

Trends

According to a recent study, if a child is not regularly religiously active by the age of 12, the odds of them getting active drops dramatically in their teen years and beyond. The research indicates that adults who attended church regularly as children are nearly three times as likely to be attending a church as adults compared to their peers who avoided church during childhood (61% to 22%, respectively). In other words, parents who truly want the best for their children should get their children involved at church now and maintain the practice.

—via Barna Research Group

Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Sentence Sermons

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

—C. S. Lewis

Matthew 16:26: "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

News & Notes

Please pray for Zachary Wallace. He is not faithfully attending services as he should (Heb. 10:24-25). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please keep sister Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. She's an encouragement to all!

Pray for all our members who do not attend regularly. Try to encourage them!

Pray for the African appeal for funds to buy Bibles, songbooks and support faithful preachers' travel expense. Donate if you're able! 1 Jn. 3:17

Another 6.9 earthquake hit the southern Philippines. There have been over 3,000 tremblers since this terrible disaster first hit October 16th. Remember, we are "tools of God's providence" for those in need! Jas. 2:14-17; 1 Jn. 3:1-7

Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

There are many needy saints, including preachers! Can you help?!

Anyone need prayers? Let us know so we can announce it and post it.

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Editor: Craig Thomas (812-320-9569); craigthomas82000@gmail.com

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 unsaved 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 (in order to) salvation (Rom. 10:10); one cannot be saved without it.

5) **Be Baptized into Christ.** 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 2-19). 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.** We are taught to "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12). The crown of life is promised only to those remaining steadfast and faithful (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.

"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"

Craig Thomas

Last time we examined what one must do to be saved: 1) **Hear Christ** (Heb. 1:1-2); 2) **Believe in Christ** (Jn. 20:31); 3) **Repent** (Acts 17:30); 4) **Confess Christ** (Rom. 10:10); 5) **Be Baptized** (Mark 16:16); and, 6) **Live Faithfully** (Col. 1:22-23). Now, let's consider each of these aspects in more detail. Today we will consider "hearing" God's word.

1) **The Gospel: God's Power Unto Salvation.** Undeniably the Holy Spirit convicts men of *"sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment"* (Jn. 16:8). But, how? Is it done in some miraculous and mysterious way? No, he does so through God's word...the gospel. Paul said he was *"not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes"* (Rom. 1:16). He also said, *"the message of the cross...is the power of God...it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."* (1 Cor. 1:18-21) Have you heard and believed the gospel message?

2) **God's Word: The Seed of the Kingdom.** In Luke 8:4-15 Jesus taught the parable of the sower. The seed sown was *"the word of God"* (v. 11). The soil in which the seed was sown was the *"hearts"* of men (vs. 11-15).

"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'"

—John 8:31-32

The *"word"* is God's means of calling man to salvation (2 Thess. 2:13-14). This *"call"* is issued whenever the pure seed of God's word is preached or taught (1 Pet. 1:23). One can only be saved when he has *"heard the word with a noble and good heart"* and *"keep[s] it*

and bear[s] fruit with patience." (Lk. 8:15) Have you heard God's word? Are you keeping it and bearing *"fruit with patience"*?

3) **God's Word: That Which Produces Faith.** In Romans 10:17 the inspired message states that *"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* We cannot be saved without faith (Heb. 11:6). In Ephesians 1:13 Paul tells us this faith comes *"after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation."* Do you want "saving" faith? Then listen again to the apostle, *"I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."* (Acts 20:32) Faith only comes through God's word as recorded in His book the Bible.

The Holy Spirit guided the apostles into *"all truth"* (Jn. 16:13). The words given to the apostles are to be employed to make believers (Jn. 8:32; 17:17, 20). This is why Jesus sent them *"into all the world"* to *"preach the gospel to every creature"* (Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15-16). Have you heard and obeyed the gospel? If not my friend you are lost (2 Thess. 1:7-9). Why not call us today so we can study God's word with you?

Why Do Men Leave the Lord?

Rick Duggin

"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." (Jn.6:66). Why would a disciple abandon his Master?

Some leave because they object to something he has said. Though God's commandments are not grievous, they sometimes go against our grain, thus testing our willingness to obey (Heb.5:8,9). Others leave because of social pressure, the fear of what their friends will think of them. *"The fear of man bringeth a snare"* (Prov.29:25), and the strongest of men often fall into it. Aaron made the golden calf, Peter denied the Lord, and Barnabas joined in with hypocritical brethren, all because of the fear of man.

A self-sufficient attitude moves some to forsake the Lord. Like the rich fool they have all they need -- or at least they think they do. Someone said, "The only thing on earth money won't buy is happiness; the only place money can't get you is heaven." It is difficult for wealthy men to recognize their poverty-stricken condition before God (Matt.5:3).

The love of sin pulls some away from Jesus. Unlike Moses who chose to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (Heb. 11:25), they live merely to enjoy the sensual pleasures of this life. *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"* (Matt.16:26a).

Bible Classes

Hershel Patton

I attend because they help me grow in grace and knowledge. I share in the lessons and thoughts from various ones. There my children learn lessons that will help preserve them from the pitfalls of life and prepare them for heaven and eternity. My participation shows to the world my interest in the church and spiritual things - which may influence others for good. My concern for others, my children and my own soul will not let me willfully neglect such activity.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

—Matthew 6:33

Now, suppose you make a list of reasons why you do not attend the classes:

- ☛ *"I'd rather sleep late."*
- ☛ *"It's too much trouble to get up and get the kids ready."*
- ☛ *"There's something else I had rather do."*
- ☛ *"The teacher doesn't interest me."*
- ☛ *"I'm good enough and know enough already."*
- ☛ *"I need the extra rest (so I can work more overtime and/or engage in more recreational activities)."*

Go ahead, make your list. Then present it to God when you pray! If you think God will accept such excuses, I suggest you read (before you reach judgment day) Matt. 6:33; Matt. 25, and Rev. 3:14-21.