

Trends

Ten sobering DUI statistics:

- 1) One person is injured every minute in an alcohol-related crash.
- 2) ~10,000 people per year die in DUI-related crashes.
- 3) 1 in 3 people will be involved in a DUI-related crash in their lifetime.
- 4) Drunk driving costs every American adult ~\$500 per year.
- 5) 1 in 5 teens binge drink.
- 6) Underage drinking results in ~6,000 deaths per year, more than all illegal drugs combined.
- 7) 1 in 3 teen traffic fatalities is alcohol related.
- 8) The average DUI driver has driven under the influence 80 times before their first arrest.
- 9) 50-75% of convicted DUI drivers continue driving on a suspended license.
- 10) North Dakota and North Carolina have the highest percentage of traffic deaths due to drunk driving (44% of fatalities).

- via Mothers Against Drunk Driving

News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for all the members at Westside! Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from brain tumor surgery. Also, please pray for her husband Shawn and their three boys: Samuel, Micah, and Eli.

Continue prayers for Jennifer Shorter (Garner) a member at Knightsville who is recovering well from her brain tumor surgery. Also, please pray for Elias Dispenne (age 8), son of Rob Dispenne, Knightsville's preacher, who has Type 1 diabetes.

Please pray for my daughter Dawne. She had successful jaw surgery for her bilateral cleft palate on 7/13. She has had about a dozen surgeries for this condition over the years. Her eight hour surgery went well. Dawne continues to recover and returns to the doctor on 8/4 for evaluation. Sherry and I sincerely appreciate continued prayers on her behalf.

Pray for the college students as they are now on summer break. Jonathan will be attending IUPUI law school this fall and Rachel plans to return to IU.

Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.

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Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

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*"Lord, to whom shall we go? You
have the words of eternal life."*

John 6:68



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Craig Thomas

The Bible says "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). Thus, all need the saving power of the gospel (Rom. 1:16). In Acts 2:37, the Jews on the day of Pentecost asked the question, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Since these men were not saved at the time they asked this question we know that man must do something in order to be saved. What is it that we must do?

1) **Hear Christ.** Since God has spoken unto us in these last days by his son (Heb. 1:1-2) it is Him we must hear (Matt. 17:5). According to Paul in Romans 10:17, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Since one cannot please God without faith (Heb. 11:6) we must first hear the gospel of Christ.

2) **Believe in Christ.** Jesus said in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (Jn. 8:24; 20:31).

3) **Repent.** In Acts 17:30 we learn God "commands all men everywhere to repent." True repentance involves confessing one's sins to God (Acts 8:22, 1 Jn. 1:9) and turning away from them (Matt. 21:28-30).

4) **Confess Christ.** A good example of this confession is when the Ethiopian confessed, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37). Timothy made this confession in the presence of many witnesses (1 Tim. 6:12). Confession is made "unto (i.e., in order to receive) salvation" (Rom. 10:10); one cannot be saved without it.

5) **Be Baptized.** Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." Jesus placed baptism between the sinner and salvation. That is why every example of conversion in the New Testament involved folks being baptized (Acts 2:41). Baptism is "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), is immersion in water (Acts 8:38-39, Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12), puts one into Christ (Gal. 3:27), and into the "one body" (1 Cor. 12:13), which is the church (Col. 1:24) that Jesus "purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Have you submitted to this baptism?

6) **Live Faithfully.** "the grace of God" teaches us to "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12). The crown of life is promised only to those remaining "grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel" (Col. 1:22-23; Rev. 2:10).

Why not submit to God's plan of salvation today? "Behold; now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). If we can assist you, please use the information on the back page to contact us.

Is the Restoration Plea Valid?

Lowell Blasingame

For years a basic difference between the preaching of the gospel preachers and denominational preachers has been our plea for a restoration of the church of the New Testament while they have taught that every man has the right to the church of his choice. We have insisted that by speaking where the Bible speaks and remaining silent where it is silent and by contending that scriptural authority is necessary for all that is taught and practiced in religion, we can restore the church of the New Testament.

