

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: Josh Berryhill

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Eddie Dickinson
Bradley Box
David Key

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

Preparing the Lord's Supper Katie Berryhill

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

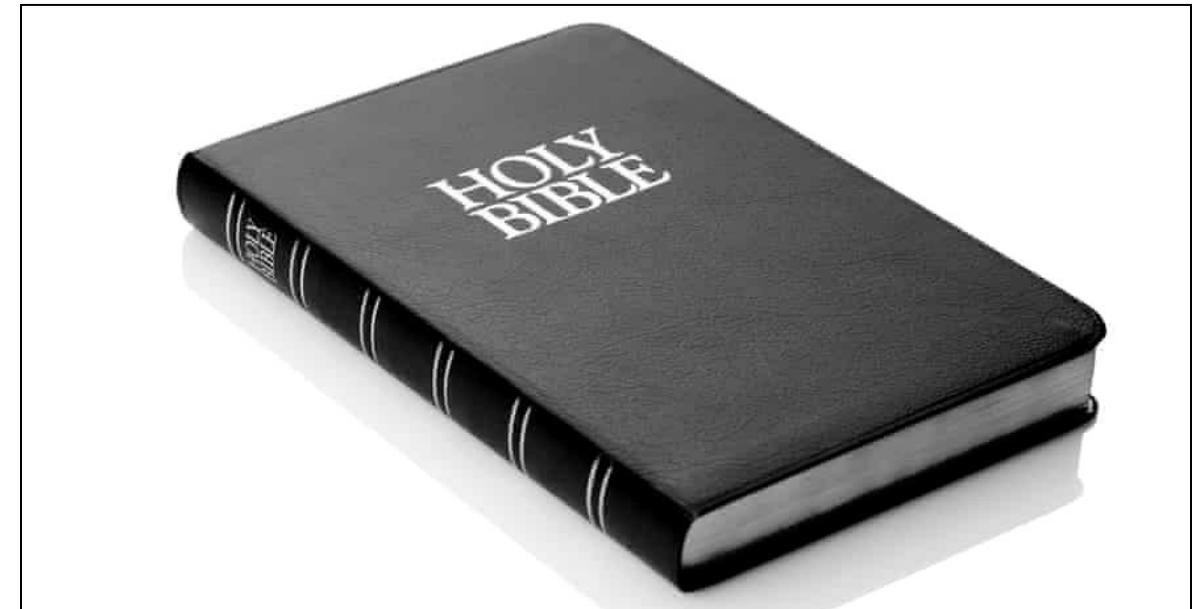
Billy Box / Eddie Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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Saved Like Saul



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Book of Acts, a book of conversions

By Spencer Blackwelder

A mistake that is made in learning what we must do to be saved is by consulting only the books written to the saved without looking at what else is said in Scripture.

For example, many will quote the book to the Roman Christians; (Rom 10:9) without considering what Paul taught the Romans when he dwelt there for two whole years. [Acts 16:30]

They will quote the book written to the Ephesian Christians; (Eph 2:8-9) without considering what Paul taught the Ephesians [Acts 19:1-5].

These two examples show us why we must look into the book of Acts to see what lost people did. Those who heard the gospel and either obeyed it or rejected it. This is why it could be called the book of Conversions.

Let’s examine just a few of the conversions in this book to see how they responded to the preaching of the Gospel as commanded by Christ Jesus. [Mat 28:18-20]

Jews at PENTECOST [2:14-47] This represents the first gospel sermon after the DBR of Christ. The beginning of the church that Jesus promised to build [Mat 16:18] and the first example of those being saved. “Be saved from this perverse generation.” What happened? They HEARD the gospel [22-36]. They believed [37]. It must be inferred that they CONFESSED Jesus as the Christ the Son of God [Mt 10:32]. They were told to ‘REPENT & be baptized’ [38]. They were BAPTIZED into Christ [41] and 3,000 were added to the church. Then we see them ‘CONTINUING steadfastly in the Apostles Doctrine, which is from Christ [42; cr. John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13; 1Cor 14:37].

THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH [8:26-39] This man is reading from Isaiah and struggling with its meaning. Philip approaches him and is invited by the Eunuch to explain the passage. We then are told, “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.” What Happened? He HEARD the gospel of Jesus [35]. He BELIEVED [36-37] It is inferred that he REPENTED [Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30]. He CONFESSES that Jesus is the Christ [37]. He is BAPTIZED with water, by immersion, into Christ [38-39 cr. Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27]. He went away REJOICING [39].

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Lannie & Glenda Key: be praying for both of them during this difficult time

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister} is in the nursing home in Guin, pray for her she has some ongoing health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Angie Ganey Gardner: fighting against breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy); planning on gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Pam Braden: she is dealing with some ongoing health problems, please continue to keep her in your prayers

Guy Weeks: is undergoing cancer treatments, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Maddie Bishop (young girl South Haleyville) diagnosed with stage 4 Ewing sarcoma, please pray for her and her family and that treatments can defeat this cancer

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Billy Lee {Carolyn’s Brother} he is in renal failure, is back at the nursing home in Guin, please be praying for him and the staff caring for him

Timmy Weeks: he is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that he will receive treatments that can restore his health

Danny Berryhill: diagnosed with thickness of the heart, please be praying that doctors can successfully help him with this problem

Bill Berryhill: dealing with cancer found new spot on his kidney, please be praying that his battle with cancer can be controlled and won

