

WHAT
MUST I
DO



SEARCH PROGRAMS

October 2026

Topics subject to change without notice

OCTOBER 4 – HEARING THE GOSPEL

The gospel of Christ “is the power of God for salvation” (Romans 1:16). Hearing the gospel is what brings us to faith (Romans 10:17). So listening to the gospel and to the words of Jesus is necessary for us to be saved.

OCTOBER 11 – BELIEVING IN JESUS

The Lord promises to save and give eternal life to those who believe (John 3:16), but what does it mean to believe the way the Bible teaches. Believing is more than mentally agreeing; it is truly an obedient way of life.

OCTOBER 18 – REPENTANCE

The Lord never intended for His people to remain in an old way of life. He asks them to change their hearts and change their behavior. Repentance is not a punishment; it is a healing transformation into newness of life.

OCTOBER 25 – BAPTISM

How is one baptized into Christ? Why is it necessary? We’re going to explore the Biblical way one is baptized into Christ and why one should urgently do it. Baptism is how God is bringing about our new birth.

Hearing the Gospel

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD in Amos 8:11 and 12, “When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD. People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find it.” For many today, there is a famine for the Word of God. We don't lack Bibles; we lack Bible students.

While the Bible is the bestseller of all time and most Americans revere the Bible as sacred literature, many simply don't read it or know what it teaches. In a recent report by the American Bible Society, a majority of Americans are curious about the Bible, Jesus or both. But sadly, many still know little about God's teaching on sin, the soul, salvation, or the judgment. If we want to live with God eternally in heaven with joy and peace, we must hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our reading today comes from the prophet Isaiah chapter 1:18 to 20 and emphasizes the need to really pay attention and to listen to God and to do His will. “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool. “If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; “But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword.” Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

God means what He says and we need to take Him seriously. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that Your love can be abounding upon us whenever we are following You. Help us Heavenly Father never to take You for granted but always take You seriously as we listen to Your word and obey it. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Proverbs 1:5 says, “A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel.” You know from our earliest days in school, our teachers encouraged us to listen and to follow directions. Well listening, really listening, may be one of the hardest tasks of life. We may hear words, but have we learned to listen and to receive the message that we heard? Have we sought God and treasured up His words in our hearts?

The Bible everywhere emphasizes the importance of listening to God's word. The psalmist sang in Psalm 119:10 to 11, “With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.” Psalm 1 verses 2 to 3 speaks of the man who is blessed: “But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He'll be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.”

Some say they don't like rules, but the psalmist saw great value in the rules that God gave. In fact, he meditated on them, he stored them up, and he considered them significant! He didn't want to forget them or wander away from them. They were his treasure against sin. I hope that you seek the Lord with all your heart and love God's Word like that.

Now every parent who loves the Lord wants to see his children follow God's ways and His wisdom. Solomon said in Proverbs 2:1 to 5, “My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God.” Solomon knew how important knowing God and His word was to his children. Do you? Have you made the Word of God a priority in your home, mothers and fathers?

The Lord Jesus more than once said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 13:9). In the book of Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, we can read seven times that: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." God wants and demands to be heard. God spoke from heaven to Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration about Jesus. And He said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him" (Matthew 17:5). The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 4 and verse 4, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " Now we need all that Jesus says, not simply select passages. So little things that we like.

Now the Scriptures record the parable of the sower. And it describes how hearts respond to the teaching of Jesus. Matthew 8:18 to 23 says: "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one (the devil) comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom the seed was sown beside the road. The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

Now the seed in this parable is the word of God, the gospel. The first group is like the soil beside the road. Matthew 13:19 explains, "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road." Just as the seed never quite breaks into the soil, so the word never quite breaks the hardened heart. Some never take the word seriously, never believe, and lose their opportunity to become Christians.

John 1:11 to 13 tells how Jesus "came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." Now Satan came and stole the Word from them, so they never heard what was necessary for them to know the truth and to be saved. And many today never have the Word planted in their hearts, never truly hear the gospel, and never know the truth about Jesus.

The Jesus they think they know and the Jesus of Scripture are two different people. Satan is a deceiver. He doesn't want people to have the truth in their hearts, so he substitutes a mythical Jesus for the real one. This is a Jesus that never challenges them to repent and would never condemn anyone. He is very attractive to worldly people but He's not the Jesus of Scripture.

Then, there's the rocky soil. These folks hear the message and believe quickly; but when temptation comes, they fall away because they lack deep spiritual roots. Their shallow, superficial faith isn't strong enough to sustain them. They only believe for a while. Trials or persecution cause their faith and their commitment to Christ to dry up. Oh, they heard the good news of salvation but didn't treasure it up in their hearts, so they leave their faith behind.

