

Preacher's Pen
Sunday, April 9, 2006

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.", (Revelation 2:10)

Over the previous six weeks we have been studying lessons under the theme, "What Do I HAVE to do to be saved?"

We have read from Scripture the mandates of God to **hear** the truth of the Gospel of His Son, Jesus the Christ; that one must choose to **believe** in Him and that God raised Him from the dead – physically and bodily – and that He has ascended to His throne at the right hand of the Father from where He is now head of His Kingdom on earth – His Church.

We must **repent** – turn around; turn away from a life of sin and death toward God and a life (and lifestyle) of obedience. One must also **confess** with the mouth these things – in the hearing of others.

And, last week, we studied from Scripture the requirement of God for **baptism** – immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; adult enough to be able to have done all the previous things and to make a responsible decision to obey His gospel.

According to scripture, though, it is only by following these steps that one can have confidence in the Messiah on the day of God's final judgment. Baptism may then be viewed as the marker for when one can begin (legitimately) wearing the name Christian or child of God.

It is important to understand that these things are just the beginning of the life of a New Testament Christian. Re-read the verse above and notice the last phrase – "...until death." It is possible for a child of God to fall from grace. It is therefore necessary that we search the Scriptures daily; that we exhort (encourage) one another every opportunity we have to be so faithful.

So, the next lesson is actually a series of lessons; all of which are intended to accomplish this very thing. May all of our studies together serve this purpose.

In Christian Love and Service,
Lyndal