Mason Estes: he is need of a liver transplant; please be keeping him and his family in your prayers

Frank Farris: is dealing with some health problems, please pray that he gets better

Judy Barker (David Barker’s Mother): she had been diagnosed with bone and lung cancer; please keep her and her family in your prayers

Kristi White: diagnosed with cancer affecting her esophagus, stomach and other areas taking treatments at MD Anderson, please pray this cancer will be defeated

Vertie York: has a spot in her head and will be seeing a Neurologist, let us be praying that it will be nothing serious

Austin Carter (Travis Garrison’s Nephew): scans found a mass on his thyroid, please be praying that this does not turn out to be a serious problem

Please continue to keep David Key and the rest of the family in your prayers, Brother Leonard will be greatly missed

The Apostle PAUL (Saul of Tarsus) [9:1-18; 22:6-16; 26:12-19]. While on his way to persecute the church of Christ, Saul saw Jesus risen from the dead. He HEARD & BELIEVED [9:5-6]. He was REPENTANT [9-11]. He CONFESSED [5-6]. He was BAPTIZED [18]. When retelling of this event, he states that baptism was the moment his sins were washed away [22:16].

CORNELIUS [10:1-11:18] This story tells of the first Gentile conversion. We must read chapters 10 & 11 to get the full picture. They were told to HEAR and they HEARD [6, 22, 33-43; 11:14]. It is inferred that they REPENTED & CONFESSED [Luke 13:3; Act 17:30; Mat 10:32]. They were BAPTIZED in water [47]. They received remission of sins [43].

Chapter 11:1-18 contains the retelling of this event by Peter to those of the circumcision who contended with him about being with gentiles. This retelling is necessary to show that God had made the same gospel plan of salvation available to every nation [Mat 28:18-20]. Up to this point, the preaching had been only to the Jews. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” [Rom 1:16] The “Baptism of the Holy Spirit” only occurred twice, here and at Pentecost. It was done to show God’s approval at the beginning.

As you can see, the book of Acts shows people obeying the Gospel. The same method can be applied to...

LYDIA [16:14-15]

THE JAILER [16:25-34]

THE CORINTHIANS. [18:8]

THE EPHESIANS [19:1-5]

The same Gospel requires all after Pentecost to HEAR, BELIEVE, REPENT, CONFESS, be BAPTIZED in water & have FAITHFULNESS. God shows no partiality, no bigotry. The Gospel is for all and all must obey the Gospel in the same way. God is no respecter of persons.

The Danger of Shallow Biblical Knowledge

By Dan Jenkins

When I was a student at Freed-Hardeman University, the Mooresville congregation near Lewisburg, Tennessee wanted to send me to help spread the gospel in Georgia. Through one of teachers at the college, I made contact with the church in Savannah, and I preached in my first gospel meeting in an attempt to plant the church Statesboro, Georgia.

I was there for two weeks knocking on doors and inviting the people to the upcoming meeting. On the Sunday before the meeting began, I worshiped with the Bull Street congregation where W.F. Buffington was preaching. I will never forget what he said in that Sunday morning Bible class.

He was discussing a topic dealing with the application of Biblical truths to a moral situation. There was a new convert in the class who felt like he was a Bible scholar and continued to interrupt the older preacher. Brother Buffington was kind, but the young man persisted in his effort to interrupt the teacher. Finally brother Buffington had had enough so he said, “_____, you are still too worldly to discuss this and you are not as smart as you think you are. The best way you can help this class is to be quiet and listen to what God says.”

I have thought of this often over the years and have found myself in a similar situation. People who have just a shallow knowledge of the Bible fail to remember what Paul says, “Knowledge puffs up...and if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he know nothing yet as he ought to know” (1 Cor. 9:1-2). The actions of that new convert are such a vivid illustration of that old adage, “A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.”

The wisdom of Solomon on this topic is seen in Ecclesiastes chapter five. “Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.” To hastily speak in the house of God is to act as a fool. When it comes to Bible study, I think often about that new convert. Brother Buffington’s advice, “Let your words be few.”

So many times, we speak too rashly about spiritual matters, especially when our knowledge is shallow. As you study your Bible, listen to what God has said. It is foolish for anyone to add his own opinions about spiritual matters. Study the Bible. Study it often. Study it deeply. Then, humbly tell others about what you have learned.

I will never forget that young convert’s actions.

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

God Gives the Greatest Gifts

By Kevin Cauley

“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance” (Romans 11:29).

When we are young, we are quick to want back the things that we give. A young person wants his friend to like him, and so he gives him a gift of great value. The friend receives it cheerfully and makes it out to be the greatest thing that he has ever received. The youth then believes he has made a mistake in giving something of such great value and says, “Give it back! I didn’t mean to give it to you. I just wanted you to like me.” Does he want the friend or the item? The answer is, he wants both, but he has placed himself in a situation where he can’t have both because he gave in a grudging way. His conflicting desires create instability in his relationships.

Adults can do the same things in more complicated ways. We give, but then hold a grudge against the one receiving the gift because he didn’t respond like we expected. Perhaps we will expect something in return of equal or greater value. Maybe we hold out on all future giving, or while he is not looking, we take something from him thinking that we are justified in doing so because of the value of the gift we gave. These situations have one thing in common: we are still holding onto the gift that we gave, and we can’t truly give until we let go of the gift that is given.

God’s giving is so much greater than ours. He gives and doesn’t repent. Let’s give like God gives, “not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:8).