Third, Jesus tells of the thorny soil. They hear the word, but they let other things choke the word out of God out of their hearts. They don't have room in their hearts for God, for His word, because they let the cares of the world, their delight in riches, or the pleasures of this life become their focus.

Colossians 3:1 to 4 says, "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the

things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (and) When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory." That is where our hearts must be, where we remain if we wish to live with Christ in glory. The psalmist said in Psalm 119:10, "With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments." When we need that way of thinking we need it all of our lives, otherwise we too might have hearts filled with distractions that take us away from God.

The fourth soil is made up of "good and honest hearts." They hear and understand the Word. And rather than argue with God, they accept it and they hold fast to it. And in the end they bear fruit with patience, some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold, and some a hundredfold. Oh, a good and honest heart is willing to be in subjection to God because He loves Him and is willing to be honest about himself. Many hearts lie to themselves about their need for God or about their need to change. Many hearts would rather argue about what is sinful than listen to what God actually says. An honest heart will listen to God and take what He says seriously. They will repent and turn to the ways of the Lord.

God can produce fruit in good and honest hearts, because His Word is firmly fixed there. If you're not willing to listen to God, God cannot help you; but if you're willing to listen, God can do great things in your life! Many want to claim the promises of God in the Word but are unwilling to let God's Word be their moral and spiritual authority. You can't have the promises of God if you're unwilling to accept the rest of what He says. God is God, and we are His creatures. We don't know more than He does. And we're not wiser than He is. We must listen to Him rather than think we can tell Him what we ought to believe.

Listening to Him means that we regard His Word as the final authority. And instead of going with our "gut feelings" or listening to other voices in this world, we listen to Him. Listening means we quit trying to rewrite what the Bible says, quit trying to remake God in our own image, and quit thinking God must change to please our culture. God is God. And He was God before He created the world, and He'll be God after this world comes to an end. He doesn't change, and His Word, His bible, doesn't change. Psalm 119:89 says, "Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven." What was true when Jesus spoke in the first century is settled in heaven and has not changed. The Lord Jesus said in John 10:35 that Scripture cannot be broken. You can't change it, you can't edit it, or dispose of it. It stands written.

The book of Galatians reminds us there is only one, unchangeable gospel. The gospel of Christ is not a cafeteria, where people can choose what they want and then leave the rest. No. No, the Lord determines what the gospel is, and our task is to hear all He says and then to be obedient.

Paul wrote in Galatians 1:6 to 9, "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; (no) only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ (twist it up). But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! (yes accursed) As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, (that is from the apostle Paul in scripture) he is to be accursed!" We must follow the one, true gospel. We must not imagine any other gospel will do.

The one, true gospel points to Jesus Christ, crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:1 to 4 says, "Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

Now why is all this important? Because we can be deceived, and many have been. If we believe a gospel that has been tampered with, we'll be following a lie. We must hear and obey the one, true gospel. The Lord Jesus said in Mark 4:24, "Take care what you listen to." A false gospel will only destroy those who follow it. The devil likes to counterfeit the gospel and then to deceive people. He likes to make people think they are saved, even when they are following a lie. He is your enemy friend. And so we must, we must, we must be careful not to fall into his trap and then lose our souls. We're going to spend this month looking at what God desires from us to obey. And it's that one, true gospel. Please study with us each week. And learn what we must do to be right with the living God.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're so grateful for Your love Your grace Your mercy your compassion on us each day. And Father we know that You have given us Your word to assure us of the truth and to help us to know what we can count on. Father help us to be good bible students. To love Your word. To love the truth. To love what is right and to stay and hold fast to Your word so that we may be able to live with you forever one day. Father we love You help us to love You more and to love others. And help us to do Your will. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:24 to 27, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."

The Lord defines a wise man as one who hears and does what He said. He doesn't add to the gospel, or take away from it. He doesn't claim what God said in the first century doesn't apply today or try to rewrite the gospel. He simply hears and obeys the words of Jesus. On the other hand, the foolish man hears, but he doesn't do what he's heard. He does something else. He builds a house but not a house built on the solid foundation of the words of Jesus. So, when the time of testing comes, the one who listens and obeys survives, but the one who ignores what he hears and does what he wants is ruined.

Hear the Lord and obey Him; become a Christian today! Put your faith in Christ and confess Him, repent of your sins, and be baptized into Jesus Christ and into His death. When you're baptized, the Lord will wash away your sins (Acts 22:16) and raise you up to walk in newness of life (Romans 6 verse 4). And today is the best day for you to hear the Lord and respond to His message.

Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

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Believing in Jesus

If you wish to be right with the living God, faith is a necessity. You probably recall the verse that we all heard in Bible classes from our childhood. The Lord Jesus said in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only (some versions say only begotten) Son, that whoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life." But do you recall the next two verses, verse 17 and 18? The Lord also said, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. And whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he's not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

Now believing in the name of the only Son of God is necessary if we're to have eternal life. It's not just believing God exists; it's also believing in Jesus that He is God's only Son. We must put our faith in Christ. The Lord Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." The way to God is through faith in Jesus. And we must put our faith in Him.

Our reading today comes from the epistle to the Hebrews chapter 11 verses 1 to 6 and they focus on faith and what faith means. Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; **AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP**; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

That's a reading from God's holy word. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You give us so many examples of what it means to believe and that You teach us the things that You want us to believe. Father we're thankful for the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from sin and for His resurrection from the grave. Father help always to do Your will in Jesus name, Amen.

For the next several minutes, I want us to look at faith from God's perspective. Many look at Christianity through the eyes of popular culture. Salvation is not an entitlement that God owes us as some have imagined. It's a gift to those who believe. But we must understand the idea of believing as God teaches not read into it what we think it means. Let's take some time to listen to God, asking what kind of faith God wants from us. We seek to please God.

Throughout the Bible, God distinguishes those who please Him that is those who abide in His grace and have His approval, from those who don't. Hebrews 11 verse 6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." We must believe in God, yes, but we must also know about the God we believe. We must realize that He rewards those who seek Him. Many people believe God exists, but the God they seek is not the God of the Bible.

Our postmodern society thinks it should design its own god and wants to sit in judgment of God rather than seek the God who created them. Some manufacture a god that fits with the times. Faith in a culturally-correct god is not the same as faith in the God who made the world and will one day judge it according to His Word. We must believe in God as He reveals and defines Himself in His Word the Bible, not in the mushy god popularized by our culture.

Our culture thinks of God as one who winks at sin, who never condemns anyone, and who believes everything that we believe. Well, many think the God of all grace doesn't care about righteousness or

truth. Others have forgotten that God is not simply holy but entirely holy. Habakkuk 1:13 says of God that, "Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You cannot look on wickedness with favor." Some think God doesn't care what we believe or do, but God is vitally interested in our living holy lives devoted to the truth, serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now we can't speak of having faith in Jesus Christ but then believing anything we want to believe. Nor can we speak of having faith in Jesus Christ and living any way we want to live. When a person comes to Christ as a believer, He belongs to Jesus. Paul told the Christians at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 6:19 to 20 "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." Now if we wear the name Christian and believe in Jesus Christ, we can never forget that. We're not our own, we belong to Jesus. He is our Lord and Master, and we are His servants.

Moses wrote in Psalm 90 verse 2, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." The eternal God stands above our changing culture. The Lord is not subject to the changing philosophies of humanity. His holiness, His righteousness, His purity, and His justice do not change with popular opinions. We must accept Him and His revealed will as He gave it to us instead of trying to remake Him in our own image. Faith in God doesn't mean we can believe whatever we please. Well how can anyone say He trusts in God, when he doesn't believe what God says? Faith means we believe what the Lord teaches. Why? Because He is Divine. He knows all things and has all authority. He gives us His wisdom in the Bible, because He loves us and He wants us to know the truth.

Believing in the God of the Bible also necessitates trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, His Son. The Old Testament prophesies of Jesus as the coming Messiah. The New Testament tells how He fulfilled dozens of prophecies. Now believing in Jesus means you believe the claims that He made to be God's Son. Jesus said that He would rise from the dead, and He did. Jesus said Jerusalem would fall, and the Romans destroyed the city in 70 A.D.

The Bible says in John 1:11 to 13 that, "He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." Now as with God many people approach Christ with preconceived notions. They begin to think all kinds of things. Now if Jesus fails to measure up to what they want or they imagined, they aren't willing to believe. Some will only believe if Jesus never judges anyone and never calls for moral change. That kind of Jesus doesn't exist. To know the real Jesus, we must read all the New Testament says about Him, not just pick out certain passages and then ignore the rest.

The Lord Jesus doesn't play games. He came to His own people but they didn't receive Him. The Lord Jesus blesses only those who believe in His name, who believe who He really is and what He really teaches. Only they are given the right to become children of God. Jesus loves you, yes, but He's not obligated to save you unconditionally. Jesus isn't your servant; He's your creator and Lord.

And faith stands between being accepted and being rejected. God made that decision, and we can't overrule God. The Lord Jesus said in John 3:18 that, "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." On another occasion Jesus taught the Jews that He had come from the Father in Heaven. And He said in John 8:24, "I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." Now believing in Jesus means believing He truly is the Christ, the Son of God. It means believing that He is the fulfillment of God's prophecies of the Messiah.

Saving faith is not simply believing in the act of believing. It's believing in a Person. Believing in the person Jesus means that you believe what He claims, says, and promises are true. If I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, then I will recognize His authority over my whole life. Faith includes duties and responsibilities. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 6:46, "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" If I regard Jesus as Lord, I can't pick and choose which of His commandments I will obey and which I won't.

There are times when we wonder why God asks the things He asks. But trusting faith means we act even when we don't understand. Hebrews 11:8 says, "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going." Abraham didn't argue with God. Because he trusted God, he simply obeyed. He showed his confidence in God, though he didn't know what lay ahead. We trust God in things that we don't know, because we find Him trustworthy in what we do know. We know God is true and loving.

The apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 1 and verse 12, "For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day." Paul could face the future with peace and confidence, because He knew God and how God kept His promises. We can trust God in what we do not know, because God has proved Himself worthy of our trust in what we do know!

Hebrews 11:3 says, "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible." By faith we understand God created this world in six days, just as He said in Genesis, chapter one. While no one was around to witness the creation, we can trust God's word about the creation. Why? Because we know God is trustworthy, and worthy of our faith.

The early disciples were willing to die for their faith for two reasons. First, they were eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now Jesus "presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days" according to Acts 1 verse 3. They saw Him, heard Him speak, and they touched His body. They were so convinced that when they were threatened by the Jewish council, they replied in Acts 4 and verse 20 that, "we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." They were eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Second, they believed in Jesus, because they saw how He fulfilled Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. Now if you had grown up as a Jew in first century, your Bible studies at the synagogue would constantly include prophecies about the coming Messiah. Jesus was born in the right place, at the right time, in the right tribe, with the right family lineage, and with the right kind of mother—a virgin. A star announced His birth, and wise men came from the East looking for Him. The apostle Philip said to his brother Nathaniel, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (that's John 1 verse 45). As you read the book of Acts, the apostles and evangelists time and again preached that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah.

The Lord Jesus truly is the promised Messiah who arose from the dead. For this reason we call Him "Lord" and "Christ." Since we know He is the Son of God, we trust what He says about creation, about Adam and Eve, about the flood, about Sodom and Gomorrah, and every other story found in the Old Testament. Jesus treated the Old Testament as true, historical events. For this reason we can believe the Old Testament is trustworthy and true. We must trust Jesus Christ.

Because we have a living Savior, we want a living faith not a dead one. James 2:14 to 18 says, "What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace,

be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." Dead, inactive faith is useless. It doesn't reveal that one truly believes in Jesus Christ. It doesn't save.

Saving faith is always, always obedient. The Lord Jesus said in John 3 verse 36, this is the New American Standard, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." Now you can claim to believe; but unless your faith leads to obedience, you can't be right with God. When the Bible speaks of saving faith, it's always an active, obedient faith. Galatians 3:26 to 27 says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Now James said, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." Are you a doer of the word or merely a hearer? Do you have an active faith or a dead one?

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You teach us what You want us to know. And that we can please You by having faith that is obedient and active. Father grow in our hearts a deep love for You and for others. And help us always to do Your will so that we may please You out of love. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

After Lazarus died, Jesus visited his sisters Mary and Martha. In John 11:23 to 27 the Scripture reveals a conversation between Jesus and Martha. Jesus told Martha, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him well, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

We need to ask ourselves, "Do you believe this?" Do you believe God created the world in six days? Do you believe the Bible is true? Do you believe Jesus arose from the dead and is Lord? Do you believe Jesus' death on the cross can atone for your sins? Do you believe that you will one day be raised from the dead? Do you believe in the Judgment Day? Do you believe in Heaven and Hell? Faith in Christ means believing what He taught and He did, what He did to give us eternal life.

Now if you really believe, really believe, put your faith into action by repenting of your sins; confessing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God; and by being baptized into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water of a penitent believer. It's done in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Baptism is the time when you become a child of God, free from sin, and added to the Lord's church. The Lord Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." We hope that you'll become a Christian today.

Date: _____

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Repentance

The New Testament reveals the great love Jesus showed to sinners. The Pharisees criticized the Lord Jesus for eating with tax-collectors and sinners. And in those days the Pharisees, though a small group, had bullied the Jewish society into following their human traditions. They had no room in their hearts for anyone but those who followed their dictates. But Jesus followed a truer, better path, that showed the love and compassion of God for all.

