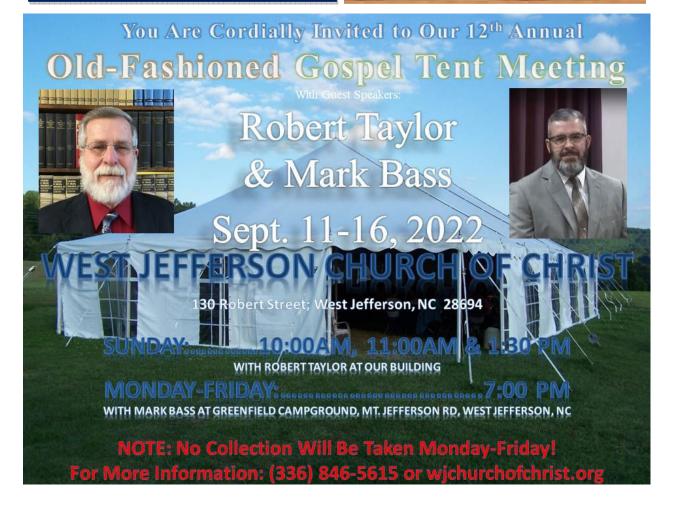
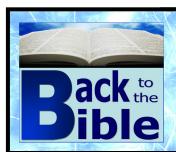
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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Volume XV

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Number 37

Minister:

Tim Canup tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

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 WKSK
93.5 FM

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

YOUR FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE

Peter Cooper Via *EDIFY*, Evergreen, Alabama

To those who faithfully attend each worship service, each Bible study hour, and other spiritual opportunities as we decide to meet together, to you we offer our thanks for your stedfast example and encouragement. To those of you who would attend if your health would allow it, we offer you our love and our prayers and we want you to know that you are sorely missed. We often mention you in our assemblies and in our prayers both public and private. FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE SUGGESTS SEVERAL THINGS:

- that you love God and His Son Jesus
- that you want to worship God
- that singing praises is a delightful thing to you
- that praying together with your brethren is important
- that you enjoy being with your brethren
- that you seek more knowledge from God's word
- that you love giving to God
- that you are concerned about the lost
- that you want to spiritually train up your children
- that you want to be a good example
- that you are spiritually minded
- that you are seeking the kingdom first
- that you want to exhort others to be faithful you realize your need of God
- that you appreciate what Jesus has done for you ...and these are just a few.

What does lack of attendance suggest? We pray that your conscience still reminds you.

Baptism & the Jailor in Acts 16

Tim Canup

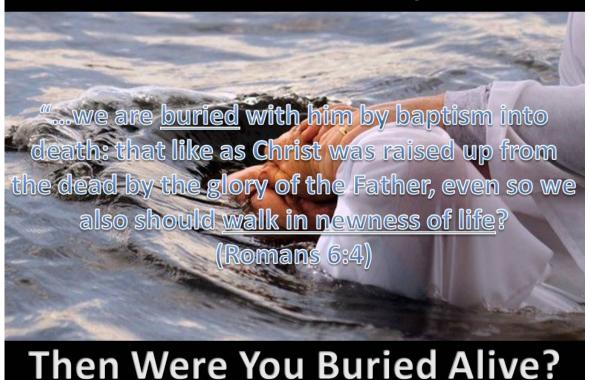
The Jailor in Acts 16 has been suggested as proof that one does not have to be baptized in order to be saved, after all, in verse 31, Paul and Silas told him to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." Again, let us honestly examine this account to see if indeed it is an example of one who was saved without baptism.

When Paul and Silas came to Philippi, they soon found themselves in prison. While there, at midnight, while singing and praising God, an earthquake shook the prison and opened the doors. The jailer drew his sword and was about to take his own life when Paul stopped him (verses 25-29). This man then asked the most important question ever: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Now, it is important to note that the man who asked this question was one who had probably never even heard of Jesus Christ. He was at the beginning point of his spiritual journey; therefore, it is no surprise that Paul told him to believe, but to suggest salvation came at that point cannot be supported by this one verse alone, as shall be proven.

Paul made it clear that the Gospel is "the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). Immediately following their instruction to believe, "they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house" (verse 32). In speaking the "word of the Lord" they preached the Gospel. It is the Word of the Lord that produces faith (Romans 10:17). So if he was saved in verse 31, then he was saved without the Gospel, God's power to save. Notice, after preaching the word of God to him, "he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway" (verse 33).

Now there is an important detail that must be noted concerning what was required of him in order to be saved. It has been suggested that baptism is to confirm salvation and that baptism comes later, that is, after salvation. Let us put this to the test with a very important question. This Jailor clearly took these two prisoners home with him upon hearing the Gospel and was baptized "the same hour of the night" (verse 33), that is, midnight (verse 25). If this Jailor was caught with these prisoners out of that prison, then it would have meant his own life (that is why he tried to kill himself when he had thought they had escaped). If baptism is no more than an outward sign of an inward faith, that is, to confirm salvation and can wait until later, then why did he risk his life by having these men out of that prison to do something that could have waited until morning (or even later)? However, if baptism is part of God's plan to save, that is, the point where the cleansing blood of Jesus is applied and sins are washed away, then it explains his urgency to obey Jesus' command to be baptized.

Saved at moment of faith & baptized later?



"The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance. The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works." (Psalms 33:10-15).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 11-16 Tent Meeting with Robert Taylor & Mark Bass
- Sept 11 Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- ➤ Sept 25 Prayer Service
- Oct 2 Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell