



THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

Volume 6, Issue 5

A publication of the Church of God in Moore, Oklahoma

September / October 2005

How To Become A Member of God's Church

An excerpt from *The Weight of the Word* by Harold Barber

As we look about in the religious world today we see many different churches with different doctrines and beliefs. Among these churches we find various ways and means of becoming a member of them. Some require one thing and some another. To become a member of some churches you must sign a card adhering to their particular doctrine; others, you shake hands with the preacher, or you make an intellectual confession of Jesus and are accepted upon the approval of the remainder of the members, or by some method that particular church has devised itself, but all are foreign to the method God has used for centuries. Dear reader, you may join any or all churches in the land and yet not be a member of God's church. In the midst of all the so-called churches and their various ways of becoming a member, God has a church, and there is only one way to become a member of it. If you have an honest heart and want to go to heaven when this life is over, you must be a member of God's church, for it is the only one that will be accepted on the day of judgment. The people who have joined by the hand-shaking method or by signing a card or merely making an intellectual confession of Jesus will be disappointed on the last day when they are turned into outer darkness.

To become a member of God's church we must find the door and the requirements for entrance through that door. To climb up some other way is to be classed as a thief and a robber. Jesus says, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in he shall be saved" (John 10:9). Jesus is the door to God's church, and to become a member we must come to him and be saved from sin. There is no other way into the church of God, which is God's church on earth. No preacher has the authority, nor is it possible, for him to take members into God's church. You often hear some preacher say he is going to open the doors of the church. Beloved, he may open the doors of some man-made organization called a church, but he cannot open the doors of God's church; so remember, when you meet some man's requirements to become a member you are not becoming a member of God's church. Now that we have found the door, let's look further into the requirements of entrance into that door. Jesus says, "I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." He must enter in by Jesus, not by preacher, and as he enters in he is saved; and when he is saved, he enters in. Both take place at the same time when he passes through the door. It is evident from this scripture that to enter into Christ is to enter into his church; therefore, no other procedure,

such as putting your name on a church book, shaking hands with the preacher, or anything else is necessary. You become a member of God's church when you become a member of Christ. You are born into it; it is not a joinable institution.

To become a member of Christ means to forsake sin and repent and be born of the Spirit of God. The people of God are a holy people; they have forsaken all sin and given themselves unreservedly to the Lord Jesus Christ and are serving him. They have come to him and repented of their sins and have been born from above. Born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. When they repented of sin they were saved and entered into Christ and also into his church. "And of Zion (church) it shall be said. This and that man was born in her; and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there" (Psalm 87:5-6). From this passage of scripture we see the Lord is going to write up the people, and he will write only those who have been born (spiritually) in her. This is the only method God uses to bring members into his church. He doesn't recognize those so-called members who have signed a card, shook hands with the preacher, nor those the preacher said he took into the church. God must be the one who takes them in before they are recognized by him. They must be "born again."

Many have forsaken sin and been born of God and still thought it necessary to join some church. They united with some church and took upon themselves a fictitious name which was displeasing to God. He is jealous of the family name and wants all of his children to use that name. Why should God's children use some other name when the Bible tells us Jesus purchased the church with his own blood. (Acts 20:28) If you have been born of the Spirit of God and are living a holy life, God wants you to use his name only, not some fictitious name. You need not join some church either, for when you repented of sin and entered Christ, you became a member of his church.

The question may arise in your mind, "How can I worship at such and such a church and not join; they insist on everyone joining the church before they are recognized as Christians?" If you have forsaken sin and repented and are living a holy life, you are accepted of God, and he wants you to use His name only. He also wants you to come out from among the people who insist on you to come out from among the people who insist on your joining church, and worship with his true children. In the midst of all the denominations God has his true people who are separate and are standing upon the Word of God as their only governor. In his Word he also issues a call for you, Christian, to "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." God is calling his people out of the

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Troubles That Missed The Train

Excerpt from "The Secret of a Singing Heart—By: C. W. Naylor

*"Some of your griefs that you have cured,
And the sharpest you still have survived;
But what torments of pain you endured
From the evils that never arrived."*

Professor Meyer, of Stanford University, says, "It is our fears that often bring us our worst perplexities." The things that happen to us are usually not nearly so bad as the things we expect to happen that do not happen.