Jesus touched the lepers and told the story of the Prodigal Son. Jesus cared about every soul. The Lord said in Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." But let's be clear, just because Jesus loved sinners did not mean that He tolerated their sin. Jesus told the man that He healed on the Sabbath in John 5 and verse 14, "do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you." The Lord Jesus does not leave us where He found us. He lifts us up out of sin and transforms our lives. Thanks be to God.

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 21 verses 38 to 31 and tells the parable of the two sons.

"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he regretted it and went. The man came to the second (son) and said the same thing; and he answered, 'I will, sir'; but he did not go. Which (one) of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you.

Oh this is something for us to think about. Repentance is important. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father help us always to do Your will, and to not forget. Help us to turn our lives around even though we may have made mistakes in times past. Father help us to do Your will and to love You always. In Jesus name, Amen.

The New Testament word "repentance" comes from the Greek word *metanoia*: "meta" means "after"; and "noia" means thought. Repentance is an afterthought. People use an afterthought to change their thinking and mend their ways. Repentance is a new way of thinking, different from our former thoughts. Considering the destructive nature of sin and the loving grace of God, penitent people have a change of heart and mind that leads to a change of life and behavior.

The Lord Jesus is still in the saving business, but salvation includes transforming the life of those who follow Him. That transformation included what God would do for us in His grace and forgiveness and what we must do. God expects His people to believe and repent. The Lord Jesus preached repentance to the Jews of His day. After his baptism and temptation Jesus began His ministry preaching throughout Galilee. Matthew 4:17 says, "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

When the Pharisees grumbled at Jesus for eating with tax-collectors and sinners, Jesus replied in Luke 5:31 to 2, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

When Jesus sent the twelve out into the towns and villages of Galilee, He called for those cities to repent. When some of the towns rejected Jesus, Matthew 11:20 to 24 records this: "Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. 'Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to

heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

Jesus loves sinners, yes, but He calls them to repent. Repentance is not optional. If we wish to please God and be right with Him, we must repent. Luke 13 tells of some folks who told Jesus about some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus responded in verses 2 to 5:

“Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? “I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” Now if we wish to please the Lord, we too must repent.

The apostle Paul on Mars' Hill in Athens told the pagan philosophers in Acts 17:30 to 31, “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” Now God doesn't do your repenting for you, as some people suppose. God commands you and everyone to repent.

Peter likewise called men to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 and verse 38. In 2 Peter 3 verse 9 Peter wrote, “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” God doesn't want anyone to be lost; but when people refuse to repent, they sadly choose their sins over God. When people say no to God, they perish. On the other hand, the Lord God celebrates when people change their lives and serve Him.

The Lord Jesus told this parable in Luke 15:4 to 7 to respond to the Pharisees who were grumbling because He ate with sinners: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” When a person turns his life around and leaves his sin, the God of Heaven rejoices.

Some people think repentance is a punishment. They worry about all the things they have to give up, but the heart that loves God finds new and wonderful pleasures in righteous living. He trades old, destructive habits for a new and real joy in Christ. You don't give up all pleasure to become a Christian. You give up the temporary, sinful pleasures that end up enslaving and destroying you. But you take on new, spiritual joys that are indescribable and everlasting. Jesus said in John 10 and verse 10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” We have an abundant life in Christ that keeps getting better and better.

Now repentance is more than ceasing to sin. While repentance requires a person to stop doing evil, it also turns his heart to the Lord. A penitent person learns to despise the evil that he did in the past, yes; but repentance also plants in the heart a hunger and thirst for righteousness. A penitent person wants to please God every day and completely. The Ephesians made known their repentance by turning from paganism and superstition, “bringing their books together and burning them in the sight of all” (Acts 19:19). I wonder if there are sinful things in our lives that also need to be destroyed. They may be books or movies or songs. We need to rid our hearts of evil thoughts, ugly ways, and selfish intents.

When a person repents, he must also fill his life with the Lord and His teaching. The Lord Jesus gave this illustration in Matthew 12:43 to 45, He said, "Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'; and when it comes (to it), it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That's the way it will also be with this evil generation." When a person is forgiven of sin but fails to fill his life with the Lord, he becomes vulnerable to terrible sins coming into his heart. One may cease to do evil, but real repentance means one lovingly fills his life with the Lord's way.

When a person repents, he will be truly sorry for his sin against God. He's sorry that he hurt and grieved God by his transgressions of God's law. He's also sorry when he realizes that Jesus suffered on the cross for his sin. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:24 that, "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed." It was our sins, our lust, and our selfishness that sent Jesus to the cross. Repentance means we have taken seriously how grievous sin is to God and how destructive it is.

