
The Messenger



"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

**A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri
Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)**

Volume 11, Issue 4

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Jan. 24, 2010

Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

Sitting by the River

by Olen Holderby

The deep craving of the heart is often seen in the songs that we sing; and these, most often, offer scenes of peace – calm and quiet moments. Moments to relax, to think, to plan, with a serenity that breeds confidence and hope. We sing about this in the context of roads (On The Jericho Road), valleys (Peace In The Valley), lands (Where We'll Never Grow Old), mountains (Hilltops Of Glory), and flowers (Where The Roses never Fade). Gardens often get our attention here. "The Beautiful Garden of Prayer" is often heard ringing in the halls of praises; and, what a calm this can bring to the soul! Then, there is the old favorite that reads, "I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses; And the voice I hear, falling on my ear; the Son of God discloses. And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own. And the joy we share as we tarry there, non other has ever know." In spite of all this, there is a scene that appears to make an even greater appeal.

Sitting by the river! We sing about the "Home on the Banks of the River" or "There Will be Light at the River." This may be followed with, "Shall We Gather at the River?" Another song begins, "When peace like a river, attendeth my way." Psalm 23 is, perhaps, the best known, with its, "He leadeth me beside the still waters." This is not limited to spiritual matters; for we see it in secular writings. One is seen walking through half-knee-high grass toward the river. He reaches the river and finds a shade near its bank; he sits down, with a tree to his back, and calmly tosses pebbles into the quiet stream. Nothing seems to disturb him; he is peacefully thinking, planning, solving the problem that sent him there. And, we expect him to return refreshed and ready to look the devil in the face. Alas, it 'twas not always this way!

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion." But, read on, "We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I remember not thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy" (Psalm 137). Their "sitting by the river" was not a calm, peaceful, refreshing moment; but one of bitterness and anxiety. Their weeping was a little on the late side; and, the scene of sadness was brought on by their own conduct.

Some day, my friend, you will be "sitting by the river." What kind of a scene will it be?



“Accept Jesus Christ as Your Personal Savior”

by J. T. Smith

I want to discuss with you the expression that is stated in the title of this article, for I hear it everywhere almost every day. “Accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and let Him come into your heart, and you will be saved.” I have also read many, many articles and tracts which conclude with the same sort of statement. “Jesus will save you if you will let Him by accepting Him as your personal Savior.” However, when you turn to the book of The Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament, as we have done in some of our recent articles, and read what is said about the different cases of conversion, it seems incredible, in view of the above statement, what one finds in the Scriptures. Notice the list as we observe how God actually saved these people.

1. The Pentecostians – Acts 2:14-41 . . . heard, believed, repented and were baptized.
2. The Samaritans – Acts 8:5-13 . . . heard, believed, confessed, and were baptized.
3. The Eunuch – Acts 8:35-39 . . . heard, believed, confessed, and was baptized.
4. Cornelius – Acts 10:34-38 . . . heard, believed, and was baptized.
5. Lydia – Acts 16:13-15 . . . heard, believed, and was baptized.
6. The Jailor – Acts 16:30-34 . . . heard, believed, repented, and was baptized.
7. Saul (who later became the apostle Paul) – Acts 9:17-18; 22:16 . . . heard, believed, confessed, and was baptized.

There they are, multitudes of Bible examples who have been saved. And yet, not one single example of those who were saved being told to “accept Jesus Christ as their own personal savior.” On the contrary, in every example of conversion we have in the New Testament after the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, people saved the Bible way were told to hear, believe, repent, confess and be baptized!

Not in Scriptures at All

Another interesting thing is that though many people (many preachers included) in the world today quote the title of this article to people telling them what to do to be saved, the statement is nowhere found in the Scriptures. If so, WHERE?

News and Notes:

Reminder: Bible Study – Every Tuesday @ 10 a.m. (Old Testament) and @ 7 p.m. (Romans)

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

