise came the Mosaic law to expedite the promise. Out of the second promise, came the law of Christ to expedite this promise.

5—The law of Moses was given ONLY to the descendants of Jacob’s twelve sons, the Israelites, Deut. 5:1-3. The Sabbath day was given ONLY to these same people, Deut. 5:15. It was given to them to REMEMBER that God had delivered THEM from Egypt. The Sabbath NEVER was given to the Gentiles and NEVER had any significance to them! The Passover is likewise. It was to remember God sparing the firstborn among the Israelite when he took the firstborn of the Egyptians.

6—WHY WAS THE LAW OF MOSES GIVEN? “It was added because of transgressions till the seed should come to whom the promise was made”, Gal. 3:19.

7—WHO WAS THIS SEED TO WHOM THE PROMISE WAS MADE? “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ”, Gal. 3:16.

8—DID GOD EXPECT THE LAW OF MOSES TO LAST UNTIL THE END OF TIME? The twelve tribes divided in 931 B.C., becoming TWO kingdoms, the kingdom of Judah and the kingdom of

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"Rightly Dividing The Word Of Truth (con't.)

Israel. AFTER this division, Jeremiah wrote that the time would come when God would make a NEW covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It was NOT to be LIKE the one he made with them when he brought them from Egypt. But this NEW covenant would FORGIVE their sins, Jer. 31:31-34. The "covenant" made with the Israelites and the ten commandments is ONE and THE SAME thing, Exodus 34:28, Deut. 9:11.

HOW LONG WAS THE LAW OF MOSES TO LAST? Till the SEED came and the SEED was Christ, so it was to last till Christ came! Read Gal. 3:23-25 and it is made so very plain! God NEVER intended that the law of Moses should last longer than the death of Christ!

9—WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE LAW OF MOSES? There was NO forgiveness of sin under this law, Heb. 10:1-4. It was based on the blood of bulls and goats and this would not forgive sins. CHRIST DIED FOR THEM TOO, Heb. 9:15.

10—Christ did not DESTROY the law (Matt. 5:17-18) but FULFILLED it. It was to last ONLY "till Christ came", so when he died on the cross the purpose for which the law was given no longer existed so its purpose was fulfilled and the law had served its purpose and was "taken out of the way" Col. 2:14.

11—THE END OF THE LAW. From Col. 2:14, we learn that the law was "NAILED" to Christ's cross!

12—WHEN DID THE LAW OF CHRIST COME INTO FORCE? WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS, Heb. 9:16-17. WE ARE NOW MARRIED TO CHRIST IF WE ARE CHRISTIANS! TO TRY TO BE MARRIED TO CHRIST AND MOSES AT THE SAME TIME IS SPIRITUAL BIGAMY, Rom. 7:1-4.

13—ALL of the law of Moses, even the ten commandments were NAILED to the cross. The principles of nine were RESTATED by Christ in HIS law, but we do not follow this because they were in the law of Moses, but because they were INCLUDED in the LAW OF CHRIST, THE NEW TESTAMENT, HIS LAST WILL TO MAN! ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE, THAT THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LAW OF MOSES AND THE LAW OF CHRIST, WE MUST FOLLOW CHRIST, Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1-2.

14—CAN I NOT BE SAVED TODAY JUST LIKE THE THIEF ON THE CROSS? THE ANSWER IS "NO".

IF THE THIEF KNEW WHAT KIND OF KINGDOM THAT CHRIST WAS TO ESTABLISH, HE KNEW MORE THAN THE LORD'S APOSTLES, Acts 1:6-8. Do you think this thief knew more than the apostles?

NO MAN CAN PROVE THAT THE THIEF WAS NOT BAPTIZED, Matt. 3:5-6. So if you refuse to be baptized as Christ commands, because the thief was not baptized, you do not know whether he was baptized or not!

DID THE THIEF ON THE CROSS GO TO HEAVEN? NO MAN CAN PROVE THAT HE DID? JESUS SAID THAT HE DID NOT GO TO HEAVEN WHEN HE WAS IN THE GRAVE, John 20:17. The thief went where Jesus went when Jesus died, Luke 23:43, but Jesus did NOT go to his Father! Where was He? Peter said that he was in Hades, Acts 2:31. So you see, NO MAN CAN PROVE, either that, the thief knew what he ask, or that he was NOT baptized, or that he went to heaven. So if you are one of those trying to avoid the commands of the Lord because of what you have "heard" about the thief on the cross, we encourage you to reexamine your position in light of the New Testament.

