

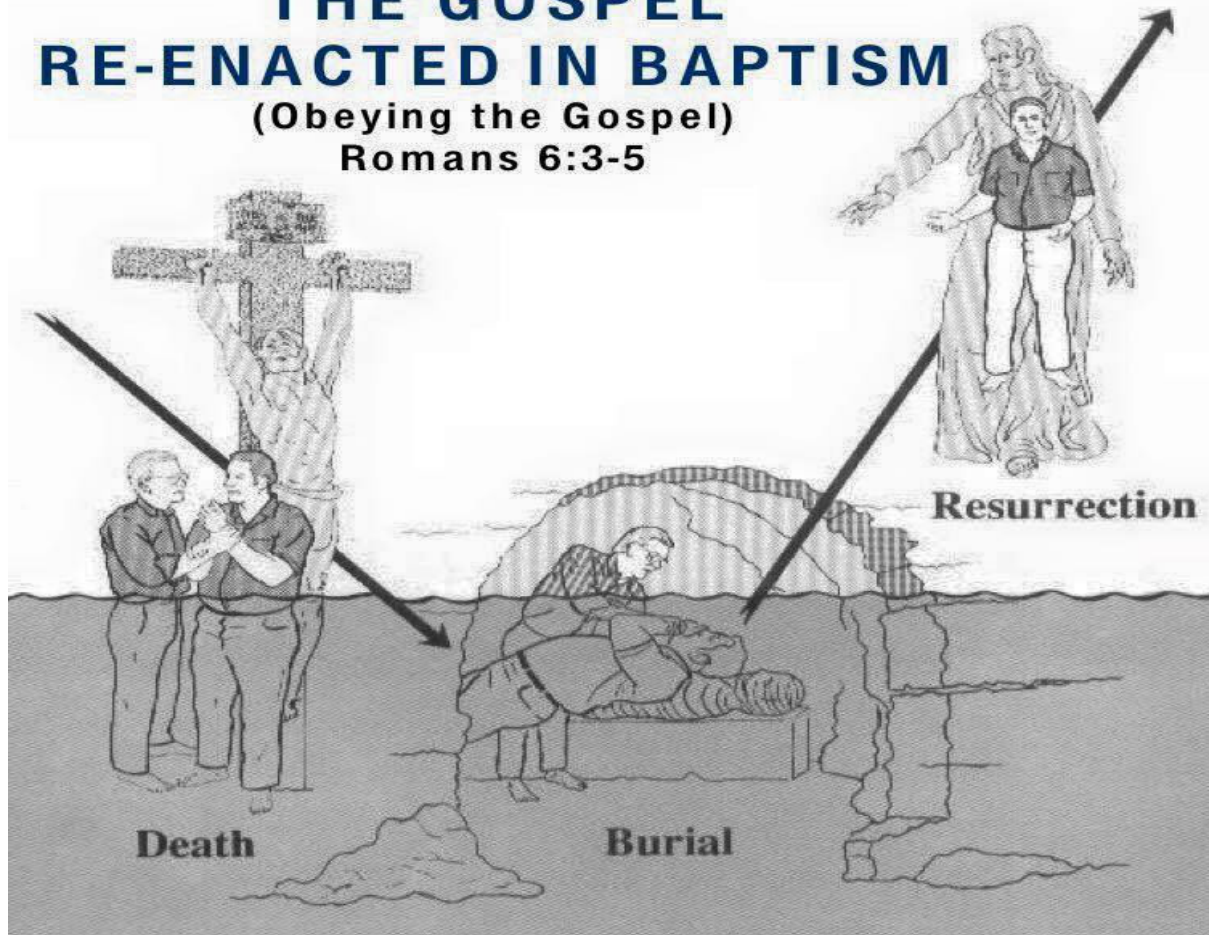
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	14
Sunday AM Worship	30
Sunday PM Worship	14
Wed. Bible Study	21
Offering	\$2111

**THE GOSPEL
RE-ENACTED IN BAPTISM**
(Obeying the Gospel)
Romans 6:3-5



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Minister:

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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

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 Lord's Great Commission & Me
Tim Canup

Let me pose to you some very thought-provoking and sobering questions each Christian should ask of himself or herself: Are I serious about the church growing? Do I really want to see the church grow? If so, how do I expect it to happen? What is it going to take from me? Who is responsible for it to happen? Have I talked with someone today/this week/month/year about the gospel? Have I given anyone a tract lately? These questions should be honestly considered by every Christian everywhere.

