

PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT

Those who are sick or need our prayers — Kaylee Dolan, J Hughes, Linda Reagan, Kay Woodruff

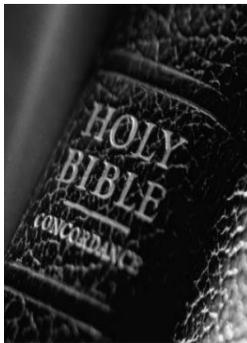
Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Faye Roberts, Freda Dunn, Romona Stokes ,and Marjorie Barringer.*

Please pray for those who have forsaken the Lord that they may be reconciled to God.

READING THE OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS IN ONE YEAR

Monday - Leviticus 8-11; Ps 110; Hebrews 4
Tuesday - Lev 12-14; Psalm 111; Heb 5
Wednesday - Lev 15-18; Psalm 31; Heb 6
Thursday - Lev 19-20; Heb 7
Friday - Lev 21-23; Heb 8

Week #8
Feb. 19 – Feb. 23



VISITORS - We would like to get to know you better, and ask that you stay a while after services. We encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.parkhillchurchofchrist.com> where you will find sermons, articles, and daily bible studies to encourage you in your daily walk with God.

QUESTIONS? *We Welcome the opportunity to study God’s word with you any time.*

*All sermons are recorded on CD & DVD -
If you would like a copy, please ask one of the men.*

ELDERS

Carl Dolan.....479.414.1972 ~ Ron Roberts479.452.0347 ~ Randy Sexton.....479.763.4524
Joe Turner....479.459.6023.

DEACONS

Wayne Carson...479.648.1087 ~ Luke Dolan.....479.357.9547 ~ Joe Dugas479.629.4046 ~
David Meek.....479.459.0820

PREACHER

Bryan Loughmiller.....479.434.3939

February 18, 2018

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Welcome to the Park Hill Church of Christ

3536 GRINNELL AVENUE FORT SMITH, AR 72908 479.782.2415

It is our desire to worship God in spirit and in truth, and to glorify Him in all we do.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING
Bible Study.....9:30 am
Worship.....10:15 am

SUNDAY EVENING
Worship..... 5:00pm

WEDNESDAY EVENING
Bible Study.....7:00pm

The Victories of Conversion - No. 1



To many of you, the first part of this article will be a rehash of things you have heard many times, but I want people to realize there is more to being converted than just following a formula. So, bear with me as we study the subject. The word of God teaches that unless “*you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven*” **Matt.18:3**. Later, Peter, preaching the

second recorded sermon, found in **Acts** tells his hearers, “*Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord*” **Acts 3:19**. Note how this passage parallels **Acts 2:38**. Even though these verses teach the necessity of conversion (or salvation) for anyone wanting to escape the guilt and condemnation of sin, and the fires of hell, many find it difficult to be converted.

By a careful, diligent and studious research of the NT one can find that God’s plan for saving or converting one to Christ from sinner to saint is quite simple. One starts by hearing and learning of Christ. It is true that one has to have faith before they can please God **Heb.11:6**, but they cannot believe (have faith) before they hear of Him **Rom.10:17; Jn.6:44-45**. So, hearing comes first, which then produces belief in Je-

sus Christ **Jn.3:36; 5:24; Acts 8:30**. But, from other scriptures, we learn that belief alone (faith only) is not enough. One who believes in Christ must repent of the sins that separate him from God, causing him to be lost **Lk.13:3 5; Acts 17:30-31**. One who has truly repented **2.Cor.7:10**, then must be willing to confess their belief that Jesus is the Son of God **Matt.10:32-33; Acts 8:36-37**. When one has heard and learned of Christ, really believes Him to be God's Son and Savior, repents of his sins and confesses Christ as the Son of God, he is ready to enter into a relationship with Christ by being baptized for the remission of sins in order to be saved **Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal.3:36-27**. So, you see, the plan that converts and/or saves people is quite simple. The plan is not hard to understand, the difficulty is accepting it and obeying what the scriptures teach.

So, turn to **1.Cor.15:57** and read Paul joyfully exclaiming, "*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" This is the climax of the victories one has fought and won in becoming a child of God.

You see, many have not stopped to think that in the process of conversion, the difficulties that hindered (or continues to hinder) a person from being converted had to be overcome. But, with the help of the Lord and His word, these battles can be won. Thus, this lesson I call, "The victories of conversion."

THE FIRST VICTORY IS THE BATTLE OVER INDIFFERENCE IN HEARING. We are promised, "*whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?*" **Rom.10:13-14**. But, as pointed out earlier, before one can believe they must first hear. Many are indifferent to the redemptive work of Christ because they have never heard of Christ, or His plan of salvation. The only way this indifference can be overcome is to use the word of God. "**It** (the gospel of Christ) *is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes...*" **Rom.1:16**. God has chosen preaching, teaching and hearing the gospel as the method by which one learns how to be saved **1.Cor.1:18, 21**. If the word is placed in one's heart, and remains there long enough to take root then it will overcome indifference. It will "*cut to the heart*" (prick the conscience) as it did to people on the day of Pentecost **Acts 2:37**. When this happens the word of God begins its work of conversion because the word of God is received into the heart **Lk.8:11; Acts 2:41; 18:6-8**. So, we have the first victory, indifference has been defeated by hearing and receiving the word of God into the heart.

THE NEXT VICTORY IS THE BATTLE OVER DOUBT IN BELIEVING. Even though one may hear the word of God, this is not enough. The word heard (preached/taught) must be believed. Many doubt that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. So, testimony must be presented to prove the validity of the claims made by Jesus. This is the purpose for which the scriptures are given. "*But these are written that you may be-*

lieve that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may live in His name" **Jn.20:31**. We see this demonstrated in the conversion of the Philippian jailer **Acts 16:30-34**. He is told to "*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,*" but this was not "faith only" salvation. The scripture doesn't stop with him being told to believe. Paul and Silas had to explain to the jailer who this Jesus was. So, they "*spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.*" After this, the jailer "*and all his family were baptized*" The jailer and his family could now rejoice, "*having believed in God with all his household.*" Here we have another victory won, faith has defeated doubt and disbelief.

The victories of conversion will be continued in the next issue.

Tommy Thornhill, The Etna Enlightener Jan. 28, 2108



Brief Thoughts

I have had the book *The Case For Christ* in my personal library since 2000. The book was authored by Lee Strobel who at the time had been an investigative reporter in Chicago, who had a bulldog attitude and did not quit until he discovered the truth about his subject matter.

In the book *The Case for Christ* what Strobel, being an unbeliever himself, set out to do was convince his believing wife that what she believed about the bible and Jesus was false. In his attempt to disprove her belief he ultimately found evidence for Jesus Christ as the savior of men.

In April 2017 Cindy and I watched the movie based off that book. In my humble opinion the book is much better but the movie was good.

My favorite line in the movie was when Lee Strobel visited a man in the hospital that he had helped put in prison for shooting a police officer. Lee's story missed an important piece of evidence and because of it the man was wrongly convicted and brutally beaten while in prison.

Lee leaned over the bed railing and said, "I missed the truth." The other man's response was "You didn't want to see it."

This line made me think of what Jesus said "***And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free***" (**Jn 8:32**). If you miss the truth it may be as simple as this "You don't want to see it."