

# Is Your Heart Right With God?

by Greg Gwin

We have a very simple question to ask: Is your heart right with God? As you think about your answer to this most important of all questions, we'd like you to consider these observations:

1. You might as well be honest about this, because "if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things" (1 Jn 3:20). So then, if you have never obeyed the gospel, or if you are unfaithful in your service as a Christian, you ought to own up to the reality of your dangerous spiritual condition -- after all, you can't hide these things from God.
2. Judgment is as certain as life itself. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb 9:27). "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).
3. In light of these facts, perhaps you should begin right now thinking about a good excuse that you can use on the judgment day. A few favorites will surely be: "I was too busy", "I didn't

feel well", "I had family obligations", "My work demanded so much of my time", "The people at church were unfriendly", "I didn't like the preacher, or the elders, or the teachers, or...." Feel free to pick one of these, or perhaps you can come up with one of your own that seems more appropriate to your own particular situation.

4) We must warn you, however, that the excuse you choose, no matter how good it seems, will not be good enough. (Read Mt 7:21-23 and 25:31-46) The truth of the matter is that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Cor 5:10).

5) So our best advice then is to get right with God. It is ultimately important, and excuses just won't get the job done - not now, and certainly not in judgment.



**March Birthdays**

- 2-Maddie Norman
- 2-Chase Harrison
- 2-Bryan Golden
- 2-Joy Powell
- 3-Shaun Oliver
- 4-Morgan Cavender
- 5-Sophie Bordan
- 5-Cameron Stabler
- 6-Hunter Miller
- 7-Josh Pender
- 8-Carmen Herd
- 8-Jaci Marshall
- 9-Richard Zacarius
- 9-Austin Bartlett
- 10-Pepper Humphrey
- 10-Parker Godwin
- 10-Amelia Franzen
- 11-Ava Stabler
- 12-Brad Hartsell
- 12-Susan Sullivanne
- 17-Emersyn Sullivan
- 17-Kadyn Bell
- 18-MaKenzie Anderson
- 19-Amanda Bishop
- 20-Jimmy Roberts
- 21-Carter Hunt
- 23-Belinda Hartsell
- 23-Sarah Embry
- 25-Sawyer Hall
- 26-Brooke Zeleny
- 27-Shelby Freeman
- 27-Cheri Russell
- 28-Jacob Hagewood
- 29-Rachel Simpson
- 29-Blair O'Dell
- 30-Amanda Stephens

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - We rejoice with Brandon and Megan Hester at the birth of Grady McKay last Sunday morning!
- ☒ - Sandra Chason's mom, Mary Edwards, has been in EAMC this week to receive treatment for pneumonia and a UTI.
- ☒ - Toni Herd's monthly trip to Birmingham was postponed, so she is due to go this Friday.
- ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Kristen Diehl and Nakia Strickland .
- ☒ - Among the many who suffered loss in the tornadoes, Terez Strickland has an aunt who lost the roof of her house and a family in the church in Columbus, GA lost their house.
- ☒ - Please pray for Kristen Diehl's aunt, Donna Jackson, whose cancer has now spread aggressively.
- ☒ - Keith Bailey's brother, Doug, had successful neck surgery on Monday and has been moved to Brookwood for PT.
- ☒ - Susan Sullivanne's sister, Helen Andrews, is making progress in her healing from a recent fall. Please pray that she will heal without surgery.
- ☒ - All audio is at [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com)

Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Billy Hunt (Cherri's brother)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Emery Anne Vest (Patsy's grandniece)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Kimzey Simpson	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Tory Colvin (sister of Case O'Dell)	Maria Williams	Barbara Chandler	Donna Jackson (Kristen's aunt)
Betty Bradford	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Earl Mitchell (Debbi Coleman's dad)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	EB & Ara Belle Rich (Joanetta's aunt)	Bobby Jennings (Brooke's uncle)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Tim Tucker and Kendal Decker (Brooke's friends)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Mavis Hale (Chris Long's grandmother)

# The Auburn Beacon



**Thoughts to Ponder**

Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36)

**Elders**  
Walker Davis  
(334) 703-0050  
Larry Rouse  
(334) 734-2133

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

**Is It Possible To Preach Christ And Not Preach Baptism or the Church?**

By Donald Townsley

From time to time men set forth the doctrine that we should "preach Christ" and leave the controversial subjects of the plan of salvation and the church alone. Some say, "just preach the man and not the plan"; others says, "preach Christ and not the church." Their idea is that we can get more people to listen to us if we don't identify ourselves with the church of Christ; people are "turned off" by the church, they say. This doctrine is presently being propagated by some and needs to be examined in light of the word of God. Is it possible to "preach the man and not the plan," or to "preach Christ and not the church"? Let us see what we can learn from God's word.

**Can One Preach Christ Without Preaching The Plan?**

The first lesson we all need to learn is that Jesus Christ is revealed to us in the word of God, and to fully preach Christ is to preach him as he is revealed in that Word. Christ is inseparably connected with the Old Testament (Lk. 24:44); he was foreshadowed by the Law (Heb. 10:1-4). Christ is inseparably connected with every book of the New Testament. He is the one Lawgiver (Jas. 4:12); the one who authorized

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it (Matt. 28:18). He is inseparably connected with all his commands, his promises, his warnings, his church, his supper (the Lord's Supper), and his plan of salvation. All this being true, we cannot ignore any pan of what he has said without ignoring that much of Christ. We cannot ignore part of his will and be pleasing in his sight (Jas. 2:10).

Philip is an example of one who preached Christ (Acts 8): "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them" (Acts 8:5). ". . . But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and

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the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" (**Acts 8:12**). This text says Philip "preached Christ"; what did he preach?

1. "Things concerning the kingdom of God" (the church, **Matt. 16:18-19**);
2. "The name of Jesus Christ" (Christ's authority, **Matt. 28:18**);
3. "They believed . . . were baptized. (the plan of salvation, **Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16**).

We can see that in preaching Christ, Philip preached the plan of salvation. What did Peter preach on the day of Pentecost? He preached the plan of salvation (**Acts 2:22-38**). Christ is not fully preached without the plan; man cannot be saved without obedience to that plan (**Rom. 6:17; 2 Thess. 1:8**), so it is impossible to "preach the man without the plan."

#### **Can One Preach Christ And Not Preach The Church?**

Christ and the church were inseparable in the eternal purpose of God (**Eph. 3:9-11**), and one cannot preach Christ without preaching his church. When Philip preached Christ in Samaria he preached the church ("the things concerning the kingdom of God," **Acts 8:5,12**).

One cannot preach on the blood of Christ and not preach the church. Paul taught that the church was purchased with the blood of Christ (**Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28**). The church, therefore, is inseparably connected with the blood of Christ; to be bought with the blood of Christ is to be in his church. We contact the blood of Christ in baptism (**Rom. 6:3**) and enter the body, the church, by baptism (**1 Cor. 12:13**); when we are baptized we are bought with the blood of Christ (**1 Cor. 6:20**), and are added to his church (**Acts 2:47**). That which Christ purchased with his blood was his church (**Acts 20:28**), and one cannot fully preach what the New Testament teaches concerning the blood of Jesus Christ without preaching his church.

One cannot preach salvation in Christ without preaching salvation in the church. The apostle Paul said that salvation is in Christ (**2 Tim. 2:10**) and that the church, the body of Christ, is

the fullness of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**); so every blessing in Christ is enjoyed in the church. Paul told the Ephesians that Christ is the Savior of the body (**Eph. 5:23**), and Luke said that the saved are added to the church (**Acts 2:47**). Since salvation is in Christ (**2 Tim. 2:10**); the church is the body of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**); Christ is the Savior of the body (**Eph. 5:23**); and the saved are added to the church (**Acts 2:47**), then it follows that salvation is in the church. One cannot, therefore, preach salvation in Christ without preaching salvation in the church.