Now a group of brethren are telling us that we have gone about our preaching in a wrong way and have antagonized and alienated our religious neighbors by this approach to the Scriptures. They tell us that we need a new set of rules or hermeneutics for applying and interpreting the Scriptures. ACU Press has released a book, *The Cruciform Church*, written by C. Leonard Allen, in which the restoration plea is ridiculed as one of the conceits of our time and we are told that we cannot return to the beginning and start all over again (Introduction, p. x).

Advocates of the new hermeneutics ridicule the plea for restoration by asking which church of the first century we want to restore, Laodicia with its indifference, or Corinth with its immorality, etc. Their conclusion seems to be that since these failed to be ideal that there is no pattern worthy of restoration. I agree that these churches were lacking in some things but suppose they heed the instructions given for correcting these faults, will they then become examples worthy of our emulation? Besides, there are some who received no censure. How about choosing the church at Smyrna or Philadelphia (Rev. 2-3) or the church at Philippi?

The assumption that corruption in a church in the first century eliminates an ideal for restoration is ridiculous. Shall we also assume that since false gospels were taught in the first century by Judaizers and Gnostics (Gal. 1:6-8) that we cannot sweep away the past and restore the true gospel of the first century? Is this another of the great conceits of our time to suppose that we can do this?

Is our plea for a restoration of the church of the first century a valid plea? I affirm that it is and do so for the following reasons.

First, the word of God is the seed of the kingdom. Matthew called it "the word of the kingdom" (Matt. 13:19) while Luke identifies it as "the seed" (Lk. 8:11). An irrevocable law of God says that a seed produces after its kind (Gen. 1:11). As long as a seed has life, it will produce the same kind of plant as that from which it came. And, if all of these plants are lost, the possibility of their being restored remains as long as their seed exists. Exactly the same is true regarding the kingdom or church of our Lord. Preaching the word produced the Lord's church during the first century and as long as we have the word (seed), we have the potential for the restoration of the church. If not, why not? Why will it not make the same thing of those who believe and obey it today as it did 1990 or more years ago?

Second, the New Testament is a "form of doctrine" or "pattern of sound words" (Rom. 6:17; 2 Tim. 1:13). The word *hupotuposis*, used in 2 Timothy 1:13 also occurs in 1 Timothy 1:16 and is there translated "pattern." The New Testament is a form, a pattern or blueprint of what God wants his people individually and collectively to be. As Moses was forbidden to alter the pattern of the tabernacle (Heb. 8:5), we are forbidden to make changes in the teaching of Christ (1 Pet. 4:11; 2 Jn. 9; 1 Cor. 4:6). Inasmuch as the New Testament is a pattern showing how to start a local church, what its organizational structure is, its mission and its worship, it follows that as long as we have a New Testament, we have the blueprint for restoring the church of the first century.

I do not know what kind of dress Martha Washington wore when her husband became the first president of our country. But I know that, if a seamstress has the material and pattern from which it was made, she can today make one exactly like it. As long as these exist, the dress can be restored. Equally as well, using the same material and following the same pattern today will restore the church of the first century.

Can You Help?

I want to make an urgent plea for a good friend and fellow gospel preacher, Robinson Pulveras. Brother Pulveras is a sound, faithful gospel preacher in Pamplona which is located in Cagayan province on the Island of Luzon in the Philippines. He is a humble and dedicated servant of the Lord. My wife and I have had the good pleasure to help support Robinson since 2003. I've visited the place where Robinson labors in the kingdom and have seen firsthand the fruits of his labor. He is a tireless worker!

Also, he and his fellow gospel preachers often take the gospel to the Negritos people. These people are the poorest of the poor in the Philippines and live in what we would call "the back country." Some expert sources refer to them as the Philippine version of aborigines. Robinson and his fellow workers have converted many of the Negritos people.

Robinson was recently informed by one church that helps with his support that, due to their financial difficulties, they could no longer help with his support. Therefore, he will soon lose \$200/month in support. This is devastating to him, his family (wife & two children), and his labor in the gospel. I can vouch for brother Robinson and would gladly put you in contact with him if you would be willing to help with his support. I promise you he will not disappoint!

"But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

1 John 3:17