

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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The Getwell congregation sends monthly
support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:20 a.m.
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

At Getwell, we have for some time now invited our men to offer the Lord's invitation following our Wednesday evening Bible classes. We appreciate the time they give in preparation and the fine way they offer the steps of obedience to the Gospel of Christ. This plan, when obeyed, brings souls into Christ or His church by hearing the Gospel, faith in the Lord, repentance from past sins, confession of ones faith in Christ, and baptism for the remission of sins in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We commend these men for their talents and for their willingness and readiness to serve in this capacity. These are, by this work, prepared to present the Gospel wherever opportunity presents itself, and they are needed. We believe every Christian should be able to give the plan of salvation and the place in the Scriptures where they are taught (I Pet. 3:15).

The inspired writer James asks an important question for each person to consider closely. "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. **For what is your life?** It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (Jas. 4:13-15). We cannot overestimate the importance of living the Christian life! One writer wrote the following important thoughts:

Life ends when you stop dreaming;
Hope ends when you stop believing;
Love ends when you stop caring;
And friendship ends when you stop sharing.

We believe these are important considerations for all to think about!

Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .

How To Become a Saint?

Gary Colley

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, saying that he had been “called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ” just as the brethren in Christ were “called to be saints” (I Cor. 1:1-2). These Christians had been called by the Gospel (II Thess. 2:14), which is God’s power to save all men who will obey (Rom. 1:16-17). The Corinthians were saved and had entered into the church of Christ by the same means practiced on Pentecost (Acts 2:39-41, 47). While on a missionary journey to Corinth, Paul had established the church, which is explained, “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized” (Acts 18:8). Some in our day argue that faith alone saves, and attempt to use Crispus in this verse to “prove” their false doctrine. They say Crispus was not baptized here. But like all others who entered into Jesus Christ he was baptized (Mk. 16:15-16). It seems as if only in a passing way in the letter to the Corinthians that Paul says, “I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name” (I Cor. 1:14-15). Saints in the New Testament were members of the church and not someone who has been dead for many years, but who is decided upon by some group of men to be

made a saint. All who will may become saints today, by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, arising to live as a saint or Christian. Saint simply means one is holy, and has been separated to the service of God (Rom. 6:16-18). One is not made a saint in the New Testament sense by joining a human denomination. Misguided zeal abounds in our world. It is not limited to the idolatrous pagan religions, or to the Jewish religion, but comes through a lack of knowledge of God’s Word. Paul clearly informs us that some religious persons have a zeal for God, “but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom. 10:1-3). We are commanded to study to show ourselves approved unto God, to be the right kind of workmen in His church, and to rightly divide His Word (II Tim. 2:15). We are assured by God that His Word will furnish us completely with every step from here to Heaven if we will follow (II Tim. 3:16-17). God does not leave it to man to decide what worship He wants and approves, or what kind will be accepted (Heb. 11:6; Acts 2:42). We may have a zeal, but without knowledge and the desire to follow God’s Will, our worship is vain (Matt. 15:9).

RON'S REMINDERS



You Must Be Born Again

Cecil May, Jr.

In this latest political season, pollsters carefully surveyed how different groups were going to vote and why, so they distinguished between “born again Christians” and just “Christians.” Biblically, there are no Christians who are not reborn. Jesus told Nicodemus, “You must be born again” (John 3:7 ESV).

The idea of new birth runs throughout the New Testament. It is an analogy for a change so radically different from the world’s conversation, recreation, dress, and worldview that it can be adequately expressed only as “a new birth.” A new lifestyle and a new value system are evidences of a true new birth.

Here is what the New Testament tells us about being born again:

- *It is an act of God through His Holy Spirit.* Thus, it is not something we can do for ourselves. John referred to those “who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:13). Jesus told Nicodemus, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (3:6). God acts. God forgives. The reborn are no longer condemned sinners; they are new creatures, redeemed.

- *It is accomplished by the word of truth.* James said, “Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth” (James 1:18). Peter said, “You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:23). There is no salvation apart from God’s power for salvation, the gospel (Romans 1:16).

- *It occurs at baptism.* Jesus told Nicodemus, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot

enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:4-5). Throughout Scripture, water is connected to baptism (Acts 8:36), and baptism leads to salvation (Mark 16:16). It is the point at which we rise to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). It is, therefore, recognized that “born of water” refers to baptism.

- *It causes us to be born to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.* “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). It is a “living hope” because the resurrected Christ still lives.

As long as the pagan world is without Christ, it is “without hope” (Ephesians 2:12). Aristotle, the eminent Greek philosopher, declared, “Death is the most terrifying of things, for it is the end” (*Nicomachean Ethics* 1115a). For the Christian, however, death is not the end; it is a beginning, a graduation into an incorruptible, immortal, powerful, glorious resurrection body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44) guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (vv. 20-22).

- *It is a rebirth to victory.* “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Cecil May, Jr. is dean emeritus of the V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama. He may be reached at cmay@faulkner.edu.