



Guyana

Wayne Pruette,
David Paher,
Dhamendra Ramgovin,

Ernesto John
Florence, Italy
Scott Shanahan

Hurley, MS
Steven Lucas
Indonesia

Colin McKee
Philippines

Tomas Lizardo,
Demar Elam,
Reynaldo Sienes

Romania
Harvey
Starling

Honduras
Phil Waldron

In Search of Lord's Way 1.2.22 – "A New Life"

Many people fill their lives with sin and deep regret. Do you ever wish you could start over, clean and pure? Thankfully, the Lord Jesus gives us the opportunity for a new life where we can free from sin.

Montgomery: TV 8
Sunday 7:30 am

DISH: Sun 7:00 am
(EST)

Channel 239

DirecTV: Sun 7:00 am

(continued from front page)

The truth of the Scripture is that man must accept the love, grace and mercy of God. This acceptance is manifested through faith in Jesus, God's Son -- the only way to Heaven (John 14:6). This is why Paul wrote *"for by grace have you been saved by (through) faith...."* (Eph. 2:8,9) Unbelief separates the lost from salvation.

A true acceptance of Jesus is shown by a faith that is living -- a faith that acts -- a faith that obeys. Yes, obedience is necessary. Hearing about God's love, grace and mercy is good news -- it is *"gospel;"* but, responding by simply saying "Jesus is God's Son" or "Jesus is Lord" is not enough! Jesus asked, *"Why call me 'Lord, Lord' and do not the things which I say?"* (Luke 6:46).

He also declared, *"Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven."* (Matthew 7:21)

Faith without works (action) is dead. So teaches the word of God in James 2:24,26. To become a Christian one must accept the love of God in His offer of grace and mercy. A sinner must evidence his faith in Jesus, as Lord, by humbly obeying Him as his *"Lord and Master."*

This involves; yes, requires obedience to the Lord's plan of salvation which is so clearly taught in the Holy Scriptures. The Savior Himself stated, *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."* He added, *"He that believeth not shall be condemned."* (Mark 16:16)

In this verse, Jesus named two steps to be taken by a lost person prior to salvation. (1) *"He that believeth";* (2) *"and is baptized shall (3) be saved."* Who among men has the right to change the order as given by the Savior. Not me!

On another occasion when lost people asked, *"What shall we do?"* an inspired apostle commanded another step in the Lord's plan for salvation. He said, *"Repent you and be baptized everyone of you... for the remission of your sins"* (Acts 2:38).

So, according to Jesus and one of His inspired apostles, it is clear that something must be done in faith in order for a sinner to benefit eternally from the love, mercy and grace of God. A lost sinner is required to respect the Lordship of Jesus as he calls upon Him.

In turning from sin and submitting to baptism, a precious soul evidences faith and true acceptance of the Lordship of Christ Jesus. In so doing, he *"calls on the name of the Lord."*

God loves everyone, but he expects and requires response from sinners. God's grace has been revealed in a marvelous manner through the gift of His Son, but sinful man must respond in faith to that grace. God's mercy makes salvation possible for all, but only for those who respond in faith to the plan presented by the Savior.

Are you a Christian? Are you benefiting from God's love, mercy and grace? Have you obeyed the gospel? Obeying the gospel is your believing response to a gracious, loving and merciful God. (A. L. Franks)

Cedar Grove church of Christ

11103 Brooklyn Road, Andalusia, Alabama 36421

1/2/2022, Vol. 44, #1

SALVATION Jesus Did For Us What We Cannot Do For Ourselves!

As a responsible human being, I am in constant need of a Savior. The Bible says, *"All have sinned..."* (Rom. 3:23). This includes me. I cannot save myself.

I need that salvation which only God -- through His love, grace and mercy can provide. Oh, how I need help from above! Jesus is God's answer to man's greatest need -- salvation. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."* (John 3:16). Because He loved, He manifested His grace and mercy in the gift of His son.

The love, mercy and grace of God was immeasurably demonstrated in the greatest of all sacrifices at Calvary. Truly, Jesus did for me and for you what we could never do for ourselves. Salvation is *"by grace through faith"* (Eph. 2:8,9).

Paul wrote further about the grace of God that *"brings salvation,"* saying that it has *"appeared to all men"* (Tit. 2:11). His love, mercy and grace has been made available to everyone (there is no respect of persons with Him, Acts 10:34,35).