15—BUT EVEN IF THE THIEF WAS NOT BAPTIZED, EVEN IF HE KNEW MORE ABOUT THE LORD'S KINGDOM THAT THE APOSTLES AND EVEN IF HE DID GO TO HEAVEN, WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH YOU AND ME TODAY? NOTHING! THE THIEF LIVED AND DIED UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES, BEFORE CHRIST DIED! WHILE CHRIST LIVED, HE COULD FORGIVE ANY MAN'S SINS FOR ANY REASON, OR NO REASON. BUT WHEN HE DIED, HIS WILL, THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS MADE VALID AND BINDING ON ALL MEN! YOU AND I LIVE AND WILL DIE UNDER THE NEW TESTAMENT AND GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS, Acts 10:34-35, HOW HE SAVES ONE, HE MUST SAVE ALL!

NO, YOU CANNOT TURN TO JUST ANY PLACE IN THE BIBLE AND LEARN GOD'S WILL FOR YOU TODAY! YOU MUST CONSIDER WHO IS SPEAKING, TO WHOM SPEAKING, UNDER WHAT DISPENSATION THE WORDS ARE SPOKEN AND THE SUBJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION. FOR INSTANCE, YOU CANNOT LEARN ABOUT FAITH WHERE THE LORD IS TEACHING ON REPENTANCE! WANT YOU RIGHTLY DIVIDE GOD'S WORD!

The road to success is always under construction.

Satan's Cold War

It has always been true that open combat has been greatly accelerated to victory by strategy and propaganda; and in the world wars of the century, psychological warfare had its field day in boosting courage and in shrinking morale. Today, we read and hear much of the "cold war," no blood shed, no material destruction, no physical deaths but rather a word battle, an artful manipulation of facts, a withholding of truth, brainwashing of the people and an appeal to fear, hate and prejudice. Who would not agree that the Russian leaders have used such tactics? Have they not made servants of many by stealthy maneuvers, by subtlety, by evil in flashy garments, by claims for a better life and by shouted warnings?

Our concern, however, is the "cold war" of Satan. He, too, employs cunning, his appearance of good, his offer of knowledge, his bellowing boasts; is he not described as a subtle serpent, a wolf in sheep's clothing, an angel of light and a roaring lion? These are, indeed, the marks of a cold war promoter. The devil is not anxious for open warfare because he cannot defy the sword of the Spirit nor will he dare hand-to-hand battle with God's mighty word. "Resist the devil" by divine means "and he will flee from you." This does not mean that he will give up the battle but rather that he withdraws momentarily to re-map his strategy. Satan avoids the open clash but keeps right on pursuing his aims. Like a bully, he strikes only when he has the advantage, which man must not allow him to have.

Satan does not really want man. He just does not want God to have him. The devil does not want anyone to be in God's kingdom; and if one just will be a citizen of God's kingdom, Satan would have him disloyal, ever plotting its downfall. Let us not be the victims of the dragon's cold war. To avoid it we must be informed and fortified. Study the Bible. God's word is your secret weapon against evil.

—L. O. Sanderson.

What you can do, or dream you can—begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.

No talent, no self denial, no brains, no character are required to set up in the grumbling business.

You make more friends by becoming interested in other people than by trying to interest people in you.

Take Care Of The Lambs

By Carroll Sites

A farmer was once asked, "How do you get such beautiful sheep?" Thoughtfully he replied, "I take good care of the lambs."

To each parents reading this, I would like to pose this question: Do you take care of the lambs (your children?) Most parents that I know go to great pains to see that their children have the proper physical nourishment for their bodies and the proper mental food for their minds in the form of formal education. We provide them with a good house to live in and many (sometimes too many) of the luxuries of life. But all too often, when it comes to the spiritual food that our children need so desperately, parents become neglectful and indifferent and the children go lacking in this respect.

