

### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Every fully recorded conversion in the New Testament concluded *preaching* the Gospel (II Tim. 4:1-4), thus establishing *faith* in an individual (Acts 16:30-34; Heb. 11:26). This is to be followed by *repentance* or a change of will toward sin (Lk. 13:3, 5). Each person must *confess* with their mouth their faith in Christ (Rom. 10:9-10). And the consummating act of obedience to the Gospel is *baptism*, a burial in water for the remission of sins, which brings us into contact with the blood of Christ and salvation (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:21). Not all of these are mentioned together in one verse, but all of these are necessary to “obey the Gospel” and obtain salvation in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). No one of these commanded acts can be left out without eternal consequences.

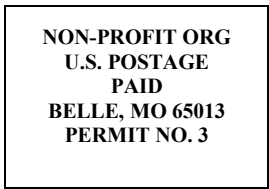
### WHAT IS YOUR RSVP?

It is our prayer that all who has been made aware of the message of salvation in the Gospel will quickly and sincerely respond positively to Heaven’s invitation. The day will come to each of us when we will have heard our last invitation! If we go into eternity not having responded to the Gospel in obedience, we would give a thousand worlds for another opportunity. But, alas, all of our opportunities to respond in obedience are this side of death (Heb. 9:27). Let our RSVP of response to the invitation be “I come, I come.” (*The Spiritual Sword*, Vol. 40, No. 2, pp. 22-24).

### Door Knocking Campaign—Gospel Meeting

We will be having a door knocking campaign here within the city limits of Belle on May 1-2, 2009 and we will also begin a Gospel meeting on May 1, 2009 which will go through May 5, 2009. During the campaign, if you live within the city limits of Belle, we will be coming to your home to give you an invitation to the meeting and offer a free Bible Study. Jdm

Back To The Bible  
P.O. Box 381  
Belle, MO 65013



POSTAL CUSTOMER  
Belle, Missouri 65013

# BACK TO THE BIBLE



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Number Two

**Back To The Bible is a quarterly evangelistic outreach for the expressed purpose of helping people study the Bible. It is a work of the Belle church of Christ which is located at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Oak in Belle, Missouri. Editors of this publication are Jerry McDonald and Thomas McDonald. Be sure to continue to check on the things on our website (<http://www.bellecoc.com>). First we have our email discussion list where you can ask questions and get answers (all answers will come from the KJV). Secondly, we have Bible corresponding courses. You can either mail them to our Post Office Box (P.O. Box 381, Belle, MO 65013), or email them to [bellecoc@bellecoc.com](mailto:bellecoc@bellecoc.com). And finally we have a Youtube program that you can see each week by going to the Youtube link on our website. Past issues of this publication can also be found on our website. We hope that we can be of service to you in the coming years**

#### Service Times:

- Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
- Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30
- Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00
- Ladies Bible Class Third Monday of Each Month.....7:00

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Gary Colley

**W**hat do you do when you receive an invitation that has an RSVP at the bottom? It means please reply. It is the polite thing to do without delay. You either respond in the affirmative or the negative. It may depend on your consideration at the importance of the one inviting such as the Mayor, Governor, or perhaps the President, or a good friend. Under this circumstance it is more likely you will give your answer quickly and in the affirmative. If we refuse to respond, we likely will not receive another invitation from those who are giving the function.

### GOD INVITES

“*God...hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son*” (Heb. 1:1, 2). The Bible has been called “God’s Love Letter to man.” God invites all to come to his Son by his divine power, the Gospel (Jn. 6:44-45). From the inspired apostle Paul we learn, as he writes to the young preacher Titus: “*For the*

*grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world*" (Tit. 2:11,12). To the Ephesian church Paul wrote about the gift of Salvation they had already received from God, saying, "*By grace are ye saved through faith*" (Eph. 2:8). There are of necessities two parties in a perfect gift, a giver and a receiver. God offers the gift of salvation, and man must receive it by obedience, meeting the conditions prescribed by God.

