

GOODNEWS LETTER

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IN GLORIOUS COMPANY

Salvation is PERSONAL. Salvation is only by God's grace through belief in Jesus whose faith accomplished a debt free salvation. (Eph. 2:8-9). God, the Holy Spirit draws us to the cross and continues to lead, guide and direct us in our walk. We are in Glorious Company.

It makes us mad at times and we feel pity for those who want us to receive salvation through other means than the order of Bible. Many so-called holy men offer objects which takes God's place, they affirm.

I might be as dumb as a stick, but I know that no mere human can ever act as proxy for us. Simply, there is no one authorized to act on the sinner's behalf but Jesus Christ. No where do we find that anyone has heaven's authority to take our sins on their shoulders; to die for our sins and head up the New Covenant, but Jesus, the Christ.

In America we all love our freedom; even that of religion. But, when it comes to heavenly matters, only Jesus was given the work of salvation. Only Jesus could carry out God's plan for man. We love our country, but Saved people are committed to the glorious company of the Triune God, once they come to the Savior. We seek a better country.

And, think about the glorious salvation we have been brought under or into, and how the Father executed His plan through His Son. The truth is, Jesus acted on our behalf and came between the sinner and the God of heaven. Like David and others, Jesus stopped the plague of sin and we are saved.

Everyone must see Jesus on the cross, spiritually; not in some emotional state. As He hung there, He stretched one hand upward to His Father; while, with the other hand, Jesus reached downward to securely clasp the shaking hands of sinners. The God-Man joined the sinner to his God by dying in our place. Jesus secured our salvation by becoming our substitute and we cannot miss what glorious company we have all around us.

When Jesus humbled Himself, He gave up His physical life so we could be lifted up spiritually, first. Then, in the resurrection, our bodies will be glorified.

After we are saved, we have not the liberty to do whatever we what. The Bible teaches that salvation doesn't end after we pass from death to life. God saved us for a reason. Now, we must honor the LORD by continuing in His service.

Our entrance into His service, here on earth, begins once we are raised in the Baptism waters. The order is spelled out for us on how we are to walk in the new life; that is, after we are saved. At Jerusalem, the question of "**Brethren what must we do?**" of Acts 2, is clearly explained by the commandment and be baptized. Peter said unto them, "**Repent, and be baptized**" (2:38). That's the Bible order, after one is saved.

While, the spirit of man has been quickened and is secure in Jesus, the body-yea, the life of every saved person needs to get out of the way. We are to follow Paul's instruction and "**present our bodies a living sacrifice**" (Rom. 12:1),

Baptism gets the body out of the way according to Romans 6. In this Church ordinance, we are "**buried,**" and "**raised up from the dead**" by baptism where, as a member of His body, the church, we are to "**walk in newness of life**" (6:4).

Becoming a member of the church of Jesus Christ places us in some glorious company. The church is composed of Spirit-led saints, worshipping and serving God by carrying out the order of the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.

And that's no small order. It means that salvation doesn't stop at Calvary. After the cross, Jesus rose from the dead and went to His Father. Today, He is sitting at the right hand of God. At this very moment Jesus is mediating our prayers while we do His work. Look around and take time to learn the position of your service to God. "**For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in their midst of them,**" Matthew 18:20.

Within the body of Christ, the Church, we have more than that brother over there or, that sister in the second pew. Doctrine becomes our fellowship. Jesus said that His words are "**Spirit and they are life,**" (Jn 6:63). And so, we speak with other tongues. I do not mean languages but, terminology the is heavenly produced by the Holy Spirit.

When we gather, we are not alone. We're surrounded by the Trinity. "**In Christ Jesus we are "raised up together, and sit in heavenly places,"** Ephesians 2:6. That, my friends, is glorious company. Sit down and let's listen.

I was saved in 1959. I didn't appreciate all that was mine then. I did learn what the Roman Road said about man. That "**no one is righteous;**" "**That all have sinned;**" "**that whosoever confesses Jesus will be saved.**" Since then, I have come to realize that I'm in glorious company all the time - in church and out.

And, that's the beauty of salvation. It's always between you and God. While, one position claims that **our salvation walk isn't about the believer**, anymore; another position states that it is **all about** the believer.

Both positions have merit but, the true position is that it's all about the believer when he realizes that it's not about him. The believer may then present Christ from a Biblical perspective, which is why Christ sent the church in the first place. Presenting Christ begins when the believer asks, "**What must I do?**" and then follows the Biblical order. It is then that we honor the LORD. What He has done for, physically, we act out in faith through the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. And, yes! We love one another, too.

While, we are members of the church, our thoughts must match chapter and verse or, they have to change. Indeed, when we begin to spout off what we want, we hear God's voice explode around us, "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him,*" Matthew 17:5.

How glorious it is to know that when we came to the Savior, Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit were also present. It means that we joined with them. And, from the time we were saved, they have led us to follow the order of the Bible. The Holy Trinity will continue to be with the church until the resurrection.

That's our glorious company, everyone: the Father, the Son and, the Holy Spirit. Oh! Yes, we cannot overlook those assembled in the same glorious company; our brothers and sisters who make up the assembly. These great men and women of faith have stood for the truth once delivered unto the saints, See Jude.

So, the next time you look at Brother so-and-so, you'll have to remember that he is part of the glorious company, too. It may sound too abrupt but, it is clear that no one has any reason to blame others within the church for their own personal failings. It is everyone's responsibility to hear and follow the order of the Bible.