Vital questions need to be answered, (1) "Why are multitudes still lost?" (2) "Why did Jesus say that many would enter and travel the road to destruction, but that only few would enter and travel the 'strait and narrow' road to eternal life? (Matthew 7:13,14.)

In other words, if God loves the whole world, and His grace has appeared to all men and His mercy is available for all, why are many lost and only a few saved? What separates the saved from the lost? Is there something that man has to do to become an eternal beneficiary of God's love, grace and mercy? Is some kind of response to God's goodness required of a lost soul? (see page four)

The Calm Life of Trust

In quietness and trust is your strength. Isaiah 30:15

Hand-wringing nail-biters could profit from a dose of 1 Thessalonians 4:11—*"Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life."*

A "quiet life"—in some translations rendered peaceful, calm, or tranquil—is the opposite of an anxious, troubled, disturbed state of mind.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6-7).

Through Isaiah, God said to his Old Testament people: *"In quietness and trust is your strength"*—then added this chilling line of censure, *"but you would have none of it"* (Is 30:15). Will we?

Choose peaceful, calm, trusting over anxious, agitated, faithless.



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



Adult bible classes this quarter: Young adults in the annex, taught by Greg Bryant (Sunday); all ages in the auditorium (Sunday), taught by Gary Davenport; all ages in the auditorium (Wednesday), taught by Roddy Thomasson.

Pantry item for January: Canned vegetables.

Our elders will meet Sunday, January 2 at 3:30 in the annex, if you have items you wish to discuss.

Our next monthly congregational singing will be Wednesday, February 2, at 6:30 in the auditorium.

Wi-Fi connection — ID: CedarGrove, **password:** cedargrove2020.



L2L Youth (boys & girls) will meet the 3rd Wednesday night of each month during the school year at 5:30 p.m. in the annex for a monthly meal.



Provide food: January 19: Bush.

WEEKLY LADIES CLASS Meeting each Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the library.

They are studying 1, 2, 3 John.



MONTHLY LADIES BIBLE CLASS (6 p.m.)

January 3: Terry Davenport, presenter. Service project: Children's Advocacy Center.

FOR THE RECORD

Today's Lessons

9:30 a.m. class and sermon series
Last Week's Record
Bible Classes: 75 Sunday AM: 110
Sunday PM: 48
Wednesday PM: 64
Contribution: \$5,107

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Curtis Thomasson is recovering from a broken arm. Linda Hendrix is now at home after having back surgery and is doing good. Thank you to those who have provided food.

Linda Rabren is feeling a little stronger and hopes to be able to take treatments this week.

Shelia Bracewell had a lung biopsy on Tuesday at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola. She should hear the results soon.

Amelia Lindsey is in the Flowers Hospital in Dothan after having surgery last Wednesday but hopes to come home today.

Hiram Lambert, brother-in-law of Sammy Sutton, is home under Hospice care. Cheryl Boswell, Pat Grissett and Christine Bundrick all remain in Andalusia Manor.

Remember those who for various reasons are still at home and unable to come to worship services or who have asked to be remembered in our prayers: Shelia Rhea and Family, Judy Dillard, Joe Keller, Freida Bass, Mary Ann Rabren, Roy & Audrey Wilson, Dorrell Thomasson, Billy Max & Mary Wilson, family of Layla Watson and Ruth Moore's family.

We believe that to subscribe to any creed other than the New Testament, to refuse to obey any New Testament command, or to follow any practice not sustained by the

New Testament, would be adding to or taking away from the teachings of God (Galatians 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19). The New Testament reveals that God has vested "all authority" in Christ (Matthew 28:18), and that Christ serves as God's spokesman today (Hebrews 1:1-21).



A church FAMILY with the HEART of Jesus

LEADERSHIP & STAFF

MINISTRY LEADERS

Benevolence: Roddy Thomasson (deacon), Jody Dillard
Care Groups: Monty Russell (deacon)

Education: Curtis Thomasson (elder)

Visitation & Evangelism: Roddy Thomasson (deacon)

Grounds & Seniors:

Mac Bracewell (deacon)

Maintenance & Missions:

Wes Thomasson (deacon)

Publicity: Clif Green (deacon)

Youth: Jed Blackwell (deacon)

Shepherds: Greg Bryant, Curtis Thomasson, Kyle Thomasson

Minister: Gary Davenport