



# Truth for Today

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## The Question That Still Needs Answering.

By Don Hooton

Because of today's political climate, people press hard for answers they say every candidate must answer. Many press harder and harder as if the question is the most important - ever. Whatever we vent as the most important of the day, there is always a different question that needs to be answered - even pressed - but it has nothing to do with politics. That question is, "*What must I do to be saved?*" This is the very question the Philippian jailer asked of the Apostle Paul after an earthquake had released his prisoners (Acts 16:30). The question today has the same answers as they had then.

We have to recognize that **we are sinners**. To ask the question presupposes one knows he needs salvation. Even the jailer knew. But from what? Salvation from sin. Everyone has sinned and has come short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). If sin causes spiritual death, separation from God, and the need for forgiveness from God, then we need to understand this so we can be saved from being dead in sins and transgressions (Ephesians 2:1). To be saved, *we must acknowledge our sin*.

We need to respond in **trusting faith**. We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Lord of Glory. The jailer was told, "Believe in the **Lord** Jesus" if he wanted to be saved. Yet, this is only part of our response. Biblical faith is more than just believing; it is trust, the kind of trust that takes God at His word. Faith does come through hearing God's word (Romans 10:17). Once we hear what God's word has to say, if we choose to believe it, we must act on it just as if God Himself was standing next to us answering the question. That kind of faith will gain access to the grace of God through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1-2). To be saved, *we must believe in Jesus*.

We need to **repent of sin**. If we can admit our sinfulness and respond in faith to God's word, then we must make a decision to turn from sin and strive to live holy lives. God commands everyone to repent (Acts 17:30-31) because He loves us and does not want us to continue living a life that will hurt us. If we refuse to repent, then we cannot say we trust Him. If we take God at His word, we will want to remove ourselves from a sinful life. To be saved, *we must repent of sin*.

We need to **confess the lordship of Jesus**. Paul wrote, "*If*

*you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved*" (Romans 10:9). This confession results in salvation because we declare who Jesus is in Heaven and who will be enthroned in our hearts. This confession demands that our faith do whatever He says. If we call Him "Lord," then we must do His will (Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21-23). If we are not willing to confess Him as Lord, then we will not be saved. *To be saved, we must confess Him*. But, we are still not done.

We need to be **baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins**. In Acts 2, those Jews that gathered to hear his sermon asked Peter the jailer's same question. Peter responded, "*Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins*" (vs. 38). This baptism is immersion in water (Acts 8:36) and its purpose is "for the forgiveness of sins." In other words, our faith response will complete our salvation. Baptism is command by Jesus (Mark 16:16), Peter (Acts 2:38) and Paul (Acts 16:34). Therefore, it must be *from God*. If we are going to respond in faith (take God at His word), then we will obey as He commands. When we are baptized, we no more rely on ourselves for salvation than we do when we confess, when we repent or when we believe. Instead, we are relying upon the work of God (Colossians 2:11-13). *To be saved, we must be baptized for the remission of sins*.

**Finally, though**, baptism is no more the end of trusting faith than it is the end of obedience. It is the beginning of a new life in Christ (Romans 6:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17) where Christ lives within us (Galatians 2:20) and we walk by faith. If we drift away from its promises (Hebrews 2:1-4), we are in danger of falling away. However, God will help us as we strive to grow (Hebrews 2:18; 4:15-16). He will forgive our sins as we confess to Him (1 John 1:7-9). *To be saved, we must live a faithful, obedient life*.

The life of a Christians is worthwhile. We can live with confidence and hope because we have the hope of heaven, the help of God, the forgiveness of sins, and the fellowship of godly people. Heaven is our aim. Eternal Life is our reward. Won't you answer this question and then follow Christ?

