

The McLish Avenue Messenger

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

October 18, 2009

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?

“He said: ‘I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the LORD’ ”

John 1:23 (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

The Sinner's Prayer Won't Save Anyone!

Ben Bailey

There is much confusion in our world about salvation. For example, followers of John Calvin teach that people are predestined to go to Heaven or Hell and there is nothing they can do to change that. Catholicism teaches that one must follow some teachings of men that are not in Scripture to be saved. Much of the Protestant world teaches that all a person has to do is believe in Jesus and he will be saved. Billy Graham and many in the Baptist faith teach that to be saved you must believe in Jesus and say the sinner's prayer. Does the sinner's prayer save? Is there a Scriptural example of someone saying the sinner's prayer and being saved? Let's take just a moment to examine what the Bible says about the sinner's prayer and salvation.

On Billy Graham's website and in his sermons he always encouraged people to say the following prayer: "Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name. Amen" (http://www.billygraham.org/SH_StepsToPeace.asp). At the conclusion of this prayer people are left with the impression that they are NOW saved. While it is not our purpose to attack any person in this article, please understand that this doctrine is not what our Lord said one must do to be saved. The sinner's prayer is a damnable doctrine because it causes people to have a false sense of hope in something that the Bible does not teach. Allow me to illustrate. Where in the Bible do you find the sinner's prayer recorded? Between the following parenthesis are all the passages that teach salvation is through the sinner's prayer (). Do you see the point? Friend, you can search the Scriptures from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 and you will not find the

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Prayer

Continued from front page

above prayer or any prayer like it. Since the sinner's prayer is not recorded in Scripture, then it cannot be Jesus' way of salvation. The Bible teaches that we must do everything by the authority of Christ (Col. 3:17). The Apostle Paul said that we must not go beyond what is written (1 Cor. 4:6). John warned us not to add to or take away from God's Word (Rev. 22:18-19). Please listen very carefully, no where in Scripture will you ever find one person saying the sinner's prayer and being saved. It's just not there. In fact, the only example we have of a person who said many "sinner's prayers" is the Apostle Paul. In Acts 9:9-12 we are told that Paul was praying and fasting after the Lord appeared to him on the road to Damascus. Yet, even though Paul said many a sinner's prayer over that three day period, he was still not saved. Paul had something else to do to be saved. And, so does every person who has been duped by false teachers into thinking that belief and prayer alone will save.

What else did Paul have to do to be saved? In Acts 22:16 Paul was told "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Paul had to be baptized to have his sins washed away. Jesus taught, "He that believes and is baptized will be

saved..." (Mk. 16:16). When people asked Peter what they needed to do to be saved he said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Friend, the Bible teaches that one must hear God's word (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus (John 8:24), repent of past sins (Luke 13:3), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:10), and be baptized to be saved (1 Peter 3:21). Have you obeyed what God says you must do to be saved? Or, have you let men lead you down the wrong path for salvation? We are praying that you will consider the things that have been said in this article and obey God's will.

May God help each of us to conform our will to His!

Teachers Anyone willing to teach a class for the new quarter that starts in a few weeks, please check with Todd Hicks. If you would like to assist in a class, he can also find a spot for you! Your willingness to help is greatly appreciated.

Outreach Groups

Group 1

Chock & Mary Aldridge
Ron & Peggy Jones
Ray & Tomi Harness
James & Tammy Gravelle
Ronnie Byrd
Steve Mann
Scott & Tina Saner
Jaccie Pirtle

Group 2

James & Dana Meece
David & Linda Johnson
Ben & Christie Bailey
Betty Higgins
Harold & Martha Dillard
Pat Ballard & Vickie Fletcher
Bill & Gail Stewart
Earl & Sue Mann

Group 3

Vernon & Arlene Castleman
Sharon Ryan & Christy Murray
Cecil Hargrove
Lovell & Mary Hughes
Lonnie Harris
Rick & Suzanne Tidwell
Tom Matlock
Sharlene Wallis & Rebecca



Our sick Marty Stinson was scheduled to have a leg amputated last week. April Willis' grandmother will have lung surgery scheduled soon. Several of our number are home sick. Please continue

to remember: **Earl Mann • Ruth Minyard • Richard Knapp • Jamie Feroli • Keyla Scaggs •**

A.W. Roberts, Darlene Pennington's brother • **Patti Culpepper • Trent Jacobson**, Jimmie's son • **Christy Murray's** cousin **Misty • Deborah Thomas • Betty Higgins • Louise Harris'** father, **Charlie Stevens • Madeline Minyard's** son **Dale • Glenda Vinson's** mother • **Ruth Minyard's** nephew, **Roger Parker • Jerry & Glenda Vinson • Nancy McClanahan • Murray Goforth • Rebecca Stafford • Glenda Vinson's** sister and brother • **Deborah Thomas' mother • Sue Mann • Pat Morrison**, Olga Sue Stinson's sister • **Virgie Burchfield • Dortha Phillips • Madeline Minyard • Sharon Ryan's** mother, **Mary Griffeth • Larry Ryan's** mother, **Lorraine •** and those shut in/nursing home members.

Shower A Come-and-Go Shower for **Jennifer McGee** will be held at the Bailey's this afternoon, from 2 -4 pm. A money tree is being planned. Please make your monetary contribution to either Christie Bailey or Tina Saner.



Our sympathy is extended to Rick and Mary Ray in the passing of their daughter, **Tabitha Barton**. Her services will be tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 pm at the Chisholm Trail congregation in Duncan. The Bel-loms' son-in-law, **Richard Taylor**, passed away last week. His services were Thursday at the Marietta congregation. Please remember all those who have lost loved ones recently.

Fall festival Mark your calendars for the fall festival and hobo stew on Saturday, October 31 starting at 6:30 pm with the festival starting at 7:00 pm. Bring a can of your favorite vegetable by October 28th to add to the stew. You can put these in the kitchen area.



Don't miss out! Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 22 at 6:00 pm for the annual fish fry. Please bring sides and desserts along with your appetite.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

October

- 17 Austin Fletcher
- 20 Brenda Anderson
- 21 Earl Mann
Kevin Pendergrass
- 22 Vicki Willingham
Teen Stewart
- 23 Jimmie Jacobson
- 24 Clifford Bateman
Ray & Tomi Harness '86
- 25 Charles & Marie Williams '64
Ginger Waller
- 26 Ray Harness
- 31 Marie Cornish

November

- 1 Hattie Williams
- 2 Vernon Castleman
- 6 Tomi Harness
- 7 Pam Schumacher
Tamela Millhollon
- 9 Wanda Shellenberger
- 12 Murray Goforth
- 13 Jerry & Glenda Vinson
Laura Austin
- 15 Larry & Ginger Waller '94
Jennifer McGee
- 16 Larry Ryan
- 17 Toby Austin
Doug Aldridge
Jake Bugbee
- 18 Lucy Hagen
Jackie Waller
- 20 Ronnie & Helen Walker
- 21 Reegan Lewis