Review your life and count how many troubles you foresaw and feared, whose dark shadows lay across your way possibly for years. Many of these troubles never arrived. They missed their train somewhere. They failed to make connection or they were run off in some other direction. Anyway, the trouble you looked for and planned for and expected and feared and shrank from never came your way.

Many other troubles that looked so great in prospect, when you actually faced them, when they were close enough to touch, were not at all the terrible things you thought them to be. Some of them you surmounted easily. Some of them you laughed at. Some of them you made stepping-stones. Some of them just faded out of the picture.

Did you ever read the old story of the servant girl whom her mistress found one day in the kitchen weeping? Her mistress said, "Why, Mary, what are you crying about?" "Oh," she wailed, "I am afraid my children will be drowned." "Why," said her mistress, "you are not even married." "No," said she, "but I was thinking how awful it would be if I should marry and have children and they should fall in the river and be drowned."

We smile at this tale but many of us are just as foolish as this servant girl. Never go out into the future to meet your troubles. If they are coming they will come anyway. They will get to you soon enough. Do not run to meet them. Just let them alone and most of them will go some other way. In one way or another they will miss the train and never reach you.

Many people are like Martha. They are "careful and troubled about many things." Not a few people are like Nebuchadnezzar. He said, "I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me" (Daniel 4:5). Daniel also said, "The visions of my head trouble me" (Daniel 7:15). Many people have written me about dreams they have had asking me to interpret them or to tell them if I think they portend trouble.

There are hundreds of people who are disturbed by things they dream or experiences they have just as they wake from sleep. They have impressions of various sorts. Some of them are very unusual. Some people are troubled for years over something they have dreamed. It is true that we read in the Bible of people having dreams that had significance. These dreams, however, were very unusual. Perhaps a man would have two or three such dreams in a lifetime. All the rest of his dreams were without significance. If God should give any of

us a dream he would see that we learned its meaning. He would not leave us to be troubled over it very long.

Never worry over your dreams. Never interpret them as meaning trouble coming to you unless you go farther and believe it is God's way of helping you out of the trouble by forewarning you and thus enabling you to be prepared to meet it when it comes. But God never gives you a dream to frighten you unless to awaken you from sin. He never gives you a dream to trouble you, so do not trouble over them.

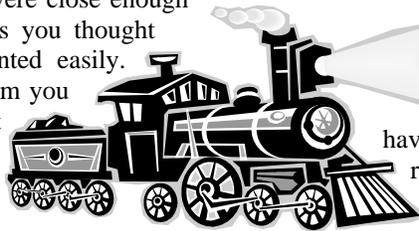
There are other people who get troubled over thoughts that come into their minds. They do not know the source of these thoughts. A thought makes a strong impression upon their mind. They cannot shake it off. Then they feel that there is some hidden meaning in that thought and they worry about it and wonder about it. Never allow yourself to be troubled over such things.

Then there are others who have thoughts of evil come into their minds. They put them away but speedily they return. They condemn themselves for these thoughts. They think they are not right with God or they would not have such thoughts. There may be many other reasons for their coming into the mind and for their persistence in returning to the mind. Displace these thoughts by good thoughts all you can, but do not worry over them.

At many railroad crossings there are derrails. If one train is about to run into another on a crossing it can be derailed and a collision prevented. We need a derailed for our troubles. Perhaps another figure would be a sidetrack. One can become quite an expert in sidetracking troubles. The best way to sidetrack our troubles is set forth in the text, "Casing all your care upon him for he careth for you." This is a lesson we all need to learn. The Lord is ever ready to help us in all times of need. We do not have to bear anything alone. The Lord is a present help in every time of trouble. Let us learn to rely upon him.

Some people, in a different sense, have a sidetrack of their own, with an open switch. Every care of trouble that comes along runs in on their siding. If we must have a siding we should keep the switch closed. We should keep out of other people's troubles. Most of the troubles many people have are from getting into other people's troubles. We should take precautions to have all the troubles that do not belong to us passed on to the ones to whom they belong and not accept them ourselves nor be partners with them in them. To be sure we should help others all we can, but we should not load up with their troubles.