# NEWS & NOTES

## UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Bill Hooton's** graveside is scheduled at the Christine City Cemetery (6th street, Christine, TX 78012) on Saturday, 1/30, 1:00pm. Info is available at [www.carrowayfuneralhome.com](http://www.carrowayfuneralhome.com)
- **Shannon Blankenship's** grandfather passed away Friday evening. Arrangements are pending.
- **Brian Clark's** dad, Terry, tested positive for COVID. At higher risk with COPD, so far no need to hospitalize.
- **Tonya Clark's** mother, Alberta Hurn ("Burt"), received an optimistic biopsy report that the tumor, if there is just one, can be resolved through radiation. More tests this week.
- **Mickey Chandler's** mother, Judy, is now home to recover from COVID.
- **Lindsey (Preuss) Richard's** grandfather died suddenly Wednesday. Conner's care, an earlier passing grandfather and now this, prayers needed. The funeral was this Monday.
- **Philip Dow** (Australian brother/friend to the Hooton's) has stomach cancer. PET scan Wednesday is planned for the Hobart Hospital Tasmania.
- **Patsy Lindsey's** daughter, Cynthia, passed away last Tuesday night. Arrangements are pending.
- **MOMs-to-be:** Reagan Reed (due April 12) and Alix Randow (due April 23).

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class** [2-12] | TBA.
- **TEEN BIBLE CLASS** [12-18] | 2/7
- **TEEN HOME DEVO** [12-18] | TBA .
- **YOUNG ADULTS HOME STUDY** | 1/31 at 5:00pm at the Reed's home.
- **ADULTS HOME STUDY** [30/40] | TBA.
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** | 2/7, 4:00 pm
- **GOSPEL MEETING** with Ed Brand | TBD
- **VBS** | 6/22-25\* (\*Tue-Fri)
- **YOUTH LECTURES** with Caleb Churchill & Andy Harrison | 8/7-8
- **GOSPEL MEETING** with Mike Wilson | 9/26-29
- **WOMEN'S DAY BIBLE STUDY** | 10/9
- **MEN'S DAY BIBLE STUDY** | 11/6

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett Blankenship know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **Willing to TEACH?** We now need teachers for Spring quarter. **Please contact Brian Clark if you are willing to teach.**
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel will coordinate food for members who need assistance during an extended recovery period after surgery or for the family at a funeral.
- The **FLOWER FUND** is in need of donations. Please see Stacie Bohanan if you are able to contribute to this that provides flowers for funerals of the immediate family of members.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.

## THROUGH THE NT IN 2021

### JANUARY

- 24 | Pray and reflect
- 25 | Pray and reflect
- 26 | Acts 1
- 27 | Acts 2
- 28 | Acts 3
- 29 | Acts 4
- 30 | Pray and reflect
- 31 | Pray and reflect

Attendance	In Person Average Last Month	Virtual Average Last Month	In Person Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Classes	58	19	74	14
Sunday Worship	88	43	112	46
Tuesday Adult Class	6	15	7	6
Wednesday Classes	48	12	56	19

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM - 1/24	10:00 AM - 1/31	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	Jay Dulin	Dwight Haas	<i>Elders</i>
Foyer 2-Ushering	Jonathan Chandler	Hayden Clark	Keith Arrants   936.499.2812
Song Leading	Norman Davis	Jonathan Chandler	George Chapman   832.764.2151
1 <sup>st</sup> Prayer	Leo Betancourt	Gary LeBlanc	Norman Davis   832.326.2966
Scripture	Chris Chapman	Josh Suarez	Don Hooton   936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Colossians 3:1-7	Acts 18:24-28	<i>Deacons</i>
Communion Lead	Brian Clark	Al Suarez	Adam Bohanan   281.798.1093
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Brian Clark   281.513.0706
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prayer	Adam Bohanan	Barrett Blankenship	Gary LeBlanc   281.292.0262
Announcements	George Chapman	Don Hooton	Craig Preuss   832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	Chegin	B/T Clark	<i>Evangelists</i>
Sanitize-Pews After	Haas	Preuss	Don Hooton   936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	Bohanan	Davis	<i>Website</i>
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	<a href="http://www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org">www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org</a>
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	<i>Office Phone</i>
Counting Contribution	George Chapman —Al Suarez	Norman Davis —Jay Dulin	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM - 1/27	7:00 PM - 2/3	<i>Church Email</i>
Song Leading	Keith Arrants	TBD	<a href="mailto:woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com">woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com</a>
Invitation/Talk	Hayden Clark	TBD	
Prayer	Lyn Ray	TBD	
Announcements	Don Hooton	TBD	