

CHANGE OF HEART

Begotten of God

1. "With the heart, man believeth unto righteousness." Rom. x. 10
2. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
3. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, is born (begotten) of God. 1 John v. 1
4. "The Gospel *is* the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. i. 16
5. "The preaching of the cross is, to them that perish, foolishness; but, unto us which are saved, it is *the power of God.*" 1 Cor. i. 18.
6. "Ye have not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten with the *washing of water* by the you through the gospel." 1 Cor. i. 18.
7. "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth." James i. 18.
8. "Not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." 1 Pet. i. 23.
9. "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they *are* life." John vi. 63.
10. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to *become* the sons of God, even to them believe in his name." John i. 12.

"He that believeth, and is baptised, shall be saved."

"Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Taken from, **PRIMITIVE CHRISTIANITY, THE APOSTACY, AND THE RESTORATION, CHAPTER IV. - THE SUBJECTS, 1856** by David King, English Evangelist.

CHANGE OF STATE

Translated into the Kingdom

1. Baptising them *in* (Greek *into*) the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matt. xxviii.19
2. "Repent, and be baptised every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, *for the remission of sins*, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts ii. 38.
3. "Arise and be baptised and *wash away thy sins.*" Acts xxii. 16.
4. "So many of us as were baptized *into* Jesus Christ, were baptized *into* his death. Therefore we are buried with him *by baptism* into death." Rom. vi. 3,4.
5. "As many of you as have been baptized *into* Christ have *put on* Christ." Gal. iii. 27.
6. "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the *washing of water* by the word." Eph. v. 26
7. "Buried with him *in* baptism, *wherein* also ye are risen with him." Col. ii. 12.
8. "He saved us by the washing regeneration." Titus iii. 5.
9. "Baptism doth also save us." 1 Peter iii. 21.
10. "Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies *washed with* (Greek *bathed in*) pure water." Heb. x. 22.

BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574

(Greater Augusta, GA area)

Every Christian Is a Member of the Church of Christ

There are those today who claim that the Bible teaches that there are Christians who are not members of the church of Christ. But I have no hesitation in affirming that the Bible teaches that every person who is a Christian is a member of the church of Christ. This means, obviously; that I am affirming that the Bible teaches that there are no Christians who are not members of the church of Christ. The church of Christ is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). The saved are those who have been reconciled unto God, and those who have been reconciled unto God are members of the body (church) of Christ (Eph. 2:13-18). The matter is really just that simple, but in the light of the importance of the matter, let us say a bit more about it.

The Bible teaches that salvation is in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10). To be in Christ is to be in His church (Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Cor. 12:13; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 20:28; 2:38; Eph. 1:7). The Bible teaches that it is impossible for one to "cross the line" into salvation without "crossing the line" into Christ. The Bible also teaches that it is impossible for one to "cross the line" into Christ without "crossing the line" into the church.

The crucial relation of the church to salvation is seen in the statement, "And the Lord added [Greek imperfect "was adding"] to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). The English Revised Version, in an excellent treatment, translates Acts 2:47 in this way: "And the Lord added to them day by day those that were being saved" (Greek present participle).

In short, the Bible teaches that there are no Christians outside of the church for which Jesus died. When one obeys the Gospel, being baptized (as a penitent believer) in the name of Christ (that is, by His authority), the Lord adds him to the church. He never fails to do this (cf. Acts 2:41, 47; 1 Cor. 12:13).

Thomas B. Warren

Deceased

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663

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MESSIANIC JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

In last week's article, we made mention of an article 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 the Congregation Beth Shalom is spoken of as being the only "Messianic Jewish synagogues in this area"

The article also states "Like other Jewish people, they observe the Sabbath on Saturday." Indeed, when we go to their web site we find a "Statement of Faith" that lists eleven different statements. The last of these states: "We believe that the Sabbath (Shabbat) begins at sundown on the sixth day (Friday) and ends at sundown on the seventh day (Saturday). We believe God has commanded us to rest on the Sabbath and keep it holy. (Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 16:22-36; Exodus 23:10-13; Exodus 31:12-18; Exodus 25:1-19; Leviticus 23:3 & 32). This statement alone puts then in conflict with the teaching of the New Testament that they claim in the first article of faith, along with the Old Testament "to be the divinely inspired Word of God" for that testament does NOT teach that the followers of Jesus Christ are to observe the Sabbath. It is worthy of note that in the "Statement of Faith" **not one** scripture from the New Testament is quoted to justify Sabbath keeping among those who follow Jesus, even those who might come from a Jewish background. They state that they believe that Jesus was crucified, yet, by keeping the Sabbath, they deny the teaching of the apostle Paul: "*And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ*" (Colossians 2:13-17). The old law, including the Ten Commandments and, specifically, the fourth commandment regarding the Sabbath, was taken away, having been nailed to the cross.

