

The McLish Avenue Messenger

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

May 30, 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?

“Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets: ‘Did you offer Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel!’”

Acts 7:42 (NKJV)

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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 two

Bible Conversion Is Not Convulsion

Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

In the very nature of things — everything — redemption involves the understanding. “Understandest thou what thou readest?” inquired Philip, an inspired preacher, of the eunuch, an average gospel subject (Acts 8:30). But if conversion is the direct work of the Holy Spirit — a direct operation — it can neither be explained nor understood. If the Holy Spirit converts, or begets, without the word of God, what seed does He plant to produce it? If a different seed, then the gospel falls to the ground; and if it does not depend upon preaching, the gospel falls to the ground. Furthermore, if conversion is wrought by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit, independent of the word and gospel conditions, why are not all people converted? Man can resist arguments, appeals, and exhortations, but not Omnipotence! If it is without the word, and obedience to it, and the sinner cannot act until the divine influence comes, who is responsible?

The sinner cannot act until the power acts, and he cannot do anything to cause the power to act! Yet if the Spirit does not come, he cannot be saved, and there he is — a man with neither volition nor ability, helpless and passive, his salvation or damnation a matter of naked Omnipotence! What becomes of the conditions of the gospel, the law that declares that men must hear, believe, repent, and be baptized in order to be saved? A mere theory, mingled with the cobwebs of tradition, would set the law aside.

The apostle James ascribes conversion to the truth alone. “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth...” (Jas 1:18). It is as much the law of God that conversion is effected by “the word of truth” as that an oak shall spring from an acorn. No man has any more right

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Conversion

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to imagine that the Holy Spirit is absent from this law of conversion than he has to suppose that the Creator is absent from the law of reproduction. The fact that in no land or age has conversion ever been effected without this “word of truth” is corroborative evidence that James meant that statement in all of its import — “by the word of truth” alone. He did not say the word of truth and something else, but only the word of truth. Then whatever the word of truth requires or commands is what the sinner must do to be saved.

But the peerless apostle Paul corroborates James. “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.” (1 Cor 4:15). This statement provides for the word only as the cause of conversion. It allows for nothing distinct from it, above it, or without it, but simply the

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gospel itself as the unaided cause of conversion. There were many instructors and many influences among the Corinthians, but only one cause of their conversion — the gospel preached by Paul. Everything said to be a condition of salvation is produced by the word of God. Faith is produced by the word (Rom. 10:17). The new birth is produced by the word (1 Pet. 1:23). Salvation itself is produced by the word (Jas 1:21). How mighty is the gospel! How availing is the word!

Finally, all of the conversions in Acts of Apostles — the book of Conversions — were produced by the word. Begin in Acts 2 with the conversion of the 3,000 and go through it until the last chapter, where Paul “expounded the matter” to the chief Jews, and some believed and some believed not. There is nothing else on record. Anyone who thinks otherwise is at liberty to find a case, and we promise to examine it with all candor.

Continued next week ...

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.

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

Great Chapters Study Series



Beginning in June and going through the summer months, we will have a study on Wednesday nights on great Bible chapters.

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.



*Remember
Our Sick*

Glenda Vinson's sister **Nelda Grant** was diagnosed with cancer last week. Joyce Gilliam's sister, **Flo Brown** found out that her cancer has returned. Cecil Hargrove's sister **Audrey Long** spent some time in the hospital last week with pneumonia. **Sue Mann** will start her next round

of chemo on June 7th. Please continue to remember: **Jean Cary** • Ruth Parker's friend **Mary Jo Marley** • **Christie Bailey** • **Betty Higgins** • **John Parton**, Norma Perkins' grandson • **Freda Knapp** • **Dorothea Phillips** • **Carla Evans** • **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 **Darryl Johnson** confessed that he has sin in his life and asked for the prayers of the congregation. Each of us needs to take the opportunities presented to us to encourage our Christian family.

Youth activities After evening services tonight all our young people are encouraged to stay for a time of food and games on the east lawn. Parents please bring drinks, desserts and sides.



Next Sunday at noon we will come together for a fellowship meal. Please plan to attend and bring a little extra for any visitors we might have. This is a great opportunity to get to know your brothers and sisters a little better.

Campers Come to morning services next week with all your gear. Ben will be loading up the van right after the fellowship meal to head to camp.



Ladies' class The Wednesday morning ladies' class has started their summer break. Class will start again in the fall.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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
- 10 Braden Willingham
- 11 Melba Culbreth
- 12 Lonnie Harris
Lori Patrick
Gail Stewart
- 14 Nancy Bugbee
- 16 David & Linda Johnson '65

