

Good News

From Getwell

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Radio Program
The Truth in Love
WHBQ-AM 560, Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

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.

TUESDAY

Ladies Bible Class (Sept. - May) 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

We continue to be encouraged by the visitors who attend our Bible classes and worship services. Many of these are from out of town visitors who have heard of our work and soundness at Getwell. Some attend as a result of our "Truth in Love" radio program, heard each Sunday morning at 8:00 on AM 560 and FM 87.7. It was great to hear brother Carl Allen preach for us recently on Sunday evening! His lesson was true to the Scriptures! We have seen several of the members of the congregation growing in the grace and knowledge of God's Word. In this we rejoice.

We were recently visited by brothers Joshua and Ronnie Gootam, who spoke of their work in India. They have established a good congregation in India with about 250 members! I have known about their good work there for several years. Brother Perry Cotham also has preached there. They explained to the Getwell elders that they were involved in giving free Bibles to the people there. The cost of these Bibles, which are printed in India, is about \$3.50 per Bible! Our elders met their request for help in the purchase of these by giving \$1,000. We rejoice in the good work in which Getwell has a part all over the world! THE SPIRITUAL SWORD publication, edited by brother Alan Highers goes into 92 countries each quarter! May the glory be to God for enabling this congregation to reach out to the lost in so many good works.

Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .

The Connection of the Cross to the Church?

Gary Colley

Many seem to think they can magnify Christ's death on the cross while minimizing or completely ignoring the Lord's church. But the scriptures express a definite relation between the cross and the church. It is not possible to understand the nature of the church until one has viewed it in the light of the cross. A proper understanding of the relationship between the cross and the church will enable one to appreciate God's plan of redemption for sinful man. Please note some definite connections between the cross and the church:

1. *The cross made the church possible.* It was through the cross that God reconciled both Jew and Gentile in one body (Eph. 2:13-16). When Christ died, He took away the Law of Moses and created one new man in His church. Paul wrote, "And he is the head of the body the church" (Col. 1:18). Hence we conclude the cross made the church possible.

2. *The church was purchased by the blood of the cross.* The church did not exist before the cross, because it was purchased with the blood of the cross (Acts 20:28). Before Christ's death, the New Testament was not in force, and without the New Testament, the New Testament church could not exist (Rom. 7:4; Heb. 9:15-16).

3. *The cross is connected to worship.* New Testament worship cannot be rightly understood without being viewed in the light of

the cross, since we have access to God through Christ and His cross (Eph. 2:15-16). It is by the cross that we approach God through the new and living way or the church (Heb. 10:19-20). All Christians are priests who offer worship, through our High Priest Jesus Christ (I Pet. 2:9). Every act of Christian worship relates to the cross.

4. *The cross relates to entrance into the church of Christ.* The way of the cross is the way into the Lord's church. The message of the cross must be preached to every creature and is the means of approaching the benefits of the cross of Christ. These acts are faith (Jn.8:24), repentance (Acts 3:19), confession of faith in Christ (Rom. 10:9-10), and baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4).

5. *The cross condemns division.* Denominationalism is out of harmony with the cross of Christ. The cross of Christ purchased one church (Acts 20:28; Eph. 2:15). Every Christian should know that it is a paramount duty to promote unity, and discourage division, in order to fulfill one of the purposes of the cross (Eph. 4:1-6). To the Corinthians, Paul administered a scathing rebuke for their divisions (I Cor. 1:10, 12-13). The entire Christian religion centers around the cross of Christ, and every act of obedience, and every facet of His teaching---the church, its establishment, its worship, its entrance, its unity ---directly relates to the cross (Gal. 6:14).

The Rock-Bottom, Christ-Built, Blood Bought, Hell-Proof Church

Cecil May, Jr.

JESUS SAID, "AND I TELL YOU, YOU ARE Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18 ESV).

Founded on the Rock

When Jesus said He would build His church on "this rock," Peter had just confessed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Jesus called Simon "Peter" (Greek, *petros*) and said He would build His church on "this rock" (Greek, *petra*). He is obviously suggesting a connection between *petros* and the *petra* on which He would build, but He is also showing they are not the same.

Paul said Jesus is the foundation of His church: "For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). He used a similar illustration, saying "the household of God" is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19-20). The truth that *petros* recognized and confessed, "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God," is the *petra* on which the church is built.

Built by Jesus Christ

Those who are saved are added to the church; the Lord saves and adds. We sow the seed, cultivate, and water, but God saves and "[gives] the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6).

The redeemed "like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5). Jesus, of course, laid out the pattern. He was the architect and the designer, but He is also the mason, laying the bricks, "the living stones," one by one as He saves and adds the saved to the church. He calls it "my church" because, among other reasons, He is building it.

Bought by the Blood of Christ

"Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:22). Paul told the elders of the Ephesian church to shepherd the church of God, which Christ purchased with His

own blood (Acts 20:28). The Holy Spirit told the Jews on Pentecost, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). They understood it was not the water but the blood of Jesus that cleansed of sin. When they were baptized, they were "baptized into his death" (Romans 6:3), and in that act of faith the blood He shed in His death paid their ransom (Matthew 20:28).

Cannot Be Defeated

Hades is a transliteration of a Greek term which can also be translated "death" or "the grave." Since Peter quoted Psalm 16 to the effect that Christ's soul would not be left in Hades (Acts 2:31) and since Jesus, while on the cross, told a dying thief, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43), one can reason that Paradise is one part of Hades, the "place of the dead."

Hell, on the other hand, translates *gehenna*, "the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41), "eternal punishment" (v. 46), "where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:48).

Neither Hades nor hell can defeat Christ or His church. Christ's death did not prevent Him from building His church. Persecution, even unto death, does not defeat the church. A Christian's death is victory.

Conclusion

I do not say, "Find the church and join it, and you will be saved." Rather; "Respond to Christ; He will save you and add you to His church." The church does not save, Christ saves; but Christ saves the church (Ephesians 5:23).

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