

Today's Sermons
 Morning: The Power of the Word
 Evening: Song Service

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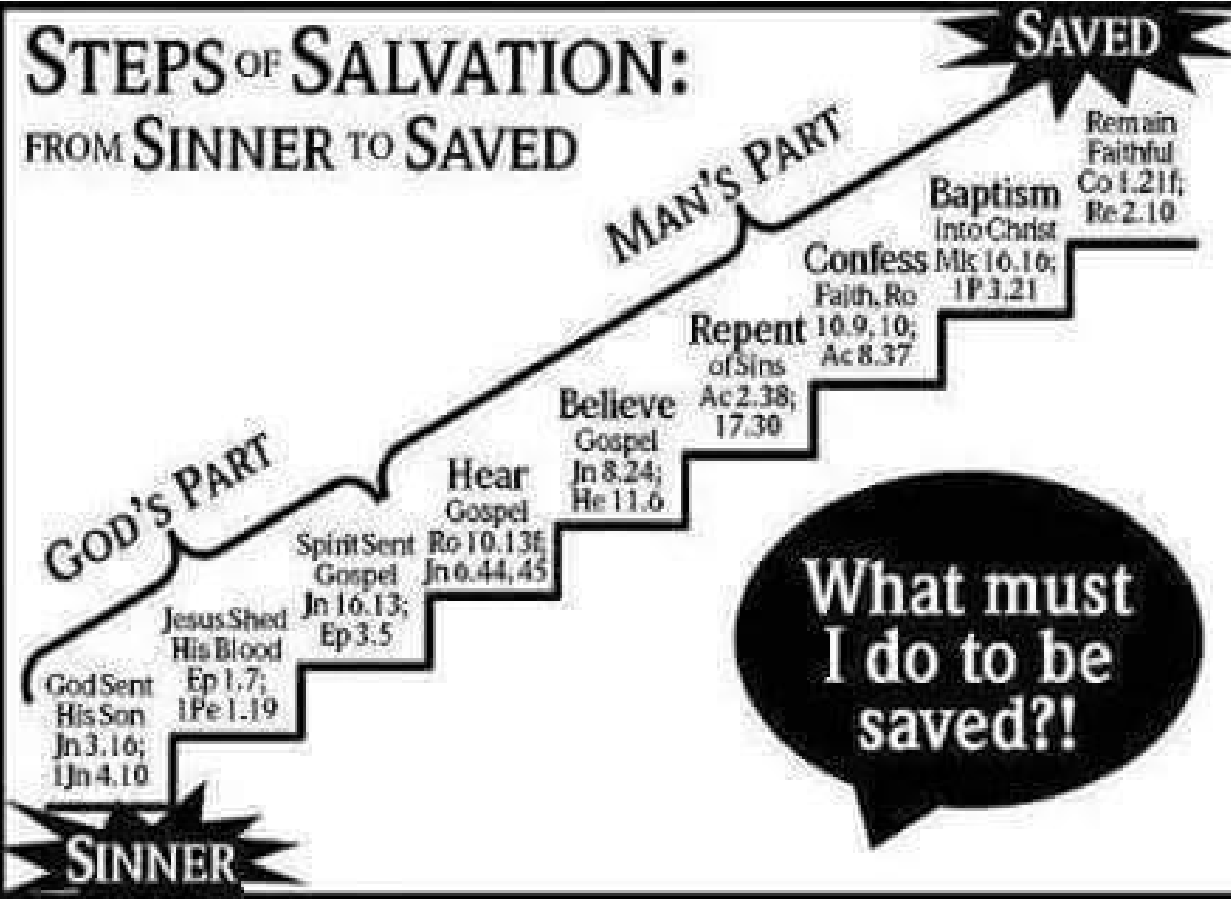
FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	27
Sunday AM Worship	36
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wed. Bible Study	26
Offering	\$1190



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A Convenient Religion
 Mike Noble



Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKK
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm &
 Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

Jeroboam, first king of Israel (after its division from the kingdom of Judah), was a leader who appealed to his people's desire for convenience. Afraid that the hearts of his subjects, upon traveling to Jerusalem to worship, would become disloyal, he set up idols in the northern and southern regions of his kingdom. He then told his people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt." Jeroboam hoped that his people would jump at the opportunity to travel a shorter distance to worship. He was 'banking' his kingdom on it. Sadly, just as he had hoped, his plan appealed to the nation (1 Kings 12:25ff; 14:16).

