

PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT

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

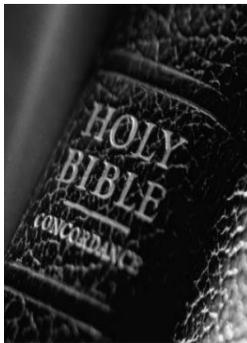
Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Billie Sue Atkins, Freda Dunn, Romona Stokes ,and Marjorie Barringer.*

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 - Numbers 8-11; Colossians 1
Tuesday - Num 12-14; Psalm 28; Col 2
Wednesday - Num 15-18; Psalm 113; Col 3
Thursday - Num 19-21; Col 4
Friday - Num 22-25; Luke 1

Week #10
Mar. 5 – Mar. 9



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

March 4, 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	SUNDAY EVENING	WEDNESDAY EVENING
Bible Study.....9:30 am	Worship..... 5:00pm	Bible Study.....7:00pm
Worship.....10:15 am		

The Victories of Conversion - No. 3



In this series of articles I have pointed out several victories one wins on the way to being converted. The first victory is winning the battle over indifference by choosing to listen to the gospel, rather than rejecting it. The next victory is fought and won when unbelief and doubt turn to belief. Then, even though one believes, another battle ensues. Repentance needs to take place for the sins committed that separates one from God? Will one, or will one not repent? When one decides to repent, then the victory over indecision happens. But then a fourth battle begins. One has decided to repent, but needs to let the world knows that he believes Jesus is the Son of God by a public confession. When the person steps forward and makes this public confession, another victory has happened. The victory over cowardice.

With these four victories one is almost converted, but not quite. The Bible teaches that in order to be saved, one must be baptized for the remission of his sins **Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38**. So, the final battle before conversion must be fought for most people rebel against the thought of having to be baptized. Last week I started discussing this battle, pointing out they are arguing against the very One who died to save them. He is their Lord, and until they submit to Him as Lord, He will not be their Savior **Lk.6:46**. With

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those thoughts let's notice something else Jesus said.

As He was coming to the close of the sermon on the mount, He said, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven. But he who does the will of My Father in heaven."* Regardless of how many things people might do in His name, if they don't obey Him they will be lost, *"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness (iniquity, acting without law - in rebellion -t.t.)'"* **Matt.7:21-23**. I might add that the Hebrew writer confirms this, for he writes of Jesus, *"He is the author or eternal salvation to all who obey Him"* **Heb.5:9**. One who will finally submit to being baptized for the remission of sins will have won the victory over rebellion.

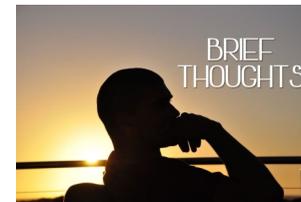
In following these steps in conversion, hearing, believing, repenting, confessing and being baptized for the remission of sins to be saved, one is now converted from all past sins. He has **BEEN DELIVERED FROM THE POWER OF SATAN**. Paul, in telling Agrippa why he had been chosen to be an apostle, says Jesus sent him (Paul) to preach to the Gentiles *"... to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me"* **Acts 26:16**. Paul reveals that one is able to escape the power of Satan through Jesus Christ. *"He (God) has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love"* **Col.1:13**. This of course, is done when one is baptized. At this point, one is saved from his past sins, and at the same time added to the Lord's church, which is also His kingdom **Acts 2:38, 41, 47**. By submitting to Christ, one defeats Satan. *"Therefore submit to God, Resist the devil and he will flee from you"* **Jas.4:7**.

The last victory in this series is **THE VICTORY OVER SELF**. There is a continual conflict taking place in our lives here on earth. Who is going to control our lives? Satan was able to take control of our lives when we first sinned. He says, "Let self rule, do what you want." Christ, on the other hand wants to take control of us, so we will do His will. But He will only do so voluntarily. It is our choice to make. *"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness"* **Rom.6:16-18**. By obeying Christ, one crucifies the old man of sin, and breaks the domination of the devil. *"Knowing this, that the old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin"* **Rom.6:6**. In obedience, self is defeated, and Christ is allowed to direct our lives. *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son*

of God, who saved me and gave Himself for me" **Gal.2:20**.

"I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory. How He gave His life on Calvary, to save a wretch like me; I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning, then I repented of my sins and won the victory – O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He sought me and bo't me with His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him He plunged me to victory, beneath the cleansing flood " First verse and chorus of song, "Victory in Jesus."

Tommy Thornhill, The Etna Enlightener Feb. 11, 2018



Brief Thoughts

"I'm fine." It's the go-to reflex when asked, "How are you?" Why?

1. Because it's easy to say.
2. Because it's easy to pretend.
3. Because it's easy to assume others don't really care.

On the knowledge side, we are fine -as in knowing God will provide, take care of us, and see us through. On the heart side, we aren't fine at all. We struggle. We weep. We walk in daily numb. We ache in deep places.

You aren't the only one. Psalm 38—

- "I am benumbed and badly crushed; I groan..." (v.8)
- "My sighing is not hidden..." (v.9)
- "My heart throbs, my strength fails, the light of my eyes has gone from me" (v.10)
- "My loved ones and friends stand aloof..." (v.11)

Familiar territory?

While David described his emotional state because of sin, the same can be caused by any number of life-hurts: rejection, prodigal children, failing health, fear of an uncertain future, etc.

Truth? We're not always fine. It's like asking patients in a doctor's office, "How are you?" Odd, if we were fine, we wouldn't be here. Two things: (1) at least they (we) come to the right place, and (2) the doctor is "in."

Fortunately the sympathizing Great Physician knows...we're not always "fine."

Wilson Adams, Courageous Living Books