One cannot preach glory to God in Christ without preaching the church. One cannot give glory to God in Christ without being in the church. Paul said in **Ephesian 3:21**: "Unto him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever" (ASV). When one is baptized he is baptized into Christ (**Gal. 3:27**), into the body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:13**), and it is God's will that he (God) be glorified in the church and in Christ.

The importance of the church is seen when we consider that:

1. Christ purchased it - gave himself for it (**Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28**).
2. Christ loved it (**Eph. 5:25**).
3. Christ is the Savior of it (**Eph. 5:23**).
4. Christ sanctified and cleansed it (**Eph. 5:26**).
5. Christ is the head of it (**Eph. 1:22-23**).
6. It is the fullness of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**).
7. Christ and the church are one (**Eph. 5:31-32**).
8. Christ will present it to himself a glorious church (**Eph. 5:27**).

I believe you can see from this short examination of the Scriptures that one cannot fully preach Christ without preaching the plan of salvation and the church. To be ashamed of the church is to be ashamed of Christ because the church is his body (**Eph. 1:22-23**). Let us never think we can preach Christ and not preach his church. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth (**1 Tim. 3:15**). Let us never be guilty of trying to separate Christ and his church; it is an impossibility if we walk in truth.

- Guardian of Truth - December 15, 1988



## Saltiness

By Charlie Brackett

In Mark's last verse of chapter nine the Lord tells us to have salt in ourselves. Please note. "Salt is good, but if salt loses its flavor, how will you season it. Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another." **MARK 9:50 (NKJV)**

Jesus said a similar thing in His mountain sermon. We have the thought in **Matthew 5:13**. "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men." Christians are the salt of the earth. Their purpose is the salvation of mankind. By their lives and teaching they preserve those with whom they have contact.

Jesus said, "Salt is good, but if salt loses its flavor, how will you season it?" This reflects a heart that is salted by our own spirit of self-sacrifice, a spirit patterned after the Lord's. As we give up worldly affections, we salt our lives as a sweet sacrifice to God and improve our saltiness for the preservation of those whose lives we touch. It is imperative that a disciple of Christ not lose that saltiness.

If our saltiness is lost, of what use are we? Jesus reminds us that when salt loses the peculiar chemical property which makes it salty, it is useless. There is no way to regain that property. You cannot restore it with another more powerful salt. You cannot treat it with some other chemical. It is good for nothing! We also, as the salt of the earth, will be good for nothing but to be thrown out if we fail in the great cause of saving souls.

Jesus reminds us that when salt loses the peculiar chemical property which makes it salty, it is useless. There is no way to regain that property. You cannot restore it with another more powerful salt. You cannot treat it with some other chemical. It is good for nothing!

In view of the context beginning at verse 38, verse 49 is probably speaking of the trials of life which each believer must face. Listen to Him. "For everyone will be seasoned with fire,..." Fire purifies. Temptations and trials of life are a fire, testing and proving our faith.

Now let's add the rest of the verse. "For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt." Under the Law of Moses, sacrificial offerings to the Lord were seasoned with salt. (**Leviticus 2:13**) Salt is both a flavoring and a preservative. In this Christian age, Jesus Christ is our offering for sin, but you and I are also sacrificial offerings. **Romans 12:1** says, "...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God,..." If I am the sacrifice, what then is the salt with which I am seasoned. The overall context suggests that it is those things I have given up to remove sin from my life. No matter how good my life, it can never be a sacrifice worthy of God. But, as I give up things of this life I hold dear, things which might divert me from godly service, my life is seasoned with grace, made more acceptable as a sacrifice to God.

Can we learn the importance of laying our lives before our God, a sacrifice seasoned to His taste? Can we realize everything we are and do rises to God's nostrils as an odor either of a pleasing sacrifice, or of the rotteness of sin. Which are you?

