

# The McLish Avenue Messenger

This is the message we have heard from Him... God is Light (1 John 1:5).

May 23, 2010

MCLISH AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST • 607 McLish SW • Ardmore, OK 73401



*This New Testament passage quotes an Old Testament passage. Where is the Old Testament passage found?*

*“In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.”*

Acts 8:33 (NKJV)

*Evangelist*

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*Schedule of Services*

*Sunday*

Bible Study ..... 9:30 am

Worship ..... 10:30 am

Worship ..... 6:00 pm

*Wednesday*

Bible Study ..... 7:00 pm

Part one

## Bible Conversion Is Not Convulsion

Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

**T**he elementary meaning of conversion is to change a thing or person into something else. Corn is converted into bread — sometimes! Rags are converted into paper, and paper into books. Biblically, conversion is the mental or moral change in man which begins with belief of the gospel and ends in obedience. It is a synonym for the whole plan of salvation. Man has never been able to frame a system which could purify the sinner's heart, sanctify his soul, restore his character, and save the perishing race. His Creator alone could to it — and did it. “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul...” (Ps 19:7).

Conversion stands between the sinner and the kingdom of God. “...Except ye be converted, and become as little children [in character], ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt 18:3). It is the important and supreme work of the church. “...He who converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins.” (Jas 5:20).

Conversion, then, is simply the gospel process of turning men to God. It is not a convulsion, and does not take place in a nightmare. Nor is it the operation of the Spirit in strange, distempered dreams. It is accomplished through obedience to the truth — the agent, or vital power, through which the Holy Spirit effects conversion. There is no necessity for any other power than the truth in effecting this change. In fact, any other would be an infringement upon man's freedom of will. Man is either willing or unwilling to receive the truth. If he is willing, no other means of conversion is necessary. If he is unwilling, any other means would be coercion rather than conversion. The motive power

*Continued inside ...*

# Conversion

Continued from front page

of conversion is, therefore, the truth — and it is an immense power. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation...” (Rom 1:16).

Certain theological theories of conversion have their setting in two fallacies — in fact, three — that we style “theological triplets.” First, is the doctrine of inherent human depravity; second, direct converting power; third, the impossibility of apostasy. Assuming man's hereditary total depravity, it follows that he is unable to do anything at all to be saved. He is a passive recipient and not an active agent. Therefore, in this helpless, hopeless state the Holy Spirit must exert a direct influence upon his heart to enable him to obey God, after which the divine nature so completely destroys the depraved nature that thereafter and forever he can no more fall from grace!

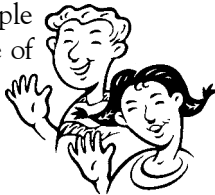
So false is the theory that it stands

self-refuted. And so abundant are the scriptural arguments against it that the task is not one of finding the arguments, but of selecting the ones to cite. Jesus represents the seed (God's word) as falling into the “honest and good heart” in order to produce conversion and its effects (Lk 8:4-15). But if man is hereditarily totally depraved, his heart is neither honest nor good, and could not receive the word, nor even understand it if he received it, nor obey it if he understood it. The parable of the sower alone rejects the theory in all of its points. It shows that the sinner may have an honest heart (not totally depraved); that when one hears the word, the devil seeks to steal it away lest he “should believe and be saved” (showing that faith is produced by the word and not a direct operation

of the Holy Spirit); and that some who “receive the word with joy” in time of temptation “fall away” (showing the possibility of apostasy).

*Continued next week ...*

**Youth activities** After evening services on May 30th, all our young people are encouraged to stay for a time of food and games on the east lawn. Parents, if you have questions, please see Ben or Christie Bailey.



**Children's homes** Westview will be back in July and is requesting: 100% juice, canned fruit, sweetened cereal, baked beans, Tang/Kool-aid, olive and vegetable oils, sliced jalapenos, evaporated milk, Eagle Brand milk, tabasco/Louisiana hot sauces, Clorox wipes, liquid Cascade, foil, toilet paper and paper towels.

**Christian Worker** Copies of the May issue of Christian Worker are available in the table in the foyer. This month's theme centers around Hearing God's Word.

**5th Sunday singing** We'll have a 5th Sunday singing next Sunday afternoon Be at the building at 5 pm to share in this time of praise.



*Remember  
Our Sick*

Jean Cary will have another back surgery this week in California. Glenda Vinson has asked for prayers for her sister **Nelda Grant** that will be having liver surgery Monday May 24th **Sue Mann** will start her next round of chemo on June 7th. Ruth Parker has asked for prayers for her friend **Mary Jo Marley** who is taking chemo to fight cancer. **Christie Bailey** will have back surgery scheduled soon. Please continue to remember: **Nita Padgett • Betty Higgins • John Parton**, Norma Perkins' grandson • **Freda Knapp • Dorothea Phillips • Carla Evans • Ginger Waller's father • Gracie Smith • Jamie Feroli • Mary Ann Ashley • Bessie Childress • Ruth Minyard • Patti Culpepper • Jerry & Glenda Vinson • Murray Goforth • Deborah Thomas' mother • Pat Ballard's mother • Madeline Minyard •** and those shut in/nursing home members.