Study the verse at the head of this chapter. Get the lesson in it. Then so face the world and so master yourself that you will not cross your bridges before you get to them nor suffer from your troubles before the arrive. Ever keep in mind the fact that most of them will miss the train and will never arrive and whatever you might suffer from them from anticipation is useless suffering.



How To Become A Member of God's Church

(continued from page 1)

babel of confusion that exists in denominationalism to walk with him according to his word. If that particular church insists on you joining, they are teaching something that is foreign to the Bible; therefore it is false doctrine, and God wants you to leave it and find his true people. He is now gathering the scattered saints from all divisions and bringing them together to compose one true church, which will constitute his bride on the last day, a body of people who have been "born again" and are obeying the word of God. They are members of God's church by virtue of the new birth and not some method of joining which they have adopted.

Even though you have repented and been born of God, yet insist upon staying among people who teach false doctrine and live sinful lives, you will soon lose your spiritual experience. God says, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:14, 17). God does not want his children to be yoked together with unbelievers or anything that is unclean. He

wants them to come out of all these things and be separate, and he will receive them. To be "born again" and be entangled with sinful church members (those who met the so-called church's requirements but not the Lord's) is to displease God. Therefore to be a member of God's church is not only to be "born again" and to live holy, but it is to come out of all the denominations and be separate from them and from all that is unclean. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body (the church), whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:13). All the different denominations are displeasing to God and are man-made; therefore God is calling his people out of them to constitute the one body in which their experience of salvation has made them members. Reader, have you repented of your sins and been born of God? Are you living a holy life? If you are, you should leave all denominations and find God's true people, God's true church, and worship with them that you may be accepted of him on that last great day.

The Petition of the Outcast

An excerpt from *The Secret of Prayer*, by E. E. Byrum

"No one cares for me, and nobody loves me," is a common expression of the one who is an outcast, being forsaken by friends and society. Such persons feel that they are forsaken by both God and man, and their feelings can scarcely be described. In many cases there seems to be nothing for which to live, while death means only to step into deeper darkness and eternal despair.

King Manasseh turned aside from the way of righteousness and did evil in the sight of the Lord. His wickedness was of the deepest dye. The Lord warned him and the people, but they would not hearken.

For a time the Lord permitted their enemies to prevail over them. Manasseh was bound with fetters and carried into captivity. While in exile, or banished from this kingdom, suffering pain and humiliation, he became awakened to his condition. He then began to humble his heart in prayer. The Lord heard his petition and answered.

"And now when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord he was God." (2 Chronicles 33:12-13).

Another one, who had the experience of being an outcast, was Hagar, who fled from the face of her mistress, and the Lord sent an angel after her. It was recorded that "the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way of Shur. And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress, Sarai. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands."

After her child was born, she again became an outcast and wandered away into the wilderness, with only the portion of a bond servant, which was some bread and a bottle of water.

Soon "the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink. And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer. And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt."

These instances should be an encouragement to those who are friendless, penniless, and to whom the future seems dark and dreary. It was because of their prayer, penitent plea, or anguish of soul that the Lord was constrained to lend a helping hand in time of great distress.

Another very striking illustration of the mercy of God is shown in the instance of the prodigal son. (Luke 15:11-24) Jesus said, "I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 10:10).

It often happens that those in such a deplorable condition as to have become outcasts are so desperately discouraged as to believe that they are forsaken by God and man, sometimes even doubting the existence of God, but many in such a condition have ventured to pray, "Oh, God, if there be a God." Their state of wretchedness caused them to think there could scarcely be a God of mercy. However, there is hope for such, if they come in humility of heart, and penitence, no matter how great their desperation and despair. There is a way by which they may find favor in the sight of God, and that is through earnest, humble prayer.