Sin separates us from God. Thankfully, God is willing to forgive when we repent. But once we come to God, we can no longer remain in sin. Paul once asked in Romans 6:1 and 2, "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" Because we love God, we can't keep grieving God with our sins.

A penitent person is also sorry for his sins against others. He realizes that his sins have caused other people to suffer. We hurt others when we say and do things we shouldn't. When we sin, we teach others to sin. Jesus said that one who sets a stumbling block before a little one sins grievously (Matt. 18:6 to 9). The penitent person also mourns because of the hurt that his sin has caused against himself. Yes. You hurt yourself when you sin. Solomon said, "His own iniquities will capture the wicked, and he will be held with the cords of his sin" (Prov. 5:22). Now every person who sins eventually has to face the consequences of his sin. The sinner's life unalterably ends in misery and regret.

A person who loves God, however, wants something different. He wants an opportunity to change his life and live a clean and righteous life. After his sin with Bathsheba, David longed for something better than his selfish, lustful, and hurtful ways. In Psalm 51:10, David said, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Hungering to do what is good and right fills the heart of a penitent man. This sorrow for sin and hunger for righteousness means he will hate what is evil and love what is good. Romans 12:9 says, "Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good." Now this doesn't say hate evil people; it says hate what is evil.

If I love God, I will hate what is evil and hurtful. I can love a thief while hating the evil he does. I can love a drunk while hating the evil a drunk does to his family while he is drunk. Christians call people to change their behavior because we love them, and they know sinful behavior, Christians do, will cause people harm. We don't speak out against sin because we're haters of people. We speak out against sin because we hate the evil and the harm that sin does. Christians love their enemies and pray for them.

In 2 Timothy chapter 2 verses 24 to 26 Paul describes how a Christian should deal with those caught up in sin. He says, "The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will." God is in the saving business, and so are we. But people can be so deceived by the devil they think they're all right spiritually, when they're actually very much lost.

Now why are we talking about repentance? Why are we asking people to repent? I hope you understand. We're speaking this way, because we love you and we want God's blessing for you. You can't be right with God without repenting of your sins and turning to Him. Sin can harden your heart and cause you to be lost. Romans 6:23 says "the wages of sin is death." We want you to know Christ and the joy of forgiveness and eternal life.

So don't let sin harden your heart. Don't let it rob you of eternal life. Don't stiffen your neck and refuse to change your ways. You're grieving God and hurting yourself. And like the prodigal son, you can come back home to God, and do that today. And God will rejoice, the angels will rejoice over one sinner who repents. Do you need to repent? Don't wait. Repent today and obey the Lord and get right with God. And do that now.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're so thankful that Your word touches our hearts and helps us to see ourselves as we are. Help us Heavenly Father to consider our ways and to turn from what is evil and do what is good. And to love You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. And to serve You and to serve others. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

God won't force you to repent, but He lovingly appeals to you. If there's no repentance, neither is there any salvation. The Lord promises forgiveness to the penitent people who change their lives, but there's no promise for the person who refuses to obey God. One day there will be an end to God's patience and a day of reckoning. Isaiah 55:6 to 7 says, "Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."

Some young people came to a wise, old man and asked, "When should we repent?" The old man answered, "Repent the day before you die." And the young people said, "But we don't know the day we're going to die." And the old man replied, "Then, repent today." Now instead of trying to excuse your sins or justify yourselves, acknowledge your sins and repent. Change your heart and life.

We repent because we love the Lord and believe in Him. Faith, love, and repentance begin in the heart. And I hope your heart rejects that old way of sin and hungers for righteousness. Now if you believe and love the Lord and have repented of your sins, confess Christ and be baptized in His name. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ. Peter told the guilt-ridden people in Acts 2:38, "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." Obey the Lord today. Life is fleeting, and death is certain.

Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

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Baptism

Today we're going to complete our series on how we respond to the gospel of Christ. We've talked about the necessity of hearing the gospel and obeying what God says. We've shown the necessity of faith and repentance. Today we're focusing on the need to be baptized to be saved.

Few people doubt the need to believe or repent in order to be saved, but there's much controversy over baptism. People have mistakenly said baptism is a work that people do to earn salvation. This simply isn't true. While it is true that we're commanded to be baptized, baptism is not so much about what we're doing as it is what God is doing for us. We're going to study what baptism into Christ means and why everyone who chooses to follow Christ must be baptized.

Our reading today comes from Romans chapter 6 verses 3 to 7 and there Paul is reminding the Romans about the importance of their baptism and what it did for them.

