

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

Acts 16:30

Learn The Gospel

John 6:45; Romans 10:17; James 1:22-25

Believe On GOD In CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; James 2:14-26

Confess CHRIST

Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33; 7:21

Repent Of Sin

Acts 3:19; Matthew 3:8

Be Baptized Into CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6; 1st Peter 3:21

“Let The Word... Dwell In You Richly”

Colossians 3:16

The current memory assignment is: *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 5:10).

Commit this to memory by reading it, writing it, listening to it, and reciting it.

“The Assembling Of Ourselves Together”

Hebrews 10:24-25

Sunday

10:15 am.....Worship

Las Vegas Library

833 Las Vegas Boulevard North

Tuesday

7:00 pm.....Ladies’ Study

Rachel Dockens residence

Wednesday

7:00 pm.....Various Studies

Jerry & Beverly Dockens residence

“Give Attention To Reading”

1st Timothy 4:13

Sunday...Psalm 7; Genesis 24:28-25:26;

Matthew 8:23-9:13

Monday...Psalm 8; Genesis 25:27-27:17;

Matthew 9:14-34

Tuesday...Proverbs 5; Genesis 27:18-28:22;

Matthew 9:35-10:23

Wednesday...Psalm 9:1-10; Genesis 29:1-

30:36; Matthew 10:24-11:6

Thursday...Psalm 9:11-20; Genesis 30:37-

31:55; Matthew 11:7-30

Friday...Proverbs 6; Genesis 32:1-34:17;

Matthew 12:1-21

Saturday...Psalm 10:1-11; Genesis 34:18-

36:19; Matthew 12:22-45

“Sound Doctrine”

Titus 2:1

DIFFERENT ANSWERS

Bryan Matthew Dockens

The first time Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene following His resurrection, He told her, *“Do not cling to Me”* (John 20:17), but the first time He appeared to Thomas after He arose, He told him, *“Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your finger here, and put it into My side”* (John 20:27). Why did the Lord offer such opposing instructions to these two disciples?

Mary believed. When Jesus said her name, she exclaimed, *“Rabboni!”* (which is to say, *Teacher!*) (John 20:16). She did not doubt it was Him, but needed to be reminded He would not remain long on the earth before ascending back to God.

Thomas did not believe. Not having been present when the Lord appeared to others, he said, *“Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe”* (John 20:25). So, Jesus invited Him to do just that - to look and to touch for confirmation.

Just as He had varying instructions for a believer as opposed to a non-believer on that occasion, so Christ still provides commands that vary from believer to non-believer.

Those who have yet to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that God raised Him from the dead are invited to do so (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10; Hebrews 11:6). Those who already believe, though, have further instructions. Faith must be confessed (Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:36-37).

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Vegas Valley Church Of CHRIST

Romans 16:16

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PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Terry Bennett

King Hezekiah became sick and was near death (2nd Kings 20:1-11). The prophet Isaiah brought the king a message from the Lord telling him to get his house in order for his death was imminent. Hezekiah prayed fervently, reminding God of his faithfulness. The Lord healed Hezekiah and granted him fifteen more years of life.

Time after time God has answered prayer for physical healing. We have Biblical examples. And while miraculous healing does not occur today, God is still at work in the healing process. I have seen it happen, as have you. Our God can do exceedingly abundantly more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20), and we are so grateful when such healing occurs.

But our every request for healing is not granted. The apostle Paul spoke of his thorn in the flesh. Although he prayed three times to the Lord asking for relief, the thorn was not removed. Instead the Lord told Paul, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness"* (2nd Corinthians 12:9).

Why didn't Paul's prayer cause God to provide relief? Was it because Paul really didn't believe that God would or could help him (James 1:6-7)? Was it because he was asking with selfish ambition or conceit (James 4:3)? Was it that Paul had iniquity in his heart (Psalm 66:18)? While these reasons will cause God not to answer prayer, it is obvious that none of them apply in this case. Paul was given a thorn in the flesh so that he would not be exalted above measure. God did not remove it because He knew what was best for Paul. The salvation of Paul's soul was infinitely more important than his physical healing. And even though God did not fulfill Paul's request, we see that Paul accepted God's answer to his prayers.

Prayer is not the means by which we change God and make Him do what we want. It is a means by which we can be changed and molded to His will. In prayer we submit our will to God and recognize our total dependence upon Him. Even if we do not understand the answer to our prayers, we know that God is in control. He loves us and wants what is best for His children.

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ALL ABOUT JESUS

J. Randall Methany

Jesus left it all (Philippians 2:5-8). As one who gave up the glories of heaven, He became our example of the attitude of humility and selflessness.

Jesus paid it all (Hebrews 10:10). With His once-for-all sacrifice, He became our redeemer.

Jesus gives it all (Philippians 4:19; Romans 8:32). Every past activity of Christ has present meaning, and He continues to be active as God gives us all we need in Him. He is our supplier.

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When the infant son of David and Bathsheba became deathly ill, David fasted and prayed for seven days. After the child died, he arose and worshipped the Lord. David said, *"While the child was alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me"* (2nd Samuel 12:22-23). Even though God did not fulfill David's request for the child's life, David accepted God's answer to his prayers.

There will be times that we do not understand God's answer to our prayers. Let us always be thankful to the Lord. Let us remember that His ways are higher than our ways, and let each of us continually strive to make our will one with the will of our Father in heaven.

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Sins must be repented of (Acts 3:19; 17:30). And, sins must be washed away in baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Baptism is no less necessary for salvation than faith, as many contend, arguing that not all who were told to believe were also told to be baptized. It's just that belief comes first. Jesus did not say, *"Do not cling to Me"* to doubting Thomas, and He does not expect unbelievers to be baptized. But to those who have accomplished the first step, further instructions await.