

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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September 17, 2017

The Urgent & Important Matter of Salvation!

By Brian Meade

Some choices or decisions in life do not require immediate action on our part and thus we can “kick the can down the road” until later. But there are some that are so urgent and important that we must not delay or fail to act. It can be that urgent and direct action is required to avoid loss or bad circumstances. Whether people realize it like they should or not, the matter of our spiritual salvation is extremely important! Several instances in the scriptures place the matter of salvation as the most urgent and important need we have.....

Acts 2:14-41: It was on the Day of Pentecost that Peter was preaching to the crowds of Jews gathered at Jerusalem, when (in verse 37), “.....they were pierced to the heart” and stopped him to ask the most urgent and important question, “.....Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter’s response is given (in verse 38) to help them to know what to do to be saved from their sins, “Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” And then he continues to speak to them, “And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized.....” (Acts 2:40-41) One cannot read these words without a sense of urgency in the tone and the message concerning their need to be saved!

Acts 9:1-18— Acts 22:16: We are given the story of Saul the persecutor (Acts 9:1) meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus. He is blinded by the light, yet sees for the first time his error of fighting against Jesus and His disciples (verses 3-5). Jesus tells him, “but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.” (Acts 9:6) Then Saul goes on to Damascus and awaits the answer to his urgent and important need of salvation (verses 8-9). Ananias was sent to Saul to give him sight and tell him what to do to be saved. The actual words of Ananias are given in Acts 22:16, “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’ Once He was told what to do, he did it without delay, “And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized.” (Acts 9:18)

Acts 16:22-34: Paul and Silas were preaching the gospel at Philippi when they were imprisoned for casting out a spirit from a young girl (verses 16-24). And about midnight, there came an earthquake that released all the prisoners (verses 25-26). And, “When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!”²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas,³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:27-30) Paul answers the jailors’ question beyond the fear of physical harm to his life, but addresses the pressing and urgent need of salvation from sin’s harm to our lives. He answers the question by saying, “.....“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then it was that Paul and Silas taught what to believe and obey, “And they spoke the word of the Lord to

him together with all who were in his house.³³ And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household." (Acts 16:32-33) The matter of their salvation was so urgent that they— even after the midnight hour— immediately obeyed the gospel as the word of the Lord directs in Mark 16:16, "He who has believed and has been baptized, shall be saved....."

The Bible teaches us that, ".....Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

We should be like the Ethiopian Eunuch who stopped the chariot when he saw water, "And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him." (Acts 8:38).

GOSPEL MEETING

**Meeks Street Church
of Christ
With Billy Randolph
October 15th – 20th
7:00 P.M. Nightly**

The Wrath of God

#4 It Can Be Escaped by the Gospel

Paul spoke of the brethren at Thessalonica when he said, "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come." (I Thess. 1:9-10)

The question that immediately follows is how were they delivered by Jesus from the wrath to come? We find in I Thessalonians 2:1-13, that Paul preached the gospel to them and they received it and obeyed it (I Thess. 1:13; II Thess. 1:8).

That is the good news of the gospel—that we don't have the wrath of God abiding on us anymore (I Thess. 5:9). It is for the children of disobedience, as in Colossians 3:6; Rom. 1:18. The gospel's message centers on the cross where Christ shed His blood for our forgiveness (Matt. 26:28; I Cor. 15:1-4).

In Romans 1:16-17, the gospel is the power of God to salvation and "..... in it the righteousness of God is revealed." That is all important in light of Proverbs 11:4, "Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death."

The gospel makes us righteous to deliver us from God's wrath!

Finally, Paul says the gospel must be obeyed to escape God's wrath in II Thessalonians 1:7-9. Have you obeyed from the heart- the gospel way of salvation? (Rom. 6:1-6; 17-18).

Brian Meade

News and Notes: sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, LuAnne Parrish, Janis Johnson, Steve Switcher, Joe & Tommie Nell Roberts, Delain Doles, Barbara Doles, Crate Meade, Kerrie Anne Barnett, Judy King, Billy Mac Fredrick, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Crystal Harris, Anna Hearn , Sandi Poole & kids.

Those Who Serve

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "Your Bible Heart"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Fred Johnson

Announcements: Paul Johnson

Lord's Table: Paul Busby
Assisting: Sam Johnson & Tony Whittemore

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Lee Busby
Joel 2:12-13

Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "God Wants Our Hearts"

Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

September 20^h

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Invitation: Chris Callahan
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Adam Harris