

“GOOD NEWS”

By Tony Melton

The gospel of Christ is spoken of throughout the New Testament, but few understand its meaning. The term “gospel” literally means “good tidings” or “good news.” Good news is something that we welcome in times of worry and distress. For example, if we were diagnosed as having a malignant tumor, we would become extremely troubled and concerned about our condition. But then, if we were to receive the news that it could be surgically removed and no radiation or chemotherapy would be required, then that, to say the least, would be “good news.”

In the same way, some men and women come to the understanding that their sins are rapidly leading them to an eternity of inescapable punishment (Matthew 25:46). And because of their sin-sickness, they usually start searching for a cure. They realize their souls are infected with sin, and that they are living in a world without hope. Next by God’s mercy, someone announces to them the “good news” or the gospel of Christ; then suddenly they perceive that Jesus was crucified for the very purpose of healing their diseased souls. Now, that is “good news!” They now realize that there is hope.

The Bible tells of a man called Saul who had sinned against God, even to the point of persecuting and killing Christians. When Saul realized his sinful condition, the Lord sent a disciple to him called Ananias. Saul had been praying and fasting for three days when Ananias arrived. Ananias proclaimed to him, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). In this verse, Ananias told Saul how he could receive the benefit of Jesus’ death, or how he could profit from the “good news” of Jesus Christ.

Today, only the precious blood of Christ can cure us of sin, and the only way we can contact His blood is through believing and being baptized for the forgiveness of sin (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). We must not only believe the gospel (good news) of Christ, we must also obey it. The Bible says that when Jesus comes again in flaming fire that He will take vengeance on those “who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,” and those same people will be “punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).