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

That's a reading of God's holy word. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You have provided a way that You can unite us with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism. And Father we pray that we'll always come to love You and do Your will. That we'll listen to the things that You teach and they may make a difference in our lives. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary defines baptism as "a ceremony or sacrament of admitting a person into Christianity or a specific church by dipping him in water or sprinkling water on him, as a symbol of washing away sin." Well this definition describes what baptism means in the English language, considering there are many different "Christian" groups that baptized in a variety of ways. But simply because the many denominations do things differently doesn't mean that the New Testament approves all these different ways to baptize.

So, what does the New Testament teach in regard to the act of baptism? Well what action does the New Testament describe? Well the Greek word, baptidzo means to dip, plunge, or immerse. It refers to the specific act of dipping or immersing in water. A different Greek word rhandidzo describes the action of sprinkling. Now if the Lord or the Holy Spirit had wanted us to sprinkle for baptism, they would have moved the writers of the New Testament to use that word rhandidzo instead of baptidzo.

After an exhaustive survey of more than 200 examples in Greek literature and ancient translations, an author Thomas J. Conant in his book, *The Meaning and Use of Baptizein*, concluded that: "The word baptizein, during the whole existence of the Greek as a spoken language, had a perfectly defined and unvarying import. In its literal use it meant, as has been shown, to put entirely into or under a liquid, or other penetrable substance, generally water, so that the object was wholly covered by the inclosing element."

Well when the New Testament speaks of baptism, the event described points to an immersion in water. In Matthew 3:16 after Jesus was baptized he "went up out of the water." In John 3:23 John the Baptizer baptized in the Jordan River "at Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there."

Baptism or immersion would, of course, require enough water to immerse an adult. In Acts 8:38 to 39 Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water, Philip baptized the Eunuch, and they both came up out of the water. Now whatever happened in this baptism, it took place while they were down in the water.

The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 6 and verse 4, "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." Now the likeness of being buried and raised in water is striking here! It's not an accident that baptism is a burial and a resurrection that leads to newness of life. Romans 6:5 to 7 says, "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, (now why?) in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin."

Baptism is that time when our old body of sin is crucified with Christ and done away with. It is buried. And at that point we're no longer slaves to sin. When we are raised with Him, we have new life just as the Lord Jesus had new life when He was resurrected from the dead. The resurrection caused the new life for Jesus, and our resurrection with Christ in baptism causes our newness of life. Before baptism we are dead in sin, but after baptism we are freed from sin and walk in newness of life!

Now commenting on this passage William Barclay said, "Commonly baptism was by total immersion and that practice lent itself to a symbolism to which sprinkling does not so readily lend itself. When a man descended into the water and the water closed over his head, it was like being buried. When he emerged from the water, it was like rising from the grave. Baptism was symbolically like dying and rising again. The man died to one kind of life and rose to another; he died to the old life of sin and rose to a new life of grace."

There is a second passage that links baptism to the burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Colossians 2:12 to 13 says, "having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses." Now baptism is an act of faith in the powerful working of God. In baptism we demonstrate our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And we're united with His burial and resurrection in baptism. Before we were baptized we were dead in our trespasses; but in baptism God makes us alive, just as God made Christ alive. In making us alive, God forgives us of all our trespasses.

Now did you notice in this passage how God is active in forgiving us and in making us alive. Baptism is an act of faith on our part. The command in Acts 2:38 and 22:16 is to "be baptized." Now think with me. Grammatically, "be baptized" is a command, but it's a passive command. God commands us to demonstrate our faith by letting someone else baptize us in the name of Jesus Christ. "Be baptized" means someone else is immersing us in water. Someone else is acting on us. We receive the action. That's what "passive" means.

Now just as we receive the physical act of baptism, we receive God's gracious actions on us in the forgiveness of sins and making us alive. In baptism we are born again and born from above with newness of life. God is the One powerfully working on us. Baptism is not some work of merit on our part to earn salvation. No. Baptism is an act of faith on our part whereby we receive God's powerful working in our lives, just as He powerfully raised Jesus from the dead. God buries our old man of sin, God raises us up, and God makes us alive. It's God who washes away our sins, and God who makes us new. It is who God causes us to be born again.

When people say well, “you don’t have to be baptized to be saved,” they’ve missed the point. If baptism is the time when God acts on us to forgive our sins, then baptism would have to be necessary for us to be saved.

