

COME TO JESUS!

“Come to Jesus, He will save you.” These are the opening words to a song that we sing sometimes in worship. All who are religious and who name Christ as their Lord know the importance of “coming to Jesus.” However, not all who claim to have come to Him, have truly done so. We need to understand that “coming to Jesus” is accomplished only when we have done what He has commanded.

So many are convinced that once they “come to Christ” they are in a safe and secure position forever more. Indeed, this is true, but only if one will fill the conditions that God has set before us. The problem is that many do not truly come to Christ, for they have not been taught what this means. We do have security in Christ, but only if we draw near to God....God’s way! Paul told the Corinthian brethren *“Now I make known unto you brethren, the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, wherein also ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye hold fast the word which I preached unto you, except ye believed in vain”* (1 Corinthians 15:1,2). We are saved **IF** we hold fast. We must hold fast to the Gospel which we have received or accepted and obeyed.

Yes, the Gospel is more than something we believe, we must also obey it. In Acts chapter six, it is called obeying the faith: *“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith”* (Acts 6:7). Paul spoke of the importance of obey the Gospel when he wrote that Christ would return and *“render vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus”* (2 Thessalonians 1:8). Peter said that such obedience also is what purifies our souls. He said *“Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth”* (1 Peter 1:22). Note the role of God’s word when he said *“having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **through the word of God**, which liveth and abideth”* (1 Peter 1:23). What happens in this action? Souls are purified. How? By obedience to the truth, the word of God or the Gospel. This is perfectly within the keeping of what Peter elsewhere would teach saying *“which also after a true likeness doth now save you, even baptism, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 3:21).

The Cleansing Blood Of Christ

Let us consider the subject of the cleansing blood of Christ. Peter said *“And if ye call on him as Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to each man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning in fear: knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a lamb without spot, even the blood of Christ”* (1 Peter 1:17-19). We learn several things about the attitude we ought to maintain: **1**-God is our Father; **2**-we can address Him, and talk to Him and be close to Him; **3**-God impartially judges; **4**-God impartially judges according to our lives and what we have done. Thus, we must live with proper conduct while we are here. Now, this does not imply that God will judge us upon the basis of what we have decided **we** need to do to become saved, nor what **we** decide is the kind of work and worship that God will have to accept. Peter is simply showing that judgment will be based upon whether each one of us has done what God has already set before us to do in obedience and work. Paul told the Ephesians *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10).

We note also that salvation is something we cannot purchase. Some try to do this very thing by doing all kinds of good works, thinking God will owe them something. Or, they will be very generous and send a big check to their local denomination, thinking this will get them into Heaven. Peter made clear that our redemption is by means of the precious blood of Christ. It is worth more than any monetary consideration, wealth, or property. God cannot be bought!

The question is: how are we cleansed? This cleansing, of course, is cleansing from sin. The prophet Isaiah wrote *“Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil”* (Isaiah 1:16). The nation of Israel was told to wash and put away evil. This is repentance, and the washing would be ultimately accomplished by the blood of Christ. That this cleansing is by the blood of Christ is abundantly clear from the New Testament. The writer of Hebrews wrote *“And according to the law, I may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and apart from shedding of blood there is no remission”* (Hebrews 9:22). He then makes application of this principle of cleansing by blood to us by writing *“let us draw near with a true heart in fulness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience: and having our body washed with pure water”* (Hebrews 10:22). Thus, the cleansing blood of Christ is ours when we come to God in obedient faith and are baptized in order to have our sins washed away.

Sermon Notes:
“Judging Oneself Unworthy of Eternal Life”

- A lesson from _____ for the Jews regarding the promises to the fathers.
- King David was a man after God’s _____, and would do all God’s _____.
- The promise to the fathers was the promise of _____.
- Jesus was that promise, whom the Jews’ fathers killed without _____.
- But God _____ him up and provided _____ of his resurrection.
- The three promises Paul preached: _____; no _____; remission of _____.
- Those who “believe” are _____ from sins.
- The jealous Jews judged themselves _____ of eternal life by rejecting Paul’s message.

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Evening: 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7:30 p.m.

Preachers:

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Wednesday’s Wisdom:

“The Gospel is from God, to purchase us from sin through the blood of His Son. Such is our ONLY hope.” Austin Truss

Brother Ray Sargent was in an awful traffic accident that took the life of his friend. Ray is in pretty bad shape; please pray for his recovery, and for his family as they deal with this tragedy.

The 2nd Sunday of May is Mother’s Day, hence we will move our fellowship meal and monthly men’s meeting to the **3rd Sunday of May**.

Sermon Preview:

- Paul preaches a sermon in Pisidian Antioch that infuriates the Jews and delights the gentiles.
- He reminds the Jews of their history (like Stephen did).
- Many are interested and desire to hear more...
- The jealous Jews refuse to allow Paul to preach more and disrupt his work.
- He tells them he will turn to the gentiles and teach them of salvation and “justification” by “faith in the name of Jesus.”
- The result: the church grew; God is glorified; the Word of God is spread.