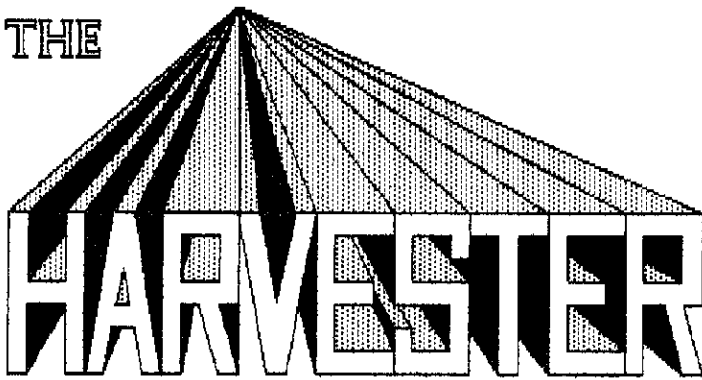


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"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

NOVEMBER 2000

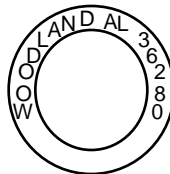
No. 179

RECEIVING JESUS

At various interdenominational functions these days, those in charge often invite non-Christians to "receive the Lord Jesus."

That's great, isn't it? It certainly would be, if it were taught the same way Jesus and His Apostles taught it. However, something quite different is often taught today than what the divinely inspired men of God taught about the process of receiving Jesus.

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FORWARD & ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED

A Different Gospel

This is a vital issue because the Bible proclaims a curse on those of us who would teach a different gospel than delivered by the Apostles of Jesus. *"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."*(Gal. 1:8-9). The views of those who feel they cannot conscientiously deviate from what the Apostles taught are often overlooked.

More specifically, at many inter-denominational functions, those who are not Christians are told to receive Jesus by "praying the Sinner's Prayer." They are told that Jesus will then come into their life as Lord.

So, how does that differ from the teaching and example of the Apostles concerning conversion to Christ? First of all, do we find in the Bible where the Apostles ever taught a single non-Christian to pray the Sinner's Prayer in order to receive Christ?

What Did Jesus Command?

What did the Apostles teach on the subject? They told the people exactly what Jesus commanded them to teach when He commissioned them to *"...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does*

not believe will be condemned." (Mk. 16:15-16) If the Apostles had preached a different gospel, they would have been under the curse of God (Gal. 1:8-9).

The Apostle Peter

Accordingly, in the first recorded gospel sermon after Jesus' resurrection and ascension to Heaven, the Apostle Peter told non-Christians to "...repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38)

The Apostle Peter was also instrumental in the conversion of the first non-Jewish converts to Jesus, the family of Cornelius. When they believed his preaching, Peter "...commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." (Acts 10:47-48) The passage clearly indicates this was baptism in water.

The Evangelist Phillip

The evangelist Phillip preached at Samaria and those who believed were baptized (Acts 8:12). He later preached Jesus to an Ethiopian official who believed and was baptized in water (Acts 8:35-38).

The Apostle Paul

The Apostle Paul taught a woman named Lydia and also a jailer and his family in the city of Philippi. In both conversion cases, they believed what Paul taught them and then were baptized (Acts 16:14-15 & 20-22)

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address and all correspondence to:

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The Apostle Paul's own conversion experience again reflects that there was something he must do to receive Jesus. When Ananias was sent by Jesus to Paul, he told a penitent and believing Paul to *"...Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."*(Acts 22:16)

The Sinner's Prayer?

Notice the total absence of the Sinner's Prayer in each of these cases of conversion. That's why many Christians today feel excluded from inter-denominational evangelistic efforts. Often, these efforts simply fail to give the same answer the Apostles gave to non-Christians.

Solution

We ask our fellow believers not to exclude from inter-denominational functions those of us who cannot, in good conscience, support the Sinner's Prayer as a valid means of receiving Jesus. Instead, let us unite on the divinely

authorized way that will satisfy all of us; the same way Jesus and His Apostles taught.

MIKE PANNELL

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What was the belly of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream made of?
2. In which city was there an altar to the unknown god?
3. Who ate locusts and wild honey?
4. What price did Saul ask David to pay in order to marry his youngest daughter?
5. Who wrote down Paul's letter to the Romans?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. What articles did Pharaoh give Joseph after he put him over the people of Egypt? HIS SIGNET RING, ROBES OF FINE LINEN, AND A GOLD CHAIN (Gen. 41:42)
2. To what destination did Jacob and his family journey after their meeting with Esau? SUCCOTH (Gen. 33:17)
3. In what does James 3 say we all offend? MANY THINGS (Jas. 3:2)

4. According to 1 Chr. 29, the events of King David's reign are recorded in what three records? BOOKS OF SAMUEL, NATHAN, AND GAD (1 Chr. 29:29)

5. In what was Jesus laid after He was born? A MANGER (Lk. 2:7)

FOUR GREAT THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

1. It is a life of obedience to God. Matt. 28:19-20, *"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world."*

Obedience to the truth purifies the soul of man. I Pet. 1:22, *"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."*

To know him is to keep his commandments. I John 2:3-4, *"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."*

God's eternal promise to them who keep his commandments. Rev. 22:14, *"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."*

2. It is a life of steadfastness and labor for God. I Cor. 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Must continue steadfast and labor to the end or be lost. Rev. 2:10, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Luke 9:62, "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

3. It is a life of love. I John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."

Great blessings prepared in Heaven for them that love God. I Cor. 2:9, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Jude 21, "Keep yourselves in the love of God looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

4. It is a life of peace, gentleness, mercy, and good fruits. Jas. 3:14-18, "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth."

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Nov. 3 - 5	Valley, AL	Terry Price (Jackson Gap, AL)
Nov. 17 - 19	Fayetteville Rd. Church Fairburn, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)

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(continued from page 7)

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Heb. 12:14, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

Peacemakers - Children of God. Matt. 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

ALBERT L. DAVIS (deceased)
Lucedale, MS

"There are two things I've learned:
There is a God. And, I'm not Him."