So, there is a great importance to immersing as baptism. We should respect what God is doing to us by saving us in baptism or immersion. We have no right or authority to substitute sprinkling for immersing in fulfilling God's commandments. If God is providing salvation to us through our baptism, then shouldn't we be careful to abide by the Lord's commands. Shouldn't we cooperate with what He has told us to do. Sprinkling and immersing are different things. While many have sprinkled people and called it baptism for centuries, sprinkling for baptism has no basis in Scripture. Baptism into Christ is by immersion. Baptism by sprinkling is an old, human tradition begun centuries after the New Testament.

Now obeying the Lord doesn't mean doing what is conventional or doing what is popular. Obeying the Lord means honoring the Lord to the point that we're willing to do what He says. Honoring and respecting God means you won't add to God's commands, take away from God's commands, or edit God's commands. You simply, lovingly, humbly obey the Lord.

So, why should a person who is penitent and believes in Christ be baptized? Well, there are numerous reasons. Peter told the guilty people at Pentecost in Acts 2:38, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” People repent and are baptized so that their sins will be forgiven. Ananias told Saul of Tarsus in Acts 22:16, “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.” Baptism is the time when God washes away our sins.

Baptism is the time when we clothe ourselves with Christ or become united with Him. Galatians 3:26 and 7 says, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Now baptism is a necessary act of faith. And placing your faith in Christ necessarily includes baptism. The faithful children of God today are baptized into Christ and clothed with Christ.

Now we've already seen in Romans 6:4 to 7 and Colossians 2:12 to 13 that baptism is the time when God unites us with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Now in baptism we're crucified with Him, buried with Him, and raised with Him to walk in newness of life. Since the old man of sin is crucified with Him in baptism, God at that time frees us from sin and its guilt. Baptism is also that time when we begin sharing our new life in Christ and with Christ. From that day forward we're new people who belong to Him. His blood has cleansed and purchased us; and we're no longer our own. We've been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19 to 20).

When we are baptized, the Lord adds us as God's children to the church. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 12:13, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body (that is the church), whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” Baptism unites us with Christ, with those who are in His body, the church.

To be in the church is to be in God's kingdom. And Paul wrote the church at Colossae and said in Colossians 1:13 to 14, “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Forgiveness and membership in the church or kingdom are benefits of being baptized into Christ. Now this agrees with what the Lord Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 and verse 5. Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” How are we born again of water and the Spirit? Well, this is surely by baptism. The Lord says that without baptism we cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Now in Christ, we have the grace and blessing of God. Ephesians 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” And in Christ, we have the promise of eternal life. 1 John 5:11 to 12 says, “And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” The way to have the Son is to respond to the Son by baptism when you confess Christ and repent of your sins. And baptism is certainly not the only thing necessary to salvation. We’ve seen in this past month that hearing God, believing in Jesus, repenting of sin, and confessing Christ as the Son of God are also necessary to obey the gospel.

Well why is baptism then so important? Why are we taking the time about its necessity? Because baptism is the culminating act in our obedience. Our faith, repentance, and confession lead us to baptism. Baptism is that point when God acts upon us, transforming us from people dead in sin to people alive in Christ. That’s when we’re born again and become members of the Lord’s church. To talk about baptism means revealing how God unites us with Christ, saves us, and makes us His children. What a blessing! Nothing else could be so very important for today and for eternity than to be obedient to the Lord!

Let’s pray together. Father we’re thankful that Your gospel has a way and means by which we can leave an old life of sin and have newness of life. Freed from sin and loving and serving You. Father help always to be obedient to Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

The New Testament gives us many examples of people being baptized. The 3000 who obeyed the gospel at Pentecost in Acts 2:41 were baptized that very day. In Acts 8:12, when the Samaritans believed the preaching of Philip about Jesus and His kingdom, they were baptized. They didn’t wait. The Eunuch in Acts 8:36 asked to be baptized. It was urgent. He wasn’t content to wait until another day. He came up out of the water rejoicing. In Acts 22:16 Ananias asked Saul of Tarsus, “Why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.” In Acts 16 the jailer and his household considered baptism so important that they were baptized in the middle of the night. Why the urgency? Why the emphasis on acting quickly?

I’ll tell you why. Because being baptized is necessary for you to be saved. It’s necessary for you to receive the forgiveness of your sins. Baptism is necessary for you to be united with Christ and to become a Christian. The Bible never contemplates the idea of a Christian who has not been baptized. Baptism is not something you do after you have been saved; baptism is the time when God saves you. That’s when God takes the blood of Christ and washes you free from sin and makes you His child. 1 Peter 3:21 says, “Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” Baptism is how we appeal to God to be saved and to have a clear conscience. Have you been baptized into Christ? If you believe and are repentant, won’t you be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins?

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