



Today's Sermons

Morning: God's Definition of A Christian

Evening: Our Joy in the Lord

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Offering	\$1807

- ## ANNOUNCEMENTS
- June 7 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
 - June 14 – Preach & Eat
 - Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

Look Beyond

by Josephine Anne Miller

Look beyond your sufferings,
Look beyond your fear.
Look beyond your adversity
And find the Lord so near.

Look beyond the problem,
Look beyond the now.
Look beyond the turmoil
And before Him humbly bow.

For, in looking beyond and bowing,
You will find your normal sight ...
Takes on spiritual vision,
In God's sustaining light.



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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 WSKS
93.5 FM

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

Our Gospel Meeting Has Ended, Now What?

Tim Canup

Brother David B. Smith and his family traveled some 300 miles, spent 7 days away from their home and usual routine, and sacrificed time preparing and studying material to present to us during our Gospel Meeting. What a GREAT meeting it was! What GREAT lessons he presented from God's Holy & Divine Word! What GREAT encouragement the week truly was! And now that it has ended, now what?

Brother Smith's lessons were soundly based on God's Word and they were instructional as well as exhortative. They reminded us of the pure Gospel by which, when we obeyed it, washed us of all our past sins and added us to the Lord's one true church. They also reminded of how our lives are to be conformed to the pattern of Jesus and pure and holy. The lessons we heard were a great opportunity for us to examine ourselves whether we are truly in the faith (II Corinthians 13:5) and truly living as we ought. If we were honest, that is exactly what we did. Now what?

If upon examination, we found we have not measured up to God's expectations, were we honest enough to make the necessary changes? Now are we willing to continue moving forward and to grow deeper in our faith? If we have been wholeheartedly striving to serve God, are we willing to focus our attention even more closely to His will and continue to grow in the faith?

STAY WITH THE SAVIOR OF THE SCRIPTURES

Gary McDade

In the sermon on the mount Jesus introduced the concept that the way of salvation would not be crowded. He said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:13-14). Yet, down through the ages and up to the present moment people seem to follow the crowd irrespective of any other considerations, doctrinal or moral.

A study of the three and a half year ministry of Jesus Christ yields the observation that there were those who followed him because of what they wanted and not because of what the Savior wanted. For example, at Capernaum the Lord replied to the people's question, "Rabbi, when camest thou hither?" with, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed" (John 6:26-27). After Jesus revealed his will and purpose, John wrote, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him," (v. 66).

A lesson from the night of Jesus' betrayal will motivate a desire to "stay with the Savior of the scriptures." At Gethsemane, the scene unfolds along four fronts. First, the Savior is alone praying. In Matthew 26:36 it is written, "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder." Second, the three disciples were taken with him on into the garden where he prayed. Matthew revealed, "And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy" (v. 37). Closest to Jesus were Peter, James, and John. Third, the eight disciples were told by the Lord to "sit ye here" (v. 36). And, fourth, a large, armed multitude were coming out to arrest Jesus. Matthew wrote, "And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people" (v. 47).

So, first there was the Lord alone. He was praying. Second, there were the three disciples. They were sleeping. Third, there were the eight disciples. They were waiting. And, fourth, there was the murderous mob. They were approaching.

The lesson is the further away you get from the Lord the greater may be the crowd. The application of the lesson surely must include the light this lesson shines on the problem with popularity. On one occasion the Lord cautioned, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Luke 6:26).

While the apostle Paul is one of the greatest of New Testament characters and greatly admired, the words he penned toward his impending demise grip the soul. He said, "Only Luke is with me" (II Tim. 4:11). Those who would long to remain faithful as Christians must develop the cohesion to Christ Paul had even against all odds. In order to be acceptable to Christ one simply must "stay with the Savior of the scriptures."

What About Death Bed Salvation

Bob Prichard

The emphasis of the Bible concerning salvation is always "today." Quoting Isaiah. Paul said, "I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold. now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). When Jesus saw the interest of Zacchaeus, who had climbed a sycamore tree to see Him, He told him, "Zacchaeus. make haste, and come down, for to day I must abide at thy house" (Lk. 19:5). As Jesus forgave the sins of the "thief on the cross," He said, "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Lk. 23:43). It is never wise to put off responding to God's love. Some, however, seem to be counting on waiting until they are near death to make things right with God.

The Book of Acts lays out God's law of pardon for our time, the Christian Age. The first offer of pardon under the Christian Age \A as made by Peter and the apostles at Pentecost. As the multitude understood they had crucified the Son of God, they realized they needed to respond to God's love. "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 ev ery One of you ill the name Of Jesus Christ for the remission Of sin,;. and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:37-38). Other conversions in the Book of Acts follow this pattern. The Samaritans (Acts 8), the Ethiopian (Acts 8), Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9. 22), Lydia (Acts 16), the jailer (Acts 16), and the Corinthians (Acts 18) realized their need for conversion to Christ, and their faith in Christ moved them to repent of their sins, confess their faith, and be baptized. Not every conversion mentions each of these steps to salvation by faith, repentance, and confession. but every conversion account does mention baptism.

Does God change His law of pardon for the person on his death bed? There are no New Testament examples of such conversions, so there is no evidence to suggest that God has a different plan for those near death. The "thief on the cross" is not an example we may follow to know "how to be saved" because he lived under Jewish law, and was not subject to the new covenant of Christ (which came into effect after Jesus' death, Hebrews 9:15-17). He received the forgiveness of sin in the same way that others did under the public ministry of Christ. He was not subject to the commands of Pentecost, because he lived before the establishment of the church on that day.

None of us are in the position of deciding the eternal fate of others. We are all in the hands of a just and loving God. By the gracious sacrifice of Christ, God set in motion the means of our salvation. It is up to us to respond to His love in obedience. He has warned that the day is coming "when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thes. 1:7-8). Now is the time to obey Christ and live for him. As long as there is life, there is hope to obey God, but many who plan to repent on their death beds will never have the opportunity.