

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter,”

—Matthew 7:21

**Servants during April/May:**

Songleader: Dwight (4/27); Stanley (5/4), Larry (11), Dwight (18) Stanley (25)

Reading: Mike; Larry (May)

Announcements: Stanley; Marty (May)

Table: Larry, Marty, Mike M; Mike M, Larry, Stanley (May)

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (4/30); Stanley (7), Kris (14), Larry (21); Stanley (28)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Stanley (4/27); Larry (5/4), Kris (11), Marty (18), Stanley (25)

Area Meetings:

Ardmore, 27-30, Bill Hall;

Piney Grove, 5/4-7, Lowell Sallee

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Who Will Be Saved?

By John Gibson

An Awkward Situation

Have you ever been asked, “Do you think you have to be a member of the Church of Christ to be saved?” Or perhaps it was put to you this way, “You think you are the only ones going to heaven—don’t you?” I know I have been asked such questions a few times and have found myself struggling for an answer that would be true to God’s word and, at the same time, not close the door to the possibility of converting the one asking the question. I have not always done a good job in answering such questions, but I would like to offer for your consideration an answer suggested to me by another gospel preacher.

Defuse the Situation

When asked questions that put you on the defensive, why not try to give an answer that may help you find common ground, while still leading them toward the truth of God’s word? “That’s a good

question and it might surprise you to learn that I believe the same thing you do about salvation.” That will probably produce a rather puzzled look, and then you go on, “I believe that as Matthew 7:21 teaches, only those who do the will of the Father will go to heaven—don’t you?” You will not find many who would disagree with you on this point, but you are not finished yet.

Consider what you have at this point. Hopefully, you have changed their attitude from hostility to curiosity. You hope that you have piqued their interest enough by your truthful answer that they are no longer an adversary wanting to argue, but a friend who is willing to listen to what you believe. If you have succeeded in that, you can move on to the next step.

Doing the Father’s Will

“Since we agree that we can’t be saved unless we do the Father’s will, why

don't we open our Bibles together and see if we can understand and agree on what the will of God is?" Not everyone will consent to study with you, but if they refuse, it will not be because you were offensive or unconcerned. But suppose the questioner is willing to study the will of the Father. Where do you begin? What do you say next?

It Depends...

The answer to that question will depend on what you are most comfortable doing and to some extent on the prior knowledge of the one with whom you are studying. As you read through the various sermons and conversion accounts in the book of Acts you will see that different teachers began at different points with different audiences.

If you are talking with someone who knows nothing at all about the Bible, you will need to be able to go back to the beginning and give a brief overview of the Bible, man's need for salvation, and show how the cross was intended to take away sin, before you can get into the question of how an individual can be saved.


If this person is already familiar with the story of the cross, you still have several options. If they do not seem to have a lot of preconceived ideas regarding "salvation by faith only" or baptism, you can simply take them through the three accounts of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16 and Luke 24:44-47. Have them write down what they learn from each and then turn to the book of Acts

and go through the book considering the different conversion accounts beginning at Acts 2 and going through Paul's account of his own conversion in Acts 22.

But what about those who have heard so much about "salvation by faith only" and have been led to believe that insistence on baptism as necessary for the remission of sins (as seems clearly taught in Acts 2:38) is to contend for the kind of works that would nullify grace (as they understand Ephesians 2:8,9). In these situations, it can be helpful to begin by looking at some passages showing that God only promises salvation to those whose faith leads them to obey. Hebrews 5:8,9 proclaims Jesus to be the author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him. Our beginning text (Matthew 7:21) spoke of doing the will of the Father. Both James 2 and Hebrews 11 are excellent chapters to read together for the purpose of establishing that saving faith has always been obedient, active faith.

Conclusion

The purpose of this article is not to assert that there can only be one approach to teaching and I have not sought to cover all that needs to be said in teaching the lost. But I do hope that this will help you better deal with those questions that put you on the defensive and even turn them into opportunities to tell others the story of Jesus.

"Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word,"
Acts 8:4 

A "Jesus" Preacher

By Jim Deason

In conversation with someone a few days ago he described a preacher he knew as a "Jesus" preacher. He remarked, "He preaches more 'Jesus' than any preacher I've ever known." That remark got me to thinking. I asked myself, "Just what is a true 'Jesus' preacher?" For the answer I turned to where I always turn: The Scriptures.


It's not really amazing to me that I found a "Jesus" preacher in the person of Philip, the evangelist. Acts 8:5 says that, "Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them." Now, if you want to know what a true "Jesus" preacher preaches, you need to look at the content of Philip's sermon.

Philip preached "the good news about the kingdom of God," Acts 8:12. This was a kingdom that had been prophesied to come (Dan 2:44; Isa 2:1-4), prepared by John the Baptist (Mt 3:1-2), promised by Jesus (Mt 16:18), produced on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus (Mk 9:1; Acts 2:29-36; Col 1:13), and proclaimed throughout the first century (Acts 8:4-5,12). If someone is going to be a "Jesus" preacher, he must preach what Philip preached.

Philip preached "the name of Jesus Christ," Acts 8:12. W. E. Vine says that to preach the "name" of Jesus is to preach "all that the name implies, of authority,

character, rank, majesty, power, excellence, etc., of everything that name covers." We can conclude from that Philip preached that Jesus was God's Son (cf. Mt 16:16; Rom 1:4) and that He lived a sinless life (1 Pet 1:21-22). No doubt he preached the authority of Jesus (Lk 6:46; Matt 28:18), something many do not want to talk about today. It is also implied that he told the Samaritans about what Jesus came to do (Lk 19:10), and what they needed to do to be saved (Mt 7:21; Mk 16:15-16). If someone is going to be a "Jesus" preacher, he must preach what Philip preached!

A "Jesus" preacher is going to preach, as Philip did, about what Jesus commanded for "they were being baptized, men and women alike" (Acts 8:12; cf. Mk 16:16). And that was certainly not limited to baptism for Paul said, "...the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment," 1 Cor 14:37. I think Philip and Paul had a lot in common. Paul told the Ephesian elders, "...I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable... I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God," Acts 20:20,27.

If someone is truly going to be a "Jesus" preacher, he must preach what Philip and Paul preached. I think that pretty much sets the pattern for what a Jesus preacher ought to be, don't you? 

IT WILL BE HERE IN NO TIME... OUR
"GOSPEL MEETING"
WITH ADAM SMITH, MAY 25-28!

Remember in Prayer

Please pray for **Barbara; Betty; Carolyn; Deborah and Serenity; Hazel; Joshua V and family; Kathy M; Pam B,**

Julie, Kaylee and Violet; Mark Horton; Pam McNatt; and John, Sylvia, and Paige Pollard. 