**Response** **Darryln Phillips** came forward to acknowledge sin and ask for forgiveness from our Lord and the congregation. She also asked for prayers to be a better example for her family and friends. Each of us needs to take the opportunities presented to us to encourage our Christian family.

**Congratulations** **Jackson Andrew Smith** made his appearance on May 18th. He weighed in at 8 lbs, 3 oz and was 21 inches long. He and his mother Leah are doing well. Dad Jason, big sister Lauren and grandparents Andy and Melody Smith can mostly likely be persuaded to tell you more about the little fella.



**Sympathy** Lillian Elizabeth "**Betty**" South passed away Thursday, May 13. She and her husband Joe were members here several years ago. Graveside services were at Rose Hill Cemetery the afternoon of Friday, May 21. We want to remember her family and friends in their time of loss.



**Directory update** Please note in your directory that Virgie Burchfield has been moved to Rolling Hills in Ada. Her address is: 1000 Rolling Hills Lane, Ada, OK 74820; phone 800.522.9505 code #224.

## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

### May

- 23 Alex Vinson  
Brooke Murray  
Larry Waller
- 26 Chock & Mary Aldridge

### June

- 1 Colton Feroli  
Earl & Sue Mann '56
- 2 Olga Stinson
- 4 Zachary Bugbee
- 5 Lonnie & Louise Harris '93
- 6 Deborah & Billy Williams '87
- 7 Joseph & Betty Tipton '68  
Nathan Bailey
- 11 Robbie Boutte
- 12 Terry & Melissa Waller
- 13 Clarine Wainscott  
Beverly Sadler  
Deborah Willaims
- 14 Patti Culpepper  
David Aldridge
- 19 Ben & Christie Bailey '99
- 22 Hannah Bailey
- 26 Jason Smith
- 27 Christie Bailey  
Lauren Smith
- 28 Jeff Willingham
- 30 Chelsea Pendergrass

### July

- 2 Camdyn Pearson
- 9 Dana Meece  
Kayla Walker

**Roll up your sleeves** The library is in desperate need of reorganization. This job would require arranging old and new books. If you can help, please let Ben or Doneta know.

**Debate** Kevin has agreed to debate on the issue of using the first day of the week as a day of worship. The debate will be in Ontario, Canada August 25-26th. If you can help with the costs of this trip, please let Kevin know.



**Request forms** are available on the table in the foyer if you would like a copy of any of the lessons from our recent meeting or any Sunday worship service.

**Media** Tammy keeps the center display rack at the back of the auditorium filled with a selection of *The Gospel of Christ* CDs and DVDs. If there is something that is not out that you'd like copies of, order forms are in the tract rack on the right side.

**Pantry** Teachers, please encourage your Bible students to bring one pantry item each week. This will help each student develop a giving spirit.

## Those to Serve Today

Announcements.....	Jerry Beavers	
Lord's Table.....	Ronnie Byrd	Scott Saner James Meece
	John Johnson	Bo Fore Cecil Hargrove
Song Leader.....	Randy Scott	PM Opening Prayer..... Earl Mann
AM Scripture .....	Steve Mann	PM Closing Prayer..... Cecil Hargrove
AM Opening Prayer .....	Chock Aldridge	PM Lord's Supper..... John Johnson
AM Closing Prayer .....	Todd Hicks	
Greeters May 23 & 26.....	Bobby & Melba Wallace, Lexie	

### Elders

**Charles Aldridge**  
710 15th NW  
223-4602

**Vernon Castleman**  
3533 Dogwood Road  
223-0983

**James Meece**  
909 Davis  
223-7637

### Deacons

**Fred Bellomy**  
223-3240

**Martin Dotson**  
226-6450

**James Gravelle**  
223-7911

**Todd Hicks**  
504-2829

**Ron Jones**  
223-7268

**Steve Mann**  
223-7246

**Scott Saner**  
465-5785

**Jerry Vinson**  
223-3865



**May 23**

Morning Scripture: John  
18:33-38

**May 26**

7:00 pm Ben Bailey gives devotional

**May 30**

5:00 pm 5th Sunday Singing  
7:00 pm Youth event



**June 2**

7:00 pm Great Bible Chapters - Acts  
2, Ben Bailey  
Todd Hicks gives  
devotional

**June 6**

noon Fellowship meal  
Floyd Johnson camp session  
begins



**Broadcast  
Schedule**

May 30 **The Gospel of John Lesson  
#5- Chapters 10-12**, Jesus,  
The Good Shepherd

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