

A “MESSIANIC BAPTICOSTAL”!

In the December 24, 2008 edition of “North Augusta Today” an article appears under the title: “Messianic Jews keep tradition, accept Christian View of Jesus. In this article an individual is mentioned stated she had come to the Congregation Beth Shalom, the only “Messianic Jewish synagogogue in this area” (they have recently, according to their web site, moved to North Augusta from Augusta), about 17 years ago “to learn more about Jesus and how he lived, which is preserved in the Jewish tradition.” She continued stating that she: “had learned so much about the roots of her faith that her Christian upbringing had left out. I was getting such a good understanding of the Old testament (at Beth Shalom)...I have a seminary degree and this was more that I had learned there.” There is one thing that she is reported as staing in that article that is true: “Messianics don’t celebrate Christmas because God does not instruct his people throught the Bible to celebrate his birth.” That is the **one** thing that she has learned from this group that is true! However, when one examines the beliefs of this “Messanic Synagogue” it is clear that they do not teach or understand the teaching of the New Testament even though they may teach more of the Old Testament, and claim to “accept the Christian view of Jesus.”

Later the individual mentioned in the article refers to herself as a “Messianic Bapticostal’ and indicates that she attends services at Curtis Baptist and Gracewood United Methodist when she can and that she “identifies more closely with the Messianic faith now than her Baptist upbringing.” She needs to look at her Bible again for the same Bible in which she finds no instruction concerning celebrating Christmas and the birth of Christ also gives no authority for any “Messianic Bapticostal.” Those who accept and obey the Gospel of Christ are Christians (Acts 11:26; 26:28; I Peter 4:16) and Christians only. There is no such thing as a “Messianic Christian,” “Baptist Christian,” “Methodist Christian” or even a “Bapticostal Christian.”

Again that she attend services at the two denominational churches that she mentions shows very clearly that the “Messianic Synagouge” does not teach what the New Testament teaches with respect to the church. The Bible teaches that Jesus promised to build but **ONE** church (Matthew 16:18). That church was purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28). Such purchased required all of His blood to purchase it, thus there was none left to purchase another. When the Gospel is preached and one obeys that Gospel, he is not added to a Messianic synagogue (or church), a Baptist Church, Methodist Church or any other man-made institution (Acts 2:41, 47).

The article also reveals that this “Messianic Synagogue” distinguishes itself from Christianity with the statement: “Members of the synagogue come from a diverse background, including Christianity, and they come for differing reasons.”

There are more things that we would like to discuss with respect to the “Congregation Beth Shalom” that is now meeting in North Augusta, based on the ifnornation that is obtained at their web site. Lord willing, we will refer to these in another article.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron’ sister who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter and Tim Smith. Lanny Niver has gone to Tennessee for the holidays. He is still having trouble with his back and was driven there.

Linda Chumbley had a procedure on her back last Monday and is scheduled for another this Monday to help relieve pain.

The Wilsons have all of the family in for the holidays. Cynthia is home from Houston, Texas and Kimberly and Jennifer from Athens, Georgia.

Our first pot luck in 2009 is planned for January 18, after the evening worship. It will be a chili, soup, sandwiches, etc. meal. Plan to be with us for this meal together.

What the Bible Says about...Noah’s Salvation

Noah Was Saved by Grace. “Grace” is defined as “favor or mercy.” Genesis 6:8 states, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” The ASV (1901) uses the word “favor” in lieu of “grace.” **We Are Saved by Grace.** “For by grace are ye saved through faith” (Ephesians 2:8).

Noah Was Saved by Faith. Hebrews 11:7 reads, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house.” **We Are Saved by Faith.** Hebrews 11:6 specifies: “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” As noted earlier, “For by grace are ye saved through faith” (Ephesians 2:8).

Noah Was Saved by Obedience. Notice Hebrews 11:7 (again) with Genesis 6:22: “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” **We Are Saved by Obedience.** Jesus Christ said in Matthew 7:21: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” The Hebrews author penned, “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him (5:8-9).

Noah Was Saved by Water. “Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water” (I Peter. 3:20). **We Are Saved by Water.** I Peter 3:21 goes on to say: The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Remember, a faith that will not obey is a faith that will not save! Let us always allow God’s Word to be the last Word!

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