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The Good Tidings

"...I must preach the good tidings of the kingdom of God..." (Luke 4:43)
www.thegoodtidings.has.it
 July 19, 2008

What is *The Good Tidings*?

For some of you this may be the first issue you have received and you may be wondering, what is this? Well, ***The Good Tidings*** is an e-journal about New Testament Christianity, teaching folks just like you how to be just a Christian, nothing more, nothing less. This may be a foreign concept to you as it is to so many. Nonetheless, it is a **Biblical** concept. Christ condemned man-made doctrine (Matt. 15:9) and prayed for the unity of all believers (John 17:20-23). Look at the religious world around us -- so many man-made names (Lutheran, Catholic, Seventh-day Adventist, etc.), so many conflicting doctrines. All this is very confusing! Is God responsible for such confusion?? A thousand times, NO! "For God is not the author of confusion" (1 Cor. 14:33). Man and his multiplicity of doctrines and religions is the blame for this confusion. But you can slice through this fog of religious confusion using the light of the word (Psalm 119:105). The unity for which Christ prayed is within your reach. Simply shed the man-made divisive doctrines of denominationalism and become a New Testament Christian, united and abiding in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11).

So, my challenge to you is this: READ ***The Good Tidings***, and as you read, you will come across references to Scripture. Turn to those passages in your Bible and read them. Compare what you read in the pages of God's word to what is taught in the religion which you practice. If what you have been taught and are practicing is different from what God teaches in His word, then a change needs to be made, doesn't it?? It is my earnest prayer that, as you read and study, you will desire to become a New Testament Christian, a child of God. If you are already a New Testament Christian, you will be strengthened in your daily walk by reading ***The Good Tidings***. If I can be of any assistance to you as you study, please do not hesitate to contact me at mbwilley@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Michael Willey, Editor

Two Men From Ethiopia by Dalton Key

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them."

That is what Jeremiah had to say about the Bible of his day. (15:16.) Similarly, Francis Bacon would later write, "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested."

Of course, both Bacon and the "weeping prophet" were speaking figuratively.

Someone should have explained that to Negus Menelik. Menelik, ruler of Ethiopia from 1844 to 1913, held a strong belief in the curative powers of the printed biblical text. He made a habit of physically ingesting two pages of Scripture each day, a practice that did him no apparent harm until he reached the first book of Kings, where just a few pages killed him. It seems he came to a section with colored illustrations and a poison in the ink was too much for him.

An earlier nobleman of Ethiopia had a more sensible (and beneficial) approach. His story is told in the eighth chapter of Acts. While riding in his chariot, this Ethiopian was reading from the Old Testament book of Isaiah, intensely interested in the meaning and application of what we today would recognize as the book's fifty-third chapter.

Here was a man who understood that the Bible is worthy of being "chewed and digested," not literally, but with the heart and mind and soul. We are not surprised to read that he soon thereafter, after hearing and obeying the truth, "went on his way rejoicing." (Acts 8:39.)

When Jesus, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, said to Satan, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God," he was delineating this same truth. (Matthew 4:4.) Just as our physical bodies require nourishment in the form of food, our spiritual selves require the nourishment of God's Word.

Have you fed your soul today?

--reprinted from the Feb. 2008 issue of *Old Paths*, 10th and Rockford church of Christ, 829 S. Rockford Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74120.
Subscriptions are free upon request.

If You Died Last Night?

What is at the top of your "must do" list today? Are you (like most others) concerned and stressed about our economy, high prices of gasoline and food, upcoming election, etc.? **If you died last night** none of those matters would be of concern to you at all!

Have you been thinking about buying a new car, redecorating the house, or other changes? Think: **if you died last night**, all things similar to these activities would not be important at all!

Friend, **IF YOU DIED LAST NIGHT**, what would be important? Without doubt, the **only things** that would matter THEN would be:

1. If you were a Christian (according to what the Bible specifies); a child of God; a part of the family of God (Gal. 3:26-27; John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Matt. 10:32-33; Mark 16:16).

2. If you were faithfully serving the Lord and acceptable in His sight (Rev. 2:10; Matt. 10:22); pressing toward the mark of the prize (Phil. 3:12-14) at the time you departed in death.

3. If you had maintained a pure life by walking in the light (1 John 1:7-9); not being conformed to the world (Rom. 12:1-2); refusing the temptations of the world (Titus 2:11-12).

4. If you had died "in the Lord" (Rev. 14:13; Psm. 116:15).

Our life on earth will be BRIEF at best. Death can come to any one at any time. Would YOU have been ready **if you had died last night?**

--reprinted from the April/June 2008 issue *Truth in Love*, East Hill church of Christ, P.O. Box 329, Pulaski, TN 38478

To be a child of God is to be saved, to be a Christian. "What must I do to be saved?" is the question that was posed long ago to Paul and Silas (Acts 16:30), and has been asked untold millions of times since.

Perhaps you have asked yourself the very same question. The correct answer to this vital question will not be found in a catechism, prayer book or creed book. Those are all written by fallible human beings and each give conflicting answers. Only by looking into the New Testament can we find God's answer to that all-important question.

The Bible tells us that to become a Christian, one must:

Hear the Word of God (John 8:45; Romans 10:17)
 Believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 8:24)
 Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3, 5; II Peter 3:9)
 Confess Jesus is the Christ (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37)
 Be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Once we have obeyed those five steps, our responsibility as a child of God is to then live faithfully everyday (Matthew 10:22).

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. You can read about it in the Bible (Romans 16:16).
2. It has no creed but Christ and binds no name on its members but the divine name (Acts 11:26).
3. It speaks where the Bible speaks and is silent where the Bible is silent (I Peter 4:11).
4. It exalts Christ as the only head of the church (Ephesians 1:22).
5. We plead for the unity of all believers in Christ (John 17:20, 21; I Corinthians 1:10).
6. It is not a denomination, nor a group of denominations, but simply the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18).
7. Its founder is Christ Himself (Matthew 16:18).
8. Its aim - to save souls by the preaching of the gospel (Romans 1:16).
9. Its acts of worship are patterned after the New Testament (John

4:24).

10. It teaches that scriptural unity can be attained on all disputed doctrinal questions (I Corinthians 1:10).

Can you find YOUR church in the Bible? If you are interested in learning more about the church of Christ, we can help! We can send you either a Bible correspondence course or a series of Bible lessons on DVD, both free of charge! If you live in the Nashville, TN area, maybe you'd prefer a free, no obligation in-home Bible study? If we can assist you in any way, please contact Michael Willey at mbwilley@yahoo.com.

Mailing List Issues

I am still in the process of updating and transferring the mailing list over to the Yahoo group. If you happen to receive multiple copies of the email, please be patient.

The Good Tidings is an e-journal of New Testament Christianity sent free to interested individuals via email. Its primary purpose and goal in publication is to "preach the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:16); to teach those outside Christ about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to edify the faith of New Testament Christians. Subscribers are encouraged to assist us in this effort by forwarding *The Good Tidings* to all their email contacts and by printing out copies for folks who do not have access to email.

Also, if your email address changes, please notify us so we can update our email list. Thanks!

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