Weighed and Found Wanting
Excerpt from "Stories Behind the Songs"

In the course of a series of meetings held soon after the Gospel Trumpet Company moved to Anderson, Indiana, D. O. Teasley preached from the text in Daniel 5:25:

*Mene, Mene, Tekel Upharsin.
Thou art weighed in the balance and art found wanting.*

So vivid was the presentation that the congregation saw the courtly revelers, led by their king and all unaware of their impending doom, besotting themselves in an orgy of drunken reveling. They saw the fingers of the hand writing on the wall, and heard the solemn warning of Daniel's interpretation: "Thou art weighed in the balances of the Eternal, and art found wanting." They heard the shrieks of fear and the din of arms as the Persians entered the doomed city, and saw the king and his courtiers bound and dragged away. As the speaker developed the story and pressed home its application to every conscience, the congregation sat as still as death. Everyone's emotions were aroused, Mr. Warren's not least. As was usual with him, intense emotion found outlet in poetic expression. As Mr. Teasley went on, Mr. Warren wrote:

*Weighed in the balances of justice true,
Sinful the path thou hast trod;
Weighed and found wanting—will it be you?
Weighed by the Word of God.*

The music came with the words. The next morning Mr. Warren wrote it in manuscript, went to the music room and sang it. It has never been changed either in words or music. The song is better suited for a special number than for congregational singing as a quartet can more easily demonstrate how the music emphasizes the solemnity of the words.

Weighed and Found Wanting

By: B. E. Warren

Weighed in the balance of justice true,
Sinful the path thou hast trod;
Weighed and found wanting—will it be you?
Weighed by the word of God.
There it will hurt like a wounding dart
When this dread answer shall fall;
"Weighed and found wanting" - 'twill pierce thy heart,
At the last judgment call.

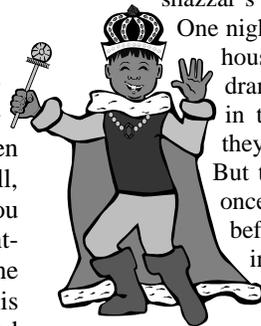
Weighed by the word which is given now,
Search it and know thou art pure;
Unto its mandates in meekness bow,
Then thou shalt be secure.

At the tribunal where Christ is judge,
Where ev'ry deed is made known,
"Weighed and found wanting" each guilty soul
Stands there before his throne.
Weighed and found wanting...
Weighed and found wanting...
Rejected at heaven's door.



The Story of a King Who Forgot About God
Taken from "Our Little Folks" November 5, 1911 edition

Belshazzar was a great king. His home was in Babylon. He lived in a very, very beautiful house. If you could see one so beautiful I am sure you would think you were in dreamland. But Belshazzar's home was not in dreamland.



One night Belshazzar was having a great supper at his house. Many, many people were there. They drank wine from golden cups that once had been in the temple of God in Jerusalem. No doubt they thought they were having a nice time. But their nice time did not last very long. All at once the king saw something he had never seen before. It was the fingers of a man's hand writing upon the wall. This made the king very much afraid. As he watched the hand writing he shook with fear.

When the hand quite writing, it went away. But the words it had written were still there. The king could not read these words, so he called some wise men to read them for him. He said he would give the wise men rich presents if they would tell him what the words meant. But none of them could do this. How unhappy the king was then!

After all these wise men tried and could not read the writing, the queen came to Belshazzar and told him about another wise man she had heard of whose name was Daniel. Daniel was now an old, old man. He was still living in Babylon. So Belshazzar sent for him and asked him to read the writing.

Daniel knew what these words meant. He told the king he did not want the nice presents that were offered, but he would tell the meaning of the words.

How quietly every one sat in the great hall and listened while Daniel spoke! He told the king about the only true God. This king had heard about God before, but he had forgotten. Now he and the people had been thinking only about gods of gold, silver, wood, and stone. This did not please the Lord so he was going to punish the king. The words on the wall meant that Belshazzar could not be king any longer. Some other people would come to Babylon and kill him, and then live in his beautiful home.

When the king heard this he felt very sorry because he had forgotten God. But he gave Daniel many nice presents, and all the people thought Daniel was a very wise man indeed.

That same night while everybody was asleep, a great many people came into the city and killed King Belshazzar.

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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young People's Service (Sunday)	4:45 p.m.
Children's Service (Sunday)	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.