There is a connection between personal Evangelism, Church growth and the truth; they have been forever connected by God. Personal evangelism is commanded throughout the New Testament. Personal evangelism, done properly, consistently and patiently, can/will result in church growth. However, in personal evangelism, our goal is to sow the seed, which is the word of God (Luke 8:11), but it is God who gives the increase. We cannot force anyone to obey? How many converts did Noah make? Also, it must be done based with the truth; we cannot compromise the truth in order to be popular or simply to add numbers. The whole purpose of personal evangelism is to save souls.

Continued Inside

Let get a clear definition of some terms. By the word “personal’ we mean, “private, individual, one-on-one.” There is a sense in which we have a collective responsibility to spread the gospel, but we also have a personal one. Collectively we are involved in evangelism with such things as our gospel meetings, radio program and the daily one-minute spots, and by supplying material to be handed out. Our personal responsibility must be accepted as well. Personally we can fulfill God’s command by such things as personal, one-on-one studies, by distributing tracts, DVD’s and CD’s that are available, by inviting our friends and neighbors to visit one of our services or attend a gospel meeting (our own attendance is important, Hebrews 10:25, and can help create interest in others), or listen to our radio program. There are many areas in which we can fulfill this obligation, but it cannot be ignored and brushed off as someone else’s responsibility. The word “evangelism” is defined by Webster as, “a preaching of, or zealous effort to spread, the gospel...” It comes from the Greek word *euangelidzo* (Strong’s #2097) and means “to proclaim as good tidings, to announce good tidings of” (Perschbacher, 178). Consider Acts 8:4, “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching {literally, evangelizing or gospelizing-TAC} the word.”

“It has been shown that visits with those who visit our services will help the church to grow: 85% of first-time visitors will return if called upon within the first 36 hours; 60% will return if called upon in 72 hours; 15% will return if visits are delayed for 6 days; It also has been shown that visits by members are more productive than visits by a minister for people believe the minister is only doing his job, while visits by members indicate a special kind of love and concern.”

The wise man said in Proverbs 11:30, “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” No church will grow unless all the members are willing to work together, not just the preacher or the elders! In the mid-60’s it was reported that the Lord’s church (the church of Christ) was the fastest growing religious group in the U.S. However, in May 1976, in a list of 10 largest religious groups and 6 fastest growing religious groups, the church of Christ was not even mentioned! So, is there a need for personal evangelism today? Yes! As much as it always has been! How about here in our community? Absolutely! We have done a lot over the years and often seen very little results which may tent to cause us to lose heart and become discouraged. However, the need is still there. So, who is going to do it? Are we willing to be like Isaiah and say, “Here am I; send me!”

Let us always be reminded that the church’s ONE, single, solitary mission is

evangelism (benevolence & edification are her works). Let everyone of us be motivated and encouraged to be involved in personal evangelism in whatever ways we can. Not everyone has the same ability, but we all have a part in reaching others with the Gospel!

One person simply **cannot** do it all. Every member must be involved. Consider some sobering statistics: There are seven+ billion souls now living on earth. With the current number of missionaries and preachers, each one would have to teach 15 people/hour, 24/hours day, 365 days/year for 114 years (by then the world’s population would be even more. Here in our own county or Ashe, there are approximately 26,863 (2019) souls with two congregations of the Lords church with an approximate average Sunday morning attendance of 65 (which is less 0.25% of population). The national average of Christians in America is 1.25%. If we met that number, then there should be 335 Christians here in Ashe County. So with one minister for each congregation and you subtract the 65 members from the total population would be 26798. If only the two ministers taught, that would be 13,399 each and if each minister taught one a day, then it would take 36.7 years to teach every one! If all 65 members were active in evangelism, then the number would be reduced to 413 people each. Although that is still a rather large number, you can see how much more manageable it is. The whole point is that it is going to take every member being active in carrying out our Lord’s Great Commission!

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“Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. ⁶ Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: ⁷ And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. ⁸ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me”
(Isaiah 6:5-8).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 11 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service (Song Service)
- July 15-17 – Barn Meeting in Lansing, 7:00 pm each evening
- July 18 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class after Evening Worship
- July 25 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell