



The Voice of Truth



October 14, 2012

Only One Way! By Jimmy Pettigrew

You go to your church and I'll go to mine. We're going to the same place, only on different roads. This statement is made by many people who mistakenly believe there are many ways to God in heaven. However, the truth of the matter is, there is only one way to God, and Jesus said it is strait and narrow (**Matt. 7:13-14**). Christ declared, *I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me* (**John 14:6**). In **Acts 4:12**, speaking of Christ, Peter said, *Neither is there salvation in any other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* Therefore, it is necessary to conclude that the only way to God is through Christ.

Being saved and brought to God is a spiritual blessing. Paul said, *all spiritual blessings are in Christ*, (**Eph. 1:3**). Moreover, Paul wrote of Christ stating that it is in Him whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of his grace, (**Eph. 1:7**). Hence, *all spiritual blessings and redemption . . . according to his grace* are in Christ. Please notice these passages: Redemption is found in Christ (**Rom. 3:24**); There is no condemnation to them which are in Christ (**Rom. 8:1**); the love of God is found in Christ (**Rom. 8:39**). We are sanctified in Christ (**1 Cor. 1:2**); in Christ will all be made alive (**1 Cor. 15:22**); we are new creatures in Christ (**2 Cor. 5:17**); **Gal. 6:15**); we are reconciled back to God be being in Christ (**Isa. 59:12**; **2 Cor. 5:19**; **Eph. 2:13**); we are all children of God by being in Christ (**Gal. 3:26-27**); all blessings are found in Christ (**Eph. 1:3**); we are made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ (**Eph. 2:6**); the grace of God is found in Christ (**2 Tim. 2:10**); eternal life is found in Christ (**Rom. 6:23**). It should be obvious to all that one has to be in Christ to gain these wonderful benefits. But, how does one get into Christ?

One should be aware of the difference between **unto** and **into** as used in the English. **Unto** means going in the direction of or toward. **Into** signifies that the destination has been reached, entered.

Without faith it is impossible for one to please God (**Heb. 11:6**) and be saved (**Mark 16:16**). However, a person must understand that he does not believe **into** Christ. Belief is **unto**, going in the direction of Christ. Paul uses the **unto** with **belief** in **Romans 10:10** saying, *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.* No Scripture says one believes **into** Christ.

If one will not repent of his sins, he will perish (**Luke 13:3-5**). Yet, it must be understood that repentance on the part of an individual is another act **unto** or **toward** God. As a matter of fact, Paul is recorded as saying that both faith and repentance are acts which are **toward** rather than **into**. Paul testified *both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ* (**Acts 20:21**). No Scripture says one repents **into** Christ.

Confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (**Acts 8:37**) is absolutely essential for salvation (**Matt. 10:32-33**). But again, confession is **unto** salvation. *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation* (**Rom. 10:10**). No Scripture says one confesses **into** Christ.

Faith, repentance, and confession are **unto** but do not place one **into** Christ. Just as there is only one way to God (**that is through Christ**), there is only one way **into** Christ, in whom all spiritual blessings are found. Faith, repentance, and confession are essential for one entering **into** Christ, but one does not enter **into** Christ by any one of them or by all three of them together.

The only way revealed in the Bible for one to get **into** Christ is by being baptized in water (**Acts 8:36**), in the name of Christ for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**), washing them away (**Acts 22:16**). **Roman 6:3** finds Paul stating, *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death.* In **Galatians**

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3:27 Paul wrote, *for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ*. When one believes

that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, repents of his sins, and has confessed Christ with his mouth, he is only then ready to be **baptized into Christ!** ♦

“And Such Were Some Of You”

By Jarrod Jacobs

The title above comes from the first phrase in **I Corinthians 6:11**. In context, **I Corinthians 6:9-11** stands as a warning against Christians engaging in various sins, and as a reminder that many of the Corinthian Christians had been guilty of those sins. This section also shines because it reminds them (and us) that it is Christ who makes forgiveness of sins possible. Let us read **I Corinthians 6:9-11** and make some applications.

*“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you**. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (I Cor. 6:9-11).* Our study will focus on the statement in verse 11, “*And such were some of you*”. To me, this statement speaks volumes.

Such

This word means “of like manner.” After reading the list of sins from verses 9 and 10, some might be inclined to look down on others and say, “I would never want to be around people like that!” The apostle Paul’s statement reminds the Corinthians that this church was made up of folks who **had** committed such sins, but were forgiven (**v. 11**).

Historically, Corinth was a very immoral city. They were so wicked that those in the first century who lived a life of drunkenness and immorality anywhere in the empire were said to, “live like a Corinthian.” It is in this time that the apostle Paul entered Corinth and preached the gospel, converting many people to Christ (**Acts 18:8; I Cor. 1:14-16**).

There is no question that the Corinthian Christians had been guilty of many sins (**v. 9-10**)! Perhaps they were taught to be like that by their parents. We know it was encouraged in their society; but these people learned better through the preaching of the gospel (**Acts 18**).

Were

Though the people had been guilty of sin (**Rom. 3:23**), they were now forgiven in Christ. They had believed on Christ (**Acts 18:8**), repented of sins (**Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30**) and had been baptized into Christ (**Acts 18:8, 2:38**). Therefore, though they “were” in sin (**I Cor. 6:9-10**), they had been forgiven by Christ when baptized (**Acts 18:8**).

No one can forget his past! Even the apostle Paul, though forgiven (**II Tim. 4:6-8**), said he was the “chief” of sinners when he reflected upon his past life (**I Tim. 1:15**). The Corinthians were reminded that they “were” in sin, until they received the forgiveness of Christ! The same is true with us.

Some

This word lets us know that the sins listed in **I Corinthians 6:9-10** entangled the members of the Corinthian church. This is significant for three reasons:

1) It says something about the apostle Paul who went to Corinth! He was willing to preach the gospel to whom-ever would listen! (Just like he did at Rome - **Rom. 1:16**.) He understood Christ’s words to preach the gospel to “every creature” (**Mk. 16:15**), and this includes preaching to folks who have committed some of the most heinous sins! They needed forgiveness, but could not be forgiven until they were told what to do to be saved (**Mk. 16:16**).

2) It also tells us that people engaged in such sins can come out of sin and do what is right! Sometimes, we are told that folks’ sins are a “disease,” or that sin is in their “genetic code”. This is wrong. This passage makes it clear that regardless of the sin (one’s choice, **Jas. 1:14-15**), one can be forgiven when he willingly listens to and obeys the gospel of Christ (**Acts 18:8; Heb. 5:8-9**).

3) We see that God considered this church “His” even though it was made up of former sinners (**I Cor. 1:2, 14:37**). Truly, God is forgiving, loving, and “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (**II Pet. 3:9**).

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Of You

This phrase speaks to the Corinthians, and to all readers of this letter. May all Christians beware of arrogance and pride! "You" may have been guilty of the very sins mentioned! No one can say that he has never sinned (**I Jn.**

1:10). Therefore, let no one look down upon one who repents of sin and is baptized, or is restored as an erring Christian (**Acts 2:38, 8:22; I Jn. 1:9**). We, like the Corinthians, need to be "washed ... sanctified" and "justified"; and we will be when we do only what the Lord says!

Credit: The Old Paths - 1/15/12 ♦

Jesus Was a Follower By Jonathan L. Perz

Great emphasis is placed, and rightly so, that Christians must be followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself tells us, "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (**Matt. 10:38**). Again He says, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (**Luke 9:23**). However, Jesus did not just issue an edict, He demonstrated what it means to be a follower, for He Himself was first and foremost a follower!

Seven of the most profound words in all of Scripture define exactly what it means to be a follower. These words were uttered by Jesus in the garden, just prior to the suffering He would endure to save us from our sins. He said, "...not My will, but Yours, be done..." (**Luke 22:42**). This is the heart of a follower and Jesus embodied this spirit under some of the most awful circumstances a man could imagine.

Jesus' teaching demonstrated this essential spirit in every way. Explaining His purpose as a light sent into the

world, Jesus says, "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak" (**John 12:49-50**). Should it be any different for those of us today who claim to follow Him?

Regarding His actions, Jesus says, "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me" (**John 5:30**). Along those same lines He later says, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (**John 6:38**).

Clearly, Jesus not only tells us to "follow Him" ... He shows us what it means to be a follower. Do you embody this spirit in your walk with Jesus Christ? Based on your words and deeds, who is it that you are really following?

Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

THE SIN OF DOING NOTHING

He made no mistakes and took no wrong roads;
He never fumbled the ball;
He never went down beneath the load.
He lost no hard fights in defense of the right;
He never bled with his back to the wall.
He never fell faint in his climb to the light;
He simply did nothing at all.
So death came nigh, for life slipped away,
And he feared for the Judgment Hall.
When they asked him why, he said with sigh:
"I simply did nothing at all."
So, God will pardon your blunders, my friend,
And regard with pity your fall.
But the one big sin that surely means Hell,
Is simply to do nothing at all. ♦

None are so empty as those who are full
Of themselves

The church of Christ

Has:

- One Builder – Jesus Christ (**Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:9-11**)
- One Purchaser – Jesus Christ (**Acts 20:28**)
- One Head – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**)
- One Savior – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 5:23**)
- One destiny – eternal salvation (**Eph. 5:23**)

IS:

- The spiritual body of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23**)
- The kingdom of Christ (**Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28**)
- The depository of those saved (**Acts 2:47**)
- One body, not many bodies (**Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23**)
- One way to be added to the church:
- One must believeth that Christ is the Son of God (**Jno. 8:24**)
- One must repent of sins (**Lk. 13:3**)
- One must confess that Christ is the Son of God (**Rom. 10:9-10**)
- One must be baptized into Christ (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**) ♦

Things That Impress Visitors

1. Members that day dream or sleep through sermon; talk during observance of the Lord’s Supper.
2. Members that open a bottle of pop during services which makes a noise each time it opens.
3. Scribbling in and playing with the hymnals.
4. Members who whisper, talk, write notes, and pass pictures, etc. during services.
5. Members who are privileged to serve during the worship, but are so over medicated that they sound drunk.
6. Persistent late-comers who disturb and distract the worshipers.
7. Members who do not speak to visitors. ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - **Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3**

Believe - **Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24**

Repent - **Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30**

Confess the Lord - **Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**

Be Baptized - **Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27**

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - **Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17**

Either the Bible will keep you from sin . . .
Or sin will keep you from the Bible.

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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How to Contact Us

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Our Address

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Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com