

September 29, 2013

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Hear the Gospel – Romans 10:17
2. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God – Mark 16:15-16
3. Repent of your sins – Acts 17:30
4. Confess Christ – Romans 10:9,10
5. Be baptized for the remission of sin – Acts 2:38

To Keep From Falling?

1. Study the Bible daily – 2 Timothy 2:15
2. Add to your faith the seven Christian Graces – 2 Peter 1:5-11
3. Attend every church service – Acts 20:7; Hebrews 10:25
4. Be faithful unto death – Revelation 2:10

Our Record

Week of September 22, 2013

Sunday AM	61
Contribution	1607

Upcoming this Week:

Sunday PM: Singing Night! Chris Kidwell will be speaking.

Wednesday: Rodney Weaver will be speaking.



The Gospel Messenger

FINGER CHURCH OF CHRIST

RSVP

We received the invitations to a wedding and reception in Bangladesh a few weeks before the events took place. Each invitation included the initials “RSVP”, which we understood as the desire for our prompt confirmation or rejection of the invitation.

We in the United States view invitations to most events as opportunities, not obligations. The prospective guest is free to accept or decline. Yet, we also realize that there are some invitations that we cannot, or at least should not, reject. The wedding of a close family member is one example. A presidential summons or Royal invitation would be another.

Once the invitation is received, however, there is usually at least the understood need to respond as to whether or not one plans to attend. And once committed to attendance, the obligation increases. Only true emergencies should prevent one from going.

Most of us have been on both sides of this issue. We have been invited to events that we greatly anticipated as well as those we would just as soon not attend. We have also planned and hosted events where we had to choose just who and how many would be invited. Just as there are those events that one must attend, so there are those guests whom one must invite.

That is the basic social background of the parable that Jesus told in Matthew 22. A king was hosting a wedding celebration for his son. Invitations were sent out. Given his status, there was great obligation on both sides. Nobles and other important persons in the area would expect to be invited. The king would have expected all who were invited to attend with pleasure.

But that is not what happened. His subjects rejected his invitation with contempt and mistreated those whom he sent to bear it. How did the king respond?

“But when the king heard about it he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city” (Matthew 22:7).

The secondary result of their refusal was that the king then opened the invitation to include those who would not have expected to receive it. The wedding hall was filled with those who came, “both bad and good” (V 10).

FINGER CHURCH OF CHRIST

2139 Finger Leapwood Rd., Finger, Tennessee, 38334

Elders:

Jim Davis.....	934-7387
Earl Edwards.....	989-3710

Deacon:

Rodney Weaver.....	934-7541
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Preachers:

Earl Edwards.....	989-3710
Tom Childers.....	608-2307
Chris Kidwell.....	215-7308

Sunday Services

Bible Study.....	9:30 am
Morning Worship.....	10:30 am
Evening Worship.....	5:00 pm

Wednesday Services

Bible Study.....	7:00 pm
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“In Search of the Lord’s Way”

Sunday 7:30 AM	Channel 13
DirecTV	Channel 10

It is clear that Jesus used this parable to rebuke the religious leaders of his day for their rejection of him as God's chosen Messiah. Later, in the evangelistic efforts of the early Church, we see that it also foretold of the inclusion of the Gentiles into the kingdom that he would establish. Paul would describe this process as the pruning of the branches of a wild olive tree and their replacement with grafted in branches from a cultivated variety (Romans 11:16-20).

God's invitation is precious. It is also urgent. Those who refuse it do so at their own peril. Willful sinners are described by one inspired writer as having "trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace" (Hebrews 10:29).

One can hardly read those words without being reminded of the angry king whose invitation was spurned. Let us not make that same mistake.

Michael E. Brooks

Announcements:

- Those interested in becoming involved in our Thursday night prison ministry should contact Tim Heath.
- There will be a cookout at the home of Larry and Lisa Kee (Beth's parents) in Fayetteville, TN October 11-13. Food and housing will be provided
- Tonight after evening services there will be a cookout/fellowship. This will be a time for resident members and college students to get to fellowship with one another.

You ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

-James 4:15

For Our Ladies:

- Carole Childers will host the Ladies' devotional on October 5th at 9:30. Elizabeth Meinsen will speak. It will be a brunch
- The Finger Ladies Fall Luncheon will be on Saturday, October 26th. Charla Cook will be the guest speaker. Please plan to attend!
- There will be no Ladies' Night Out in October.

Remember with Prayers, Visits, and Cards:

Willodean Clayton, Karen Davis, Louise Ross, Charles McLaughlin, Stephanie McCarley, Heather Reaves, Edmund Thomas, Jesse Record, Angela Durrance, Oran Jaco, Thomas Bivens, Bryan Beckman, Perry Barns, Joseph Arnold

Updates:

- Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Shirley Harris**, Lora Edwards's sister, after her passing.
- Zach Foust** continues to recover at home from multiple surgeries.
- Jim Davis** continues to struggle with medical problems. He is awaiting test results from last week.
- Josh Cornett**, Ben Harris's roommate, is struggling with melanoma.
- Karen Davis** is not doing very well.
- Tim Heath's** father has been struggling with some medical problems.
- Please remember all those who have lost loved ones in the last few weeks.

*The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous
And His ears are open to their cry.*

-Psalm 34:15

All of these are the known updates at the time of *this bulletin's printing*. For more accurate updates, please listen at the beginning of each church service or speak with Rodney Weaver or one of the elders.

Please Pray for Our Missionary Efforts:

- Rocco Pierce Family (Pacific Islands)
- Randy Gardner Family (Quechee, VT)
- International Gospel Hour (W. Claiborne)
- Sarah Dutton (Central American Missions)
- Carlos Ardila Family (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Student Campaigns throughout the year
- Will Hanstein Family (Bear Valley Bible Institute)
- Baxter Exum Family (Madison, WI)
- Kyle Allen Family (India)
- Martin Klamm Family (Bonaire)
- FHU Graduate Bible Scholarship
- House to House, Heart to Heart
- Lance Mosher Family (New Zealand)