God's Son is the author or captain or leader of eternal salvation to all who obey him (Heb. 5:8,9). In Bible times, generally, two invitations were given. In the parable of the marriage feast, we note that he gives more than one invitation to lost man (Mt. 22:1-10). However, life is such that we do not know when we will hear for the last time the Lord's invitation (Jas. 4:13-15). It is wise to not put off our affirmative answer to the invitation to the feast of salvation. God invites all to enter into the fold of safety, the church of Christ (Mt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16). The Gospel of has also been described as "God's Final Sermon." All are invited to find, in the Lord's kingdom, the forgiveness, peace, and hope offered by God (Col. 1:13). But, we do so only when we respond to his will in submission and obedience as described in the Gospel (Acts 2:38-41. There is an RSVP on this invitation to every individual (Gal. 6:5).

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Basically we need to learn that God in his pity to fallen man has prepared a way for his creature man to escape the wages of sin and be saved from his sins (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). The good news of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is called the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-3; Rom. 16:17-18). The church that Jesus built is God's plan of salvation. In God's eternal plan, he would send his only begotten Son, Jesus, to suffer in his death on the cross to purchase the church (Acts 20:28). Mankind would have had to suffer eternally in Hell if it were not for God's gracious plan and our obedience (Eph. 2:12-16). For all who refuse this invitation, it will mean their eternal punishment (Mt. 25:46). By Christ shedding his blood on Calvary, God gave the means by which he could be just in punishing sin, and yet, in his mercy he could be the justifier to redeem man from sin (Eph. 3:10-11).

### **CHRIST INVITES**

The plan made by God was to be executed by his only begotten Son, Jesus, on the cross (Jn. 3:16-17). No other suffering ever known to man can be compared to the suffering of the Savior of the world on the cross (Phil. 2:6-11). Jesus' outstretched arms on the cross should be seen as an offer of incomparable to lost men to be saved today (II Cor. 6:2). We notice also the sweet invitation offered by the Lord, when he said "*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light*" (Mt. 11:28-30).

Christ's invitation, like that made by God must also be accepted in obedience in order for lost mankind to come into the saving blood of Christ (Acts 9:6; Rom. 6:1-5). In like manner, this invitation has an RSVP.

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT INVITES**

We have noticed that God drafted the scheme or plan of salvation, Christ executed it on the cross, but we realize that man would not be benefited if the plan was never revealed to lost man. Thus the Holy Spirit was the revelator of that which God had made and Christ had executed (Jn. 16:8, 13). Man could not know God's will and be saved without the Holy Spirit's work in revealing the blood-sealed New Testament (Mt. 26:28). His revelation will thoroughly furnish all seekers unto every good work (II Tim. 3:16-17). The last chapter of the New Testaments records: "*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is a thirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely*" (Rev. 22:17). Even the Spirit's invitation, upheld by the bride of Christ, the church, has an RSVP attached as he pleads for the salvation of all.

### **ACCEPTING THE INVITATION**

To the Christians at Laodicea Jesus wrote: "*Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in unto him and will sup with him, and he with me*" (Rev. 3:20).

*Gospel preachers should always desire to be clear in their preaching, and especially in giving the alien sinner clear understanding of what one must do to be saved.*

Recently a man came to me saying that many people do not understand what the term "the plan of salvation" or "obeying the Gospel" really means. Without understanding the invitation and its conditions, of course, these are not likely to respond. Gospel preachers should always desire to be clear in their preaching, and especially in giving the alien sinner clear understanding of what one must do to be saved. Preachers may say at the close of a sermon, "Will you come to Christ?" or "Have you obeyed the Gospel?" or "Have you been saved?" or "Have you come into a covenant relationship with God?" or "Have you obeyed the Gospel to accept God's grace?" or "Have you entered the Lord's church?" All of these phrases are correct and mean the same thing, but we must tell folks *how* in so far as their response to the Gospel is concerned. God's plan has been often overlooked, or even changed by some, leaving the alien sinner without the proper knowledge of how to be saved. These have failed to give the people "*the whole counsel of God*" (Acts 20:25-27) (Continued on page 4).