

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



In Christ

By Wayne Burger

The prepositional phrase “in Christ,” or some other term which designates Christ, is a very popular phrase with the apostle Paul. More than the fact that it was a popular phrase with Paul, it offers numerous blessings for those who are “in Christ.” “Every spiritual blessing” is found in Christ Ephesians 1:3. When one gets into Christ, he/she becomes a “new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” 2 Corinthians 5:17. No only will one become a new creation in Christ, but as long one tries to serve God, he or she will not be condemned. “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” Romans 8:1. Those in Christ have salvation and eternal life (2 Timothy 2:10; I John 5:11).

Since all these spiritual blessings are found in Christ, it behooves us to find out how one gets into Christ. Although there are five steps to get to Christ, the Bible does not label them “step 1” and “step 2” etc. These steps, however, do follow a logical pattern.

First step, one must hear about Christ. It is logical that one must hear about Christ before that person can get into Christ. Jesus said, “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me” John 6:45. As one continues to read biblical accounts of Jesus and His activities, the reader begins to trust in Jesus, the Christ.

Second step, one must believe there is a Christ. Once one learns about Christ, he/she must believe that He is the Son of God and that He offers salvation. That belief comes from reading the Bible. Paul wrote, “So faith come from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ” Romans 10:17. But, just because one believes in Christ does not mean that he or she receives the blessings found in Christ.

Continued on next page ...

SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize
4 Square
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Hebrews
9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Romans
7:00 PM



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“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ
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Meridian, MS 39301

Place Stamp Here

Missing People

By Brett Petrillo

For over half a century, it was considered one of the great unsolved mysteries in South America. On April 3, 1961 a professional soccer team had just finished a match and was flying back home to Santiago. The team was split up between two aircrafts; one made it back, the other went missing. For weeks the rescue teams searched, but there was no sign of the plane. The aircraft just vanished. Thirty-four people were presumed dead, including eight soccer players, the coach, several of the team’s staff, and friends. Finally, after 54 years, several Chilean mountaineers found the wreckage. The plane, unsurprisingly, was not anywhere near where people thought it would be. The mystery had finally been solved.

There is no telling how much grief the victim’s families went through. Their sorrow was likely compounded by the unknown factor. In situations like these, the imagination tends to run wild. Perhaps some clung to hope that there would be survivors, but no one could know for sure until now. The victim’s families can, at long last, have proper closure.

Few things are more tragic than a missing person. For this reason, “AMBER Alerts” and other similar programs are invaluable. Any effort to recover the missing is priceless.

Unfortunately, there is a place in our world where many missing people are simply overlooked. Sometimes these missing people even go without notice. The place this occurs is within the church.

It is incredible just how many people fall away from the church without notice. I wonder how many people in the Lord’s Church fell away over the last year? I wonder how many of these people were contacted and sought after? I wonder how many members of these congregations noticed their absence?

In Luke 15, Jesus told three parables about the importance of finding the missing people among us. He speaks of the lost sheep, the great lengths the shepherd goes to find the sheep, and in application, the tremendous rejoicing that takes place in heaven when someone comes to repentance (1-7). Next, Christ tells of a woman who loses a coin, tirelessly searches for it, and rejoices when she finds it. Once again, we are told that heaven also rejoices when a sinner repents (8-10). Finally, Jesus tells the famous parable of the prodigal son. Here we see a father longing for his son to come home. When he finally does, the father rejoices, welcomes his son back with open arms, and throws a banquet (11-32).

No one should be able to leave the church unnoticed. We need some serious search and rescue teams in the church and it is every Christian’s responsibility to join the search.

Third step, one must repent of the sins he or she has committed. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change in actions. Christ expects those who are going to receive the blessings from being in Christ, to leave their life of sin and live as sin-free as possible. Peter said, “The Lord...not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” 2 Peter 3:9. Repentance comes when one feels remorse and sorrowful for the sin he or she has committed. Paul explains, “For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorry of the world produces death” 2 Corinthians 7:10. Repentance does not obtain salvation for the person. Repentance gets one out of the sinning business, but it does not get the stain of sin from one’s record.

Fourth step, one must confess his or her faith in Christ as the Son of God. A confession is a declaration of one’s loyalty. An example of a confession is found when Peter confessed Jesus. He said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” Matthew 16:16. God wants us to acknowledge that Jesus is God’s Son and savior of those who obey Him.

Fifth step, one must be immersed in water for the forgiveness of his or her sin. On the day that Christianity began Peter preached and convinced the crowd that they had killed Christ. They responded by asking, “What shall we do?” Acts 2:37. Peter told them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” Acts 2:38. Saul, who later came to called “Paul,” was told, “Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name?” Acts 22:16. When one is immersed in water his or her sins are forgiven. They are forgiven because in being immersed one is immersed into the death of Christ, where, symbolically, one reaches the blood of Christ. It is the blood that washes away our sins, not the water. The water is simply the means by which one reaches that blood.

Jesus died, was buried, and arose from the dead. That is what baptism displays. One dies to his or her sins, is then buried in the water of baptism, and raised to what a new life, just like Jesus was raised to walk again.

Have you received the blessings that are in Christ? If not, why not? The only way these blessings can be yours is for you to follow the steps that are listed above. Let us assist you in receiving those wonderful blessings.

Announcements

- Fellowship meal, November 6th following morning worship
- Mens’ Business Meeting November 6th following meal
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Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments
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Communion Preparation

- October - Carlberg
- November - Callens
- December - Rowell

October Birthdays & Anniversary’s

- Patrick Ford - 1st
- Dave Cradic - 6th
- Don Potts - 22nd
- Keren Thrash - 29th
- Bowen Stephens - 4th
- Gerri Thrash - 13th
- Sonja Rowell - 23rd

Every Sunday Morning

@ 8:00 AM

on WTOK-TV



Sermon Notes

Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Larry Montgomery
 Scripture Reading - Galatians 5:19 - 21
 Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
 Head of Lord’s Table - Don Potts
 Assist on Lord’s Table - Mark Potts
 Scripture Reading - Matthew 26:20 - 29
 Closing Prayer - Rick Carlberg

Comcast Cable	6
Comcast Cable	431
Comcast Cable	1011
DirecTV	11
DirecTV	396
Dish Network	11
Over-the-air	11.3