

Light and Life

Obeying the Gospel

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel” (Ro. 10:15-16).

In this section of Romans, Paul explained the spiritual state of the nation of Israel. Many Jews were under the mistaken impression that their ancestry was enough to merit a special relationship with God. While many accepted the gospel, the nation as a whole rejected it. God said of them, “all day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people” (Ro. 10:21).

What was this gospel that Israel failed to obey?

Paul defined what he meant by ‘gospel’ when writing to the church at Corinth. “I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you... by which you are saved... that Christ *died* for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was *buried*, and that He *rose* again the third day according to the Scriptures” (I Cor. 15:1-4). The message is simple – but how can it be obeyed?

While this definition of the gospel does not include an inherent command, it does include a pattern. Paul wrote that the Roman Christians “obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered” (Ro 6:17). In other words, the Christian was delivered to the pattern of the gospel! The gospel (death, burial and resurrection) is a mold to which we must conform – but again, how?

“As many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into His *death*. Therefore, we were *buried* with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was *raised* from the dead... even so, we also should walk in newness of life” (Ro. 6:3-6). Have you obeyed the gospel?

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

Rejoice!

“Rejoice, you nations, with His people, for He will avenge the blood of His servants; He will take vengeance on His enemies and make atonement for His land and people” (De 32:43).

This passage is, in my opinion, among some of the most beautiful in all of Scripture. Paul seemingly agrees with me, as in his letter to the Romans he quoted this passage directly in chapter 15. This call forward that Moses made, though it was a violent and bloody one, was wreathed with hope and beauty. The imagery in this verse brings forth the idea of reconciliation, of unification, of a drawing together.

In this passage, the nation of Israel is not the only one rejoicing at the avenging of the blood of God’s servants. In this passage, we see that Israel, God’s own, are not the only ones that cry out as God takes vengeance. This passage speaks of the coming unification of the world under the banner of Christ. One day, both Jew and Gentile were going to be brought together, through the blood of the cross. And one day, both would rejoice as God overcame Satan, as the Lord wrought vengeance upon that ancient serpent that has for so long enslaved and tortured His children. One day, all men of all creeds and colors, would cry out to God with a loud voice and rejoice in His victory over the powers of sin and death. Today is that day, brothers and sisters.

Christ has won the victory, has been raised from the dead, and has united the world under His holy name. So, rejoice brothers and sisters, for great is our God, who has defeated the enemy and made and atonement for us, His people.

- Hayden Cathey

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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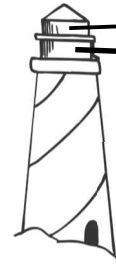
“Why do you call Me
'Lord, Lord,' and not do
the things which I say?”
Jesus, Lu 6:46

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
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Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

April 9, 2023

Acts Two, One More Time

The book of Acts may read like a simple history, but it is full of doctrinal truth on many subjects. Take chapter two, for example. From the work of the Holy Spirit to the kingdom of God and forgiveness of sins, this chapter says a lot to those with a heart to hear.

It teaches that the apostles (not the 120) were baptized with the Holy Spirit. This is evident from rules of grammar (antecedent of “they”, 2:1, is “the apostles”, 1:26). And in the consequent verses, it was the apostles who preached and did miracles (vss 14, 37, 42, 43). This was not the experience of others that day – or now.

Acts 2 also teaches that Jesus sits upon the throne of His kingdom today (vss 30-31). This disputes the doctrine of premillennialism which teaches a future reign of Christ upon the earth over a physical kingdom (see also Mk 9:1, Lu 17:20-21).

And it teaches – in plain terms – that repentance and baptism are both necessary for salvation (“*what must we do?*”, vs 37, followed by “*repent and be baptized, every one of you... for the remission of sins?*”, vs 38 – same phrase as Mt 26:28).

If you disagree, get out your Bible and read it for yourself – ‘cause yours reads just like mine. - *WKing*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: G&K Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, J&M Swim, Jean Marshall

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

SPRING SINGING – Our annual singing with Tim Stevens & Dane Shepard is scheduled for Friday evening, April 21, 6:30-8:30pm. Mark your calendars!

SONG LEADER TRAINING – On Saturday, April 22 (morning after our spring singing), Tim & Dane will conduct a song leader training from 10-12.