Most congregations of the church go to much expense and labor to provide facilities and teachers to teach our children about the Lord and His way... and then many fail to take advantage of these opportunities of Bible classes on Sunday morning and Wednesday night and their children go lacking for spiritual food. Most families that I know have adequate time for a devotional period in their home each day, and Bibles are readily available... yet there is but a small percentage of the families in the church which have such... and subsequently the children go lacking for the spiritual nourishment that is so desperately needed. Do you have devotions in your home... with your whole family... on a daily basis? If not, will you begin today? Do you take your children to Bible study on Sunday morning and Wednesday night? If not, then will you begin this week? Remember, if you will take care of the lambs, then we will get beautiful sheep! Little children are close to God — Let's keep them there.

North Little Rock, Ark.

TOGETHERNESS (con't.)

riches should forge a deep-seated fellowship that astounds the world.

So the next time we are tempted to resent a brother, just pray for him (James 5:16). When we would like to gossip, just praise him (I Corinthians 13). When we are inclined to dislike a fellow member, just invite him over and become acquainted. When our love grows weak, just roll up our sleeves and work by his side. It will surprise us how enemies will become friends, and friends can lay hold on comradeship when we strive for togetherness in Christ.

—Harold G. Taylor, Garden Oaks

Faith In God

Faith in God is more than conviction that he exists. It is belief that he is active in my life.

I have never heard his voice verbally as did Moses, but God speaks to me more plainly and completely through the written message of his word than he spake to Moses. I know and understand many things Moses never did.

God has never delivered me from the mouths of lions as he did Daniel, but daily he delivers me from temptations that are far more fierce than the most savage beast.

God has never drowned my enemies as he did Pharaoh in the Red Sea, but error and workers of wickedness are overwhelmed in the truth I preach.

I have never seen God's hand write on a wall as did the Babylonian king, but his hand paints every flower and molds every cloud with splendor that I know surely that I am weighed in the balances and found wanting.

God has never tested my faith in him by commanding me to offer my son as a burnt sacrifice as he commanded Abraham, but he challenges me to train, my children to be living sacrifices of service to him.

God has never fed me with ravens as he did Elijah, but I feast daily upon the fellowship of the saints and dine at his table of goodness every moment of my life.

He has never promised me possessions of lands as far as I could see in all directions, nor has he said that he would increase my seed as the stars of heaven, but he has promised me an eternal home at his own right hand in a city with streets of gold; and those that I have converted to him through the preaching of the gospel will yield fruits of righteousness forever.

I count all the wonderful things that he has done for all the great men of the past and I find that he does all of these things for me and more, through redemption and salvation in Christ his Son and my redeemer. Yes, God is living and active today in more ways than I can ever conceive or think.

—Otis Gatewood in The Messenger.

PETITION

I ask not, God,
That I be great
In what this world can give;
I only ask
That Thy great love
Shall guide the life I live.

KEITH DONLOW.

Simplicity vs. Confusion

In religion we have an amazing contrast between God's simplicity and man's confusion. God's way is so simple. It is man who has complicated things. Let's look at God's simple plan for all mankind:

I. ONE WORLD - ONE SAVIOR

We cannot come to the Father by anyone else (John 14:6). He is the world's only mediator (I Tim. 2:5). God is no respecter of persons. He has given this world just one Savior. That's all there is; that's all we need.

II. ONE WORLD - ONE PLAN OF SALVATION

If saved at all we are all saved the same way. We must all believe in Christ (Mark 16:16). All must repent (Acts 17:30), confess (Matt. 10:32) and be baptized (Matt. 28:19). All the saved must remain faithful to the Lord (Rev. 2:10). This is the only plan of salvation there is.

III. ONE WORLD - ONE CHURCH

God planned (Eph. 3:10, 11) and Jesus built one church (Matt. 16:18). It was bought with Christ's blood (Acts 20:28). All the saved are added to it (Acts 2:47). For all the world God provided just ONE church.

IV. ONE WORLD - ONE BOOK

To guide the saved God gave one book, the Bible. It's the only book He has ever given to man. It is sufficient (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). The whole world will be judged by it (Rev. 20:11-15).

V. ONE WORLD - ONE GLORIOUS HOPE

The faithful saints have the blessed hope of heaven. They are truly headed for the same place. If they accept the one savior, obey the one plan of salvation, worship and serve God in the one church, follow the teachings of the one book, they will live together eternally in heaven.

Man has added confusion to that which is so simple. Can't you see how much better God's way is? We plead with you to return with us to the simplicity of God's one way for all the world. (Bill Richardson)