If you had been a citizen of Israel in Jeroboam's day, what would you have done? Would you have succumbed to the temptation of 'convenient religion,' or would you have shown conviction of character by traveling the long journey to Jerusalem to worship the only true and living God?

More importantly, however -- what are you doing today? What is your attitude toward serving Christ? Are you willing to work for and worship the Lord only when it is convenient? Or are you convicted enough to serve God even when it proves difficult?

Continued Inside

It's Wednesday, and it's been a hard day at work. And now you've got to rush home, eat supper, and get the kids ready for midweek Bible study. But you're tired, and your head aches a little. It would be easier to say, "I think it'd be best for us to stay home tonight." What will you do?

Your school friends are wearing clothes (some of which are immodest) that make yours look dull and boring. You're tired of looking like an 'oddball,' and you'd like to fit in with everyone. Your parents just might let you if you whine enough. What will you do?

You've "purposed in your heart" how much you'll contribute to the work of the local church, but now a few unexpected bills have come up. Decisions must be made. Eating at home more often and going golfing a few less times would help, but it'd be easier to say, "You know, we really don't need to contribute so much each week." What will you do?

Your brother is caught up in sin, and you know you need to talk to him. But you are afraid he will become angry with you if you try to restore him, even if you do so in a "spirit of gentleness." It would be easier to say, "He's the one who sinned, not me. He knows what he needs to do without me telling him. Let him dig himself out of the hole he's dug himself into." What will you do?

What was that again? Did you say you would have been among those who made that inconvenient journey to Jerusalem in Jeroboam's day?

If our service to Christ is not activated by conviction of heart but only when things are convenient, can it truly be called "service"?

*"So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake
all that he has cannot be My disciple"
(Luke 14:33).*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- April 26 – Worship @ Eula's @ 2:00 pm
- April 26 – Song Service @ 6:00 pm
- May 3 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- May 17-21 – Gospel Meeting w/ David B. Smith
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

Baptized Into His Death

Jerry C. Brewer

The apostle Paul wrote, "Know ye not, that 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; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4). Have you ever considered the expression, "baptized into his death?"

The significance of being "baptized into" the death of Jesus and therefore "buried with him by baptism into death" is that the blood of Jesus was shed in his death on the cross (John 19:32-34). Therefore, we are "buried"—not sprinkled or poured—"with him by baptism into death," where we contact the blood He shed so that our sins may be washed away. These were the very words of Ananias to Saul of Tarsus when he told him, "arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). And in Revelation 1:5, we read, "Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood."

It was "for the remission of sins" that Jesus shed his blood. When He instituted the Lord's Supper on the night he was betrayed He said of the fruit of the vine, "For this is my blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). Then, when Peter preached the first gospel sermon in Acts 2, he said, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). The record then says, "Now when they heard this they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:37-38).

It logically follows that since Jesus shed His blood "for the remission of sins," we must contact that blood to be forgiven of our sins. And that is done by being baptized into His death. In baptism, we reach Christ's blood by being baptized into the benefits of his death and He washes us from our sins in his own blood.

Have you been buried with Jesus by baptism into his death in order to receive remission of sins? Don't let anyone tell you that baptism is not necessary for salvation. Jesus joined belief and baptism in order to salvation when he said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). One may as well say he can be saved without the blood of Jesus Christ as to say he can be saved without baptism because it is only in baptism that one reaches the blood by being baptized into Christ's death. Have you been "washed from your sins in his own blood?" If not, won't you do that today while time and opportunity permit? Obey Christ in faith, repentance and baptism and become a member of the only church Jesus ever built.