Further, in their "Statement of Faith" they state: "We believe all men are sinners by nature and in need of salvation, which can only be accomplished by confession in the Messiah, by God's grace and through His atoning blood, death and resurrection. (Romans 3:23-25; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; I Peter 1:18-19). Nothing is said about faith, repentance or baptism in how salvation is accomplished. However, later they say they believe in the "observance" of "Water Baptism (Romans 6:3-4; Matthew 28:19)" yet no mention is made of such passages as Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; I Peter 3:21.

Again, they state: "We believe that every follower of Yeshua should seek the baptism (infilling) of the Holy Spirit as a definite and distinct experience, that they might be endued with power for the Messiah's service. (Acts 1:4-5 & 8; Acts 2:1-18 & 38-39). However, this is not a prerequisite for salvation." Note the linkage between Acts 1:4-5 where the apostles received the outpouring of the Spirit, Acts 2:1-18 where the apostles spoke in other languages with the baptism mentioned in Acts 2:38. Yet, Peter linked that baptism in Acts 2:38, along with repentance as being necessary to the forgiveness of sins. However, the "Messianic Synagogue," after linking it with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, state: "However, this is not a prerequisite for salvation" thus putting themselves at odds with what the inspired apostle stated since baptism in Acts 2:38 is for the "remission of sins." Clearly they have failed to distinguish between the baptism of Acts 2:38 which is for all and for the remission of sins with the baptism of the Holy Spirit that was limited in its scope and not something that is for today.

There are other parts of the "Statement of Faith" that are clearly at odds with the teaching of the Scriptures (both Old and New Testaments). They are therefore correct, when they state, as stated in the article in "North Augusta Today": "Members of the synagogue come from a diverse background, including Christianity, and they come for differing reasons." Indeed, what they teach and practice is **NOT** in harmony with the teaching of God's Word and thus is **NOT** Christianity. They do, however, find themselves in tune with much of denominationalism. Neither are teaching Christianity, as revealed in the Scriptures, and thus are **NOT** the church that we read about in the New Testament that Jesus promised to build and indeed purchased with His own blood (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28).

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's sister who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter and Tim Smith.

Susan and Noah Arnold were sick Sunday.

Lanny Niver was still in Tennessee last Sunday.

Continue to keep Linda Chumbley in your prayers; she has begun Chemotherapy treatments for her Leukemia. And so far is doing well.

Joe Hall, husband of Justine, Joe had open heart surgery for four blockages Friday afternoon. He is still in ICU at University Hospital but was doing well and eating as of Saturday afternoon.

Our next pot luck 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.

He Gave His Dearest Possession

In a small Midwestern town there lived a young widow with her five year-old son who had lost his eyesight and had become completely blind at the age of three years. The mother scrimped and saved, and finally gathered together enough money to travel to New York City to see a physician who, she was informed, could do surgery to restore her son's sight.

When told that the mother was not able to pay the normal fee, the surgeon replied that restoring the boy's sight was his first priority: There followed several successful operations and long days and nights of waiting. Finally, the bandages were removed for the last time, and a smile of delight came on the boy's face as he beheld his mother for the first time in his memory. He cried out, "Oh, Mommy, you are even more beautiful than I dreamed you were!"

When the day came to leave the hospital, the boy wanted to give the doctor something, but all he had was a teddy bear which had been his companion since infancy. One arm was gone, one leg had lost its stuffing, one eye was missing, but this was still the dearest possession the boy had. So, out of gratitude, he gave the doctor all he had, and the doctor, under protest, felt compelled to accept.

When the boy and his mother arrived home, a huge package awaited them. In it was the biggest and finest teddy bear money could buy. However, back in the surgeon's office, carefully placed in a glass container, there sat a little brown, battered bear with one arm, a limp leg, and only one eye. A card on the front of the front of the container read, "The largest single fee I ever received for professional services."

The story is true. The boy gave something worth virtually nothing, in exchange for that which was practically priceless. But, it was all the boy had to give, his dearest possession. We can surely make the connection. Jesus died to give us a priceless gift—eternal life for the sin-sick and dying spirit. We owe Him so much for this gift, yet we have nothing to give Him for it except our dearest, most precious possession—ourselves. He asks nothing more, and accepts nothing less.

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