WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; 1:16; Acts 18:8; latt. 10:32, 33).

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# By the Numbers:

Week of 8/12/18

Contribution — \$2530

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes — 23 Sunday Worship \* - 45 Wednesday Night — 33

\*Total for the day

#### Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: Broiled fish and honeycomb (Luke 24:42).

Q: Who was the man chosen to replace Judas as an apostle?

Answer to be given next week!

#### Sermon Spotlight:

AM: Behold, I Thought

- 1) Is what WE think always right?
- 2) Is what GOD thinks always right?
- 3) Should we question the commands found in the Bible, or should we just obey them?

PM: Conversations Towards Conversion

1) Think of ways that you could have conversations that lead to conversion.

## THE BEACON OF TRUTH

August 19, 2018

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17

# How Obedience Should Work in Our Lives Gary Colley

It is always a source of joy when we witness men and women obey the gospel of Christ! But it also causes us sorrow when these obedient souls do not arise from the watery grave of baptism to live the new life by faithful attendance to the services of the church or give other evidence that they have changed their lives. Living for Christ and being baptized are so connected that it is not correct to have one without the other. Let us list a simple explanation of how obedience should work in our lives.

- 1. Hearing the gospel should destroy man's **interest** in sin (Rom. 10:17).
- 2. Believing the gospel destroys the **pleasure** of sin (John 8:24).
- 3. Repentance destroys the practice of sin, rendering one dead to the practice of sin (II Peter 3:9).
- 4. Confession destroys allegiance to sin. It is a vow that we are no longer of the world (Rom. 10:9).
- 5. Baptism destroys the guilt of sin (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:17-18). Paul wrote to the Colossians: "...seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" (Col. 3:9-10). Hence, we should see the magnificent power of God's Word in our lives.

## <u>NEWS AND NOTES</u> TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

#### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen (Still at GRMC recovering from her foot injury) — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Kenneth Hendrix — Jerry Tippen — Ruby Weaver (Now at Alpine Rehab in Ruston) — Wendy Traweek

### **OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- Monthly Fellowship Meal Every fourth Sunday of the month, unless otherwise noted
- Youth & Young Adults Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers. (If you would like to help with a get-together, please let Chase know).

#### What If I Believed the Bible, But Didn't Read It Chase Green

I wonder how many people profess a belief in the Bible. How many people call it the Good Book? How many people have at least one copy of it somewhere in their home? Do they actually read it?

Take a look at the following statistics, taken from the religious research company, the Barna group (www.barna.com/research). In 2014, there was at least one Bible present in 88% of households in the United States. There were 4.7 Bibles per household. While those numbers might be encouraging, others are not so much.

Even though 88% of households contained at least one Bible, only 37% of Americans claimed to read it at least once per week. Two years later in 2016, the Barna Group reported that only about 33% of Americans read the Bible at least once a week. They attributed this to the fact that although Bible reading is higher among older age groups (49% among the elderly), as more and more Millennials reach adulthood, the numbers are skewing lower because only 24% of that age group reads the Bible weekly.

This got me to thinking: What if, as many Millennials like to claim, we could be spiritual, but not religious? What if we loved God and believed in the Bible, but did not actually *READ* our Bibles? What kind of pseudo "Christianity" would follow? Consider the following list of problems that would ensue:

If I believed the Bible, but didn't read it...

- 1) Then I would not really know about God: His nature, His power, the Godhead (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit) (see Rom. 1:20), His willingness to take on flesh (John 1:1ff).
- 2) I would not bear any guilt, nor realize my own accountability for my sins (Rom. 14:11-12).
- 3) I would not truly know about or appreciate the fact that Jesus died on the cross to atone for my sins (Rom. 5:8).
- 4) I would not know that baptism saves (1 Pet. 3:21), that it washes away sins (Acts 22:16), and that it is for the purpose of remission of those sins (Acts 2:38).
- 5) I would not understand that Jesus built His church, and that His church is not owned by man, nor is it a manmade institution (Mat. 16:18).
- 6) I would not understand that there is but one Body (Eph. 4:4) which is His church (Col. 1:24), and that Jesus prayed that His church would always be one (John 17:20ff).
- 7) I would not know anything about miracles, nor their purpose in ushering in the church and the completed Word of God (Mark 16:20; John 20:30-31; Acts 2; 1 Cor. 13:8-10).
- 8) I would not know how to talk to God (Mat. 6:8-13; James 5:16; 1 Pet. 5:7).
- 9) I would not know what God wants for my marriage and children (Eph. 5:21-6:4).
- 10) I would not know anything about Heaven or Hell (Mat. 25:46).
- 11) I would not know anything about authority, both in heaven and on earth (Mat. 28:18; Rom. 13:1ff).
- 12) I would not know anything about how God expects me to worship Him (John 4:24).
- 13) I would not know that God wants me to remember Jesus' sacrifice through observing the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:26), and that He wants me to do it every first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
- 14) I would not know anything about, nor care to sacrifice by, giving back a portion of my income to God, nor would I know about the blessings that follow (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8-9).
- 15) I would not know anything about faith, love, peace, patience, joy, or any of the other fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

This is not an exhaustive list of important insights we gain by reading God's Word, but surely it is enough to show that we had better be reading our Bibles, searching them daily (Acts 17:11), and showing ourselves approved of God by studying (2 Tim. 2:15).

With love, Chase

#### THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:30

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